

Pulling together for Ramsey and the Isle of Man



One thing that we can all agree on is that we want the best for our town and our Island. What that may be will differ with each and every one of us. In Ramsey the schools and the hospital provide a first class backdrop for the education and health of our community. Other areas such as housing, our shopping area, the possibility of a Marina and the future of the Pier continue to bring forward varying opinions.

If we are to secure our town with opportunities for our young people and future generations we must, particularly in these uncertain times, pull together. The next five years are going to require us all to take more responsibility to commit to our community. Whether that be in shopping locally, supporting our clubs and organisations, being positive when we talk about Ramsey or embracing change, we can all play a part in protecting the quality of life that we enjoy about our town. I often wonder who "They" are that we hear about? "They" are doing this or "They" are not doing that. There is no room for "us and them", we are all in this together and through teamwork and taking responsibility for our own community we can make positive changes in Ramsey.

In this manifesto I take the opportunity to explore some of the questions and challenges that will face us on a local, national and international level in the future. I hope that it will give you the confidence to see that I am the right person to be your representative in our national Parliament, Tynwald, as your Member of the House of Keys.

It has been said many times that the next five years present us with more difficulties than have been experienced over the last 25 years. This is undoubtedly true; the next government will have to look over a longer horizon than five years to address the serious issues that will face future generations. We have a responsibility to start addressing those issues now.

Nonetheless I see potential for growth in many aspects of our Island life and by working together I am positive we can secure a bright future.

I offer myself as an experienced, energetic and approachable candidate, a local woman who understands both the local and national problems that we face. I ask that you continue to support me so that I can continue to support you, the people and town of Ramsey. I hope that I may receive your vote on Thursday 29th September, 2011.



Anne Craine

House of Keys Election Thursday 29th September

For transport to the polling station please ring 813104 or 481022

**Polling stations: St Paul's Hall, Town Hall, Ramsey Fire Station
8am - 8pm**

It is a challenge to get round to everyone's home before polling day but I will visit as many as I can. If you have particular concerns or questions for me please contact me on:

Tel: 813104

Email: carrick@mcb.net

www.annecraine.com

Facebook: **AnneCraine ForRamsey**

Write to me at: The Carrick,

Port Lewaigue, Maughold. IM7 1AG

NATIONAL ISSUES



As we witness turmoil and violence in countries throughout the world we can enjoy and appreciate the safety and security of the Isle of Man. Thanks to the strong command of the Isle of Man Constabulary and the emergency services we can sleep easily in our beds at night but we can not avoid the impact of external problems that may be happening many thousands of miles away from home. What happens out there will impact on our lives, through job security, the cost of energy, our food supply, and the front line services that we will hope to provide into the future. In this section are some of the matters that will affect us in the immediate, medium and long term and need addressing by the next House of Keys.

The Isle of Man is successful because we cannot, by law, allow our Budget to go into deficit and we have built up Reserves over many years. Through the adjustment of the Revenue Sharing Arrangement of the Customs and Excise Agreement the Isle of Man will over the next 3 years, have a reduction in its expenditure of £75m. This means things are going to be tight. Together with the adjustment made in 2008 it means that we will have approximately two-thirds of the amount that we had previously, to spend on government services. It means that government will have to look at the scope of what it does and every area of spending will have to be reviewed. The important thing is to remember that we must protect the essential services for our children, our elderly and the vulnerable in our community. We will have to be much more focused on where and how we spend our monies.

What the VAT arrangement means:

We have had a jointly agreed Customs and Excise or “Common Purse” Agreement with the United Kingdom for many years. Because it has been recognised that our economies have grown differently over those years the UK wished to review the formula by which the Revenue Sharing Arrangement that falls under that, was calculated.

The old formula assumed that the sizes of the various economic sectors that contributed to our Gross National Income were in similar proportion to those contributing to the UK economy. On that assumption direct comparison of the aggregated values of those sectors in the Isle of Man and UK was used as a formula to give us our share. However, in terms of the respective total economic sizes of the Isle of Man and UK economies our VAT exempt sectors such as banking, insurance and finance are proportionately larger than their UK equivalents which create an imbalance in the direct comparison of our aggregated Gross National incomes.

The new system, the Tax Based Measurement Method (TBMM) will overcome this imbalance by taking into account the respective size of the VAT generating and VAT exempt sectors of our economy.

