

Jocelyn Prvanov – Waikanae Ward

Economic Development

- 1. What is your understanding of the Kotahitanga Board and the role that they play? Should they be independent?** The Kotahitanga Board provides independent leadership and strategic direction on economic development for the Kapiti District. and is supported by KCDC. The role is to support the growth of a vibrant, diverse economy, oversee the delivery and implementation of the current Kāpiti Coast Economic Development Strategy and Implementation Plan, and build trust with our district's key partners and stakeholders. I believe it's a strategic role for our district given the district's predicted population growth, the need to increase and diversity business and employment opportunities, training for people, especially young people, and increase the average salary. I believe the board should be independent. This is so the board can make decisions outside the constraints of council and bring in talented board members to make the best decisions for Kapiti.
- 2. Kāpiti Chamber values town centres as vital contributors to our local economic system. What examples of benefits have you seen from town centres?** Examples I have seen of the benefits of town centre are:
 - a. A well -planned town centre is a relatively small, complex space, but quite diverse, so they are many things to many people, such being a place for work, leisure, culture, history, education, living, health, shopping and public services.
 - b. They provide a revolving economy and economic well- being. If a town centre is strong then the money will stay in that town centre.
 - c. The biggest financial benefit of town centres is where the businesses are locally owned and have a diverse makeup, as the money they generate, stays in the community.
 - d. Social cohesion and well-being comes from locals being able to identify with a town centre. A town centre provides a collective place where people can meet and it can be a focal point for the community.
 - e. Town centres are often a magnet for other activities such as transport hubs.
- 3. How do you plan to support and grow town centres, and their relationship to the economic development team and wider business community?** To support and grow town centres, I would like to understand what makes each of our town centres tick or not tick. Councillors often have to make decisions in isolation, whether it be \$X for Y upgrade, or roading changes or \$X to build a specific building. I would like to see a more holistic approach taken based on good town centre strategies that I understand. Part of any town strategy is to experience all the town centres and hear from the ground upwards what the people who use a town centre think. Saying this, I understand tensions and constraints such as costs and not owning all the buildings play in this. A strong and vibrant town centre will feed economic development growth, and provide confidence in the business community to invest in it. This in turn has a positive spin off for the whole of Kapiti.

- 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 was established by the Kotahitanga Board earlier this year. The purpose of this board is to lead the implementation of tourism projects highlighted in our district's Destination Management Plan, namely to focus on increasing tourism activity and visitor numbers, to boost the local tourism sector. Councillors signed off the Destination Management Plan, and this board reports its activities to Council through the Kotahitanga Board. One of the Board's core responsibilities is to build a strong working relationship with Wellington NZ, who is the Wellington region's economic development, events, and promotions agency. It's my understanding this relationship is developing. Kapiti has about 10% of the population of the Wellington region and can potentially be swamped by the rest of the region, but this board and the council are slowly developing a presence on their website.
- 5. What are the opportunities around tourism in Kāpiti?** Kapiti has a myriad of opportunities for tourism. Kapiti is an easy drive, train trip or short flight of about 800,000 people. With our better weather, beaches, wonderful rivers, mountains, Kapiti Island, Nga Manu Nature Reserve, the Escarpment Walkway, to name a few, that can be accessed by an ever-increasing network of walkways, cycleways and bridleways, and with well-established and newer food and beverage establishments, we are well placed to offer a range of short or longer stay experiences to everyone. The key to unlocking this potential is to inform people what Kapiti has to offer - all year round, and get them to visit and stay longer, come back, and spread the word. This is through developing our presence on Wellington NZ, and through other advertising media and market segments nation-wide. These tourism opportunities should also be enhanced through improved coordination and collaboration of our destination sectors.

Better Infrastructure

- 6. What role do you think KCDC plays in the Peka Peka Interchange?** KCDC has played a pivotable role in the Peka Peka Interchange. Although a full interchange at Peka Peka would have been paid for by Waka Kotahi, KCDC, and the majority of councillors, and the CE did not support this project when it was being considered for inclusion in about 2018. There has been ongoing lukewarm support by KCDC as framed as "we do not oppose". Had a full interchange been supported at the outset I believe that it would almost be completed. So, without a full interchange when the rest of the Expressway opens, it is estimated an extra 2300 vehicle movements will be forced onto local roads in that area because of reduced connectivity. Ratepayers will then have to wear this twice, once as users and then as rate payers to pay for the extra maintenance.
- 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?** I believe KCDC should move solely to being a housing facilitator, although Council is currently a small housing provider.

