

WEST WARD	Note: No response was received from Rene Mitchell									
	Geoff Kenny	Janet Wepa	Grant Rogers	Trevor Maxwell	Manifesto Policy 1 – A business friendly and supportive approach to development proposals					
<p>Improve communication – open meetings, friendly cooperative staff and a more helpful website that contains the right information and contacts and is clear and easy to use. Make it easy for people to find out about requirements and costs</p>	<p>Great – sounds easy – god knows why it isn't</p>	<p>All these communication tools are very important. Streamlining of requirements and costs would be very useful.</p>	<p>Yes but ensure provision made for those without computer & email access</p>	<p>Agree- yes</p>	<p>Develop a clear, positive vision through the District Plan, setting out how it will be achieved, and communicate that. Change the perception among those surveyed by the Chamber that Rotorua is an expensive and difficult place to do business.</p>					
<p>Review and remove unnecessary barriers in Council's policies and procedures and improve certainty and clarity</p>	<p>I'm all for this but many barriers are Government imposed. Particularly in the new building code.</p>	<p>Yes – this is currently being looked at by staff. New council will have final input.</p>	<p>This is questionable as you need to state what those barriers in council's policies and procedures are. Particularly in the case of the Resource Management Act which is hugely important to mitigate against long term environmental damage caused by hasty development projects.</p>	<p>Yes, worth reviewing</p>						

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Appoint an adviser outside the regulatory process to liaise with business and major developers on processes and opportunities to reduce time and costs.	No – just another unnecessary job. Better to have an overseer/facilitator position within Council. Actually on second thought this may have merit – who would pay this person?	Would consider this however ratepayers do have concerns regarding staff numbers.	Yes however we must ensure sustainable development practices	Yes – worth pursuing. Working with our Economic division too
Review consent processes to ensure they reflect best practice, are customer focussed and meet legislative time requirements	In theory that's what Council strives for now.	Already constantly doing this.	Yes with emphasis on reducing carbon footprint and ensuring sustainability	Yes I believe we do this now

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Manifesto Policy 2 – A well defined plan and the provision of suitable infrastructure for strong business growth				
Identify and classify through the District Plan prime commercial development precincts that meet the needs of industrial and technology business parks	Already being done.	Yes, have completed most of the reports commissioned to assist us in developing these plans.	Yes	Yes
Provide encouragement for organisations to establish and develop industrial and technology business parks that meet business needs	Definitely	Yes	Where necessary reflect sensitivity to community appearance	Definitely yes
Increase the priority of roading developments that will provide a safer, more efficient transport network for businesses in Rotorua. Maintain progress on direct route to Tauranga and Victoria Street bypass	Already being done.	Being working on priority of roading developments and most logical and efficient transport network of several years.	No we require less funding for new roading projects developments as we need to concentrate on light rail and more public transport access	Yes
With Rotorua Regional Airport to gain trans-Tasman capability, consider lobbying Transit NZ to rapidly upgrade highway links between Tauranga and Rotorua. This would allow promote a twin city concept of Rotorua and Tauranga	Excellent idea however Transit are law unto themselves	Already doing this.	No again we need to focus on building more bike lanes and initiating a comprehensive light rail network	Yes

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Maintain pressure on Transit NZ to re-establish construction of the Eastern Arterial Highway in its ten-year plan	As above	Chairman of works and district engineer regularly attend Transit NZ Meetings and lobby on Rotorua's behalf.	No lobby central government & Transit NZ for extra funding to help RDC initiate a comprehensive public transport system involving light rail	Yes

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Manifesto Policy 3 - A commitment to improving lakes quality				
Actively support EBOP in achieving the action plans for the restoration and preservation of the lakes.	Goes without saying. Would help if EBOP didn't make poor decisions that resulted in the loss of key staff	Work in conjunction with EBOP.	Yes in association with central government & tourist operators	Definitely yes, lake water quality is very important
Continue to build sewerage schemes around the lakeside settlements	Council doing this as it can be afforded. We have done a very good job so far.	Action plans in place. We await certainty of central government finding to proceed in most areas.	Yes with central government support	Agree - yes
Support EBOP in obtaining a reasonable financial contribution from Central Government.	RDC driving this now. Maybe we need a better lobbyist in Wellington.	Work with EBOP – Yes	Yes	YES we must work in partnership
Ensure preservation and restoration of the lakes becomes a principle driver in the Rotorua District Plan by allowing innovative land use change from intensive farming to more sustainable alternatives.	Not so easy with current dairy prices.	Already working on this have been for some time.	Yes with maximum involvement of community groups	Agree- yes
Encourage the tourism industry to widen its focus from Maori culture and volcanic activity to all Lakes district recreational experiences.	Already being addressed by T.A.B	Council can encourage and communicate but individual tourist operators enjoy their independence.	In accordance with robust Iwi consultation and understanding of tourist operators intentions in their activities and encourage more small businesses to become involved in ecotourism	Yes but Maori culture and geothermal are important because other parts of NZ are improving too

