

MALARKEY

Manifesto

House of Keys: Douglas South By Election -Thursday 21st May 2015

Let experience work for you

Proposer: Adrian Duggan Seconder: Mary Carter MBE

	Introduction	3
1	Our Economy/Our Income	4
2	Tourism & the Steam Packet	6
3	Health	8
4	Education & Our Children's Future	8
5	Pensioners & Pensions	9
6	Local Government & Rates	9
7	Law and Order	10
8	Douglas: The Gateway to Our Island	10
9	Other Matters	11

Dear Constituent

My name is Bill Malarkey, I am a Manx born 63 year old father to three daughters and have lived in South Douglas for over 20 years. I previously served as your MHK from November 2006 until September 2011. Since then, I have continued to serve you as a Douglas Town Councillor.

I am standing as your local independent candidate in the Douglas South by-election on Thursday 21st May 2015 and offer many years of political experience.

My primary objective is to ensure our money is spent wisely so that we all benefit from the investments we make in our community.

I stand up for what I believe is right and fair and have always acted with honesty and integrity - never bowing to political pressure. The next national election is just 16 months away and I believe you deserve a candidate who can 'hit the ground running' to influence our future.

I have the passion, energy and determination to make sure your voice is heard from Day 1.

With your support, I look forward to working for the benefit of South Douglas and the Island that I hold so close to my heart.

Thank you.

BILL M.

Bill Malarkey

Email: billmalarkey@manx.net

Telephone: 01624 624634 Mobile: 07624 450003

1 Our Economy/Our Income

The changes to the VAT sharing agreement in 2009 saw a huge drop in our national income.

I was in charge of Social Services when that particular bomb shell was dropped and I fully understand the financial challenges Government has had to cope with ever since.

The good news is that the Treasury has finally managed to balance the revenue budget, but at what cost? Government needs to trim its cloth according to its means instead of going for picking the pockets of Manx residents - this has to STOP!

As a businessman myself, I know that if you need more revenue, you cannot simply put up your prices and expect your customers to pay more, no matter what. If you did, you would eventually chase all your customers away and go out of business.

Diversifying our economy must be at the heart of government policy. It is essential that we find new sources of revenue and reduce the burden on individual tax payers.

Where do we find new revenue?



Our Government must consider effectiveness and find new sources of revenue.

I support the Chief Minister's proactive approach in looking for new investors - such as the recent delegation he led to China. We must look globally for inward investment. This can only be achieved by going to prospective partners and selling the many advantages the Isle of Man has to offer in an ever increasing competitive market.

This was my position in 2011 and I stand by it today.

In order to answer the questions we have regarding the costs and benefits of undertaking inward investment trips, Government should be more open with the results.

Consideration should be given to furnishing some form of 'S.W.O.T' analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) to keep the nation informed.

We have a strong, active and important private sector on Island. We must continue to engage with them to ensure further growth.

We should utilise the experience and contacts of many of the Island's talented entrepreneurs - active and retired - to become a much larger player on the global stage.

We have an opportunity to sell our growing, stable economy and attract new business.

We should engage all our resources to achieve this.



Our economy must be our primary focus.

2 Tourism & The Steam Packet

Tourism used to be the backbone of our economy. As a child, I remember the hundreds and thousands of visitors who packed the promenade and filled our bustling hotels. While those days are long gone, I believe we must make more effort to rejuvenate our tourist industry. Tourism generates positive revenue for our hotels, shops, restaurants and bars. New jobs are created and existing jobs secured.

In an era when more people are taking short breaks, we should do everything we can to maximise our share of the tourist market.

Where do I stand on the Steam Packet issue?

The Banco Espirito Santo of Portugal currently holds the majority shareholding of the Steam Packet Company and, hence, the profit from the company goes off the Island. This is simply wrong and not in the best interest of our nation.

The Steam Packet has served the Island for over 185 years and I would love to see them do so for many years to come, however, things must change – and radically.

I strongly believe that it should be under the control the Manx people - not a foreign bank.

Having sat on two Select Committees looking in to the Steam Packet, the facts are quite simple; the value of the company is primarily based on the fixed term User Agreement which gives the Steam Packet exclusive use of our landing stage.

Every year, the value of the company reduces along with the remaining term of the User Agreement; without an extension to the User Agreement future revenue - and profit - is not guaranteed, hence the value of the company drops every year.

You may be aware from recent news that the Steam Packet Company is keen to seek an early extension to the User Agreement – this will increase the company's underlying value.

Let me categorically state that I am totally opposed to the renewal of the User Agreement in its current form.

I believe there will never be a better opportunity to take back control of this extremely profitable company, through Government *Investments and Reserves*.

This will secure the jobs of the dedicated staff and crew as well as protecting the Island from profiteering foreign owners.

This is the responsible thing to do.

Now is the time to secure ownership of the company for a fair and realistic price.

If elected, I will fight hard to secure our Islands lifeline – the money is available, we just need the political will to stand up to make this happen for the benefit and protection of our current/future generations.

3 Health

We must not shy away from our responsibilities in caring for all members of our community. People are living longer and this, inevitably, puts pressure on our health system.