If you would like to read more in depth information on the Revenue Sharing arrangement please go to the Treasury website <http://www.gov.im/treasury> and visit the revised revenue sharing arrangement by clicking hyperlink.

What can we expect to receive over the next few years?

The share as agreed is £272 million this year and £252 million next year. We expect our share to be at least £250 million in 2013/14 and going forward our share will grow in proportion to the VAT generating power of our economy. These are still not insignificant revenues and will provide us with a level of certainty and stability when rebalancing our budget.

How will this affect us?

The Island still has a strong economy that is not affected directly by the change in the sharing arrangements. Business will carry on as normal. We have to recognise though that reduced Government spending will impact on jobs and the local economy. The new Government will have to be much more focused on delivering the essential care that is necessary to support our elderly and vulnerable. Health and Education will continue to be the prime areas in need of protection.

How can we promote economic growth?

If you manufacture goods, you have to be able to sell them. We need to keep the flow of money coming into and from the Island and we are currently exploring the opportunities to do business in China and India where their economies are strong. A willing, well educated work force that understands the meaning of good service will place us ahead of our competitors. We must continue to diversify, on the back of the professional expertise developed by the finance sector, into areas such as bio and green technology and grow our engineering and manufacturing bases.



Housing

A Housing Review is currently underway looking at all aspects of Sheltered, Public Sector and First Time Buyer housing. We need to ensure fair and balanced support between those in Public Sector housing and those in the high cost private sector accommodation. We are currently in discussion with the Banks to assist those that have difficulty in securing their deposits for First Time Buyer Housing.

Employment and Immigration

Our unemployment figure currently stands at 1.9%, but that only indicates the number on the register. There are those between the ages of 16 - 18 who are ineligible to sign on and those who choose not to. We hear concerns that Manx workers cannot get employment and also that there are unscrupulous employers who pay less than the minimum wage to immigrant workers. If these rumours are to be believed then it is time to whistle-blow on those employers. No-one should be employed to work at less than the minimum wage. We know that in order to grow our economy and job opportunities then there may be the need to bring in skilled workers to be able to create jobs for our workforce. In doing so we must protect our local workforce as far as possible but that means that we have to ensure that everyone who can work is working.

NEETS or those young people who are "not in employment, education or training", need continued support. The Departments of Economic Development and Education and Children have liaised strongly to provide careers advice and a programme that will prepare them for the world of work. Too many young people are leaving school without qualifications and there is a danger that they will become long term unemployed unless we can create the right opportunities and framework of guidance for them.

On the positive side there are at the time of writing 47,886 people in jobs (3,298 more than 5 years ago) and we need to focus on growing our economy to provide further employment opportunities.

MHK Pensions and Pay

The previous Speaker of the House of Keys undertook that when the Public Sector Pensions review was complete that the Pensions of Members of the House of Keys would be reviewed. I agree that Members of Tynwald should contribute to their pensions. The pay of Members of Tynwald is aligned to that of Civil Servants and as they have recently been awarded through arbitration a 1.5% increase that would apply equally to Members of Tynwald. I do not agree that we should be awarded that pay rise. I also believe that Members of Tynwald and those who work in government who have the use of a car parking space should pay for that privilege

Education

The Department of Education and Children has done well to reduce its budgets substantially already. We must ensure that our education provision is delivered in a cost effective way without impacting on the teaching of our children. Many parents are concerned about the future availability of student fees for University. It has always been a point of pride that Tynwald has enabled us to pay full fees for our students. We all wish to protect this as far as possible. The criteria of eligibility may have to alter but until we know what is likely to happen with student fees in the UK next year it is too early to predict what the outcome may be. I would encourage our young people to consider taking up courses abroad where the fees may be cheaper and the courses internationally more acceptable.

Of course going to University is not for everyone and we must value those young people who, thankfully, remain with us to help run the Island. We need to ensure that job opportunities exist for those people by giving them the best life skills that education, and we can provide. I strongly support the plans for a new Construction Crafts and Engineering Centre at the Isle of Man College.



Benefits System

In examining government spending I believe that the time is now right for us to consider what benefits we should continue to deliver in the existing way and where it is appropriate to review those benefits. This will be a thorny issue and one which successive governments have been able to avoid because we have been able to afford it. We cannot ignore this any longer. I refer back to my comment that everyone who can work needs to work if we are to be able to develop our economy in the light of the financial struggle that faces us. There are and will always be those who cannot work or who are the elderly and vulnerable whom we need to protect, but we can no longer afford to provide for those who shirk their responsibility to contribute to the well being of our society. Those who are genuine in their claim need have no fear but we need to ensure that those who can work and contribute, do.