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Manifesto Policy 4 – Strong leadership uniting stakeholders to achieve growth				
Have a strong vision for the future of Rotorua that can be captured in media and conceptual statements that can create a visual image.	Agree	Continue to re-evaluate	Take the vision to the streets – do not depend on electronic media – some people want ‘experiences’ rather than just being told about it	Yes
Articulate this vision with passion to all stakeholder groups	Agree	Definitely	Yes articulate in street theatre for example to widen approach	Yes
Actively encourage a cooperative and unified whole of community approach to achieving that vision	Agree	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provide leadership to maintain momentum towards the vision.	Agree	Yes	Yes involve community leadership, stakeholders & interested groups	Yes

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Manifesto Policy 5 – A clear, integrated and coordinated vision for inner city Rotorua				
Create a clear vision for the future of Inner City Rotorua.	Has been done with CBD development but no money available	Already working on this concept.	Absolutely – now that developments have destroyed inner city urgent remedial action is needed to revitalise CBD	Agree -yes
Clearly convey this vision and the principle concepts to Rotorua residents so they can understand it and embrace it.	All good and well but they don't want to pay for it	Certain sectors want to be involved in vision at the early stages but for many they enjoy the results. Eg new and interesting shops in town and the opportunity to patronize them.	Don't overuse electronic media – use innovative experiences, e.g. street theatre, buskers	Agree -yes

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Manifesto Policy 6 - A tourism strategy that positions Rotorua as the premier tourist destination in New Zealand				
Continue investment in funding Destination Rotorua Tourism marketing and link the level of funding to an annual index.	Agree	Would consider the link to the annual index. Need minimum of 7 votes.	Yes but not at expense of ratepayers, encourage small business & community involvement	Definitely -yes
Develop a marketing strategy that positions Rotorua as the premier tourist destination in New Zealand	T.A.B and DRTM already have this as a major priority	Yes	Avoid placing whole burden on ratepayers, encourage eco tourism	Yes, especially though the Tourism Board
Encourage and facilitate a whole of industry approach to supporting and building on the investment the Council has made in tourism marketing through Destination Rotorua Tourism Marketing.	Agree	Yes	Absolutely as we can use profits to invest	Yes
Build on Rotorua's strong Maori cultural and geothermal attractions to continue developing attractions based on the district's other advantages	Agree	Yes, always good and recognize solid and sustainable industry as we build towards the future.	Yes but not in isolation from other communities – What about an Asian festival?	Yes
Encourage the development, through the CBD revitalisation project, of the CBD as a tourist visitor retail attraction.	Great but no money for this for several years	CBD revitalization project is vital in the next 3 years to the growth of our city. Residents and tourists alike would appreciate growth of our city. Residents and tourists alike would appreciate variety and flexible opening hours and good quality products.	Remedial action urgently needed	Yes

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Manifesto Policy 7 – More involvement of business through consultation on relevant issues				
Commission an annual business ratepayer satisfaction survey on aspects of Rotorua District Council performance relevant to business.	Fantastic another useless survey	Would investigate	No this is a waste of money	Could support this
Establish a Business Forum chaired by the Mayor that comprises all 12 elected Councillors and 12 representatives from across all sectors of Rotorua business.	A good idea providing BEAB is scrapped	We already have meetings with Chamber of Commerce quarterly to which all Councillors and the Mayor are invited. Plus, Bright Economy Board, Tourism Advisory Board	Only if it excludes the Mayor and Council	Worth pursuing
Use the BrightEconomy Advisory Board in developing business-related Council policy, rather than to comment on policy already formulated	Why not get the 12 Councillors to resign and appoint the BEAB in their place? I believe the idea above is workable and has real value. This one won't fly. Council has established a board that they won't /can't fund and won't listen to anyway. E.g. Development Contributions, Capital Rates.	Yes	As long as the Bright Economy Advisory Board is transparent on its vision to develop small business & is inclusive to all stakeholders particularly to small business & ecotourism. To then be reviewed every three years to see if the Board is developing new businesses not just those in the Advisory Board	Could support this

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Manifesto Policy 8 – Development of a broadband infrastructure strategy				
Investigate methods of optimising the regional broadband network and improving intra-region connectivity from the region to the main Auckland-Wellington broadband highway	Getting way outside your brief. Telecom and other agencies are looking at this.	I personally attended an initial meeting on this very subject in Western bay, 2 years ago with our Director of Corporate Services. Council has recently have a presentation and most were very supportive	Needs to come from central government to overcome poor investment by I.S.P.S	Yes
Include a requirement for broadband access capability in reticulation of utilities to new subdivisions or replacement of existing utilities	Already happening	Very important. Already looking at this and cost factors for next term.	See above	Needs further investigation but I could support this
Facilitate the extension of broadband capability to the rural areas of the Rotorua district	Lobby Telecom for sure but don't take on tasks beyond your capabilities	Very important.	See above	Same as above

