

Questions.

1. About You; Please tell us why you are qualified to represent our community. Specifically, please address the following.

a. Education and qualifications

B Ed/Cert TESOL/Masters Student in Global Citizenship Education

Asia Pacific Tourism qualification

Treaty of Waitangi training

Environmental and Humanitarian Education specialist

b. Business experience

Self-employed having contracted to both Ministry and NGOs

Have managed budgets upwards to millions

Have managed people and programmes at a National level

Consult to a NZ Education and Sustainable Tourism company

c. Community Service

Over the years...Community Theatre, School Theatre productions, Rangers (older guides), MBAS Board Trustee, Forest and Bird, Sports teams support, fundraising for same as well as world scholar athlete games, youth trip to Vanuatu to build desalination plant, green group/green pages, Taputapuatea spit restoration, youth Champion for Mercury Bay.

At the moment Community Board and DOC Advisory are taking up a lot of my time and I do work full time...while some candidates don't.

d. Key achievements over the last few years

Getting the town centre upgrade happening and the coastal erosion strategy implemented. Being appointed by the Minister to the DOC Advisory Board for the Waikato region.

Generally, being 54 years old, this all could go on for a while...more than happy to furnish my CV to anyone who requests it

2. General Approach to Local Community Matters. We would like to understand your general approach to local issues. Specifically, please tell us your views on the following issues a. Role of Local Bodies – The Local Body Act 2002 direct NZ local bodies to focus on provision of infrastructure. Specifically, it states

The purpose of local government is—

(a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and

(b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.

Some local bodies, including TCDC, have broadened their activities to include economic development, tourist development and other non-core activities. Please tell us how you

interpret the Local Body Act 2002, and its amendments. Do you think TCDC should refocus on its core activities or should it continue to spend ratepayers' funds on other activities?

I think you'll find each district interprets the act in slightly different ways...especially around purpose (a) "...by and on behalf of...". It's my understanding that, under the TCDC community empowerment model, our brief extends further than just footpaths, lights and reserves etc (our core business and what you will see most of in our meeting minutes) but we also have a responsibility, I believe, in consulting and decision making around the health, happiness and well-being of our community. Otherwise, just pay an engineer to take care of the rest of it and don't have community boards at all.

b. Relationship with iwi - it is possible there will be a settlement with Hauraki/Coromandel iwi in the next 3 years. Please tell us your views of the proposed settlement and explain how you will work with iwi in the Coromandel.

I have an excellent working and personal relationship with iwi. The settlement process has been long and laborious but ultimately will be, I believe, fair. I don't think there is cause for concern for non-iwi as I have always found the representatives very reasonable to work with. I can't see the settlement having a great effect on anyone's current lifestyle or use of the area.

c. Residents and Ratepayers' needs vs. Business exploitation – what is your position on the challenge of balancing Residents needs with demands of tourism, and other business activities. The Coromandel is one the jewels of New Zealand but it is likely that it will be exploited rapidly over the next three years and beyond. Please tell us how you will decide to support and approve, or not, new tourist attractions and other business activities in the Coromandel.

The answer lies at District level and the policies that dictate what a piece of land can and can't be used for...we look to zoning etc to inform decisions that are made. If an activity is allowable under the appropriate policy but the community feels that granting permission would have detrimental lifestyle and/or environmental effects...then as your elected member I have to support you and together submit/lobby against the proposal. You may be aware that much of the peninsula is again under prospecting/mining investigation...much of which is controlled at central govt level...we all need to get interested pretty darned quick on that one!

d. Environmental Challenges and Sustainability – the attractiveness of the Coromandel for both residents and visitors is based primarily on the preservation of its pristine beauty. Please tell us about any initiatives you have to protect and ensure that the Coromandel is preserved in a sustainable way for the next generations of New Zealanders.

Being appointed to the DOC Advisory Board is a good start as I will have some genuine influence over these matters at last...Community Boards have very little. We all need to think carefully about who we vote in to WRC. I'm ex National Programme Manager of the Enviroschools foundation and am working for the Dr Jane Goodall Institute Global voluntarily...so both are a good indication of how I feel about environmental and humanitarian issues. Communities, alongside expert advice, need to drive the preservation/restoration of significant natural resources.

e. 5 Key Initiatives - Please tell us your 5 most important initiatives that you would promote and implement if you are elected. How will they benefit the people of the Coromandel and Hahei?

Community plans/strategies in each coastal village to inform initiatives for those villages
Community workshops (Bloke's Sheds?) for folks to get together and make stuff for their communities...google the Paihia initiative which has great engagement and removal of red tape to get things done in their community. <http://focuspaihia.org.nz/projects/>
We have so much on the go at the moment...check out our minutes and work programme. I know there isn't much capacity from staff or budget to add on more. Beware of promises of community swimming pools/civic centres and performing arts theatres etc...we've crunched the numbers and sadly we can't afford them...yet.

3. Hahei Issues. We would like to understand your position on the following local issues that are very important to the people of Hahei. a. Traffic and Tourist Management – The No 1 issue for Hahei residents is tourist and traffic management. TCDC has not only failed to invest in the appropriate infrastructure, but has added to the problem by proposing to build a “Great Walk”. How will you solve the tourism and parking management problems of Hahei? Specifically, please tell us views on the following.

i. How will you negotiate a settlement between DOC, iwi and TCDC to take over the management of the Grange Rd Car Park, a task that the current leadership has failed to do for the last few years.

It's a work in progress and we haven't been able to make it move any faster...it's not within CB control.

ii. Invest, or not, in additional car parking

Priority one is loads of parking at the entrance to Hahei and a reasonable shuttle service that does a circuit to the beachfront, Cath Cove walkway, the Pa etc...I would be annoyed if I had to pay heaps to park and then heaps to catch a shuttle. We need it to be an appealing option that folks want to use.

It looks like Lees Road is going ahead for better or worse...one commercial driver has told me that the turn-around time could be as much as an hour from Hahei to Lees return in peak season. It might be public education combined with a shuttle that can take you back to your car at either park. I think of the Tongariro crossing (much longer I know) but you walk one way and get shuttled back...in Hahei's case you really want a good number to end up back in the village supporting local businesses...food, accommodation, cold beer etc

iii. Your views on the currently proposed South Mercury Bay Traffic Management Strategy.

Doesn't go far enough...as I wrote to Barney Bowen...the whole picture, speeds, one lane bridge approaches, signage etc from prior to Dalmeny Corner out to all of the Eastern beaches needs looking at in conjunction with NZTA and all stakeholders.

iv. Your commitment, or not, to stop of further tourist attractions in Hahei until the traffic management problems of Hahei are solved.

I personally feel there should be no development at all until you've done your community plan, everyone is hooked onto sewerage, traffic management is sorted out and you have a

solid (managed) growth strategy moving forward. The trick is having a united front at your end.

b. Great Walk – One of Glenn Leach’s anchor projects has been the Great Walk which was supposed to go from Whitianga to Hot Water Beach. TCDC has worked on the project since 2012, spent over \$1m on external consultants, and unknown amount internally, but to date, there have been no tangible results. The Hahei Communities’ position is set out in the attached letter. Since delivering this letter to Mr. Towler and the Mayor, TCDC have failed to deliver on any of the key points. Please tell us your position on the development of the Great Walk.

As a ‘District Project’ our Community Board has held no power within the project which has been frustrating. Your stakeholder group has had more voice than we have. It’s going ahead...that we all understand and with the elections upon us I would be asking the Council and Mayoral candidates where they stand and listening very carefully as they will be responsible for delivering on your key points.

To be honest I will enjoy using the Great Walk but then it’s not on my land or my street that is being clogged up with cars etc...it’s obvious that those who are most affected should get more say in how it is all managed.

c. Entrance to Hahei Development – The recently published District Plan included a Structure Plan for the development of the entrance to Hahei, generally known as the 100 Acres. The HBRPA opposes the development for a number of reasons, and is challenging the development in the Environment Court. Please tell us your position on land development in Hahei.

I think I’ve already answered this question.

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d. Overall Spatial/Development Plan for Hahei/Mercury Bay South – for the past 2 years we have requested that TCDC allocates funds and staff to work with us to develop a spatial/community/development plan for Hahei, and ideally the Mercury Bay South area. Although the current Mayor and the current Chairman of the Community Board have publicly supported this concept, nothing has happened. Please tell how you work with us to ensure that a professional plan is prepared as quickly as possible.

The appointment of a new Community Development Manager (a long and drawn out process for whatever reason) will help facilitate this to happen. I think the Hahei Community needs to suggest a place and time. I remember a meeting where I suggested that you sit around a table first and draw up a plan with wishes and items to discuss...I was rather bluntly told that there is a plan in existence...I would argue that with a changing landscape and Great walks etc in the mix that this needs updating. After this first (or revised) iteration is created then I would have a date set a date for staff to come over and work through it.

The town centre upgrade over here has gone through so many community boards and iterations it's ridiculous...we've finally made decisions that we are acting upon.

e. Hahei Bay protection/sewage treatment – Hahei bay is at risk of becoming polluted with runoff from farming, leaking septic tanks, etc. There is some evidence that there is a reduction in the biodiversity in the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve due to run off from various sources. Please tell us how you propose managing the marine environment in Coromandel, and in particular Hahei.

Have you seen the recent water quality report from WRC? It sampled water at stream/estuary mouths around the peninsula over January and February...particularly targeting faecal coliforms among other contaminants. We've made suggestions about a more in depth study with the DNA analysis to be combined with quantifiable data so we know the extent of the contamination from various sources.

Personally I think there is no place for septic tanks near a pristine beach and that all of Hahei should be on reticulated sewerage as soon as possible. This is an issue throughout our ward. I am very interested in turbidity...Buffalo Beach is silty and often murky...it wasn't 33 years ago when I arrived. Run off is a serious issue...we've made WRC clear of our concerns...as should Hahei ratepayers...we can only lobby at regional level. Talk to the candidates for WRC as well...they will have more influence in the long run. TCDC may influence who builds what and where (flow-on impacts for our water ways) through zoning...which we all need to lobby at District level...Community board as well.