BREATHING FRESH LIFE INTO RAMSEY

All of the investment made in Ramsey disappears in a mist of malaise when it comes to how we see our shopping centre. We are all very critical of the shabby state of our retail area and I feel frustrated for those retailers who are trying their best to promote their businesses and Ramsey alongside those who for what ever reason do not want to maintain or let their property. Retailing in Ramsey is no different than any other town in the Western world at the moment; all our retailers are suffering from the impact of internet shopping and the downturn in personal finances. We must support them by remembering to "Use it or lose it".

The Regeneration Scheme is underway and causing much discussion. The refurbishment of the Lanes is Phase One and was agreed with the Commissioners in December last year after public consultation led us to try and draw people into Parliament Street and the area of the Courthouse, as this was identified as the heart of our community. In addition we have a 50% grant scheme available to retailers to refurbish their property frontages but to date only 6 have expressed an interest in taking up that grant. It is to be hoped that when they see the improvement in their neighbours' property it may trigger others to apply too.

We are ahead of every other town and village in the Island with our projects for regeneration and we need to maintain that advantage. Let's make visitors pleased with what they see.

Albert Road School Site and Car Parking

Government is currently advertising for expressions of interest on the old school site. This is presently earmarked for sheltered accommodation but as it is such a prime site in the town we do not want to miss a commercial opportunity if there is a suitable one available that will benefit Ramsey. In addition car parking and a transport interchange is still being considered for the MER site. Design fees are available this year and a proposal is being worked up.

Ramsey and District Cottage Hospital

The insidious rumours of closure that were freely spread and allowed to prey on the minds of our elderly and vulnerable 5 years ago need to be firmly dispelled. As I stated in my manifesto then and repeat now, **the hospital has not been and is not under threat of closure.** The generous bequest of the Cyril Martin Trust will provide us with an up-to-date ward block equipped to deliver quality healthcare into the future. This will allow the Department of Health to enhance the services delivered from the hospital providing a Wound Management Clinic and community Podiatry, making greater use of the theatres by the provision of a 10 Bed Day Case ward and developing a Community Renal Dialysis Satellite Unit at Ramsey, thus relieving poorly patients from travelling to Douglas for their dialysis and taking the pressure off the over subscribed facility at Nobles. Good news all round!

Bus Service

The revision of the IOM Transport timetables caused considerable concern when introduced last year and whilst there has been some revision problems are still being raised with me as I canvass on the doorstep. I am particularly keen to ensure an appropriate service both to the Ramsey Cottage and Nobles Hospitals is made available to Ramsey residents and would support a further review of the services where they are deemed to fall short.

The Marina

I believe that most of us see the development of a Marina as a catalyst to the future prosperity of the town and look jealously at the economic success of Peel and Douglas on the back of their marinas. Design Fees are in place and the Department of Infrastructure has recently advertised for Consultant Engineers to review the options following the public consultation in 2009. Although our hopes have been dashed for the time being by the reduced revenue that Government has available it is important that we work up a feasible scheme that will be ready to pluck "off the shelf" once we have the funding to proceed. We must overcome our local differences so that we can be ahead of any other proposed scheme on the Island.



The Island's Queen's Pier

The Stabilisation and Protection programme of £1.8m was voted through Tynwald by just one vote.

I am pleased that at least we have been able to secure the Pier for the future. The irony of the situation is that when we had the funds available to have done the Pier we lacked the political support, now we have the political support, we no longer have available funds!

The current programme delivers the opportunity for a positive outcome for the Pier - eventually. Our financial position will recover and when it does we must ensure that we can pull on Island wide support for its refurbishment. This is not a community project; it is part of our Island heritage and politicians need to be persuaded to adopt an all Island responsibility for its future.

Dog Dirt, Pigeons, Seagulls and Litter!

These are amongst the most raised concerns as I have been canvassing on the doorstep. Whilst they are local authority issues we all have a responsibility to confront those dog owners who allow their pets to foul our pavements and we need to ask those who feed pigeons and seagulls in public places not to do so. This is becoming a serious problem after a child was attacked at school by a seagull. Litter and cigarette stubs are an embarrassment to the town and an on the spot fine should be imposed by the local authority.

