

General Election for

The House of Keys Constituency of Middle

Yn Chiare as Feed – Rheyinn-reih Middal



Dear fellow Middle residents

My name is Paul Craine and I am offering myself as a candidate for the constituency of Middle in the House of Keys election. I bring experience and understanding of government at both local and Island level and believe that I am well-equipped to serve this constituency and the Isle of Man. I know that no-one would work harder.. but I also know that I have much to learn, both as a campaigner and, if elected, as an MHK. I am looking forward to meeting as many of the people of Middle as I possibly can. I shall enjoy hearing your views and exploring local and Island issues with you. I shall publish a manifesto and launch a website later this summer and I am inviting you to give me your support.



Background

I am 56 years old and was born, and grew up, in the Isle of Man. I am married to Ann, we have two daughters and we have lived in Middle since 1984 - 16 years in Union Mills (Braddan) and 11 years in Glen Vine (Marown). I currently work in the Department of Education and Children as the co-ordinating adviser for secondary education, a post I took up in 1999 after a successful 20-year career in teaching, but I have submitted my resignation in order to stand for this election. Outside work, I am perhaps best known for my work with charities; the Island Games Association of Mann (former Secretary, Team Manager and Chair); as an active member of the Methodist Church, or as an elected member of Marown Commissioners since 2007 and Chairman over the past year. I have always believed in contributing to the community.

What sort of MHK would I make?

When I told a colleague that I was considering standing for the Keys, she said: “You’ve got a good brain, enormous common sense and a big heart – go for it!” I hope that I can live up to that description. I believe that we need MHKs who prioritise good, caring constituency work and are pro-active and reliable in responding to local needs. In the Island’s current situation, however, we need MHKs who can offer much more than this. As a well-qualified professional with experience of more than a decade working as a senior civil servant, I believe I have an excellent understanding of the Island’s political and departmental systems. I would bring a reflective, professional approach, would always seek to be guided by evidence, would be assertive when needed but would always wish to speak in measured tones and would always put the interests of Middle and the Island first. I am confident that I have the ability to make an effective contribution both to government policy, and to the scrutiny of government actions, and would seek roles either in departments or on one of the newly planned policy review (scrutiny) committees. I have no political ‘ambitions’ other than to serve as a highly effective MHK for Middle.

Why am I doing this?

There are some things I am passionate about and some things I really want to change. I will discuss these much more fully in my manifesto but I will outline here two broad issues relating to Middle Constituency and to the Island’s economy.

What are the main issues for Middle?



Fields in Union Mills: focus of public enquiries

Work on the Eastern Area Plan is due to start. This is going to lay down which parts of Middle should be zoned for development in the next decade and beyond. I am committed to working for better planning and have made presentations at two previous public enquiries against inappropriate development in Camlork, Braddan. I also contributed to the Save Archallagan campaign. I do not own, or have vested interest in, any large areas of land in the constituency. When I meet with you I will be particularly keen to hear your views on planning in Middle – especially on development, on traffic (and speeding) issues and on the lack of services in Marown (not a single local shop).

What are the main Island issues?

At the all-Island level, the economy seems certain to dominate this election. The imposed changes in the VAT (revenue sharing) agreement, and the need to offer competitive company tax rates to attract investment and jobs, have contributed to reductions in government spending and increases in personal taxation. The planned budget rebalancing will bring further reductions in spending over the years ahead. I know that many residents of Middle, facing inflation at over 6% and wage-freezes, are already feeling “squeezed”. I believe that new economic opportunities can be identified and that further development of our constitutional relationship with the UK might contribute to these. I am committed to defending the Isle of Man’s right to attract jobs and inward investment through competitive taxation policies whilst, at the same time, working to improve the international reputation of the Island. I recognise, however, that further reduction in government spending may be unavoidable and I want to hear your views on how best to achieve this. I am ready to explore reducing the scope (or breadth) of what government provides. ‘Low Taxes’ and ‘Big Government’ (running a wide range of commercial services) simply don’t go together. I look forward to hearing your views on this.

Other issues facing the Island are no less important but the solutions to most of them depend on a strong economy and efficient government. Like every candidate for the Keys, I am committed to improving access to affordable housing, maintaining a good health service, building on high standards of education, improving leisure activities for young people, managing the environment sustainably, reducing dependence on oil and gas, tackling youth unemployment, and improving transport (on and off Island). When I call to talk with constituents I will welcome your views on these issues.

Being able to stand for election is an enormous privilege and I promise to listen and, if elected, to keep on listening. I may not be able to get round to talk to everyone in person but if I don’t get to meet you, please contact me. If you are willing to offer your time to help with my campaign, please contact me on 851861 or craine@manx.net. More information will be available on my website www.paulcraine.im.

Gura mie eu (Thank you)

Paul Craine



If people don’t vote – democracy doesn’t work
29 September – please use your vote
For a strong Middle – vote Craine