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## HCC candidate name: **Chris Jordan**

First of all, I am delighted to answer these questions. Sustainability is something I am passionate about, so I appreciate this opportunity to present my ideas. I don't have all the answers to some of these questions, but I will present my thoughts and willingness to work with others that have more knowledge in these areas. I also appreciate that this is a wishlist and that the Council has to manage multiple interests, but these interests are important to me and ones that I will be pushing.

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

My wife is a greenie and is involved in a number of organisations such as Sustainable Business Network and Conscious Consumers. We purposefully bought two acres so that we can grow our own vegetables organically, we have a worm farm for waste, we collect our own water, we are looking at solar energy and an electric vehicle. Socially, I set up a charity called Childflight which gives flights to special needs and disadvantaged children – these flights are intended to give these kids a 3d view of the world – that life can be bigger than imagined. My wife and I have recently developed a programme called Curious Minds which we are taking into low decile schools. Kaitia has been the first area to take up this initiative, and we have completed an 8 week course in Ngaruawahia.

### **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: 3

Reducing our contribution to climate change Rank: 1 – This is the only need that matters. Current statistics suggest that life on earth will not be possible by the end of the century. The other initiatives are important, but irrelevant if we cannot reverse climate change, which is currently tracking at 4° above average. Even at 2°, life as we know it is precarious.

Sustainable economic growth Rank: 4

Sustainable transport options Rank: 6

Sustainable urban design Rank: 5

Water quality in our rivers and lakes Rank: 2

Other (enter here): Rank: 7

Working with our bright students in the Waikato & the Innovation Park to come up with world leading breakthroughs in water conservation technology. This would involve the Council interacting with our young minds in the Waikato. This could have an interesting spin off in that young people might be more prepared to vote in future elections

**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?**

The People's project is a start. However, I would like to see Council more proactive with our community groups that look after the disadvantaged. I subscribe to the Council having a member working closely with Hamilton's community groups. In fact, I'd go as far to say we should have the equivalent of Central Government ministers specialising in the areas they are passionate about. My record shows I am passionate about the disadvantaged. Give me the portfolio for the lower socioeconomic group. Let's work on affordable housing by developing clever inner city living in Frankton. High density housing around commons. Let's persuade Council to be more supportive of organisations that are doing something. Let's understand what they are doing and if effective support them with grants.

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

In 15 years' time, we'll probably all be using Uber driverless cars. What we need to do is manage this transition to reduce our carbon footprint. I would give free parking to EV with charging stations, encourage public transport. We also need to encourage cycle ways – real cycle ways in the city that are separate from the roads. My friends won't cycle in Hamilton because they feel unsafe.

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

Bring back water tanks!! While they will not address water restriction issues in summer, they will shorten the need for these restrictions. There are also amazing new technologies that are available that can be implemented. For example this cube created from solar panels that creates water: <http://www.sunglacier.com/>

**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.**

Absolutely yes. Regional Council and DOC have roles in managing biodiversity, and local councils need to support these initiatives. I don't know what the current policies are, so I will need to look at them and seek advice.

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

Many countries in Europe have reintroduced refunds for plastic and bottles. This is a good start. But first, we need to encourage – REFUSE, reduce, reuse, recycle. We need to change our mindset around consumption. Many of our young people understand this. We need more education.

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

Cultural diversity and immigration are important in enriching the texture of our society. Encouraging ethnic entrepreneurship is important. More celebrations – bring people back into the CBD (maybe Garden Place) with cultural diversity – dance, music, and JOBS.

**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, work more closely with the University and Wintec to bring leading-edge ideas into fruition into the city – through education, celebrating culture, offering alternatives.

**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, ABSOLUTELY! Council needs to concern itself with creating a sustainable VISION for the next few years, rather than being concerned solely with budgets and rate reduction. The latter do not create sustainable futures. We need platforms that assist human flourishing.

**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?**

NO! Sustainable growth is important, but only through sustainable innovation can we REDUCE our carbon footprint. In looking after our planet we look after our grandchildren's future.