I would support the formation of a Community Cleansweep Committee who could hold us all to account, politicians, commissioners, shopkeepers, cafe outlets and dog walkers. Because the group would be formed from our community peers, they would have the collective power to direct us in our duties where we fall short. For example if a retail outlet was not up to scratch in its appearance then they could advise the Commissioners who would then have to undertake to advise that shopkeeper that the community wants to see things improved. We need to instill a bit of Civic Pride back into Ramsey, perhaps this is one way for us all to become involved and take some responsibility to improve the look of our town.

Bricks and Mortar Investment in Ramsey-

"Nothing gets spent on the North"...

It may surprise many of you to know that from April 2005 to March 2011 there has been a total of over £62 million of Government investment in Ramsey.

Not all valuable investment comes directly from Government of course and we are delighted that the Cyril Martin Trust have bequeathed over £1 million to develop a new ward at Ramsey and District Cottage Hospital that will be named the Martin Ward in recognition of this generous bequest from the Trustees of the Cyril Martin Estate. This will free up Health Services monies to be able to develop other new services for the hospital.

The new hotel is now underway and the new building on East Street is a fine example of development that we would welcome into Ramsey - congratulations to the developers of that scheme!

Future schemes that I am pressing for or which are already in the programme include:-

Renal Dialysis Unit at Ramsey Cottage Hospital
Ramsey off street parking scheme
Ramsey Transport Interchange
The North Regional Sewerage System
The Stabilisation of Ballure Cliffs
The Ramsey Tidal Marina

Northern Swimming Pool	5,700,000
Housing:	
Lezayre Estate	24,000,000
Faice Wyllin, Lezayre Road	1,000,000
Yew Tree Apartments, Ballure Road	2,500,000
Sheltered Accommodation, Cooyrt Balleigh	1,700,000
Sheltered Accommodation, Kerroo Glass	2,250,000
Housing Maintenance:	
Planned Ramsey Town Commissioners	3,500,000
Ramsey and Northern District Housing Committee	350,000
Queen's Pier Stabilisation and Protection Scheme	1,800,000
Ramsey Grammar School South Building	6,200,000
Auldyn School	5,200,000
Scoil ree Gorree	7,400,000
Shipyards refurbishment	1,000,000
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	62,600,000
Plus:	
Waverley Terrace, Waterloo Road 8 apartments toward the cost of purchase by the Manx Housing Trust	£500,000
Ramsey Regeneration - ongoing	£300,000
Elderly Mentally Infirm Unit (currently under construction)	£3,800,000
Northern Civic Amenity Site	£1,300,000
Replacement of Synthetic Pitch at RGS (part of all island scheme for replacement of pitch surfaces)	
total	£800,000
	<hr/>
	6,700,000
	<hr/>
Total	£69,300,000

Plus:
 Grants for First Time Buyers on new first time buyer apartments and houses:-
 Queen's Pier 26 Apartments
 Royal Park 7 Houses

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Now more than ever we need to be able to represent ourselves at meetings on the International Stage. I have been proud to represent the Isle of Man at meetings of the Commonwealth Secretariat in Washington, present the Gresham Lecture to City of London Financiers in Canary Wharf last year, attend meetings of the British Irish Council along with the British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Taoiseach Enda Kenny and meet with the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne both formally and informally on a number of occasions.

The Isle of Man must stay at the forefront of international regulation if we are to maintain and promote our reputation as a first class small international finance centre. We strive continuously to maintain that reputation through actions such as signing Tax Information Exchange Agreements, the introduction of Automatic Exchange of Information and participating in the OECD peer review assessment where we achieved a glowing report saying our sharing of Tax Information has been "effective and expeditious"

The appointment of a representative in Brussels has been a very positive move and we are already seeing the benefits of having someone network on our behalf to find out what EU legislation may be coming our way and what can be avoided if known about early enough. We need to constantly work to maintain our profile with our neighbours.

LONG TERM PLANNING

Traditionally manifestos have been about what can be achieved in the next 5 years but at a time when we look into a future of uncertainty it is appropriate that we begin to strategically plan where we want to see the Isle of Man placed in the next 25 - 30 years.

