

Liz Koh – District Wide Councillor Candidate

Economic Development

- 1. What is your understanding of the Kotahitanga Board and the role that they play? Should they be independent?** The EDKB is an independent multi-representational body which facilitates economic development in Kapiti and which oversees the implementation of the Economic Development Strategy. It needs to be set up as a separate legal entity in order to achieve greater independence and it needs to secure funding from bodies other than KCDC so that it is not Council controlled.
- 2. Kāpiti Chamber values town centres as vital contributors to our local economic system. What examples of benefits have you seen from town centres?** Town Centres create vibrancy and provide meeting places that enhance social cohesion. They become focal points and destinations for people from other areas.
- 3. How do you plan to support and grow town centres, and their relationship to the economic development team and wider business community?** The growth of town centres needs to be planned in conjunction with local communities and businesses. Council's role should be to facilitate and support and identify opportunities for better infrastructure to support town centres – eg transport, roading, and open spaces.
- 4. What is your understanding of the purpose of the Tourist Advisory Board and their relationship with Wellington NZ and KCDC?** Kapiti needs its own body that can apply for Government funding to be used locally for visitor attraction. We can gain better leverage by building off the work that WellingtonNZ is doing, however we need to strengthen our position with regard to WellingtonNZ to ensure there is sufficient resource allocated here.
- 5. What are the opportunities around tourism in Kāpiti?** Kapiti Island is our iconic tourism attraction however we can develop other water based activities around the island. We need to position ourselves as somewhere to enjoy outdoor spaces, to take a breather from life, to unwind, relax and get back to nature. Kapiti is a place to find your soul again and to indulge yourself – great food, great experiences. We just need investment in getting this message through and showing people how they can put together a package of experiences that will allow them achieve these goals. Much more promotion!

Better Infrastructure

- 6. What role do you think KCDC plays in the Peka Peka Interchange?** An interchange would be good and we should lobby for this, but there are much more important transport issues than this. Young people in Otaki are severely disadvantaged for work and education opportunities because they lack good transport. This is true also to some extent in Paekakariki. We urgently need a review of transport within our district – road, rail, bus etc – to look at how we can have greater ease from travelling from one part of Kapiti to the other. Electrification to Otaki and beyond is essential.

- 7. KCDC has been making strategic housing purchases. What are your thoughts on KCDC as a housing provider or facilitator? What does intensification mean to you, and how do you think it could change Kāpiti?** There is a housing crisis in Kapiti, especially for older people. KCDC has a role to provide affordable rental accommodation for those on low incomes. It should not be a property developer itself but can operate in partnership with developers by providing access to land for development, by streamlining resource consents, by providing financial incentives for developers of affordable/social housing and by requiring new developments to have a minimum content of affordable/social housing. Intensification needs to be well managed. There are areas which should be protected from intensification, such as the beachfront and the Waikanae Garden area. We don't want to lose the special character of Kapiti through too much building. On the other hand, intensification in the right areas helps to create vibrancy and social cohesion.
- 8. As it stands, KCDC has funding to move forward with Te Uruhi. This has been a big talking point in our business community and membership. Assuming it goes ahead, what impact do you foresee the gateway having on business and community wellbeing in the Kāpiti region?** KCDC does not have the funding required for Te Uruhi. This project should not go ahead in its current form and location. The project should only ever have been about providing adequate biosecurity facilities for visitors to Kapiti Island. What we need in order to showcase Kapiti and attract visitors here is a whole different solution which can include online promotion as well as or in stead of bricks and mortar and which most definitely should not be located on the beachfront.
- 9. What do you think are the opportunities for business if the Kāpiti Airport stays an airport, or if it gets developed?** I believe the benefits to Kapiti from alternative uses of the airport land will far outweigh the benefits from an airport. The airport has minimal use and is mostly used by Kapiti people travelling to Auckland and back rather than Auckland people travelling here. Air Chathams would not be operating here if it were not for the subsidy they receive from KCDC. Why should ratepayers subsidise a small number of people who don't wish to use Wellington or Palmerston North airport? Creating a hub of activity on that land which includes business and housing is going to lead to much greater economic impact for Kapiti. It will create a much-needed heart for our community rather than being a big empty space that we all have to drive around. The opportunity cost of continuing to operate an airport is too great both for the owners and for the community.

Future thinking

- 10. What actions should KCDC be taking to support businesses to become climate friendly?** KCDC's role is to support, facilitate and educate businesses to become more sustainable. I applaud the establishment of Pakihi Toitu o Kapiti.
- 11. How do you envision the relationship between local iwi and KCDC operating in the future?** The current relationship is not working well. Iwi are not sufficiently

resourced to provide input on consultation processes in a timely manner, nor is there cohesion between the iwi or even within the iwi. This needs to be addressed urgently but in a respectful manner. A good and effective relationship with iwi is essential and we need to ensure the views of iwi are being effectively represented. We also need to allow for the views of people of Maori ethnicity who are not affiliated to local iwi.

12. Summarise your understanding of the following reforms: Three Waters Reform and Local Government Reform. How do you plan to keep Kāpiti's voice strong throughout these changes and advocate for our business community?

These reforms are best summarised here: <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/reforms/>. The reforms are very much in the hands of the Government however we can make submissions. The submissions on Three Waters have already been made and we await the next stage, whereas the Local Government Reform draft report has not yet been issued. KCDC should make a submission on it in due course. I am in favour of Three Waters in principle -we just need to ensure there is sufficient local representation. There is need for greater centralisation but not to the extent proposed. This will become an election issue next year. As far as Local Government Reform is concerned it is too early to comment as the report has not been released.

13. What is your vision for Kāpiti, and how do you intend to implement it? Name three visionary actions you aspire to implement?

It is not up to me to determine a vision for Kapiti but I have very strong skills that can be used to develop one with the community. My one aspiration is to have a shared vision for Kapiti. It will include elements of how we will take care of social wellbeing, how we will attract visitors, how we will stimulate economic development and how we will take care of the vulnerable people in our community. Personally, I would like to see vibrant town centres, less reliance on Kapiti Island as an attraction and more development of water based activities (diving, fishing, waka ama etc) and land based attractions (eg Whale Song)

14. How do you plan on being a visible and accessible leader for our council and community?

Through regular attendance at events, involvement in local organisations such as the Chamber, KEDA, Rotary, Nikau Foundation and Creative Kapiti Charitable Trust and through social media.