

# **GRAFTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

## **SUBMISSION TO AUCKLAND COUNCIL ON THE AUCKLAND (SPATIAL) PLAN FROM GRAFTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Grafton is an inner-city suburb of Auckland. It is a low energy and walkable suburb with a rich history with many heritage buildings and sites. It is also a neighbourly place. Its small scale also encourages sociability and active citizenship. Grafton is close to key areas within Auckland City such as the CBD, Newmarket, Auckland Domain, Auckland City Hospital, Auckland University, AUT, and many services and amenities including good public transport (bus and rail). As such it is a sustainable suburb, one that planners and politician strive to achieve in other parts of Auckland. Its sustainability is, of course, also dependent on the right policies and the will to implement those policies over the long term.

It is our view that the Auckland Council should aim to promote similar patters throughout the region, bearing in mind that every district faces different issues and has different assets and strengths to meet those issues. One of the great strengths of the older suburbs of Auckland has been the villages that ran along the public transport routes. Each village (e.g. Mt Eden, Newmarket, Ellerslie, Panmure) has different characteristics and an obvious clear image of itself. These strengths need to be built on.

It is recommended that the Auckland Council should include a policy within the Auckland Plan that acknowledges this history and makes a commitment to develop a locality-based policy that promotes a capacities-focussed and strengths-based approach to community development in collaboration with local citizens.

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