

Janet Holborow – Mayoral Candidate

Economic Development

- 1. What is your understanding of the Kotahitanga Board and the role that they play? Should they be independent?** The Kotahitanga Board, the Economic Development Board, have hit the ground running, supporting local businesses, developing a feasibility study for a tertiary education facility, developing an intergenerational strategy and a Workforce Plan, forming strong relationships with Council's Economic Development team and WellingtonNZ. I look forward to supporting them as they continue to put Kāpiti on the map as a great place to do business. They need to have a level of independence to attract external funding, but it's also important that they retain a strong relationship with council so we can work together for businesses and align messaging and goals. Only by working together can we maximise our potential as a district which is great for businesses and visitors.
- 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 have seen enormous improvements across the district in recent years. It's been wonderful to see performances, art works and people enjoying Mahara Place, which is about to be further uplifted by the new Mahara Gallery, and then the library. We can now look forward to the revitalisation of Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Ōtaki through the revocation process. However, there is more we can do. MacLean Street needs work to really be a jewel in the crown of our destination offering and hub for hospitality. Raumati Village has waited too long for much needed upgrades and traffic control. There is potential for more art and culture in our public spaces, to vitalise and maximise these areas for shopping and visitor experience. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the patience and co-operation of the businesses who are impacted by our town centre developments during construction.
- 3. How do you plan to support and grow town centres, and their relationship to the economic development team and wider business community?** Town centres provide a quality environment to attract visitors and clients. I will work closely with the Economic Development team to facilitate business, and use Regional and National connections to continue to put Kāpiti on the map. Through our Town Centre upgrades, we have formed connections with the businesses in those areas. We need to nurture those connections and make sure we are doing everything we can to support businesses after the work is done. Providing a quality environment supports business success. My door will be open to business owners to talk about what they need and how we can further support them, and I will host regular hui to connect and chat.
- 4. What is your understanding of the purpose of the Tourist Advisory Board and their relationship with Wellington NZ and KCDC?** The Tourist Advisory Board is a directive from the ED Strategy that is led by the Kotahitanga Board. This group has great knowledge in the sector both locally, regionally and internationally. This group has

been formed to primarily pull the local sector together to create a tourism voice. Once they have found and formed opinions from our local providers and actions have been agreed they can then reach out to Wellington NZ with a plan and deliverables that can be supported or funded, likewise with KCDC. There is ongoing engagement with both organisations. It was great to see Kāpiti finally have a strong presence in the recently released Regional Economic Development Strategy.

- 5. What are the opportunities around tourism in Kāpiti?** With our proximity to Wellington, beaches, walking and biking tracks with Kāpiti Island the jewel in the crown we have enormous potential as a tourist destination. The Destination Management Plan provides a platform for growing our tourism potential. The food and beverage industry is fast growing our reputation in that space. Our major events programme including the Kāpiti Food Fair and the Ōtaki Kite Festival form the backbone of an events offering which can grow even more, particularly with Otaraua Park coming online as a sizeable venue. Our creative offering is also strong, with the Kāpiti Arts Trail set to be the biggest yet and the Mahara Gallery to be completed in the next year. Ngā Manu Nature Reserve is a lovely destination with huge potential. We have so much to build on, and I look forward to working with the tourist Advisory Board and the Kotahitanga Board to maximising our potential.

Better Infrastructure

- 6. What role do you think KCDC plays in the Peka Peka Interchange?** Council has an important advocacy role to play in ensuring that national regional infrastructure supports future growth, and that includes the Peka Peka interchange, as well as the rail connection to the north. First, we need to make sure the business case is robust, and we accurately project the growth potential, work which has been underway with the Tupu Pai Growth Strategy.
- 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?** Housing in Kāpiti is one of the greatest challenges we face, as demonstrated by the level of need identified in council's Housing Needs Assessment, and council is taking action by starting the process of setting up an Affordable Housing Entity. It's important that we identify opportunities and have the ability to pull all of the levers we can. That involves not only land purchases, but also finding ways to facilitate a variety of housing stock and providing the necessary infrastructure. Government funding such as the recent \$29 Infrastructure funding for Ōtaki is essential. Much of our development will be dictated by government intensification legislation, which is reflected in our District Plan changes, but we have much we can do to ensure that this intensive development is supported with sustainable and convenient transport options, quality open spaces and other facilities.
- 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? The recent cost increase in the Te Uruhi project has intensified the vocal opposition to the project. Final costs will come to the new council for decision with all of the information available. I think it's important not only to look at the building and the cost, but what it's aiming to achieve. The project has been strongly supported by iwi as an important facility for cultural expression, and also would provide a central place for visitors to find out about the wider visitor offerings in Kāpiti. It would also provide quality biosecurity services and a launching point for Kāpiti Island visits. If the project doesn't proceed we need to explore other ways to achieve these goals.

