

Social and community issues – what matters to our Tauranga City Council Mayoral and Ward Candidates?

SocialLink¹ asked all mayoral and ward candidates five questions from a social and community sector perspective. They could leave out any questions they did not want to respond to.

Tauranga City Council Mayoral Candidates

There are 15 people standing for Mayor. Twelve candidates provided the following verbatim unedited answers.

Tanya Bamford-King

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

I provide specialist administrative and accounting support to Cambodia Charitable Trust and the local St Vincent du Paul office.

I run a community based performance team Curves O Plenty that produces about 4 theatre based performances a year, and performs at various local and community events

Convene a bi monthly Life Drawing session on behalf of the Tauranga Society of Artists.

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

There are so many amazing community organisations in our wider Tauranga Moana community that I find this difficult to answer. They are as diverse as Surf life Saving, Food Banks, Women's Refuge and Men's Shed. And this barely scratches the surface.

With such a multitude of varied community organisations in our communities I will not even begin to suggest a single support formulae that will give each group or organisation the best support the Council can give.

The best path the Council can take is to actively keep lines of communication with our various community organisations open. To be prepared to reach out, investigate and provide the best support and resources they are able.

¹ SocialLink is a registered charity managing and based at The Collective in 17th Avenue, a not-for-profit co-working space enabling collaboration. SocialLink is the umbrella peak body for the social and community sector in the Western Bay of Plenty. www.sociallink.org.nz

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

The council has a role to play in supporting our vulnerable community members. However, it's main skills are not direct on the ground support. There are numerous community support groups and organisations that are better placed and qualified not only to identify, but also give appropriate support to our vulnerable community members.

The best role Tauranga City Council can play is to provide as much support and resource as possible to the existing outreach groups and organisations to do what they do best.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

Yes. I want to see Tauranga grow into a vibrant, diverse City that celebrates and support ALL of it's community members.

I have found the recent, and past, attacks on the LGBTQAI community completely unfathomable. This is one small thing we can do to not only celebrate our rainbow community members, but to let the members of our community who consider the attacks and "othering" of rainbow humans acceptable, that it is neither acceptable or normal.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.' As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

First I need to learn more. I need to approach Ta Ao Maori concepts from a place of limited interaction with Maori community or governance. I see the benefits of understanding and applying diverse ways of thinking to the governance of our communities. Especially if those concept come from our first tangata whenua. My main contribution will be a willingness to pursue a greater understanding and inclusion of Te Ao Maori concepts within Council culture.

Greg Brownless

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

Numerous fund-raising projects, charity collections, patron of arts, community and sporting groups, Rotary projects, entertainment and guest-speaking. All in Tauranga and all voluntarily. I have also been a volunteer overseas following the 2004 Asian tsunami.

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

Community assets are the people. We have so many community minded people living here. Council can support them through consulting, listening and keeping Tauranga affordable for all.

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

An important role is advocating to Government agencies to ensure they support the vulnerable as is their mandate. Other roles Council has become involved in are services such as the Womens' Shelter and Mens' Shelter.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

I want Council to be completely inclusive. I feel that as part of an urgently needed LTP Amendment process we should consult with the community and get a consensus decision to support our various communities. I believe that getting sometimes opposing views in a room is a ways to get better understanding of diversity. I believe that a vote may not even be needed. Peace-making and understanding each other is the key.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi'. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

By including Maori and all communities in consultation and decision-making and preserving the democracy that has now returned to Tauranga.

Andrew Caie

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

I have run a few community exercise groups for the elderly as a volunteer. I have been a "Puppy raiser" for Blind and Low Vision NZ. And I have been a sports coach and referee for our children.

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

Our community spaces are our strength. The "return on investment" we get from places like the historic village, and various community groups that operate out of spaces like the welcome bay community center, and the Merivale community center. They provide so much for our communities that the best way we can support them is by getting them the funding and facilities they need to operate properly.

Healthier, happier, and more connected communities pay dividends that unfortunately don't show up on the Cities 'balance sheet', But simply put - flourishing communities create flourishing economies and vice versa

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

This questions, in various forms, comes up often. And for me the biggest part Council can play is through facilitating visibility. If our people see themselves reflected in our society they are more likely to be active participants in it.

That ranges from one of our disabled community, seeing another disabled person being

supported at work. Or one of our migrant community seeing themselves reflect on council and in council staff. Or through the creation of artwork for individual communities - such as an LGBT street artwork that has been asked at many Meet the Candidates events - that celebrates the diversity of our society.

