

## Sustainable Waikato Questionnaire Election 2016

### Martin Gallagher

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

Yes.

- *I am on the Lake Rotokauri Advisory Committee*
- *Lake Waiwhakareke advocate and supporter of the lobby group, which achieved reserve status after three years work. My involvement in lobbying other HCC members and moving a critical resolution to enshrine the land into reserve by only one vote. This prevented the land being used for a housing subdivision.*
- *Strong supporter of commuter rail service between Hamilton and Auckland working with MPs; ongoing*
- *Actively support cycle ways advocating for cycle network as a Hamilton City councillor.*
- *Member of Hamilton City Council Cycle Working Group, which created the Hamilton Biking Plan.*

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.

*All are important and it is difficult to dissect on from the other. With this conundrum in mind, I rank them relative to the **contribution as a city councillor**.*

*Rank 1: Reducing our contribution to climate change as well as*

*Rank 1 first equal: Adapting to the impacts of climate change; this is attached to all of the other ranks.*

*Rank: 2: Water quality in our rivers and lakes*

*Rank: 3: Sustainable urban design*

*Rank: 4: Sustainable transport options*

*Rank: 5: Sustainable economic growth*

*Rank: 6 = Other: Maintaining a strong, effective and independent, Sustainability Panel that holds Hamilton City Council to account.*

*It could be argued that this is a top priority.*

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

- *Provide housing. I strongly opposed the sale of pensioner housing. I unsuccessfully advocated for council to actively join with other groups to create more social housing, rather than selling existing stock.*
  - *The HCC needs to work collaboratively with social housing providers to ensure adequate provision of housing for those who are unable to purchase their own homes.*
  - *I have strongly supported The Peoples Project to address issues of homelessness.*
  - *Working with central government and other organisations to assist lower income home buyers into their first warm and dry home.*
  - *Ongoing affordable access to community services such as library, parks and swimming pools. For example continued free entry into Hamilton Gardens.*
3. What do you see as future priorities for transport in Hamilton City and what benefits do you believe these changes will bring?
- *Encourage good infill residential design to encourage walking and cycling to local shops and work.*
  - *Continuing to provide and develop an affordable, effective and easy to use bus service.*
  - *Promotion of good public transport*
  - *Safe streets for walking and cycling*
  - *Complete the last section of the city ring road to take heavy traffic off residential streets.*
  - *Strongly encourage rail freight versus large road trucks.*
  - *Support commuter rail service to Auckland and intermediate towns to reduce car use.*
  - *Total Mobility Service for the elderly and disabled to have access and participate in the community*
4. What sustainable water management strategies do you think Council should implement?
- *Protect the quality of existing waterways to protect our water from contamination.*
  - *Renewed focus on repairing and preventing leakage of water from the city's water system.*
  - *Incentives for grey water and rain water systems for garden use.*
  - *Enhancement of Waikato River water quality and tributary streams.*
  - *Water quality of our wetland lakes including Lake Rotoroa, Lake Waiwhakareke and Lake Rotokauri etc*

5. 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?
- *Against opposition from the Mayor and others I supported maintaining a Gully Restoration Scheme. There is still much work to be done in restoring our gully system.*
  - *Long term supporter of Lake Waiwhakareke as a stunning example of a biodiversity zone within an urban area. Continued planting work.*
  - *Supporting the efforts of the Lake Rotokauri community to restore a wetland lake within an urban area.*
  - *Promoting our city wide Green Space Areas.*
  - *Protecting the river from contamination.*
6. What strategies do you think Council should employ to minimise the City's waste?
- *I am currently an active member on HCC Waste Management Working Group, looking at ways to increase recycling and waste minimisation*
  - *I have visited overseas, for example Germany and UK, looking at ways of discouraging use of plastics.*
  - *Need to increase the categories of material that is collected for recycling.*
  - *Collection system that further encourages recycling and makes it easier for residents to put material out for recycling.*
  - *Inorganic collections of rubbish to prevent dumping in gullies.*
  - *Acknowledge the role of community groups and individuals in assisting gully restoration and illegal dumping.*
  - *Long term encouragement of the Enviroschools to promote environmental awareness.*
7. How can Hamilton celebrate cultural diversity while helping to strengthen cross cultural ties?
- *It is a given that our relationship with Tangata Whenua and the Principles of the Treaty should underpin all council actions.*
  - *In the last term of HCC I have chaired the Community Forum (sub-committee), which has had a number of interactions with our diverse Pacific and ethnic communities. We should, however*
  - *Restore the HCC Community Development Committee as a full operational committee of council with all of the status and resource that this brings.*
  - *Multicultural Centre HMS Trust support. I acknowledge their work with new migrants. This includes ESL programs, driver license training and refugee support. HCC has a long term financial assistance agreement to assist them in their work.*

- *Strongly encourage the interfaith community in reaching out to different faith groups.*
  - *Along with Councillor Bell I initiated the extension of the council Prayer, to include all faith groups. A small step, but a symbolic statement of respect and inclusiveness in recognising the diversity of faith and culture within our communities.*
  - *When possible attending, along with Cr Phillip Yeung (an excellent cultural advocate) cultural festivals such as Diwali, Chinese New Year, Filipino Independence, Mosque open day etc.*
  - *There are many groups doing excellent work in our community eg Sharma, which HCC should continue to support.*
8. Do you think Council has a role in supporting businesses, schools, families and individuals to make more sustainable choices? yes
- *Promotion of Enviroschools*
  - *Promoting recycling, waste minimisation*
  - *Working with environment groups to promote existing and new schemes.*
  - *Role of the HCC Sustainability Panel should be influential in advising councillors on strategies and programs towards sustainable choices.*
  - *I personally acknowledge that I have much to learn. I welcome and am open to ideas and recommendations, as well as respect the academic expertise that exists. HCC needs to harness that expertise and adopt recommendation wherever practicable.*
  - *This is consistent with the eleven Hamilton City Council Sustainability Principles as adopted at the HCC council meeting on 28 July, 2016.*
9. 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 .
- *Strongly supporting the eleven HCC Sustainability Principles. These principles should inform all of council's actions. They should be cross referenced in council reports with specific and measurable actions that support the principles. For example, encouraging improved cycling and walking networks relates to sustainability principle 6. The Gully Restoration Program relates to sustainability principle 4.*
  - *Mitigating and managing the impacts of climate change involves the collective responsibility of all of society.*
  - *Working in partnership with the community and central government to find ways to encourage individuals, business, NGO's etc to do their part, no matter how small, to minimise climate change.*

- *This involves public transport, cycling, recycling, waste minimisation, environmental education and other ways to reduce our individual and collective carbon footprint.*
- *Planting of trees and reserves.*

10. 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?

I would not support such a proposal

- *In order to proceed any proposal would require protections and an environmental checklist, in order to protect ecosystems and waterways.*
- *Failure to have these protections and restrictions would be a false economic gain, because the financial cost of the deleterious impact to the community and environment would be high.*
- *I would not support an economic development project without environmental protection.*
- *It is essential that HCC take advice from environmental advisors and academics around sustainable economic development. This is about partnership around development in order to find ways to obtain mutual benefit and respect.*
- *The economic loss in relation to the damaging loss of our international reputation from harming the ecosystems and waterways would be significant.*