

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.

Pāpāmoa General Ward

There are eight people standing for the Pāpāmoa ward. Four candidates provided the following verbatim unedited answers.

John Bowden

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?

Achilles NZ, Tauranga Athletics Club, Coaching and on the TBC Old Boys Committee

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

Exercise pathways , playgrounds, swimming pools etc -paving the pathways so our disabled and seniors can use them

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

making sure they are heard and consulted on a regular basis-monthly in fact

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?

Only if all other diversity groups can also have roadway art

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

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?

Learning more.g. the language -studying more and more visits to those who have the knowledge to gain a better understanding

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.

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.

Maaka Nelson

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 am chair of Papamoa FC and trustee of FC Tauranga Moana both Volunteer positions. The combined membership is over 1000 members. I have invested and continue to invest 1000s of hours in community endeavors.

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

I am a vocal advocate of community and feel the council to date is not supportive of the time and effort made by volunteers. We are not supported nor recognised as we should be by council and council do not fully understand the benefit volunteers bring to our community. We are the strength.

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

All community should have a responsibility to support each other. It is not just council's role but a part of the wider group of people.

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?

No. I have grown up with a parent and close family members who are part of the rainbow community. I don't feel it is necessary. People should be proud of whomever they choose to be. I don't feel "rainbow art" is required.

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?

100% yes. I proudly represented my iwi at a recent treaty of Waitangi claim. I will continue to do so where possible and proudly endorse and will actively contribute to Te ao maori endeavors both city and country wide.