

Papamoa Resident and Ratepayers Association

Submission to Tauranga City Council Annual Plan Presentation.

Good morning Mayor, Councillors, staff and fellow speakers.

My name is Philip Brown and I am the president of the Papamoa residents and Ratepayers Association. This organisation is said to have been in operation for the last 100 hundred years but it is the next 10 years that we are most interested in.

I would say most residents in the Papamoa area are conservative and want consistent, honest local body leadership using common sense and logic. We do not like mock consultation or no consultation, ie talking to the community after the plans have been fully developed and when it is too late to change the direction of the ship.

Currently we are experiencing this with the unexpected planting of the Stormwater Reserve and the changing out of the street lighting to LEDs. Every subdivision had it own unique lamp design and these have been vandalised and destroyed to add LED lights. Who made this decision? And also the use of chipseal over the hotmix on our local roads.

Our community would like to be in the steering committees when an idea is a kernel with the TCC. After all, the real knowledge of local conditions and what works and does not work lies in the knowledge within our local people and communities and not always in the silos of the council.

The other week the committee sat down to formulate our desires in the next Annual Plan. The major points are

Keeping the Rates unchanged for the next year. Many in our community are on fixed or declining incomes. There are only two ways of keeping rates unchanged, cutting back on new spending and reducing current expenditure.

The key points were

1. Develop IT recording systems which can tell instantly the true cost of projects to date including the charges by council staff. Can the departments of the TCC do a zero based budget each year for the annual to breakout their annual expenditure?
2. To reduce costs, slow down new developments around town in favour of upgrading existing infrastructure.
3. Stop Tauranga spreading further and further away from the CBD. The further development is from the CBD the higher the infrastructure costs. Come back and renew the downtown Tauranga area first. Slow the growth of Tauranga.
4. Do not subsidise the infrastructure costs on new developments. As we understand, before a new subdivision can start, TCC and the developer agree on the total cost of the new infrastructure required ie roads, sewerage etc. At the completion of the subdivision the

developer only has to pay the agreed value even if the final costs exceed the original value. The shortfall is then paid for by all the ratepayers. The answer is simple, increase the agreed value and if excessive, credit back to the developer the difference. After all the TCC is advancing the money to the developer.

5. Cost projects with accurate construction costs and include GST. Then the community will know the true costs. Develop IT recording systems which can tell instantly the true cost of projects to date including the charges by council staff. Then the community can make real choices. How many blowouts in costings have we had recently, Phoenix Park, Durham St.
6. Do not hide projects until all the design work is complete and then announce them at silly low estimates when they really are going to cost a lot more. More transparency and commonsense required.
7. Do not waste money, eg proposed upgrade of Elizabeth street, 15th Ave upgrade.
8. Complete essential roading infrastructure. There may be an anti-car lobby in the TCC but it is all we have at present, and roads will be required in the future regardless of words like work from home, autonomous, self drive, and for every driver we move into an alternative transport modes, buses, E biking, walking, another driver will take their place on the road such is the growth of Tauranga. Make the roads we have, more efficient, remove the bottlenecks, eg make 4 lane Turret Road bridge, manage the major intersections better. Promote ride sharing, it all helps. But if the population keeps on increasing so will the traffic.
9. Develop an E bike highway system. This is low cost. I requested money for scoping this last year to no avail. I am available to be on any working group for this.
10. Slow down the growth of Tauranga until we catch up with the infrastructure.
11. Now I started with keeping the rates to no increase. But we already have an elephant in the room --- the proposed kerbside collection of recyclables which could add around 10% to the average rate bill. Based on \$250/household this will take \$14 million out of the local economy per annum. We all agree waste minimisation is necessary, however there are cheaper ways to do this, Tauranga has the chance here to think differently and work with the community and not penalise the community. And the waste levy will increase from \$10/tonne to \$60/tonne. The Taxpayers Union has costed this as \$120/household per annum.

12. Locally in Papamoa, we need upgrades on our major road, Papamoa Beach Road to a modern safe standard. It now has reached the threshold to be sealed in hot mix and channelled at the same time.

13. Zone more land for large areas of open space and parks in the new subdivisions. Then do not sell the land later. Become visionary for the future. Plant trees and create a place to get away from the 400m2 section.

14. Do we need all consultants that the TCC employs? What is the total cost of consultants per annum? Back to Point 1.

15. The latest revamp of the bus services has been a bit of a shambles with patronage showing a decline. If you want workers to get out of their cars and to use the bus, then travel times must be similar to using their car, and a direct route, not wandering all over Tauranga and changing buses. We all would like increased bus patronage, can we have express services from Papamoa Mall to downtown that run all day and only travel on the expressway.

Public Transportation Mantra: If it's of value to you, you will get to it, to use it.

Thankyou to you the councillors for doing an extremely valuable job, we know it is very difficult to manage and balance the requirements of the community.

We all like Tauranga the way it used to be. That is why we all came here. Lets get smarter and work together to get that balance back again.