



# David Talbot

Election Candidate for Michael

## Serving the Community First

### *Shirveish y co-phobble hoshiaght*

The House of Keys General Election will be on Thursday 29 September 2011.

The election is critical for our financial future, the environment and the restoration of trust.

Your views are paramount to David's campaign and ongoing contribution to the Island.

Contact David by telephone on 07624 490640 and/or email at [davidtalbot4michael@gmail.com](mailto:davidtalbot4michael@gmail.com).

## Introduction

The way we live is changing; the choices that we make about business, the environment and how we relate to others are fundamentally linked. I want to ensure that the Isle of Man makes the right choices so that we can benefit from integrated policies that consider the bigger picture.

With your help, I want to give the Island the ability to set its own agenda, so that, on an international playing-field, we may negotiate to our best advantage.

It is the right time for the Island to positively define itself; to raise awareness of Manx culture and our considerable resources while rejecting out-dated notions. Through positive actions that demonstrate good conscience and consideration, community can play an actively contributive role.

As an MHK, I would hope to represent the needs, wishes and concerns of my constituents to the best of my ability. I advocate an inclusive spirit of co-operation where the opinions of each individual are given equal value.

## Key National Issues



### **Restoration of Trust**

In view of perceived abuses of the current system, I strongly support the increased transparency and accountability that a Freedom of Information Act would bring about. Government must take appropriate steps to inspire public confidence by responding positively to concerns.

Devolution of power: It is my belief that mistrust is commensurate with the gulf between government and community. While it is evident that politicians do not trust the public with their information - the public, in turn, have little faith in political rhetoric. One way to encourage a culture of trust is to develop the growth of co-operation. This is already taking place between government, business and the third sector.

# David Talbot

Election Candidate for Michael



## Key National Issues



### Restoration of Trust (contd)

The Review of the Scope and Structure of Government in the Isle of Man, 2006 offers a comprehensive overview of government departments with recommendations for their improved efficiency. Good use should be made of this valuable research in any restructuring of the present system.



### Our Financial Future

The health of our economy has a direct impact on our quality of life. This is why economic matters should not be considered in isolation, but as part of an integrated social policy that demonstrates Manx enterprise.

The Isle of Man has a successful and increasingly diverse economy – 90% of supported new business start-ups succeed and its economy is growing at three times the rate of Europe. Our financial services industry, started from scratch 30 years ago, continues to set a world class example, while effective public/private sector co-operation has led to a first rate business environment with advanced telecom and broadband, business support systems, grants and zero rate corporate tax.

Maximising revenue from new and existing industries: The recent VAT deficit is certainly an incentive to tighten our belts, but the Island has an impressive record of tackling challenges constructively. This development provides an opportunity for government and community to work together to find new ways of stimulating our economy.

Financial Backbone: Despite the recession in Europe, the Island's GNP has continued to rise while we have consistently retained the top grade Standard and Poors' AAA credit rating. We should recognise that the finance sector is the backbone of our successful economy with scope for diversification.

Social Finance is an excellent business model, offering an integrated approach to social and economic investment. Community investing and micro-lending schemes, such as Credit Unions, can be useful sources of reputable credit for business initiatives and I would favour changes in legislation that enabled the operation of such institutions. Sustainable business practices such as the rapidly developing CleanTech industries also generate environmental returns.

# David Talbot

Election Candidate for Michael



## Key National Issues



### Our Financial Future (contd)

Boom Sectors such as e-commerce and those focused on niche goods and services (aircraft & ship registration; intellectual property; space and tourism, for example) are excellent avenues for development. These industries offer employment to a population with increasingly varied skills, such as graduates returning to the Island, while also raising the Island's international profile.

Regeneration: We must ensure that our services infrastructure is adequately developed. Government should continue to invest in regeneration and the provision of improved transport links, shopping outlets, recreational facilities and affordable housing for the Island. A balanced approach to business growth is needed to ensure that suburban growth does not result in the ultimate deterioration of our townscape.



### Social Policy

Benefits: One of the biggest challenges to face the next government will undoubtedly be how to address the growing demand on social benefits. The reliance on resources that were only intended as a safety net is no longer sustainable. Demand for universal benefits, final salary pensions and the cost of health care for an ageing population present serious financial challenges.