Council should be a conduit to promote the visibility of all aspects of our city - especially the marginalised and vulnerable.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

Well, I didn't read ahead and mostly answered above. I don't like to waste your time and repeat myself, how very un-Politian-like of me.

Yes I would support the creation of the artwork. I do not know the legalities of it being a crossing specifically, but that, or another road artwork that is suitable absolutely has my support to promote visibility for that community. Especially with the unfortunate uptick in reprehensible behaviour towards our LGBT community.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

By upholding the values of Te Tiriti - and for me the main one I believe council can contribute to is participation.

Continuing the theme of visibility, that also includes being consulted with during the decision making process so that you can visibly see that you have influenced the outcome of decisions.

I think council honoring the "Partnership" of Te Tiriti, consulting and collaborating with Tangata Whenua and building a city inclusive of both Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti will be a council honouring Te Tiriti.

Anthony Goddard

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

We support local community groups and often give away free services to deserving people. These efforts are our way of giving back to the community and acknowledging the importance of unpaid and voluntary work during Volunteer Week, June 16 – 22.

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

Tauranga boasts numerous community strengths and assets, including its vibrant cultural diversity, strong sense of community, and active volunteer networks. The city benefits from beautiful natural landscapes, robust local businesses, and excellent recreational facilities.

To support these strengths, the Council can invest in community-led initiatives, enhance public spaces, and facilitate events that celebrate Tauranga's diverse cultures. Additionally, providing funding and resources to local organisations, improving infrastructure, and fostering partnerships between businesses and community groups can further strengthen these assets and contribute to a more connected and resilient community.

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

The Council's role in supporting vulnerable community members should focus on ensuring access to essential services and fostering an inclusive environment. This involves implementing policies that address social services and supporting initiatives that offer food security and employment opportunities. The Council should also collaborate with non-profit organizations and local businesses to create a comprehensive support network. By prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations, the Council can help build a more equitable and supportive community.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

Yes, I would vote in favour of the motion to install Roadway Art celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Such initiatives promote inclusion by highlighting the importance of diversity within our community and raise awareness, fostering a more accepting and supportive environment for all individuals. It also demonstrates our commitment to equality and makes our community a more welcoming place for everyone, boosting community morale and potentially attracting visitors, which can have a positive social and economic impact.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi'. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

As a councillor/mayor, I see myself contributing to TCC's Vision and Direction by actively promoting and integrating Te Ao Māori principles into our policies and initiatives. This includes engaging with Māori communities to ensure their perspectives and needs are considered in decision-making processes, supporting initiatives that celebrate and preserve Māori culture, and fostering partnerships that uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. By championing these efforts, I aim to enhance community outcomes and create a more inclusive and culturally aware environment that respects and honors Māori heritage and values.

Ria Hall

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

I absolutely support the sentiments in acknowledging the unpaid/voluntary work across Tauranga and Aotearoa. Over the years I have volunteered to deliver pamphlets for various causes, assisted as an usher at a number of both small and large scale community events, and volunteered to guest speak at many gatherings across the country.

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

Community is a strength and our most important asset - we just have to ensure our vast communities have the opportunities they need to have their ideas and voices heard and actioned. Community should always be at the forefront of the thinking, and if council is proactive in building strong relationships that endure, we will be moving in the right direction. I would love to see community groups through citizen assemblies feeding directly into council, to grow our capacity and connection as a society.

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

Wrap around services are incredibly important for our vulnerable communities, and the council should continue to broker those opportunities and relationships across a number of agencies in a collaborative effort to give support and build our vulnerable whānau up.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

We must become a society that is embracing, encompassing and empowering. Our uniqueness is what makes us stronger - and this is worthy of celebration. We have an opportunity to be a game changer in this space, and with the right leadership at the helm I believe that this can occur. I am definitely in support of this motion.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi'. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

As a descendant of all three iwi of Tauranga, I am the only Mayoral candidate that views Tauranga from a completely holistic perspective. As a result, I will naturally bring Māori values and concepts into the council space and in our communities as a mechanism for unity, collegiality and consensus.

Donna Hannah

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

I have always sought ways to help the community and am currently engaged in extensive unpaid volunteer work. I serve on the Katch Katikati Board, the Katikati Steering Group, the Katikati St John Area Committee, the Tu Mai Digital Inclusion Group, and the Katikati Emergency Response Team. I actively volunteer in these organizations as needed, assisting with events such as the Katikati Matariki celebrations, the RSE welcome, and the Festival of Cultures.