We want the same quality of life as we enjoy now, we want to maintain our identity, nurture the young, care for the elderly and vulnerable and provide a wide breadth of education and work opportunities for our community. The challenges to do that are enormous and we must make a start now.

The demographics of the Isle of Man are changing. We have a rapidly expanding elderly population to provide for. As people live longer they are going to have to work longer and continue to be contributing members of society. There will be increasing pressure on Pensions provision, Health Services and Social Care. The time is approaching when we will all have to take greater personal responsibility for providing for our twilight years. Currently we have 3 people of working age to every 1 OAP. Within 15 years this will fall to roughly 2:1. With the proportion of working population reducing it is not sustainable that such a small work force can provide for such a large economically inactive population. We will need to work as long as we can, take personal responsibility for our health, and make private pension plans. We often hear people say that they are drawing what they "paid in". In fact what we pay in goes towards the pensions of those receiving them now. It is those who come behind who will be burdened with the costs of keeping us in our old age.

We cannot bankrupt future generations with costs that cannot be sustained, we have to make responsible decisions now.

This also applies to developing a long term strategy for our food supply. Do we want to continue to grow our own food for local consumption in the Isle of Man? Food stocks can be vulnerable to economic shocks. We need to develop a sustainable way of keeping that supply available and we need to sit down with our fishermen and farmers and develop ways of doing that. It is also incumbent on them to grow the food that we want to buy not just what they choose to grow. Meat, cheese, milk, fish, wheat, fruit and vegetables can all be produced here and we all need to understand the importance of buying local products.

Equally we must take a mature approach to the sustainability of our energy supplies. We are currently installing bio mass boilers to heat bigger units such as sheltered accommodation and our schools. The capital cost is expensive but the long term saving will more than pay for that over the life span of the boiler. Are we prepared to accept off shore wind farms? Should we wait until tidal power can be harnessed more effectively? I do not pretend to have the answers but I do know the questions that need to be asked, and they need to be bottomed out before we are faced with high energy costs that deter businesses from establishing here.

Government must not avoid its responsibility to plan for the future and if we are not to burden our children and grandchildren with the unsustainable costs attached to short term planning, we must prepare now.

About Anne Craine

I was born into a Maughold farming family and educated at Ramsey Grammar School. David and I married in 1978 and went on to have three children, now adult, who were also educated at RGS before going on to University. Following my interest in education I became an elected Member of the Board of Education for 10 years and during that time I also served as a Magistrate.

I was first elected to serve Ramsey as a Member of the House of Keys in 2003. During my first term in office I welcomed the opportunity to serve in the Departments of Local Government and the Environment, Trade and Industry and Health and Social Security. I also served on the Public Accounts Committee and Constitutional and External Relations Committee.

Topping the poll in Ramsey in the 2006 General Election I was pleased to accept the position of Minister for Education complementing my interest in the community and young people. In April 2010 I was appointed Treasury Minister and have accepted the responsibilities and challenges of this role with commitment and determination.

Outside of politics my interests are my family, local history and heritage, adventure travel and poetry.

Community Commitment

I strongly believe in our community coming together and for some years now have enjoyed organising and promoting Ramsey National Week. No other town or village has an event filled week which brings together all ages, clubs and organisations to celebrate our national identity. I am grateful for the financial support of so many of the town's businesses who help to make this event possible.

I feel privileged to be a part of Ramsey life and to be connected with so many worthwhile organisations such as : Friends of Queen's Pier, League of Friends of Ramsey and District Cottage Hospital, Northern Live at Home Scheme, Ramsey Association Football Club, Ramsey Chamber of Commerce, Ramsey Heritage Trust, Ramsey Horticultural Society, Ramsey Ladies Cushag Choir, Ramsey Rowing Club, Ramsey Town Band and Ramsey Young Peoples Project.

The A – Z of Anne Craine

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| A - Approachable | N - No Negativity |
| B - Best for You | O - Open Door Policy |
| C - Community focused | P - Positive Attitude |
| D - Dedicated | Q - Quality |
| E - Energetic | R - Ramsey! The Best! |
| F - Family and Friends | S - Strong |
| G - Genuine | T - Teamwork |
| H - House of Keys | U - Upbeat |
| I - Integrity | V - Vote for Me! |
| J - Just | W - Working Together |
| K - Knowledgeable | X - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for Anne Craine |
| L - Leading the way | Y - Youth |
| M - Manx | Z - Zest for Life |

