

David Odgen – Paraparaumu Ward

Economic Development

- 1. What is your understanding of the Kotahitanga Board and the role that they play? Should they be independent?** I have raised the Google information on the above and studied it. I think they should be independent
- 2. Kāpiti Chamber values town centres as vital contributors to our local economic system. What examples of benefits have you seen from town centres?** I have seen it in operation in different places. Nearer to us, Petone is a good example. One of the first places of European settlement in NZ, it has a vibrancy of its own with a strong business organisation and excellent energy in the traders and vendors. It has a mixture of boutique shops, big box businesses and a large surrounding residential population which is very supportive. It is widely accessible to the surrounding region. It supports employment and an active local economy.
- 3. How do you plan to support and grow town centres, and their relationship to the economic development team and wider business community?** The main ingredient in the formula is to get a leader who is active, energetic and with a successful charisma. Cameron Brewer, a previous CEO of the Newmarket, Auckland, business association is such a person. He subsequently became a councillor in the larger formed Auckland City. I once described him as a mixture of Clark Kent and Austin Powers, (he wore black rimmed glasses) and I was interviewed on TV3 because of this. I tried to attract him to Hutt City but he was happy in Newmarket. A really effective leader and entrepreneur.
- 4. What is your understanding of the purpose of the Tourist Advisory Board and their relationship with Wellington NZ and KCDC?** To engender tourism in the region. It is important that the local board does not rely on Wellington NZ solely but generates effective funds through the council and local business.
- 5. What are the opportunities around tourism in Kāpiti?**

Better Infrastructure

- 6. What role do you think KCDC plays in the Peka Peka Interchange?** It can never be enough, KCDC must be involved in the total consultation and lobby energetically and successfully
- 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 danger in the Council becoming the funder of housing purchases as it does not have the resources. It must be involved with the government of the day and such things as a charitable trust, which has been mooted.
- 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? I think the project should be put into Pause function until real problems such as funding, public and ratepayer support and building consent are resolved. I have heard a lot of negative comments about the project. No doubt it has intrinsic merit but the problems mentioned must be resolved first before construction is continued.

- 9. What do you think are the opportunities for business if the Kāpiti Airport stays an airport, or if it gets developed?** The Kapiti Airport is a real problem, because of the ownership factor, development cost and future planning. I have used the Palmerston North airport, some 90 or less minutes away, and it is more than satisfactory. It would not be the end of the world for Kapiti if the airport land was developed for something else. But with the peaceful consent of all parties.

Future thinking

- 10. What actions should KCDC be taking to support businesses to become climate friendly?** Support should be given in advice only, it does not have the resources to fund all change.
- 11. How do you envision the relationship between local iwi and KCDC operating in the future?** I hope the relationship is full and rewarding to both parties. Full communication is vital.
- 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?** The Three Waters Reform envisages the nationwide administration of all local body infrastructure with some recompense for assets. It does mean full recompense for all local asset investment, which is a subject of chagrin in most areas. The government's ideal is understandable but the model is not going to work if there is a change in the next parliamentary election.
- 13. What is your vision for Kāpiti, and how do you intend to implement it? Name three visionary actions you aspire to implement?** My ideal for Kapiti is that it becomes a well planned region, with a "spatial plan" which works for the benefit of all its citizens. I do not want the district overbuilt, but I want affordable housing for all of its citizens. I would want the council to work with the government to find model and successful solutions in the fields of health, education, economic growth and transport. Kapiti is the second highest concentration of senior citizens in the country and this is a particularly excellent opportunity to work in with a government plan called "Better Later Life" which was born in the last National government and is being carried on by the present Labour government.
- 14. How do you plan on being a visible and accessible leader for our council and community?** If elected my main emphasis is for the new council to be run more efficiently, to have better meetings and for staff to be challenged to be among the best in the country. I think that if both the council and the staff have plans of constant improvement systems I will have succeeded. I will seek public acknowledgement if this is being achieved and for the help of the district's people,

businesses and ratepayers to continue and expand. I would also become a member of the Kapiti Chamber of Commerce to help in the sharing of information and ideas.