- 9. What do you think are the opportunities for business if the Kāpiti Airport stays an airport, or if it gets developed?** In recent weeks, I've met with the owners of the airport and with Kāpiti Air Urban to find out about their latest visions for the area. This huge area of land in the centre of Paraparaumu is such an enormous opportunity and both groups have started forming a vision of a variety of ways the land could be developed, either with or without an airport. With the history of the existence of an airport there, and the opportunities an aviation technology development hub around that, the KAU vision is hugely exciting, and also provides for some housing. The other opportunity is to provide more housing and other services. Any development in the area would stimulate business, and there is potential for business to be an integral part of any development, with opportunities for retail, office space and other businesses. Environmental restoration, wetlands and hydrolic neutrality are also important. However, it's early days and iwi are central to the conversation.

Future thinking

- 10. What actions should KCDC be taking to support businesses to become climate friendly?** The recently launched Pakihi Toitū o Kāpiti, a new network to help businesses to become more environmentally sustainable practices, sharing knowledge about more sustainable business practices. The network includes a platform of online resources to assist and guide businesses in developing their own sustainability policy and plan. Council's district wide emissions reduction work is out for consultation, and businesses need to be a strong voice in ensuring that plan has businesses as a central consideration. Council is also considering the development of fund for businesses to apply to for sustainable projects and development. I look forward to progressing this work, and to promoting Kāpiti as a place which encourages environmentally friendly businesses.
- 11. How do you envision the relationship between local iwi and KCDC operating in the future?** As a previous representative on Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti, I have seen our relationship with iwi grow and change. We are soon to have representation from all three iwi on our committees and council, with voting rights on the committees. I know from experience that better decisions are made when iwi are around the table, not just for iwi but for everyone. Council has also grown its iwi liaison team in the

organisation. We need to support Ngāti Haumia with their land in Queen Elizabeth Park, and progress the concept of a Marae for the hapu and community. I would like to particularly acknowledge the contribution of Koro Don te Maipi, who has been and continues to be a rock for the council, ensuring our cultural practices are always appropriate, and presiding over countless events, openings and blessings over many years.

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?

Local Government has been experiencing a reform storm over the past few years. Not only Three Waters and Local Government reform, but also RMA reform, Intensification and Urban Development. Local Government has often felt like they are late in the conversation, and that the reforms are not integrated. I agree that water reform is necessary, but I agree with the Council submission, that the cost savings may not be realised, and the benefits or otherwise for our district are unclear. I recently presented the council submission on behalf of Council to the Select Committee for Three Waters, and they were interested in our work on projected cost savings, asking for more information. With Local Government Reform, we need to make sure our businesses are supported with Economic Development in the event of any amalgamation. The fact that we are now featuring regionally is positive, and we need to make sure that continues.

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

Kāpiti is growing and changing. With 30 000 more people set to live in the district, we need to provide the services and town centres to match. We also need to make sure that we think not just about where people live, but how they live, by providing convenient and sustainable transport connections and quality facilities. We have an opportunity through Health reform to provide more health services in our district. With my strong regional and national connections, I will make sure Kāpiti's voice is not lost, by maintaining relationships with our neighbouring councils, Regional Council and Central Government. For more information on my vision and actions please visit www.janetholborow.co.nz

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

As an elected member for five terms, I have formed connections throughout our district, and for all of my time as an elected member, I have been present throughout the district. As Mayor, I will make sure I maintain connections with the business community by holding regular hui, making sure my door is open. I will make sure that communication from not just the Mayor but the whole council is effective and crosses all media. I will continue to be out and about in the community, available for a chat or sharing ideas or issues. Evening meetings and workshops will ensure that our council is accessible to all.