Social housing is very much needed in Kapiti. With the right setup, it could be advantageous for everyone if KCDC was a facilitator, by teaming up with agencies who have housing as their core business. The current social housing properties could transition into this facilitation model as they are becoming more expensive to manage. The intensification rules have been forced on Kapiti when they never should have. Kapiti will change immensely from a leafy, open, sunny district with many small single dwellings to basically high-rise buildings and infill. Although there are a number of special beach character areas under our District Plan these will not be protected either, so they may disappear. As section development will often be piecemeal, largest tracts of land may have no trees or vegetation.

- 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 don't support Te Uruhi. The crux of this is where the funding has come from, i.e. unplanned rate payer money to fund a \$3.2 mill budget blowout. If Te Uruhi goes ahead, I don't think it will have much effect on businesses and community wellbeing in the Kapiti region, but it has caused a lot of grief. It's in the wrong place as the Gateway to the Kapiti Coast, although it's now being proposed to be the gateway to Kapiti Island, who has one operator going there for part of the year. As the two draft business cases don't provide any clear budgets on visitor numbers or costs, no one knows how it will affect Paraparaumu Beach residents or businesses but it not looking good.
- 9. What do you think are the opportunities for business if the Kāpiti Airport stays an airport, or if it gets developed?** The opportunities are endless but at this stage the owner hasn't given any indication what his plans are for this site. One thing that is clear to me that with a 30,000 population increase and generally low wages in Kapiti, this could present an opportunity to develop a highly skilled, well paid business hub. This of course could be built by locals and further reinvigorate the business community

Future thinking

- 10. What actions should KCDC be taking to support businesses to become climate friendly?** KCDC should lead by example, as well as supporting businesses to do the same and maybe through incentives, particularly as KCDC has declared a climate emergency. Initially carry out an audit of businesses to identify how well they are operating in a climate friendly way and identify and understand what the barriers are to achieve this. Some actual actions to consider are:
- a. more investment in wind, solar hydroelectricity panels and farming, as transport is one of the largest causes of carbon emissions, lobby the government for subsidies for large business vehicles,
 - b. Incentives to encourage businesses to only use, buy in products that have no / or environmentally friendly packaging

- 11. How do you envision the relationship between local iwi and KCDC operating in the future?** This is a conversation between local iwi and elected members and KCDC staff and the wider public. Totally open to all options but it has to work.
- 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 intent of the Three Waters reform is to provide all New Zealanders with safe, reliable drinking water, well performing waste water and storm water systems and infrastructure. While the intentions are good, the way the government has handled this is poor and the structure of four entities is unworkable. Local Government Reform is review of local government, to identify how local democracy and governance needs to evolve over the next 30 years to improve the wellbeing of New Zealand communities, the environment, and actively embody Te Tiriti. To keep Kapiti's voice strong, I plan to stay connected to, listen and talk to the community I represent and the whole of the Kapiti Coast, advocate to keep things local
- 13. What is your vision for Kāpiti, and how do you intend to implement it? Name three visionary actions you aspire to implement?** Kapiti is our place where we can thrive at living, working and playing with enjoyment and connectivity, knowing that our environment is safe and nourished, and our economy is vibrant. Three visionary actions:
- a. Forward planning for projects which are ready to go but where they will only be completed with say 2/3 outside funding
 - b. Setting up relationship partnerships between the main community groups and council staff
 - c. Make KCDC the council that other councils look to on how to action its climate emergency.
- 14. How do you plan on being a visible and accessible leader for our council and community?** I intend to stay engaged in and with the public of Kapiti, council staff, other elected members. I will continue turn up and contribute to community events. I answer my emails, phone and monitor social media. I listen to what people are saying and evaluate the best course of action. I am prepared to stand up and be counted even if I'm in the minority.