

## Questions for Elections Candidates – Mayor Responses

| Question   | Peter French Response   | Sandra Goudie Response   |
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| <p>1. <b>About You.</b> Please tell us why you are qualified to represent our community. Specifically, please address the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Education and qualifications</li> <li>b. Business experience</li> <li>c. Community Service</li> <li>d. Key achievements over the last few years.</li> </ul> | <p><b>My Background</b> – University Entrance accredited, completed 1st Year NZCLS at Auckland Tech, Massey Uni Sociology 101 and Psychology 101, Police Advocacy Skills Course, Certified RMA Hearings Commissioner, 35 years Policing incl. 15 years prosecuting, Life member Thames Squash Club Incl. Player coaching, Thames Junior Rugby Executive and Coaching, Waikato Squash and Thames Valley Bowls Governance Boards, Bowls Umpire, District Licensing Deputy Chair.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor for last 6 years, Council Rep Waikato Regional Transport, Speed Management and Emergency Management, Chair Thames Valley Emergency management, Chair District Plan Review and Appeals Panel, Hauraki Gulf Forum &amp; Marine Spatial Plan Governance member, Member TCDC committees incl. Policy, Judicial, Infrastructure, Economic Development and Chief Executive Liaison incl appointment of 2 Chief Executives since 2010.</p> <p>Moved to Thames in 1990 with young family and have been here ever since.</p> <p>Holidayed for many years in 1970s at Wharekaho and Cooks Beach. We have family members living in Whangamata and Tairua.</p> | <p>Education and Qualifications – Please visit website <a href="http://www.sandragoudie.co.nz">www.sandragoudie.co.nz</a></p> <p>Business Experience.</p> <p>Dairy Farming successfully for 27 years.</p> <p>Currently we have both farming and commercial business interests.</p> <p>Key Achievements over the last few years. <a href="http://www.sandragoudie.co.nz">www.sandragoudie.co.nz</a></p> <p>More recently participated actively within Council to achieve significant savings, and the utilisation of my greater knowledge and experience for better outcomes.</p> |

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| <p>1. <b>General Approach to Local Community Matters.</b> We would like to understand your general approach to local issues. Specifically, please tell us your views on the following issues</p> <p>a. <b>Role of Local Bodies</b> – The Local Body Act 2002 direct NZ local bodies to focus on provision of infrastructure. Specifically, it states</p> <p><i>The purpose of local government is—</i></p> <p><i>(a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and</i></p> <p><i>(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.</i></p> <p>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</p> | <p>Local Govt. Act – By repowering Community Boards over past 6 years this has given decision making back to communities where it belongs.</p> <p>Local people making local decisions at a local level. Communities now have the power to decide what activities and projects they are prepared to fund and levels of service. District has retained funding of essential services such as 3 waters, solid waste (rubbish collection) and roading. This allows for consistency and affordability of rates across all our community board areas.</p> <p>Local services such as parks and reserves, halls, cemeteries etc. are funded locally providing local decision making on behalf of communities as per Local Govt. Act.</p> <p>With 55% absentee ratepayers and an ageing population the visitor industry is an important component of our district economy. Supporting local events that bring people to the Coromandel more often supports our local businesses. Without them, our towns would struggle to survive as they provide local services and employment for our residents and especially our younger people.</p> <p>More permanent residents ease the burden on rates and absentee owners visiting more often boosts our local economies. For TCDC, economic development is an essential service otherwise</p> | <p>In response to the Local Govt. Act 2002.</p> <p>I firmly believe in Communities leading the way with the support of Council.</p> <p>Council focus must be primarily on core infrastructure in the first instance.</p> <p>Initiatives outside that focus should be led by the community not thrust upon them.</p> <p>Council (ratepayers) cannot and should not be required to fund anything and everything.</p> <p>The ‘power of general competence’ in the legislation gave some councils the excuse to indulge in a largesse they could ill afford.</p> |

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| <p>should it continue to spend ratepayers' funds on other activities?</p>   | <p>living on the Coromandel would quickly become unaffordable for locals on fixed incomes and limited finances.</p>   |  |
| <p>1. <b>Relationship with iwi</b> - 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.</p>  | <p>Treaty settlement for our local iwi is with the Crown. Local councils have a limited ability to influence those negotiations and should be focused and proactive in respect to the protection of 3rd party interests. Local reserves subject to the Reserves Act should remain accessible to the public. Co-governance and co-management arrangements are not new and have been successful throughout NZ.</p> <p>As a result of Treaty Settlement local iwi will become the largest landowners on the Coromandel and as such it is extremely important council maintains a strong working relationship with iwi. Local iwi is already heavily involved in local industry including commercial fishing and aquaculture. This will no doubt expand as further economic opportunities arise such as forestry.</p> | <p>The settlement negotiation is between the crown and Iwi.</p> <p>Council have been kept informed.</p> <p>While there are some good aspects of the settlement, there is cause for concern in regard to other aspects.</p> <p>The confidential nature of the process is not something I support but I do comply with it.</p> <p>I would continue to work honestly and openly with iwi, respect the settlement, and do whatever I could to ensure successful outcomes for all parties.</p> <p>My interaction to date has always been on that basis.</p> |
| <p>2. <b>Residents and Ratepayers' needs vs. Business exploitation</b> – 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</p> | <p><b>Tourism</b> – Visitors will continue to come to the Coromandel whether we want them or not because of our uniqueness. The challenge is to ensure that they contribute to the cost of infrastructure to cater for them rather than it being a burden on ratepayers. User pay for shuttle services, parking, toilets etc. in areas with high visitor numbers and local infrastructure</p>   | <p>Listening to communities is essential.</p> <p>Infrastructure has to be the primary focus.</p> <p>We need to ensure the provision of services to our resident communities is robust, and can also handle a modicum of growth and the influx of visitors during peak periods.</p>   |

