

## Political Questions – Richard Kissack (2011)

**Why this candidate wishes to be a member of the House of Keys?**

I am passionate about doing the right thing, and I believe that this is a critical time for the island where we need real politicians with vision and strength of character.

**How well does the candidate think that the present?**

The critical times have been the credit crunch leading to a revision of the VAT agreement and I believe that Tynwald should have been more prepared to break with the UK. Capital projects have been more difficult than they should have been with the MEA infrastructure and IRIS and the incinerator.

**If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a constituency level?**

Developing the vacant sites on the promenade which should be the social centre of the Isle of Man. Some attention should be given to derelict properties which seem to bring the rest of the town down.

**If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a national level?**

Secure our information flow in terms of keeping BBC licence fee money on the island to build up our own media. Build alternative relationships with Nordic countries and the Republic of Ireland to move away from following the UK. Now is the time

**What does the candidate view as the main political and social issues facing the Isle of Man in the next 5 years?**

for a full re-organisation of government including the transfer of responsibilities to a changed local government so that Tynwald can concentrate on the legislative process.

Politicians must actually be the ones in the driving seat and not be operated remotely by an army of Humphrey Applebys. Legislation by Tynwald and policy by executive government appear not to be the only factors in play with political and social issues, we need to find out what these are and how they are operating. I would give my full support to an Isle of Man Freedom of Information Act with teeth and commitments from government.

**How would the candidate deal with the challenges/issues over the next five years - as stated in the Main Social Issues question?**

By strengthening an independent island based media and investigating issues affecting social policy. Enacting and enforcing freedom of information.

**What does the candidate feel has changed for the better, for Isle of Man residents, in the past five years - giving examples?**

Work has continued on diversifying and strengthening the economy, with the aircraft and ship registers and the successful courting of the space

**What does the candidate feel has changed for the worse for Isle of Man residents, in the past 5 years - give examples?**

industry. We have a much bigger better prison. The housing stock has improved at least in Pulrose. There have been infrastructure improvements.

**Does the candidate feel that the Isle of man has been too reliant upon the financial services industry?**

We seem to have government agencies that seem to behave as if they can intrude and interfere in family life often with anti-social effects which contradict their stated aims. The requirements of the state seem to trump the needs of the individual and family.

**If The candidate feels there is too much Financial Services reliance, how does the candidate feel that they would further diversify the Manx economy?**

The Manx have always been financially astute and it is natural to chase the money, at least in business. It is astute to recognise that jealous eyes may wish to remove our prosperity which may be justified by our tax advantages.

We should attempt to become energy exporters rather than gas importers. There will always be wind and rain in the Isle of Man. There will always be a large tidal flow which we should be able to utilise on a modest scale. We could utilise our forests for sustainable woodchip for electricity

and heat. Farming seems to be being neglected and we should aim to be at least self sufficient foodwise, we could help by giving charitable status to farming clubs that seek to fully utilise the land.

**Is the candidate in favour of independence from the United Kingdom?**

In favour of strengthening home rule and breaking Humphrey Appleby connections

**Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for- a popularly elected Legislative Council?**

No

**Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for- a popularly elected Chief Minister?**

No

**Is the candidate in favour of nationalisation of air and or sea services to and from the Isle of Man?**

No

**Is the candidate in favour of onshore wind farms in the Isle of Man?**

Yes

**Is the candidate in favour of Means testing for "universal" benefits and social housing?**

No