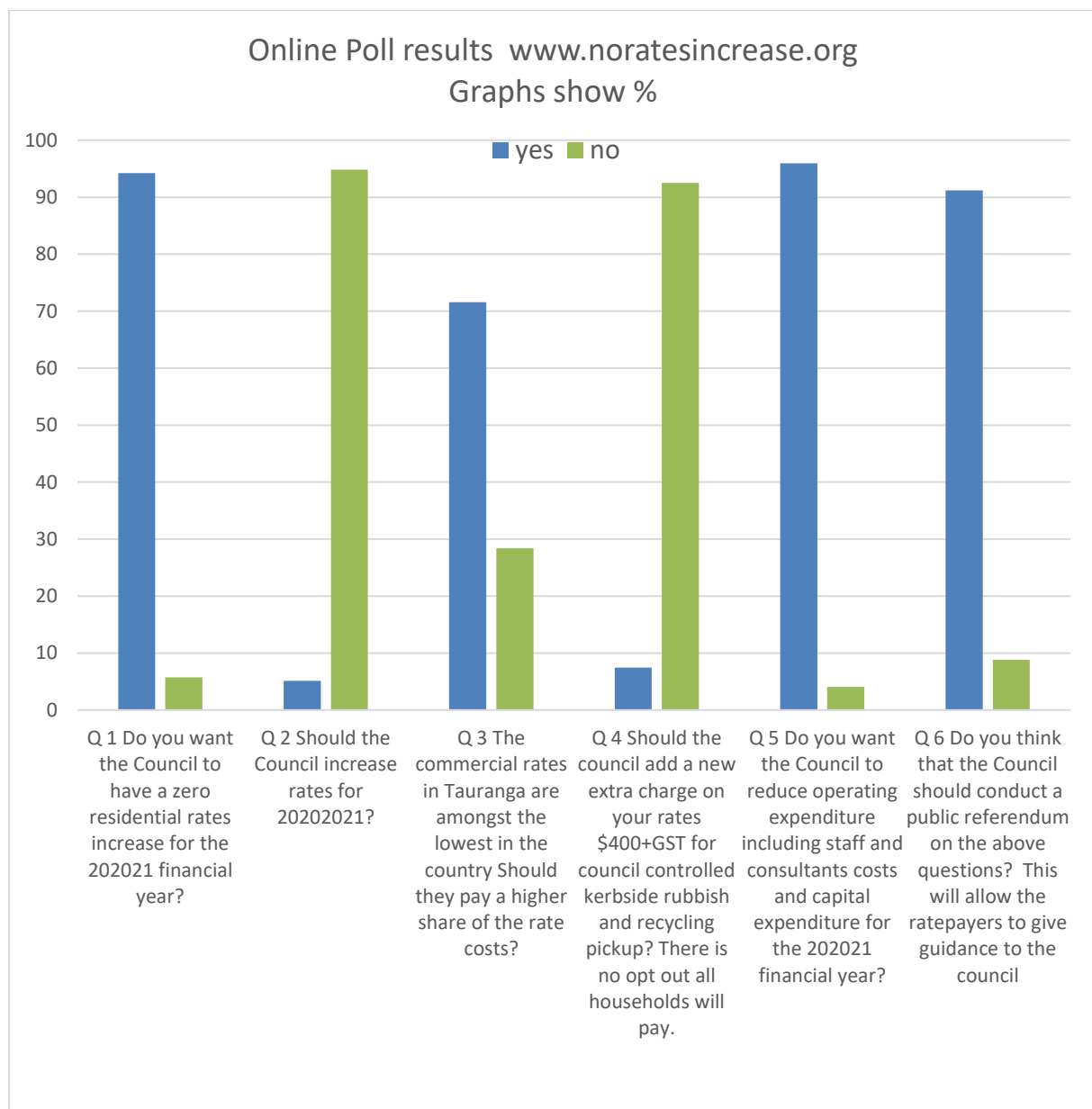




**1. Executive Summary**

Financially, post Covid19, it is a new world with many ratepayers hurting financially. This is not the year to have any rates rise or initiating the process to control the kerbside collection of rubbish/recycling. Our online poll has confirmed this, nearly 1000 residents completed the poll, 94% do not want a rates increase for 2020/2021 and 92% do not want an imposed extra charge for council controlled kerbside rubbish and recycling collections.

