

Lawrence Kirby – Districtwide

Economic Development

- 1. What is your understanding of the Kotahitanga Board and the role that they play? Should they be independent?** The Kotahitanga Board, as I understand it, is the governance for the implementation of the Economic Development Strategy 2020-2023 that was adopted by Council in July 2020. They have a ToR which outlines their role pretty clearly. They should be independent representing our District, reporting to Council on the achievement of the EDS. The mechanisms are there for Council to ensure accountability and progress. The Board needs also to be engaging positively with other groups in the District who are part of the picture like, KEDA, the Chamber
- 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 a destination for people where they can find a variety of things in one place so they choose to spend time and money there. They have the ability to be designed and developed to represent the individuality of the surrounding neighbourhoods providing a point of difference. Designed well they can also help with the sense of community and wellbeing. They can bring a buzz and life to an area which in turn can discourage travel out of the region. Council needs to solution – focused and supporting our diverse communities to develop what they want within the bigger picture of the whole Coast. Unity in diversity
- 3. How do you plan to support and grow town centres, and their relationship to the economic development team and wider business community?** We have a great opportunity with the planned Paraparaumu Town Centre development to build something that we all can be proud of, that attracts people to visit Kāpiti and highlights the diversity of our District’s communities. I know there are discussions going on within each of the diverse communities across Kāpiti about how they further develop their town centres to bring vibrancy of life & economic growth especially with the opportunity that TG & the Expressways present. Through my current work in the Social & Community Sector, I’ve learnt that a compelling, inspired vision, a clear, realistic, affordable strategic plan coupled with good communication, with a willingness to collaborate are key to being effective in creating positive progress. I would listen to the many voices, learn what I can and help lead bringing us together to create a positive outcome for our District in regards to our Town centres
- 4. What is your understanding of the purpose of the Tourist Advisory Board and their relationship with Wellington NZ and KCDC?** The purpose of the Tourist Advisory Board, as I understand it, is to work to increase the number of visitors to the Kāpiti Coast using the Destination Management Plan as a guide. They need to work for Kāpiti with WellingtonNZ, KCDC and Iwi to increase our profile and get more funding for that goal (I don’t see this happening well yet)
- 5. What are the opportunities around tourism in Kāpiti?** Opportunities: our natural environment; our creative people; our hospitality sector – restaurants, breweries,

cafes; our boutique retail; our rich history & story. We need to have a clear, cohesive strategic plan that our hospitality, tourism and business sectors all buy into and then we get on with making it happen! Stop writing reports and get something done. We have amazing proactive people in this District, let's empower them.

Better Infrastructure

- 6. What role do you think KCDC plays in the Peka Peka Interchange?** KCDC has a role to play in keeping fighting to get a full interchange at PekaPeka – advocating, encouraging residents, using MPs etc. It may seem like it's too late but we need to keep it in front of Waka Kotahi and ensure land is kept available for it to be built in future if not now
- 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 think KCDC should stay as facilitators of housing development and work to ensure that, through the legislative mechanism they have available, developers are helping to provide the District with the types of housing that we need – social, affordable, fit for purpose. Strategic House purchases may be part of that process but Council is not a developer and should work with appropriate people & organisations to find housing solutions. Intensification will provide challenges for our District to maintain its character and diversity but it also provides opportunities to create beautifully designed and constructed, future focused, sustainable buildings that have community & environmental wellbeing in mind. These will increase population density and make our town centres more vibrant with life.
- 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 that if Te Uruhi goes ahead, in its proposed form and location, the impact will be negative. Having said that, the opportunity to showcase our district to visitors through a facility, to foster tourism and for mana whenua to share their stories and the rich history of the Kāpiti Coast is positive both for business and community wellbeing. This is not just about Kāpiti Island but about joining the dots between visitors to Kāpiti and all the fantastic opportunities across the District we have for them to explore. Our business and community wellbeing is improved when we are seen to be doing excellent things that accentuate the diversity and beauty of our Kāpiti Coast and create opportunities for development.
- 9. What do you think are the opportunities for business if the Kāpiti Airport stays an airport, or if it gets developed?** The opportunities for business if the Kāpiti Airport stays as an airport are few unless more of the surplus land is developed and initiatives supporting business are created like, an entrepreneur/business seeding hub and some quality commercial buildings that attract businesses to setup or transfer here. If the Airport closes the opportunities are vast, we have a blank canvas

where not only the above could be developed but also appropriate housing, connective roading, education facilities and more. There's an opportunity for the District to influence the owners towards a myriad of options that would help the District thrive.

Future thinking

- 10. What actions should KCDC be taking to support businesses to become climate friendly?** Firstly, I think KCDC needs to be listening to businesses, asking questions, learning what businesses are able & willing to do to become climate friendly. The conversations in our business sector about the need for a planned response to climate change need to happen urgently. Then from what it has learnt, KCDC could lead in supporting businesses to become climate friendly by removing any barriers, opening appropriate doors, advocating where necessary, changing what it can to make the changes easier and cost-effective
- 11. How do you envision the relationship between local iwi and KCDC operating in the future?** The relationship between Iwi and KCDC needs to be close and effective. The Treaty of Waitangi needs to continue to influence and change our thinking, our mind-sets and our practice. KCDC needs to prioritise this relationship – listening, learning and leading accordingly.
- 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?** Three Waters is a proposed Central Government programme whereby management of 3 Water infrastructure and services are removed from local Councils and transferred into four publicly-owned water service entities. Those entities will ensure all New Zealanders have access to safe, affordable water services & infrastructure now and in the future. Local Government reform is an independent look at what our communities need from local democracy in the future to enable them to respond and adapt to the changing conditions of our future. I will listen to understand what the voice of Kāpiti is, learn what the reforms, when they eventuate, mean in reality. I will work to communicate to our District what is necessary and listen again to the voice. I will lead strongly representing Kāpiti's voice through each of the reform processes using every channel we can to get the best possible outcomes for our District including the business community.
- 13. What is your vision for Kāpiti, and how do you intend to implement it? Name three visionary actions you aspire to implement?** I see District is that thriving in every area – natural environment, health, community wellbeing, business, family, education; where our diverse towns and communities are celebrated and our people are treasured; where we are building a life-giving legacy for future generations. I will be part of a Council team that listens to our community and that builds a healthy culture of manaakitanga & kotahitanga at KCDC. I will ensure that plans are actioned not just reported on. I will ask questions and include the right people in the decision-making process so good well-informed decisions are made.

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

community? I already am a visible and accessible leader in my current work as a pastor and leader in the Social & Community sector. I will carry that kaupapa into my Council role. Healthy, respectful relationships are foundational to everything so I will work to broaden my relational connections beyond what I have currently across the District from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki. I will reply to messages, emails and will meet with key groups and people as much as I am able.