Resolving these delicate issues is high on the agenda: it is not just our economic health at stake, but the health of a society that enables people to realise their full potential without penalisation; where a person's contribution to society is valued, regardless of age, and accordingly acknowledged with a benefits system that is fair and just.

"Generation X" has always signified a group of young people, seemingly without identity, who face an uncertain, ill-defined future. Such fatalism only produces despondency and I believe it is time to send a different message to our young people. Since we have pioneered the lowering of the voting age to sixteen, we should consolidate this through education and outreach programmes that teach young adults how to engage with the political process.

We need to send young people the message that their opinions count. Exercising their right to vote can have a direct impact on their quality of life – such as improved facilities, more jobs and affordable housing.

# David Talbot

Election Candidate for Michael



## Key National Issues



## Culture & Heritage

**Manx Culture:** Great efforts have been made to raise the profile of Manx culture in recent years and this has positively contributed to education and the creative arts on the Island.

The 'freedom to flourish' philosophy not only applies to business, but to those cultural practices that shape our national identity and how we relate to the Island as our 'home' – the place that gives us ultimate refuge and the freedom to be ourselves.

**The Arts & Sport:** The Island is internationally represented by world-class musicians, dancers, singers and sports people. Our festivals and events attract a high calibre of participant and an increasingly wide audience. I would consolidate this success with continued investment in recognition of the contribution made by the arts and sports to our international profile and how this can also benefit our tourism and leisure industries.

# David Talbot

Election Candidate for Michael



## Key National Issues



### The Environment

Energy Policy is an ever more pressing issue but also one that is complex and that merits proper consideration. The debate about use of fossil fuels as opposed to renewable energy options on the Island is presently volatile. Many environmentalists are now swinging in favour of nuclear power as the only viable investment model. There is a time for decisive action, but while we have a well-functioning power-station that adequately meets the demands of our Island, we can afford to keep our minds open to all possible solutions.

CleanTech: What is certain is that the government must commit to following a socially responsible policy that safeguards our future interests. I also support continued investment in CleanTech industries as a viable means of reducing carbon emissions.



### Constitutional & International Relations

Direct Representation: It is my opinion that the unique nature of the Island demands the need for direct international representation. With much of the wealth moving to Asia, the Island will need a strong global presence to maximise its interests. The ability to set our own agenda (such as VAT to suit our own economy) and negotiate our own terms is essential if we are not always to be left on the back foot – reacting to outside influences instead of acting with coherent initiative. It is now a priority to develop the newly established office in Brussels to give the Isle of Man a strong presence in the EU.

Crown Dependency: While it is generally understood that separation from crown is undesirable, the terms and nature of our relationship with the UK need redefining. Our national and cultural identity is defined by a historical spirit of independence and it is time to evaluate our constitutional options so that our freedoms are not unduly compromised by indifferent UK policy. We must also acknowledge the importance of keeping our external relations in good repair through assemblies such as the British & Irish Council and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



# David Talbot

Election Candidate for Michael

## Key Local Issues

Direct discussion between commissioners and local interest groups plays a vital role in understanding what people really want, rather than what central government perceives they require. If elected, I intend to keep direct lines of communication open at all times to all parts of the community.

The following issues have arisen from my door-to-door conversations with constituency residents:

**Jurby:** There is a need for greater community development in the Jurby area. A coherent agenda is required in order to maximise benefit from existing facilities, such as the new healthcare centre which has the capacity for community activity.

Improved access to medical and family orientated services has been raised as an issue, as has the need for rejuvenating recreational amenities such as local football club, pub and shop, which would all benefit from modernisation to meet the needs of a growing community. The utilisation of government-owned land in this area could provide the opportunity to put Jurby firmly on the map, while also giving residents a greater sense of regional identity. Suggestions have included a cycling-circuit or themed transport area that could build on the success of existing attractions, such as the Motor Museum on Jurby trading estate, while incorporating provision for everyday use, such as a gymnasium.

**Ballaugh:** The possible building of a wind farm in the constituency is a recurring subject of concern. Although a relatively small catchment, the area has natural attractions that need sympathetic consideration. As it is clear from recent press coverage and government reports that the case for a wind farm of the Island is not yet proven. I would first commit to certain and less costly alternatives for the reduction of Co2 emission, such as the proposal for solar power at Peel swimming pool and switching to LED lighting where possible.

