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HCC candidate name: TONY DIXON

Please type in the space below each question, and use as much space as you require for each answer.

Please email your responses back to info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz not later than **Monday, September 5th 2016**.

1. Have you personally been involved in any group, organisation or activities that relate to sustainability? Please give details and outcomes.

I am actively involved in my own vegetable gardening and am almost self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables. I am on the mailing list of a couple of local associations and do try to get to their meetings when possible.

2. Please rank, in order of (1) to (7), what you consider to be the most pressing needs for sustainability today, (1) being the most pressing and (7) the least. Please also add one of your own ideas.

Adapting to the impacts of climate change	Rank: 1
Reducing our contribution to climate change	Rank: 7
Sustainable economic growth	Rank: 3
Sustainable transport options	Rank: 5
Sustainable urban design	Rank: 6
Water quality in our rivers and lakes	Rank: 2

Other (enter here): keeping up with research into the effects of modern conveniences such as Anti-Bacterial soap, Wet wipes, glyphosates and cell phones.

Rank: **4**

You may comment on your ranking if you wish:

All of these are important and we should not read too much in to the ranking. E.g reducing our contribution to CC is ranked 7 because any effect it has is dependent on others doing it too.

3. In your view, what is the most effective thing Council could do to improve wellbeing for those of lower socioeconomic status in our city?

A leading question. Why not look at the well-being of all Hamiltonians? We should all be able to live in a safe, healthy environment. I admire the work done by the "Life Education Trust" with their education programme in primary schools through continued fund-raising. HCC could help that.

Sustainable Waikato questionnaire to Hamilton City Council candidates 2016

- 4. What do you see as future priorities for transport in Hamilton City and what benefits do you believe these changes will bring?**

An efficient bus service, which we have, but foster a willingness to use it. The difficult one is to get people out of their cars. Too many of them live out of town, witness the nos of cars heading out of Hamilton to the country after 5 on weekdays.

- 5. What sustainable water management strategies do you think Council should implement?**

Upgrading out sewerage system is a priority. Continue to fix the leaks in our aging water system.

- 6. Do you see the Council as having responsibility towards managing native biodiversity within the city? If yes, what policies would you like to see in place to support this? If no, please explain.**

Yes, maintain a green belt. More trees in this area and respect our gullies as a natural environment.

- 7. What strategies do you think Council should employ to minimise the City's waste?**

Recycle as much as we can and educate. E.g. the recent Waikato Show contracted a company to handle the waste at the show. They were able to recycle 75% of all rubbish by educating people to use the right bins. Council can do this esp. in the "City news"

- 8. How can Hamilton celebrate cultural diversity while helping to strengthen cross cultural ties?**

This is "social cohesion" and community groups are involved with this. Support the Waikato Winter Show association whose aim is to promote and showcase all cultures at its Waikato Show.

- 9. Do you think Council has a role in supporting businesses, schools, families and individuals to make more sustainable choices? If no, why not and if yes what ideas do you have to support this?**

Yes. Through Publications and with a stand at local shows. Probably in conjunction with WRC.

- 10. Do you think Council has a responsibility to have policies to mitigate climate change and manage its impacts? Could you please give some examples?**

Yes. Our main opportunities lie in tree planting and managing stormwater.

Planting the right trees along the berm alongside the road. No leafdrop blocking drains

Ensuring rainfall is absorbed into the ground. Refuse to allow development of residential homes for commercial purposes with the need for sealed carparks on the property which means rain runs off straight into drains.

- 11. Suppose that your Council is considering a proposal for economic development. The development would increase regional GDP and create a significant number of jobs. It would also add significant pollution to waterways and further degrade their ecosystems. Would you support the proposal or not? What is your reasoning?**

This is a highly speculative question. I believe rules are in place to avoid this from taking place and monitoring of these has to be actioned. And there is a saying that "you have to be in the black to be green" so that the financial viability of any such economic development would be carefully scrutinised.