I believe I can make a difference in Tauranga.

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

Tauranga has many community assets and strengths, including community centers and local agencies that dedicate their time and energy to areas in need. I believe the council can support these efforts through advocacy, even if financial assistance isn't feasible in the near future. However, candidates can volunteer, support, and strongly advocate for their community's needs. Let's get boots on the ground and help where we can.

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

The Council can significantly support vulnerable communities by strongly advocating for their needs to the central government. Through passionate advocacy, we can be the voice and conduit for these communities, ensuring they receive the attention and resources they require.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

Yes, I would vote in favor of this. However, I believe that the cost shouldn't fall entirely on ratepayers. We should seek additional funding from NZTA – Waka Kotahi, who could help ensure the project is completed successfully and up to their standards.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

I believe we should actively engage in understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities in Te Ao Māori. We need to be open, understanding, compassionate, non-judgmental, and willing to listen without prejudice or preconceptions. This approach should extend to all people. I am always willing to learn and

grow, as we all should be.
Kia ora
Ko Mauao te maunga
Ko Takitimu te waka
Ko Wairoa te awa
Ko Ngāi Te Ahi te hapū
Ko Hairini te marae
Ko Ngāti Ranginui te iwi
Ko Te Kepera Hikatangata rāua ko Sally ōku mātua
Ko Donna Hannah tōku ingoa

Hori BOP

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

planting trees in a park and wetland

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

the multicultural collective. i would try to help facilitate a fit for purpose communal building for them

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

to make sure the agencies responsible for those groups are working together effectively to support these groups. in favour

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

in favour to promote diversity by enabling

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi'. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

by enabling relevant organisations to achieve this

Tim Maltby

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

Sports Coaching. Community Gardening. Papamoa Toy Library

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

Tauranga has hundreds of community groups of all sizes shapes and types. I am a big believer in supporting those groups because they have community support. Good initiatives come from the bottom up. It is not very useful to try and form initiatives from the top down. The community knows what they want and what they will support - so back the groups that the community wants.

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

We should support the groups that do that work with low fees, facilities etc. The community groups can do a much much much better job than council so we should do what we can to support them.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

Pedestrian crossings are for public safety. i do not support them being used for political agendas.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

As councillor, I am open to talking to all the community groups in Tauranga, and trying to support them as they serve Tauranga residents.

Jos Nagels

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

Apart from some infrequent public group activities In so many other ways, I was naturally very helpful to people I encountered with advice and unpaid labour (within the bounds of reason). As my work was intensively demanding, my most effective support was annual financial contributions to 10 or so nonprofit charitable organisations.

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

Those in governance besides the fiscal aspects have a responsibility to ensure the well being of the community. Empathy with fellow citizens and Organisations that voluntarily contribute and help are often the “unseen” life force bonding communities. Whist grants are made to selected bodies, targeting community and volunteer groups/clubs that meet societal social needs and the like should not be treated as commercial businesses and rated out of existence.

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

Council's role in my opinion is to be there for the greater public good. Vulnerable community members must have a choice to have somewhere to go for help and advice. Finland is a good example- the homeless are housed and successfully reintegrate into society - an idealistic scenario.

Support must be aimed at a positive outcome.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

Plainly speaking - the standard Zebra crossing are there for every single one of us and absolutely accepted. As already evident rainbow crossings un-necessarily have caused controversy and division. This is very unhelpful, creating a target for radicals on both sides. Far better to live and let live peaceably.

For the above reasons, pedestrian crossings need to be publicly neutral.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi'. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

With a lifelong practice and belief of basic earth values and sustainability this is inclusive of key Māori concepts.

Now more than ever, in a climate crisis, our challenge is to preserve Earth as it is our only home!

I espouse transportation reform, accessible housing towards sustainability-(Refer candidate statement) . As a (potential)

Mayor/Councillor, advocate moving from 1960's repeatership to 21st Century rail technologies / housing, etc.contributing to greater equity and a sustainable Tauranga - leading NZ as a best city. Huge challenge, but Better things must happen- then we will have a future!

Douglas Owens

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

Over many years - 'help thy neighbour' - we support charities annually such as - Women's Refuge

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

Community service charges require review and active monitoring.

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

Homelessness and rough sleeping is the elephant in the national room and requires solutions.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

Support for positive initiatives such as this is fine with me.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi'. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

Four of our children are Maori and we have Whanau and support te taha Maori as a fundamental principle.