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| <p>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.</p>   | <p>struggling to cope. It is absolutely vital that local residents and ratepayers are unified and are involved in developing solutions to make this happen</p>   | <p>Most activity will be dependent on those core services.</p> <p>The capacity will to some extent dictate what can and cannot take place.</p> <p>Consideration for the environment goes hand in hand with whatever we do</p>   |
| <p><b>3. Environmental Challenges and Sustainability</b> – 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.</p> | <p>I was instrumental in council exploring a sustainability strategy 3-4 years ago. Council as an organisation should be leading the way in respect to sustainability. Organisational initiatives such as recycling, renewable energy and efficiencies, petrol to diesel use for council vehicles are some of the initiatives involved. A top priority for me would be to ensure this strategy is reviewed and expanded to provide sustainable prosperity for our district long term. As per the LGA prosperity needs to encompass all 4 pillars of local government namely social, cultural, environmental and economic initiatives. There are so many dedicated groups and individuals on the Coromandel doing wonderful work and a strategy that brings together initiatives that will ensure future generations enjoy the Coromandel as we do today.</p> | <p>Everywhere I have been, over my many years involved with people and communities throughout the district, I am constantly thrilled by the quiet stewardship people have with the land.</p> <p>Property owners and the 70 plus environment groups are all making a difference.</p> <p>Some of the best protection comes from people and communities without any expectation of recognition or reward. For me, that is what epitomizes conservation of our Coromandel. It is the people that make it so special.</p> <p>The challenges are around core infrastructure and ensuring the efficient use of land as growth occurs in order to maintain the environment around us.</p> |
| <p><b>4. 5 Key Initiatives</b> - Please tell us your 5 most important initiatives that you would promote and implement if you are elected.</p>   | <p>1. Enhanced Community Empowerment – District Projects such as Hauraki Rail Trail, Great walks and Coromandel Harbour have been council’s priority over the past 6 years.</p>  | <p>I have no ‘initiatives’ as such, as largely I believe these should be driven by communities.</p>   |

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| <p>How will they benefit the people of the Coromandel and Hahei?</p>  | <p>Those projects need to be managed prudently but local projects need to become priority over the next 3 years with District support.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Maintaining and Enhancing Strategic partnerships with key partners.</li> <li>3. District Plan appeals resolution</li> <li>4. Rural broadband and improved cell phone coverage. Imperative to have more effective and reliable internet for business attraction and development. Too many blackspots on Coromandel roads that compromise the safety of the travelling public.</li> <li>5. District Projects already started have the ability to promote economic development and help to resolve existing infrastructure deficiencies particularly at Hahei and Coromandel.</li> </ol> | <p>For me it is doing the homework to ensure the robustness of core services, and financial structure to support community initiatives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stock take on core infrastructure services.</li> <li>2. Strengthening Council support for all areas of the district to ensure there is an even allocation of resources.</li> <li>3. Strengthening Community Boards, and Council interaction with Community Boards.</li> <li>4. Improved communication on a number of levels. – Community Boards/community/absentees.</li> <li>5. Be there, listening, asking questions, and finding workable solutions!</li> </ol> |
| <p>1. <b>Hahei Issues.</b> We would like to understand your position on the following local issues that are very important to the people of Hahei.</p> <p>a. <b>Traffic and Tourist Management</b> – 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</p> | <p>Regardless of whether the walks project had been initiated or not, parking and congestion issues need to be resolved at Hahei. Council is spending \$600k to develop the entrance car park. The walks project has enabled council to access external funding as well as partnering with DOC to co-fund solutions incl. Pa Rd and Lees Rd car park projects and upgrading of Lees Rd rather</p>  | <p>All of these issues would be worked through with Community input.</p>   |