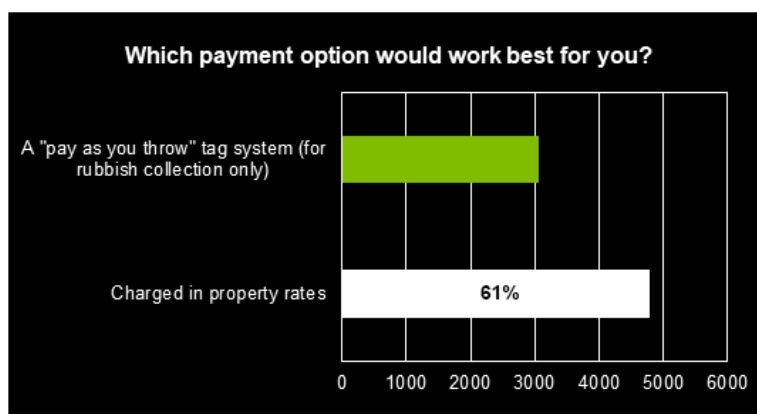


## 2. Rubbish/Recycling:

There does not appear to be a valid reason for the TCC to control kerbside pickups, only that every other city in NZ does this. Waste minimisation and recycling are every resident's aim, but the idea of using the ratepayers as "cash cows" to fund an enforced rubbish/recycling scheme is beyond comprehension. And the residents have worked this out and disagree.

There are other ways to recycle without the cost—you see it very day with the lines of residents recycling at the refuse transfer stations.

Be honest with the community and discuss costs, then make the decision, not stealthily impose the changes as proposed. Please do not conduct mock online surveys (eg Talking Trash) which had very selective questions and never told the cost. See below .. 39% of residents want to "pay as you throw" but in brackets it is "rubbish only". What happens for recycling?



Of the 7,848 residents who responded to this question, 61% indicated that charging the costs to their property rates works best for them.

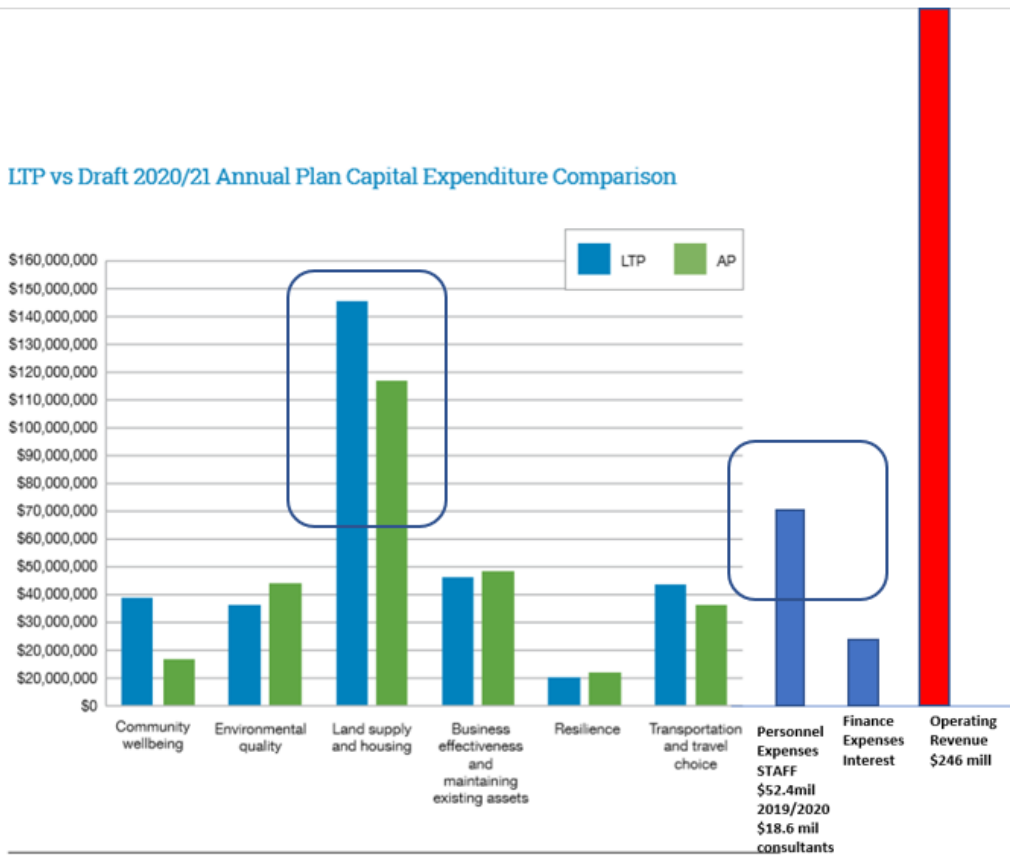
## 3. Rates:

**Rates are paying for the services you use from the council and the upkeep and investment of these services.** Rates are not for paying for new housing/industrial developments or building the new infrastructure to service these areas or subsidies to new businesses.

