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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.

I have been actively involved in sustainability since 1997 when I was the part of the formation and administration of the inaugural Waikato Environmental Business Network. The WEBN established the first ever Environmental Business Awards focused on; cleaner production, waste management, energy efficiency and innovation. WEBN went on to become the Sustainable Business Network. I was part of the earlier review of Hamilton's Waste Management Plan and co-authored Hamilton's first Who's Who Green Guide. I was also on the Board of the Waikato University Climate Institute. In my recent roles as both councillor and Chair of the Waikato Regional Council I have been closely involved in sustainability across a broad spectrum of issues from public transport, clean air, coastal management to water quality and quantity (of key importance to Hamilton City). I have also been Kellogg scholar and my topic was Cities and Biodiversity the was the beginning of my political advocacy and involvement in the formation of the Halo project.

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.

I would have to say I think these matters are all interwoven and interconnected. But water quality and allocation would be number one. What community can sustain without access to clean water? How can we have a quality of life without clean rivers and lakes? Hamilton sits astride NZ's longest river and has a vested interest (for lifestyle and economy including tourism) in a cleaner river. In respect to the rest PREVENTION and REDUCTION come before adaption, so sustainable economic and urban planning hand in hand with avoiding impact on the environment (including climate) are vital.

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?

Council needs to work closely in partnership with social agencies to begin with. Going it alone will not work. Creating incentives and conditions for affordable homes (both rented and owned is vital. I support investigating a housing accord as one of the tools to address this. Safe walking and cycling routes to school will help with transport costs and physical wellbeing.

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

Hamilton needs transport choices that are efficient and cost effective. More buses (especially to un-serviced areas), more pedestrian and cycling opportunities. I also support park and ride facilities that seem to have dropped off the radar, and pushing for Government to bring forward investment into rail connections to the North (and Tauranga).

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

I support Hamilton City Council's' proposals and current efforts to identify leaks, fix broken infrastructure and upgrade water treatment facilities. However, I also support a comprehensive water use education programme to reduce unnecessary water consumption and pollution. The more water wise we are the better for both the environment and the future costs of water treatment.

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 completed a whole research project on this topic for my Kellogg Leadership scholar programme. We have great potential as a City to be one of the best Cities for biodiversity in NZ. This is due to our gullies and river corridors and the richness of the areas that surround the city. There are some great things going on, such as Lake Waikwhakareke, some gully restoration, better stormwater management with swales and wet areas, excellent planting days, some good planting along transport corridors. I believe more can be done to assist with the restoration of the gully network and increase the proportion of native to non- native plants being used in the city reserves. HCC needs to actively support and coordinate community groups, harnessing the power of volunteerism. The best results for biodiversity in Cities come from blending good science, community engagement (and education), political champions and funding. For this reason, growing partnerships with Regional Council, and Research institutes, supporting Enviro-schools, providing some funding to active community groups (with proven track record) is vital. The HALO project (which I am proud to have been part of the formation project team) had these elements.

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

I consider that there are great examples of waste minimisation and there is no need reinvent the wheel. Recycling is done to a good standard in Hamilton with the award winning team at the Refuse centre and also the Organic Recycling centre. There are some innovations in biodegradable plastics and products. And I love the improvements of waste management at Hamilton events! The focus must be on reducing the waste produced to begin with. This could be achieved through a mix of education, incentives and partnerships. For example, the South Waikato Achievement Centre does a fabulous job with electronic waste and provides employment for disadvantaged people. The Environment Centre partnered with them.

Kaivolution is fantastic too. These organisations (and others) are worthy of support. A green waste collection also would be one improvement which would reduce organic material in landfills

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

Cultural diversity is vital to a vibrant, tolerant community where everyone feels they belong. It can be supported through enabling cultural events that allow people to access and understand the values of the many cultures that live in Hamilton. I attended recently the open day at the mosque and the Punjab cultural show and both were wonderful and well attended. I would like to see more events in public spaces so that all people can celebrate and share together. The ethnic soccer tournament is a wonderful example of an event that unites and is fun. HCC must continue to support the migrant support groups and engage with them on key issues and plans. For example, there was a successful event at the Migrant Centre that provided new residents to experience public transport.

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, HCC does have a role (as demonstrated to the answers above). HCC cannot be all things to all people, nor achieve everything on its own. I believe in partnership, collaboration, harnessing and appreciating the skills and volunteer efforts of the wider community.

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, all cities and towns need to take some responsibility for actions that mitigate Climate change. I believe that city can do many things within core business from planting trees and protecting green spaces, to ensuring all new development progresses better energy efficiency and promoting smart growth.

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?

I believe in balancing the economic and environmental wellbeing of the City. This is a complex area, but in simple terms all development opportunities should seek to improve the outcomes for people and place. Pollution that cannot be mitigated (or in some cases offset) is not acceptable. The RMA sets the standard along with Government standards. For example, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management is increasing the requirement to improve water quality. Similar exists for air quality. In this regard sustainable business development is required.