

Dear Voters

You will receive my manifesto in early September, however I am writing to give you a little of my background, but also to advise you of some important dates for your diary.

I am visiting homes everyday, but I have also decided to run a series of old fashioned public meetings. This will give you the chance to ask probing questions and demonstrate your support for local politics.

I have served the people of West Douglas and the Island for the last fifteen years and am still as committed to making the Island a better place for everyone to both live and work.

The challenges ahead are weightier than ever, but are equalled by my vision of working to ensure that our Island, spirit and economy remain intact. My ten years experience of working as a Government Minister has now given me a level of perspective on what must be done to pave the way towards a more prosperous future.

I look forward to meeting you in the weeks ahead so I can listen to your views and answer any questions you may have.

Use your vote wisely...

John
SHIMMIN
Douglas West

Representing You

Many of us share similar experiences as we progress through life;

- Young people often worry about their education, employment opportunities, maybe their university placement, leaving home, buying a house, social lives and many more endeavours outside of their own personal control.
- As adults our thoughts may progress to worries over job security, high rents or mortgages, family issues and educational standards.
- As each family grows, we may become anxious about ageing parents, family health and welfare and the cost of living.
- In our later years, once the mortgage is paid off, we may be plagued with health worries, the desire for independent living, retirement and pensions, nursing homes and money.

All these areas (and many more) affect me and my family as much as they do yours. If elected as one of your representatives I will strive to decrease the pressures and stress inherent in all of our lives.

Representing our Island

We will suffer difficult economic times ahead. In view of this, I feel that we need politicians capable of working at a strategic level both nationally and internationally for the welfare of our Island. In the last few years I have thrived in many areas and provided help for our economy. Below is just a sample;

- Co-Founder of TTXGP
- A record investment in housing
- Spearheading a home insulation programme
- Driving environment / energy policies for Government
- Attending meetings throughout UK with senior politicians
- Networking to expand our economic foundations
- Working with business representatives
- Ensuring that my department is always under budget
- Reducing staff numbers
- Preventing Scottish fishing boats from destroying grounds surrounding our Island
- Developing Government's Biomass strategy
- Introducing our Energy Doctor scheme

About me

I am a 51 year old Manxman, living in Devonshire Crescent with my wife, Maureen, and two sons Andrew and Peter.

I am a qualified Physical Education teacher and taught in Crewe, Tamworth and Merseyside before moving back to the Island and teaching at St Ninian's.

I decided to enter politics and was first elected in 1996.

Political Record

- Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Home Affairs and Trade and Industry (1996-2002)
- Standing Committees of Economic Initiatives, Constitutional Affairs and the Public Accounts Committee (1996-2001)
- Minister of Transport (2002-2005)
- Minister of Home Affairs (2005-2006)
- Minister of Local Government and the Environment (2006-2010)
- Minister of Environment, Food and Agriculture (2010-Present)

In summary, I am one of the longest serving Ministers within Government with significant experience at the highest level of Island politics.

Are you registered?

Last date for registering is 8th September. If you are unsure if you are registered, please check by emailing economics@gov.im or by calling 685754. Alternatively, contact me directly.

ARE YOU OFF-ISLAND ON HOLIDAY OR BUSINESS ON ELECTION DAY?

WILL YOU BE AWAY AT SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY?

ARE YOU UNABLE TO GO TO THE POLLING STATION TO VOTE IN PERSON?

If you would like your vote to be taken from your home, or made by post, or wish to appoint a Proxy voter to vote on your behalf, please let me know and I will assist with your application.

Can you help me?

I always self-fund elections and do not accept donations, however, I would be very grateful to anyone who would willingly volunteer to

- Put up posters in windows or in gardens
- Deliver leaflets around the constituency
- Help out on election day

If you are willing to help then please let me know and any help would be greatly appreciated.

Public meetings

- Saturday 20th August @ St Ninian's Church
2.00pm - 3.45pm and 4.00pm - 5.45pm
- Thursday 25th August @ All Saints Church Hall
6.45pm - 8.45pm
- Monday 12th September @ St Ninian's Upper School Hall
6.45pm - 8.45pm
- Thursday 1st September @ Trinity Church (side entrance)
6.45pm - 8.45

I strongly urge you to attend one or more of these meetings, and ask any questions that may concern you.

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DOUGLAS WEST

John Shimmin

HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION

THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2011