

As I chair my last business meeting I wanted to reflect on the achievements our board has made, and continues to make on behalf of the community we serve.

I have been very proud to chair the Upper Harbour Local Board for the last three years - the second half of last term, and the first half of this term. It has not been without challenge, particularly the impact of the Northern Corridor Project, but I am very proud of all that we have achieved, and the part I have played in it.

Our community has grown and changed enormously in recent years, and I believe we are mindful of this in our decision-making, and make genuine efforts to be good decision-makers for all of our community - whether they have called Upper Harbour home for five minutes or five generations.

There is still a long way to go to ensure all residents feel connected to our place and well served by council. The proportion of our limited local board funding that goes to supporting our community trusts to provide community development, is indicative of the importance we give to it.

I include a list of projects below that show many of the highlights in recent years - these are due to the hard work and persistence of both current and former local board members, and several took many governance terms to achieve. As individuals we can achieve little, but collectively we have achieved a lot:

- Albany Stadium Pool and associated Public Artwork - past members have invested many, many years in advocacy leading up to the opening in January 2017.
- Spark Court at Hooton Reserve - a private/public partnership that the last board worked on, in collaboration with Spark, to deliver in the summer of 2016.
- Albany Community Hub - many years of advocacy leading to opening this term.
- Refurbishment of the HQ building and Sunderland Lounge at Hobsonville Point - buildings were acquired in term 1 of Auckland Council, and we are officially opening the HQ building on 31 May for community use.

A local board transport capital project that has taken many years to progress on behalf of residents is the issue of safe walking access from the top of Gills Road down to Albany Village. We are very proud to have just delivered the cycle/walkway bridge at the bottom of Gills Road, which will connect to the footpath currently being constructed from the bridge up to Living Stream Road. This was a local board project funded by our local transport capital fund, and it will provide much safer walking and cycling connections along Hooton Reserve and through to the Albany bus station.

We have resurfaced the car park, and re-purposed the old tennis courts at the Old Albany Coronation Hall. The courts will now serve a much wider use than before, providing recreation opportunities for tennis, basketball and netball for the hundreds of new residents moving in around them.

It gave us great pleasure to be able to build a new playground at Harrowglen and provide some new play components for our Hugh Green Drive playground. Dog waste bins were installed in Wainoni Park and Sanders Reserve, and all of these projects were in response to requests from residents.

We have a couple of initiatives that are almost complete - the long awaited Unsworth Heights 3-on-3 basketball court that was approved last term is almost open, and the spectator seating at Bay City Park will be available from next month for park users. The new basketball hoop requested by the Herald Island community, and the replacement hoop that the young people of Whenuapai requested via our community forum, will also be installed shortly. We will also deliver cricket nets at Hobsonville War Memorial Park, and a disc golf course in Rosedale Park in time for summer.

We have some major projects to serve the sporting needs coming over the next few years. The Scott Point sustainable sports park is a few years behind schedule, but will be an incredible addition to the regional network when it is done, although it may need staging due to funding constraints.

We are also confident that our one local initiative which will provide an indoor multi-use, multi-sport court facility in the Brigham Creek area, will be supported in the 10-year Budget.

My thanks to officers and fellow local board members for their support of me as chair, and I look forward to supporting Margaret as chair when I am the deputy.

We are making a difference, a little bit at a time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Whyte', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lisa Whyte