Morale is at an all-time low amongst our hard working health professionals. We must address this as a matter of urgency if we are to retain the talent and investment we have made in those that care for us.

The Manx health system requires radical reform and additional funding. We can achieve some of this by redirecting funding to provide more on Island treatment. Without good health, we have nothing.

4 Education & Our Children's Future

I fully support the new Nunnery ICT project - an IT centre of excellence - and also the Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre – the dedicated engineering training centre recently opened.



These facilities will help ensure our local businesses have a steady stream of new recruits with skills demanded by a modern economy. I will continue to support every effort made by the Department of Education (through on and off Island education) to ensure our local students have all the necessary skills required to be the natural choice for local jobs. These will help grow and diversify our economy.

Ensuring our young get the best educational start in life is essential to maximising the future.

When I previously served as your MHK, I worked hard with the Education Minister to start pre-school in Scoill Vallajeelt and Anagh Coar school. Sadly, we lost both of these facilities when the pre-school voucher system was introduced. If elected, I will make every effort to re-instate at least one of these places.

5 Pensioners & Pensions

We must protect our vulnerable pensioners, many of whom are living on the bread line. For some, the recent inflationary increase in pensions was immediately negated by increases in rent. Some cut backs have resulted in charging pensioners to use our Heritage Railways. I believe this is a step too far; many pensioners rely on public transport. This is another example of Government obsession with saving money hitting the wrong people. If we are not careful, we will push our pensioners over the line into poverty.

Our present pension system is at breaking point. We must act now to protect our pensions, including the Manx Pension Supplement.

We need strong and decisive management to deal with these problems now.

6 Local Government & Rates

At the last election, we were promised Local Government reform; this is slow in coming. With a population of 84,500 - do we really need our current 161 councillors and commissioners? An island the size of ours does not need 24 local authorities. This is simply inefficient and a waste of public money.

I welcome the recent Government consultation on rates and, while controversial, favour an all-Island rating system. This has always been my position and I will continue to campaign for such.

7 Law and Order



We are fortunate that the Isle of Man is one of the safest places to live in Europe. The recent spate of burglaries has shown us our vulnerability. Have recent budget cuts left us exposed? If so, it is essential that we do not cut police budgets anymore; we must get our police force up to full strength as soon as possible.

Recent UK legislation has introduced ID control before you can leave the country, yet we do not get any information about who is coming to our Island. This has to change. We need better information to help preserve our security and protect our treasured quality of life.

It is my opinion that Advanced Passenger Information (API) should be made available to our law enforcement agencies. If elected, I will seek to investigate this possibility further.

8 Douglas: The Gateway to Our Island

The regeneration work in the heart of our shopping centre has improved the ambience of our capital, yet this project has ground to a halt. Why? Because the Government regeneration fund has run out of money! If Douglas is the gateway to the Island, then we must hold Government to account to complete this project.

In addition, we must not experience further delays in the refurbishment of Douglas Promenade. Let's get on with the job and address the issues that affect us all before we waste any more money on consultations.

The state of the roads and lack of road markings is appalling - many are now becoming a safety issue. Road tax has just gone up again, yet many roads lack basic maintenance. Budgets must be targeted more effectively to deliver funds where needed.

9 Other Matters:

Very recent times have highlighted dismay at the current appointment of members to our Legislative Council.

All members of Tynwald should be elected by the public, including our Chief Minister. I made several attempts to do this during my last term of office, including trying to get a referendum on the issue. This continues to be my stance.

As Chairman of the Eastern Household Waste Recycling Centre, I have shown eager focus on our environment. As well as being a step towards climate responsibility, it also saves rate payers a considerable amount of money. I will continue to support environmental projects where benefits exceed cost.

A community centre in Anagh Coar would be of great benefit to all local residents. I have always campaigned for this and will continue to do so.

I have been an active and vocal participant in setting up the Manx Landlords Association. We scrutinised the draft Landlords and Tenants (Private Housing) Bill and will continue to push for a bill that is fair to both Landlords and Tenants'.

In recent years, we have seen several new public sector housing projects and many improvements made to our housing stock. While commendable, the need for affordable housing has never been greater.

Questions need to be raised regarding the new shared equity scheme being rolled out by Government - there have been considerable historical challenges in Harcroft Meadows on this issue. If elected, I aim to support these residents.



If the Equalities Bill is not going to be in place before the end of this Government term, then we should implement the Disability Discrimination Act now. This is for the benefit of all Island residents.

Your interests are best served by an experienced candidate who will make your voice heard.

If you believe:

- ✓ We need to increase our profile on the global stage, diversify our economy, build our tourist industry and increase our revenue from inward investment rather than higher taxation
- ✓ We should take control of the Steam Packet Company
- √ We deserve a well-funded, world class health service fit to serve our society.
- ✓ Our children deserve an education that prepares them for a long and fulfilling future
- ✓ We should look after our pensioners and prepare for our future
- ✓ Local Government needs to be streamlined with an all Island rating system
- √ We must do everything we can to maintain our safety and protect our homes
- ✓ The regeneration in Douglas should be completed to ensure the gateway to our Island reflects the pride in our capital

then please