John Robson

1. We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

In Volunteer Week specifically, I was giving presentations at open-to-the-public meetings, the content of which was intended to deliver a better-informed electorate and thereby support the democratic intent of the Local Government Act.

2.What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

The community strengths and assets in Tauranga are (as in all cities) many - they lie in those individuals (e.g. Bevan Rakoia, Simone Anderson) and groups (e.g. Men's Shed, The Incubator Creative Hub) that work to make our city a better place - either by addressing a 'system deficit' or delivering a 'system enhancement'. Council can support them by recognising the value of 'community'; not confusing 'community' with 'commercial'; making 'spaces' for 'community' within the city; engaging with 'community' better; and, sometimes, just getting out of the bloody way!

3.What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

Please see my answer to 2. above. I don't think Council has a direct role, but it can indirectly support those individuals and organisations that do.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

My understanding is that in the case of a pedestrian crossing, a 'rainbow' crossing does not comply with the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004. That said, on the substantive issue (celebrating diversity), there are many ways this might be done (e.g. a sculpture park on the waterfront), and many groups that might be included, not just the Rainbow community. If a legal proposal to 'inclusively' celebrate diversity in our city was brought to Council, subject to costs and practical considerations, I would be happy to vote in favour.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi'. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

I see Tauranga (and NZ) as multi-cultural - as such I am uncomfortable with TCC's recently developed Vision and Direction which explicitly mentions only one culture... one 'world view'... that of Te Ao Maori. For this, and other reasons, not least the failure to properly engage the whole community in its development, I would like to see TCC's 'Vision and Direction' revisited.

Tina Salisbury

1.We have been acknowledging all the unpaid/voluntary work and support that happens in our communities during Volunteer Week June 16 – 22nd. What unpaid/voluntary work have you been involved in?

I have volunteered in our community over the past 14 years with youth, young adults, adults and families. Most of my volunteer work has been advocating those who are often unheard or unseen or can't navigate the situations they find themselves in. This has included: court support, family group conferences, community hours provision & support, mental health, addictions, disability, homelessness, counselling, advocacy, support to navigate court, health and MSD systems, just to name a few. I am also a Justice of the Peace and volunteer many hours to support our community where needed.

2. What community strengths and assets do you see in Tauranga? How do you think the Council can support them?

So many!! The fabric of our city is strengthened by the sheer number and variety of community groups we have operating here. A few of the many strengths I see are compassion, empathy, creativity, connection, hope, supporting and empowering people to live their best life, this enriches our whole city. As for assets, The Kollektive, Historic Village are two that come to mind right away. I believe Council can support by facilitating, building capacity, supporting strategy for the sector - providing opportunities and ways we can do more together than any one could do on their own. I also believe that TCC could advocate more for the needs of our community as a whole through harnessing the wealth of information and through engagement with the sector and Government to improve the lives of all who live here.

3. What do you think Council's role should be in supporting vulnerable community members?

This is a great conversation to have with the sector - working in partnership is vital. There has been work done to gather information through the Vital Updates, the Homeless Provider Network, Kainga Tupu and other projects, like the Gate Pa Stakeholder group (which I was part of the founding of in 2015 with the police and TCC). I believe we can do more. I would like to see Council support finding a way to bring a more cohesive response to those who are most vulnerable. We must urgently find ways to provide affordable and suitable accommodation and safe places for vulnerable people to come to find help. Council can be a resource, rather than a provider, but I believe we can do more.

4. Following a petition presented to TCC recently, councillors may be asked to vote on the installation of Roadway Art [eg a crossing] celebrating our Rainbow community and wider diversity. Would you vote in favour of the motion? Could you briefly outline why you would vote that way?

Yes, I have absolutely no problem with our community reflecting the diversity of who lives here. It is "our" community, and I believe that well considered, visual, creative expressions of that can help to build understanding and empathy among our communities, reducing barriers and fear.

5. TCC's Vision and Direction includes a Te Ao Māori approach, 'understanding and applying key Māori concepts to enhance outcomes for our communities, thereby bringing to life the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi'. As a councillor/mayor how do you see yourself contributing to this?

I value Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Ao Māori. I studied Te Reo at Te Wananga o Aotearoa in 2019 and have invested in and been enriched by wonderful relationships with tangata whenua and kaumatua of Tauranga Moana and around the country. Conversations, partnership and continuing to advocate for equity are important. I believe in and will work towards finding solutions where 'the rising tide floats all boats'.