With the retirement of the head teacher of Ballaugh School, parents need to be assured that continuity of teaching is not in doubt.

**Kirk Michael:** Questions were raised as to why there have been no proposals for the use of funds set aside for regeneration projects. It is not too late for a group to come forward with ideas for consideration and I would urge residents to make the most of this opportunity for Kirk Michael.

The provision of a fit-for-purpose medical facility is high on the agenda. Since the Department of Health's offer of refurbishing available space in the village school was turned down by referendum, full consideration now needs to be given to an alternative facility.

There is growing concern about the impact of coastal erosion with no progress having been achieved. I believe we should be taking preventative measures to ensure that the situation does not escalate. I would press for action in this matter. Similarly the issue of a relief road is still pending and needs active appraisal regarding its long-term benefits if we are to reach a resolve.



# David Talbot

Election Candidate for Michael

## About David Talbot

I first came to live on the Island in 1975 at the invitation of Waltons Television to act as its Company Secretary. With my wife, and children who were born on the Island, it was important to me to live in an environment that offered my family a good quality of life. I strongly believe that a 'good quality of life' refers not only to financial prosperity but to the deeper values of morality, fairness and a sense of community. These are values that I stand by today.

### **Availability + Ability = Action**

Rather than empty rhetoric, I would like this equation to be a declaration of intent based on my belief that I have the necessary skills to be MHK for Michael - a position that I do not intend to treat as a part-time job.

I am motivated by the desire to use my accumulated skills and experience to effect positive change. I consider myself a 'people person' primarily because I find myself constantly surprised, challenged and engaged by the unique views and abilities of others. An MHK provides a service to the people, for the people.

I have been told that I am an approachable character with a good ear for listening and an open mind. As an MHK, I intend to focus on my duties and to make myself available to constituents for group discussions and one-to-one chats on a regular basis.

My ability derives from my accumulated experience in diverse fields. In 1979, I became the first Managing Director of Waltons Finance eventually a subsidiary of the successful local investment company Manx & Overseas Plc which I participated in taking to the London Stock Exchange. This gave me business experience at an international level and a broad insight into the finance sector.

At each stage of my career I have been proactive in negotiating change, accepting responsibility for setting an agenda and following it through. In 2000, I organised a management buyout of Waltons Digital World and also started my own accountancy practice specialising in financial compliance and reporting.

I believe that a well-grounded person balances their desire for money and power with their core values and enthusiasms. To this end, I have tried to use my business experience in a number of public service roles. Two years ago, I set up Connect2Charity which seeks to raise the profile of Manx charities and the third sector by centralising access to information and resources. This has given me insight into an increasingly important sector and how it can impact on our social economics.

Since 2008, I have acted as a Commissioner for Patrick Parish - serving as chairman on the Western Civic Amenities Site and organising various community initiatives such as 'Creating Energy Focused Communities' and 'The Big Tidy Up'. As a Commissioner, I have worked effectively with other local authority representatives and government personnel of all levels.

I consider communication to be one of my greatest strengths and I have used this to facilitate the co-ordination, co-operation and mobilisation of different social groups when working towards a common objective. I hope to bring the same strategy and focus to the role of MHK.



# David Talbot

Election Candidate for Michael

## About David Talbot

### Positions & Qualifications Held

- Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (Isle of Man Chairman 1995-1997)
- Member of the Institute of Financial Accountants
- Director: Waltons Digital World
- Trustee: Connect2Charity
- Founder Trustee of St John's Mill Development & Regeneration Project (2003-2011)
- Commissioner for Patrick Parish 2008-present (Chairman 2010-2011)
- Police Advisory Board: Community Representative
- Government Overseas Marketing Committee
- Professional Treasurer Archibald Knox Society, Fishermen's Mission
- Co-Manager of Tourist Board registered self-catering unit, Best Self Catering Award 2007
- Corporate Sustainability Group (third sector focus)
- Municipal Association Deputy Chairman

## Contact Details

Contact David by telephone on 07624 490640 and/or email at [davidtalbot4michael@gmail.com](mailto:davidtalbot4michael@gmail.com).

**The House of Keys General Election will be on  
Thursday 29 September 2011.**

**The election is critical for our financial future,  
the environment and the restoration of trust.**