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

When talking about sustainability its hard not to immediately think of “environmental sustainability”. In that sense, and being completely honest and transparent, I have little experience in involvement with environmental sustainability groups in anything more than playing an active part in recycling and reusing materials where possible. Being in hospitality for so long, and despite many people thinking otherwise, profit margins are not significant, so as much as safely possible materials are re-used, re-tasked or recycled as needed.

Necessity to use ingredients became the drive behind innovative dishes allowing creativity to come out. Vegetables starting to turn were used in daily special dishes. Off cuts were used in stocks and sauces, if it could be used again to add flavor or taste it was. Genuine food scraps were put in “pig bins” to feed animals – turning food waste into animal feed. Food wastage is/was recorded and is straight loss, so keeping the wastage sheet clean is a badge of honor amongst kitchen staff. Old deep fryer oil was collected and recycled into bio-diesel, coffee grounds were kept for people's gardens, old pots and pans became ornamental holders, decorations and had various other roles in the building.

Of course sustainability also relates to social and economic issues as well, not everyone can afford new each time, so clothes and other household items have been rehomed through friends, family and other charitable groups that have passed them onto people in need.

I am fortunate to now have a University degree which has meant my earning potential has risen from previous jobs I have held, among which was working in a credit union. Part of this role was processing loan applications, which required fiscal knowledge around budgeting so that individuals, families and whanau were economically sustainable, helping them live within their means and saving money wherever possible.

Currently I am employed as a Probation Officer, where on a daily basis I work with vulnerable people in society. Working with friends, family and whanau of people who have offended can be challenging. In this role it is critical to hold and maintain support networks that allow for positive sustainable behavior change and positive reintegration, thus improving the overall wellbeing and safety of our communities.

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.

1. Reducing our contribution to climate change – I strongly believe we need to start making significant progress as a society to live within our means and reduce unsustainable use of our natural resources.
2. Rebuilding community connectedness, resilience and social sustainability.
3. Sustainable economic growth.
4. Sustainable transport options.
5. Water quality in our rivers and lakes.
6. Sustainable urban design.
7. Adapting to the impacts of climate change – I have put this point last in terms of ranking, as it is my hope that if we prioritise and operate in way that reduces our contribution to climate change, we are less likely to need to adapt to its potential impacts.

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?

This is a tough one, as there are many things I believe the Council could do, and each one will help. It is a range of smaller initiatives all designed to build community resilience.

No person's needs are ever exactly the same, and therefore I would like to see the Council lead and pro-actively equip our most vulnerable communities through improved access to services and supports. The rebuilding of community networks, support networks, information networks would help those who are in lower socio-economic areas gain knowledge of what there is that can help, when they need help.

While it would be incredible to be able to lift people (all people) into a position of financial security, that is not the role of a council. However being able to play a role in helping communities find solutions to their needs are.

Resourcing things like community gardens, planting of fruit trees, and teaching those same communities how to use food from those gardens to offset problems and sustain themselves through hard times, is something that can be done.

We have a Wintec, which trains award winning chefs and there are other community members who are passionate about sustainable cooking, and they can help lead the way to highlight local based solutions to local problems, and being in the middle of a housing crisis, when rents and mortgages are going up, being able to bring the food bill down is always welcome.

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

As Kiwi's it is hard to get away from the mentality of "just get in the car and we'll drive" even if it's 5-10 minutes walk up the road. After spending time overseas and talking with many new citizens and residents to New Zealand, the expectation of being able to commute in a car no more than 15-20 minutes, park the car outside and go to work for the day is a notion that is going to change as our population and city scape grows.

We are seeing this now in Hamilton, with up to 45 minutes from Flagstaff and Rototuna to central Hamilton, and traffic reports now advising how long it takes to get to and from Cambridge into Hamilton. It is clear the reliance solely on the car must evolve. Alternative options are becoming more commonplace, buses seem to be fuller, more people are cycling, the river paths and walkways are peaceful, and a nice way to start the day if you walk them into town. Bringing these alternative methods first to people as they commute to work, will start to transform the urban and work place demands for space. We are already seeing plans for more "shared spaces" and increased calls for car-free footmalls. The demand for these areas will grow as more people get over the mindset of driving the short distances, and embrace the physical exercise, the open air, and the chance to interact with people again. There are many benefits evidenced through running groups who use the river track, cycleways linked together, and the encouragement of cycle tourism and fitness trails.

A commuter train that links Hamilton to Auckland, and Tauranga could allow a more sustainable method for freight to be shipped on rail rather than large trucks on the road, and people can commute (and work/relax at the same time, rather than drive) on trains. For businesses, a commuter train could make the end of significant periods of lost productivity in driving to and from Auckland. Perhaps if Hamilton is to remain without an international airline a rail link to Auckland Airport could increase job and travel opportunities for residents in Hamilton.

More people taking alternative transport means less dependency on fossil fuels, and a reduction in carbon footprints. It is a cycle that needs to start somewhere in changing and challenging the kiwi love affair with driving, we have a beautiful country and city to see, and we need to see more of it without a windshield in the way. We are starting to see this change, however we have a long way to go and alternative transportation options must remain a commitment and priority for Council to support wherever possible in its future planning.

