

Questions not answered

It is obvious Mr Cutforth is wording his letters carefully, but he is not answering the questions that are being asked about the people who got him to stand and who approached other candidates to stand aside.

He says he didn't investigate those approaches, but there is no denial that he knew they were being made.

He says he has "friends" in business, but doesn't actually say that the people who said he should stand are among his friends.

When he announced in June he was standing, he made it clear he was summoned to a meeting with a businessman and told he was suitable. There wasn't any mention of friends. The fact is that he has reached the age of 67 without ever standing for the council and suddenly at the suggestion of others he goes for the top job. That's a bit like saying someone who has never played rugby would be "suitable" to captain the All Blacks.

I think Mr Cutforth protests too much. We simply want to know what is at stake for ratepayers when certain businesspeople select their "suitable" mayoral candidate.

C. FRYER
Whangarei

Get out of the '80s

I have been back here for about 12 months watching the regional council/Whangarei council and the run-up to the elections. My God, it still feels like the 1980s. I have been listening to the squabbling and crap. I see the re-elect me signs — who would re-elect the people who are doing nothing. Whangarei needs to get out of the 1980s. WOW nil or 1 or 2 per cent rate rises — wake up Whangarei pull your heads out of the sand. Do we have any forward-thinking people here or is it just for a tomorrow council. We need to do a hell of a lot more work on Whangarei or the systems we have in place won't cope — they can't cope now. Stop whinging about rate increases. Without them how are we going to develop Whangarei? Most people want to bypass it because there's nothing exciting about it and the roading system is a shambles. We need some young forward-thinking people who don't have hidden agendas to be elected to both councils. Wake up, Whangarei, and vote.

PETER MCINROE
Whangarei

Playing the man

In challenging me, Mr Cutforth is playing the man not the ball and is fudging the issue.

No one objects to him having friends. A man in his late 60s who has taught school can be expected to know people.

The issue in these elections is the reason why certain friends put him up for mayoralty. Mr Cutforth has acknowledged it was not his idea, and can have no objection if some others see this as puppet behaviour.

These friends must be expecting something back. Myself and other ratepayers of Whangarei district quite rightly want to know what it is.

It's our council, our assets and our future at stake, and we, the public, in a simple desire of openness want to know what is really going on.

What is so important that your friends desperately asked other candidates to stand aside?

Do they want me to sell my real estate cheaply to them?

SAM MORGAN
Whangarei



MAKE A CHOICE: Whangarei residents need to use their votes.

What's best for us

Re Isopo Samu and Clare Swinney's letters re Morris Cutforth *Northern Advocate* September 27.

Morris' supporters may be prominent and caring for the Whangarei district's future but powerful, a "massive" sum of money? I don't think so.

It is disappointing that by his actions, Mr Samu is sending voters a message that he wishes to continue the "play the man — not the ball" tactics favoured by the incumbent.

I have promised Morris and I promise the public that I will hold him to account the same as previous mayors and councils. There will be no special favours asked of him.

The Whangarei district needs a mayor who obeys the rules of the Local Government 2002 Act — both in spirit as well as law, the real version not his version.

There will be no exceptions.

My council-watching colleagues and I have never wavered from demanding that council follow due process. We abhor "I know what's best for you" governance.

We have and will continue to do so in spite of the dirt and tricks thrown at us. We wish only the best for Whangarei and Northland citizens.

Warren Slater and Vince Cocurullo are also honourable, hard-working and worthy candidates.

I find it inexcusable that anyone could have the gall to ask them to stand aside.

I support their democratic right to contest this election.

JEREMY BUSCK
Onerahi
(abridged)

Delay raises suspicion

One issue that has not been mentioned in the current debate on the local body elections is the subject of local governance in Northland, ie unitary councils or the present district councils and the Northland Regional Council.

The committee that heard submissions on the proposal was due to report a few weeks ago, but one of its members, Dr Don Brash, reported delays and that he would be releasing its findings soon.

Has it been delayed as a political manoeuvre?

Some of the candidates know something about the report which examined the proposal (all of the

present district committees and regional councillors).

The plan cost \$80,000 to produce. Electors are entitled to know about its recommendations, the candidates' opinions on the matter, as well as an assurance that any change does not happen over the next three years and even then, there will be full consultation and public input.

K ABERCROMBIE
Whangarei

Good reason for support

Having recently returned from overseas and noting all the publicity surrounding those who have given their support to mayoral candidate Morris Cutforth, has anyone considered that these businessmen not only understand our city but know what is really going on? Why does it appear the business community are supporting Mr Cutforth for mayor? Is it that these people have such deep concerns it is the old "no smoke without fire" analogy? The whole community knows our debt is spiralling out of control.

If the business community have thrown their support behind a particular candidate, then let's listen.

D BUTCHER
Hikurangi

6th October 2010
Northern Advocate
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR