

Glen Cooper – Paraparaumu Ward

Economic Development

- 1. What is your understanding of the Kotahitanga Board and the role that they play? Should they be independent?** I understand the board is set up to deliver the economic and development strategy on behalf of KCDC. Not only should they be independent they need to have a perception of independent and not just an extension to KCDC and seen as their mouth piece. This is a challenge!
- 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 think more so than economic a sense of belonging to something, to be proud the heart where the community is happy to spend time in or identify with. We have many town centres across our district all with different wants needs and cultures
- 3. How do you plan to support and grow town centres, and their relationship to the economic development team and wider business community?** Council needs to make it easy for business and development not hard and obstructive as is the case now. It is my understanding this last Council back channelled a substantial amount of money to a lobby group standing against the Templeton Group Airport development. This type of behaviour must be stopped. I will not accept this type of behaviour
- 4. What is your understanding of the purpose of the Tourist Advisory Board and their relationship with Wellington NZ and KCDC?** Not sure of the tourist advisory board, never had anything to do with them even though I had a major tourism business for last 4 years (now sold)
- 5. What are the opportunities around tourism in Kāpiti?** Cycle ways, beaches, developing hotels and accommodation, development of the airport. Take the focus off Kapiti Island and look wider to our other exceptional local business

Better Infrastructure

- 6. What role do you think KCDC plays in the Peka Peka Interchange?** Not sure is this a Waka Kotahi regional council area or KCDC not sure?
- 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?** KCDC should not be in the role of a landlord this is the role of private sector or central government agencies. Council role should be making it easier for others to build and add housing infrastructure, regulatory and structural compliance. I do not support large scale purchase by council of social housing. Show me the evidence why this is a good idea and I am open to discussion on it. Intensification rules being forced on councils by central government we have little say. With the local Gov reforms we will have even less say in the future with Local Plans potentially being removed to regional plans run out of Wellington etc. We must do what we can to keep local governance and a say in what our community looks like

- 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?** Te Urihi is nothing more than a black hole the rate payers will pour money into for years to come. KCDC should not be providing free bio security for DOC or private businesses. It will be a white elephant and have very little value to anyone's wellbeing in fact projects like this just make it unaffordable to live here and add to rates affordability and needs to be cancelled – Community hates the project as I do. This project is the poster child on how not do run a project, very little if any community support, pushed through we know best attitude by council, no fiscal responsibility, no business case after 2 years, no resource consent and \$1.3M spent on this waste of a project
- 9. What do you think are the opportunities for business if the Kāpiti Airport stays an airport, or if it gets developed?** Very excited about the development of the airport, massive potential for world class wetlands, hotels, medical centre, social housing, commercial, a Pa for Pukitapu Ki Paraparaumu hapu. Very excited and KCDC should be an enabler not a acting with subterfuge and against the developers. The developer has been treated terrible by KCDC. I will engage with them on behalf of our community to get the best outcome for us

Future thinking

- 10. What actions should KCDC be taking to support businesses to become climate friendly?** Private business needs to make up their own minds up on where their business sits on climate change and fund it themselves not by rate payer money. With NZ creating 0.17 % of world omissions 58% of that being agriculture and most of the rest being transport there is very little they can do to reduce carbon emissions. Council should be providing quality green waste, recycling, clean water, cycle ways, walking tracks, parks and regulatory and compliance that makes it easy for people look after the environment. I see a lot of rate payers money wasted on climate initiatives that have very little if any impact on climate at all. We need sensible spend no virtue signalling spend
- 11. How do you envision the relationship between local iwi and KCDC operating in the future?** KCDC will be lead by iwi in this respect
- 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?** 3 Waters a asset steal by Central Government taking away local voice and any sort of involvement in drinking, waste and sewerage. Council will have no say on this matter with legislation forced on councils across the country. I do not support 3 water legislation. We should be in control of our own assets. I intend to deal with and develop relationships by acting with integrity and honesty in my dealings with all parties.

- 13. What is your vision for Kāpiti, and how do you intend to implement it? Name three visionary actions you aspire to implement?** Not that visionary but I advocate for sustainable rates, by focusing on core business, parks footpaths, pools, libraries looking after youth elderly and vulnerable. Not wasting hard earned rates on extras or fluffy stuff. We need to keep rates sustainable. Not that visionary but voting for issues that stand up financially that don't impact on excessive rates increase or projects that have overwhelming community support. Not that visionary but make decisions that have integrity.
- 14. How do you plan on being a visible and accessible leader for our council and community?** Community boards that the last lot of councillors voted to disband twice are vital. They should be empowered to engage with the public they should then bring the local issues to the ward or district councillors who in turn bring them to the table! This has not happened it needs to happen. I will do this in Paraparaumu Ward