And more so when the new areas are outside the existing city boundaries. The ratepayers are not the bank for the developers.

**4. If the rates are not to increase what can we do:**

Definitely not borrow more. Like any business you should look at costs. Recently, TCC staff received an above inflation pay increase of 9.75% and the councillors voted themselves good pay rises at the start of this term. And what did the 40% of Tauranga’s population who are on fixed incomes and the working poor get for a pay rise this year. Next to nothing if they were lucky. Where do they get the additional funds to pay for the rate increases?



**The TCC Expenditure graph with Operating Expenditure added the to it.**

The two largest costs/expenses are:

**Land supply and housing (new subdivisions and associated infrastructure)**

The existing ratepayers receive benefit from only part of this expenditure, why are they asked to pay for all of it.

**Personnel Expenses.** Staff cost ( including \$18.6 million for consultants, 33% of the staff wage bill) 96% of the online pollsters agreed with cutting wages bill.

Both these items must be reduced.

And any surplus funds can be redirected into items which improve the quality of life for ratepayers. eg Resilience, community wellbeing, transport.

## 5. Unrestricted Growth

The plan seems to be that Tauranga must continually grow and build new homes on new greenfield sites, the **query is why** when this hollows out the existing city centre, increases traffic congestion, makes any public transport system uneconomic and useless and reduces any spend on increasing the quality of life. Can the plan change to redirecting new residents to live inside the existing city limits.

Growth is not self funding, TCC and Infrastructure NZ have said so, simply, every new section developed puts Tauranga further into debt. Who pays?

If the plan must be new greenfield development, strike a deal with the government that they pick up all the developmental and infrastructure costs including water and waste water upgrades - a blank cheque, and **no cost to Tauranga Ratepayers**.

If the newspaper reports are correct, borrowing up to \$500 million from a fund which takes the loan away from the loan ratio guidelines is mischievous and at the end of the day the **Tauranga Ratepayer** is still guaranteeing the loan and will need to pay it back.

More money needs to be placed in the other categories to improve the quality of Tauranga life. Invest in what will improve the quality of life in Tauranga. This is the reason we all moved here, not to replicate the Auckland problems. As an example, money not used for funding growth could pay for the kerbside rubbish collection and recycling initiatives.

*Question -- Is there sufficient reliable water supply to supply all the new housing planned and the very large requirements of the gib board factory? Smartgrowth talks about 8000 plus more homes.*

6. Budget items that could be deferred/deleted for this financial year:

From TCC Expenditure Budget 2020/2021			Papamoa Residents & Ratepayers Association
This is a year for the austerity budget, a year of funding the essentials.			
<b>Expenditure that can be removed, reduced or deferred Do the numbers include GST?</b>			
Papamoa East Interchange	6.569		NZTA were going to pay originally. How is it now a TCC cost?
Water Network			
Pyes Pa West Growth Area	5.328		More houses and infrastructure cost
Parks -- Planned rushed development	3.681		Remember Phoenix Park debacle. Change rules
Western Ring Rd 3000 new houses	3.082		More traffic and infrastructure costs
TBE Developer reimbursement	0.663	19.323	
<b>Other</b>		<b>Revised Saving</b>	
Kerbside Rubbish Bin purchase	9.180	9.180	No to TCC controlled kerbside collection
Harrington St Carpark	10.000	4.000	Sue the insurance co for fix.
Cycle Plan	3.700	2.000	12 consultants fulltime for a year. Excessive
Cameron Rd Corridor	1.500	1.500	Another Greerton debacle. Will choke C Rd to standstill. Another reason not to go to downtown Tga
Property Disposals	-3.037	-3.037	Make public before sold.
Airport Resurfacing	3.400	1.000	Just got unbudgeted payout to seal carpark and has built new terminal recently. Priorities??
Streetlight Renewal and LED upgrade	4.307	4.307	Stop. Destroying Papamoa heritage.
Adams Centre Expansion	5.351	5.351	No subsidy -- not a community facility
Wairakei Stream Planting	1.328	1.328	Stop almost illegal. Resource Consent not adhered to.
Mount Visitor Info Centre	2.240	2.240	Stop No cruise ships for a long time.
Harrisons Cut Stabilisation	1.779	0.500	Make plans available for public scrutiny
New toilet at Harrisons Cut	0.333	0.333	Better at War Memorial
			28.702
Reduce total payroll expenditure for staff and consultants by 20%	70.00	14.00	14.00
<b>Reduced expenditure</b>			<b>62.025</b> millions
<b>Total Draft Expenditure</b>			<b>243</b> millions

Potential Saving \$62 million.

