

Governance of parks, arts, community facilities and events

[00:13] – Cr Alf Filipaina

Tēnā koutou katoa, Talofa lava, Malo lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Kia orana, Mauri and to all our Pacific Islands - in your language - hi. My name is Alf Filipaina. I am the chair of the PACE Committee, which is Parks, Arts, Community and Events.

[00:41]

My committee looks after regional parks, destination parks. We also look after community facilities like libraries, like rec (recreation) centres, doing the exercise, swimming pools, libraries, especially because we've just got rid of the fines for our library books. But look, that's what I look after.

And all the events that we have. We have the events, regional events, Taiwan Day, Korea Day. We have events like that across Tamaki Makaurau. Most of all, I think it's about our community. So that's my role in regards to the Auckland Council.

[01:45]

Community facilities. They are so important for our community. Why? Because it's a meeting place. You know years ago we used to be rural. Now we're urban. More and more people are coming into Tamaki Makaurau as a region. So our community facilities for us is having meeting places for our community.

It's so important. With our parks again, it's important. Why? Places for our community to congregate, to get together. It's like little villages, and we've got 1.7 million people. But we've got so many villages and we want to get these community facilities out there.

[02:30]

So look, for you that are looking at what you need to do. Parks, please. Open space is so important for our community, the villages to congregate, to meet. Facilities around gym, going to the gym. Our swimming pools. Because if you lose the land, you lose the opportunity. So please make use of the land.

[03:22]

Infrastructure. We have to plan for infrastructure. One of the best ways we've done it is that we have an Auckland plan. It's a long term strategic plan. So we've said, hey, we need to have a look as to what we will look at, what we will be looking at in 30, 40, 50 years.

When I was a councillor in a Manukau City Council, we were the second largest council in New Zealand, next to Auckland City Council. When we amalgamated, we became the largest council in Australasia.

So we have to plan for the people who are coming in. So the infrastructure is so important, especially keeping up with our pipes, our water pipes, sewage. We need to do that. Why? Because the more people that come here and if they're not up to standard, you then have breakdowns.

So infrastructure is so important. But to do that, you've got to plan in the head, because what we want to do is build the right facility in the right place. And the way we're going to do that is to plan ahead, but then also get good advice from our staff. So then you know what we need to plan ahead.

[04:47]

When I talk about parks and I talk about pipes, I talk about our network, and that network needs to fit together. If it doesn't fit together, we're going to have little thing here, little thing here. No, it's got to fit together. Whether it be our roads, whether it be stormwater drains, we need to make sure there is a network and it's connected together. So please, again, put the thinking caps on and make sure it's a network. It's not in isolation.

[05:23]

I love the elected members' job. I spent 38 years, 38 and a half years in the police. I love South Auckland. Love it. Got myself onto the Manukau City Council. Love the Manukau City Council. South Auckland again. Then I got onto the Auckland Council. I've had to change my mindset now because I have to have a regional approach, not just South Auckland; region, across Tamaki Makaurau, across Auckland.

[06:12]

It's been 18 years now that I've been the councillor. But I just love the work. And for me, if I could just leave these last few words with you there's, think ahead. Please think ahead about your young ones who are going to be older and the young ones to come. Your grandchildren. So think ahead. Make sure that our network is connected and you build the facility in the right place at the right time.

So good luck to you all. I wish you well. Faafetai lava and Ka kite ano.