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Manifesto Policy 9 – Encouragement to establish new business				
Continue the work of the BrightEconomy Advisory Board in addressing the negative responses of the perception survey.	WHY BOTHER ACCORDING TO NIGEL WHARTON everything is tickety boo!!	Yes	Yes but if there is still negative responses shown by businesses towards the Boards inability to change this negative perception it may need to be restructured	Definitely yes
Continue the work of Destination Rotorua Economic Development in positioning Rotorua as a place to work, live, plan and invest.	OF COURSE	Yes	Only if costs of operation are kept to a minimum and are actively encouraging small business operators and Maori participation in economic development	Definitely yes
Create a positive retail environment in the CBD to attract the interest of new retailers by adopting a CBD revitalisation strategy	I believe the OPUS CBD revitalization plan is very good but it will take a long time to be fully implemented – if Chamber/council/retailers work together maybe it can be implemented bit by bit.	Yes; already working on these plans.	Absolutely urgent to overcome damage encouraged by RDC previously. Also need to encourage landlords to keep retail leases down to promote small business to the CBD area	Yes
Develop a strategy that will incentivise existing property owners in the CBD to invest in refurbishment and/or redevelopment	Core Chamber business. It's time retailers were encouraged to do this themselves and many are doing well in this area. They cannot rely on council to do a lot in the immediate future.	Yes	The CBD should not be let off the hook with rates as they are business not a beneficiary of the ratepayer	Yes
Develop a strategy to attract, incentivise and facilitate the establishment of new businesses to Rotorua	A waste of time until council makes the consent/planning process easier and drastically reduces Development Contributions for industrial and commercial developments.	Yes	Key strategy is to encourage landlords to keep leases down and promote use of sustainable energies such as geothermal with consultation & approval of local Iwi	Yes

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Manifesto Policy 10 – Pro-active approach to environmental sustainability.				
Encourage and facilitate recycling from all households.	Sadly the positive effects of recycling are exaggerated and more expensive than people realize. However there is overwhelming public support for curbside recycling.	Would like to see kerbside recycling introduced.	Yes we need to establish a specific strategy group to address recycling	Yes
Encourage and facilitate sustainability in the construction sector	Let the RMA worry about this	Important	Yes see above	Yes
Research and facilitate conversion of waste products into fuel.	Let Scion worry about this	Important	Yes and lobby central government to offer incentives for research and business involvement to facilitate conversion of waste products into fuel for instance at SCION	Yes

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Manifesto Policy 11 – A co-ordinated energy strategy for the district				
Develop an energy management strategy that includes an energy management policy and plan for the Rotorua District Council	I think council already addressing this	Important	Need to establish an eco strategy group to look at renewable energies	Yes
Adopt best practice for energy use by the Council and publish details to establish the Council as a positive role model in energy management	Yes a reasonable and practicable idea	Yes, working on this e.g. Aquatic centre costs and energy consumed over last 5 months have been lower than those in the previous two years, despite the increase in energy costs over the past year.	Yes	Agree
Support and actively enable new local energy management initiatives	Yes. Good idea – some very workable new concepts out there.	Always support local business	Yes in geothermal energy to be monitored regularly in consultation with local Iwi	Yes
Set strict carbon reduction targets for the Rotorua District and develop an action plan for their achievement	No – we've got enough to do	Yes	Yes by cutting back spending on new roading projects and encourage a comprehensive public transport system in light rail which links Rotorua with Tauranga and Hamilton	Support
Develop and support renewable energy generation initiatives including hydro, solar, geothermal and bio fuels	TICK	Yes	Yes and lobby central government for funding and subsidies to encourage businesses and households to switch to renewable energies	Very interested -yes
Develop work started by the BrightEconomy Board on local energy resources.	The only things the BEAB has done is meetings, build websites and conduct perception surveys. There is no <u>actual</u> work to develop.	Yes	See Mark Gould	Yes

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Manifesto Policy 12 – Reduced size and cost of local government.				
Review Council units that provide private goods and services to the public to ensure they operate effectively and efficiently. The review should consider different management models and the benefits of divesting commercially viable activities to private enterprise while retaining a return on the investment.	AND who's going to do this?	Possibly. Nevertheless we review much of what you're asking for at Annual Plan time and again, it takes 7 votes to change something.	As long as it is in the interests of the community after extensive consultation between the public and council	
Reduce the size, scope and cost of local government by focusing on core activities of local government.	<u>ABSOLUTELY!!!</u>	Local government Act 2002 requires territorial authorities to have quadruple bottom line reporting. Would be more useful for Central government to fund the activities they choose to xxx to	Only if it doesn't impact on quality and needs of the community to have services provided by the council	
Desist from moving into areas of commercial operation that compete directly with private interests and expose Council to commercial risk.	Generally this is policy now	Always consider this.	See above	