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| <p>Hahei? Specifically, please tell us views on the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>ii. Invest, or not, in additional car parking</li> <li>iii. Your views on the currently proposed South Mercury Bay Traffic Management Strategy.</li> <li>iv. Your commitment, or not, to stop of further tourist attractions in Hahei until the traffic management problems of Hahei are solved.</li> </ul> | <p>than it being a substantial burden on ratepayers alone.</p> <p>Investment in local car parking is essential and I believe Lees Rd is a very important part of the solution. Providing 200 parks at Pa Rd goes some way to addressing current issues. Keeping tourist cars and buses out of the village area is a desirable outcome. User pays and opportunities for service providers should be part of the considerations to provide a long term sustainable solution for Hahei.</p> <p>Utilising Whitianga as a transport hub for visitors accessing attractions either by water or road should also be part of the solution. Any council revenue generation should feed back into local infrastructure. Whatever the solution/s no further pressure should be placed on infrastructure at Hahei until current issues are addressed.</p> | <p>For Grange Road car park, I would do my homework and work through it in a timely manner, with all parties, for a final outcome. No dithering.</p> <p>While additional car parking is essential in the peak, community priorities and funding will help to determine what is achievable.</p> <p>Funding for the Lees Road car park has already been approved by Council and progress for the works has begun.</p> <p>I would want to do more homework on this issue and be sure about what the majority of the community want to see happen. Generally only activities that have not entered into contracts can be changed.</p> |
| <p>b. <b>Great Walk</b> – 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</p>  | <p>A walk around the coastline of South Mercury Bay has the potential to become an internationally recognised ‘must do’. The vision of a series of walks around the Coromandel is a very attractive proposition but until a workable solution can be developed to deal with increased visitor numbers, community boards should focus more on developing shorter and easily accessible walks</p>   | <p>From the information provided and obtained through other sources it is clear that the Great Walks, while supported, is secondary to other matters needing to be resolved first.</p> <p>From my perspective I would agree.</p> <p>Community needs must be prioritised, and funding requirements also identified.</p>  |

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| <p>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.</p>   | <p>and cycle trails in and around our larger townships.</p>  | <p>Representation on the governance body must be remedied to ensure there is direct community involvement.</p>  |
| <p>c. <b>Entrance to Hahei Development</b> – 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.</p>                         | <p>I am unable to comment on the 100 acre development as I am a member of the District Plan appeals panel and this matter is the subject of that process</p>                         | <p>The land development the HBRPA are currently challenging is already within a process that cannot be changed, and has no provision for any further input from external parties.</p> <p>Anyone has the right to apply for a resource consent for land development. What is of concern is the capacity of core infrastructure to support development. Robust water and waste water systems will protect the environment but come at a cost.</p> |
| <p>d. <b>Overall Spatial/Development Plan for Hahei/Mercury Bay South</b> – 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</p> | <p>A community/spatial plan for all our communities is absolutely imperative and should be a living document constantly being reviewed to remain relevant and location specific.</p> | <p>Any work already done around community planning for Hahei should be overhauled and a robust consultative process, agreed to by the community, entered into.</p> <p>If that has been an undertaking given, then it should be honored.</p> <p>If I recall Hahei was the first to produce a Community Plan some years ago.</p>  |

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| <p>happened. Please tell how you work with us to ensure that a professional plan is prepared as quickly as possible.</p>  |   |   |
| <p>e. <b>Hahei Bay protection/sewage treatment</b> – 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.</p> | <p>Septic Tanks on the Coromandel are a real issue that must be addressed. A collaborative project between council, WRC, iwi and local communities is a must do to develop over time a strategy to move from old tanks to more modern and efficient systems. Any strategy needs to be staged so that it has buy in from home owners and is affordable. I believe that this would be one issue dealt with as part of the development of a district sustainability strategy</p>                       | <p>Work with the Regional Council to do water quality testing to establish the state of the water quality in the bay, and identify any sources of contamination present. This would be in line with similar testing they have undertaken in other parts of the district.</p> <p>From that point we can then look at how to remove or mitigate any adverse effects.</p> <p>Possum and gull faecal coliform has been identified as a contaminant in most sites already tested.</p> <p>Where septic tanks are an issue, the Regional Council will need to address any changes necessary.</p> |
| <p>f. <b>Additional Comments</b></p>  | <p>The last 6 years since 2010 has been challenging for council and communities coming off the back of the Global Financial Crisis. Growth and confidence are returning to the Coromandel and a solid platform has been set with rates and external debt under control. Project delivery is at an all time high at around 84%. This is testament to councils Business Improvement initiatives. Now is the time for council to consolidate Community Empowerment. Our 10 year plan shows debt to</p> |   |

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|          | <p>be reduced to \$0 by 2025 and modest rates increases around 2%.</p> <p>We have appointed a new Chief Executive with strong leadership credentials and a mandate to strengthen customer confidence in council.</p> <p>This team of elected members and staff have worked hard to bring back council to a solid financial position. The direction is positive and the leadership team is strong. We need your support to continue the momentum generated over the past 6 years.</p> <p>The time is NOT right for a change of direction and leadership.</p> |                        |