## **7. Items in the Annual Plan which affect Papamoa**

### **Street Lighting**

Without any consultation the Tauranga City Council decided to replace all the street lights with new LED lights in the Papamoa area. Before, each subdivision had its own unique street lamp design and gave a touch of class and uniqueness to an area and some history. Now without any consideration it was decided to chop and destroy the look of the light frames to put the LED lights in place. It has now been stopped but too late for the vandalism that has occurred.

### **Planting in Royal Palm Beach Reserve part of the Wairakei Stream**

Recently, after no consultation with the local community, under the auspices of a [BOP Regional Council Resource Consent 63636](#), the Tauranga City Council created the Wairakei Landscape Plan with Boffa Miskell and now have started implementing the plan by planting flax bushes around the edges of the Palm Beach Reserve waterways to create a wetland. The resource consent stipulated that consultation must have taken place with each resident bordering on the waterways. This has not happened. TCC lodged the landscape plan before meeting the residents and still has not met them.

The residents do not want the planting, just leave the Reserve as it is, with grass to the edge of the streams and lakes. The “scientific” reasons for the planting in Palm Beach Reserve contained in the Boffa Miskell plan are faulty, the planting will affect the performance of the flood design of the area and are without any basis.

TCC has recently employed a marketing consultant to try and convince the residents that the planting is acceptable. If the conditions of the Resource Consent had been adhered to, then the residents bordering onto the park would have been consulted and the final landscape plan would be different.

Royal Palm Beach Reserve is the only true park in Papamoa.

The funds being spent in this small part of the Wairakei Stream is wasteful. There is an item of \$1.4 million for planting included in this year’s budget and then add to this the cost of the marketing consultant.

### **Te Tumu**

The Papamoa Eastern Interchange was historically to be funded by NZTA, now it is in the TCC annual plan. What has changed?

### **Papamoa Beach Road**

The traffic flow count has exceeded the numbers required to hot seal the road. The new housing will bring increased traffic. When will this road be upgraded?

### **Community Hall Papamoa East**

This has been proposed for a few years and we believe land has been bought. There is a need for a community hall to be managed by the TCC and available to be used by the public.

#### **8. Lack of Communication and Mock Consultation with the Community:**

The feedback posted by pollsters in our online surveys has reinforced a feeling we have had for sometime in Papamoa. The council is not listening to the residents until after the event when it is too late. Subsequently ratepayers funds are being wasted. There is sadly a perceived disconnect between council and residents. More so than could be considered normal. The crux of the complaint is that no one in council is listening and there is an entrenched silo mentality amongst the council staff who tell the community what they are getting. A lot of the feeling stems from the Mock Consultations used by TCC after a plan is finished to justify the project or just a Lack of Consultation with the residents.

Communicate with the community, not at the community after the horse has bolted. The community needs to be involved before the plan is developed.

A current example is the amount of money being spent by TCC on a marketing consultant to convince the Palm Beach residents to accept the council wetland planting.

The local resident usually knows what works, what doesn't work, use their knowledge and expertise, don't impose on them.

This quote sums it all up

"The problem is, once the plan has already been written and budgeted for – consultation becomes a tick on a tick box, when it should be done **before a plan is written**"

#### **9. Summary:**

This is a year for austerity, the council's desire to spend is not matched by the ability or desire of a large part of your ratepayers to pay an increased rate. Equally of concern is the stealth introduction of the council controlled kerbside rubbish/recycling collection which will add around \$500 to each rate bill. It doesn't matter which year it starts, as it will always be an additional imposed charge on ratepayers. Waste minimisation and recycling are important, the proposed method and cost is not desired. The current privately run rubbish service is highly competitive and customisable.

For the Tauranga people who are on fixed and low incomes, and the working poor, it is still \$10 Tauranga and not Auckland prices. Adding \$10/week rate increase and another \$10 per week for kerbside collections is more than the recent increase in the pension for a married couple. (\$19/week)

They can not pay any unexpected large increases.

The community and council need to walk together for the future.

Philip Brown Chairman

On behalf of the Committee

Papamoa Ratepayers and residents Association.