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

Educationally, I believe the Council can continue the work it has started in and around water conservation. Afterall, teaching children to "make it click" made seatbelts the norm in less than a generation. Therefore, there is no reason why the same initiatives cannot be used to help stop water wastage.

The make it click effort in conjunction with private enterprise has been vastly more successful than giving people tickets for not wearing seatbelts. It is for that reason I feel that education and not water meters is the best option that is available at present.

There is also the ability for the council to incentivise new builds to have tanks installed that collect rain water, or can organically treat grey water, and recycle this into water that can be

used for watering plants and gardens. In the hotter Summer months when water restrictions have come into place over recent years, those in the community that have beautiful gardens (and there are many stunning yards around Hamilton) can continue to operate on their own. New buildings and commercial ventures can be built with newer technology meaning reduced and reusable water features, and in turn a further reduction in water consumption. Water conservation is going to be a hard sell to people who see a river running right through the heart of the city on a daily basis, however if we continue to grow at the rate we are as a city (and many forecasts look like we will) then strategies to cope and manage this growth is critical to keep the city healthy on economic, environmental and social levels.

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 I do. I would have loved to have seen the trees that were planted down the main street be native. Native trees also encourage native animals and wildlife to come back.

Tui are again able to be seen and heard within the city, which is a wonderful thing to have return.

We have a great many people within the community from University based scholars to community based advocates who are dedicated to our environment, and giving them a chance to share their knowledge with the people of Hamilton to show them which plants, fauna, birds are native and encourage the successful transformation of green spaces to include New Zealand native plants and eco-systems is something that the City Council should encourage and support.

We have world-renowned gardens, so it makes sense to have a level of bio-diversity that would be the envy of the rest of the country.

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

Ensure strong strategic partnerships with local businesses to fully utilise waste products in commercial settings. One example is tyres that can be mulched and made (safely and environmentally friendly of course) into playground matting, and for underlay on artificial all weather sports surfaces. Innovations such as this are small niches that can have massive impacts on our waste levels. Another important example can be areas with excess food availability. In some places and businesses, excess food availability is being used to help ensure good nutrition for people who are less fortunate (such as kaivolution and other community groups). These community groups should continue to receive positive support and encouraged to partner with Council to help equip them for sustainability.

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

Sport is a major influence in not only how we retain individual cultures but bring them all together to celebrate our differences. The city already has a very successful annual football festival to this end. Perhaps extending this to other sports is an option.

Many times cultures interact within education, sports and food. Language barriers can be broken down easily when people approach new situations with an openness to learn about others. The ability to come together as a cultural group, while retaining our unique individual identities is crucial to genuine integration.

As a Council, I believe we have a role to play in supporting opportunities for communities to come together to learn from each other and we can role model celebration of a diverse city – placing importance on inclusivity where community activities are open to all. One potential option would be to facilitate annual cultural open days where people are able to mix with other people in cultural attire and ask questions about what it is that makes them who they are. It could be festival full of color, good food and happiness - after all who does not like a good party? More than that, it is an opportunity to celebrate our individual stories and observe the wonderful tapestry of people who make up the fabric of our great city.

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 it definitely does. I believe that knowledge is a paramount value and virtue that needs to be fostered in all aspects of society. If council staff (including councilors) have access to new methods to increase positive outcomes for all the above groups then we are duty bound to share this. If a proposal is made by any of these groups that provide more knowledge, through an educational setting then the council I believe we have a duty of care to help the initiative either get going, or again leverage its commercial contacts to find the right partnerships. A base function of any council is to make decisions that should make living more easy, safer and enjoyable within its communities, so any council that I am a member of will ensure that approaches from members of the community that need support to address issues around sustainability, find themselves with the help they require.

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 it really does. As community leaders we should set the tone for how the city responds to a very real threat. Climate change is very real, and a very real threat. If we thought we had housing issues now, wait till those affected by rising tides, and sinking landmasses, failing crops, floods and droughts move inland looking for respite – putting further strain on already stretched infrastructure. I think Hamilton City Council is already starting to make changes, and will continue to do so, as a city we are starting to eat more local produce; the growth of local farmers markets reinforces this, we have seen an uptake in recycling, more can be done, but that is where council led innovation and education programmes can be developed, started and delivered to help our residents to reduce waste and landfill needs, and decrease dependence on things such as fossil fuels, and embrace more positive and sustainable options.

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?

As little as 10 years ago you would have stood little to no show of being elected if you chose to vote against the proposal. Based on the information in the question, in the current election, it would be very much the opposite. We are acutely aware of the issues around water and the need to retain a sense of environmental stewardship while we are alive. Allowing a business to come into the city and pollute our lifeblood (how often does the Waikato River feature in any Hamilton advertisement?) would be unfathomable. While it would be disappointing to lose any job, allowing the development to go ahead would on the information given not only ruin and deplete our eco-systems that have recently taken a long time to get right again after years of ill treatment, neglect and illegal dumping, it would actually cost more jobs in the long run as more businesses than just this one are reliant on our ecosystems being healthy and usable.