

House of Keys General Election
Thursday 29 September 2011

David QUIRK for ONCHAN

economic
development

health

social care

infrastructure

education

law and order

environment

Onchan
community



Since being elected in 2006, it has been a privilege and honour to represent the people of Onchan as a Member of the House of Keys. I believe passionately in protecting our Island and Manx way of life and focus on both my local constituency and wider government responsibilities across the Island, working conscientiously for the benefit of all.

As an Independent candidate, I believe the best way to help the people of the Isle of Man is to fully participate in Government, working together and making an effective contribution to the Island.

I am seeking your support for re-election, so I can continue representing Onchan using the considerable experience that I have gained as a member of Government. I believe an MHK has to be approachable and available to assist and advise constituents, which is a duty that I have always taken seriously.

It is very easy to get publicity by constantly criticising government policy, but I believe it is more constructive to work pro-actively with others in Government and make a positive influence from within.

The way you vote on Thursday 29th September 2011, will affect us all. I pledge to you that I will always give you 100% commitment, be your full time MHK and have the best interests of both Onchan and our Island at heart.

I hope you take the opportunity to cast your vote and your support in placing an X against my name would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



I feel I am well known by a considerable number of Onchan Residents, but for those who do not, allow me to tell you a little about myself.

- Born in the Isle of Man - lived in Onchan for 35 years
- Married to Liz with a daughter Rachel
- Elected to Onchan District Commissioners, 1990-2006
- Chairman of Onchan District Commissioners, 1996-1997 and 2001-2002
- Elected to the House of Keys, 2006

Government Posts

- Department of Transport, 2006-2010
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2007-2009
- Department of Trade and Industry, 2009-2010

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The world economy is suffering and in the last few years the global financial crisis and economic downturn has impacted on our Island. The Isle of Man is under more external scrutiny than we have ever known and as a result the Government purse is facing significant financial constraints.

These challenges mean we need to work even harder to protect and develop our independence, economy and Island life. We need to continue support for our thriving finance sector, but must not become complacent and forget the need to diversify and grow our economy in other ways.

I would like to attract more international businesses to the Island. We need to be vigorous in our approach, more innovative in our thinking and make it easier to do business here. We should be influencing a wide range of industries including; manufacturing, shipping, aircraft, TT Races, space, tourism, renewable energy and e-gaming. Long term strategies need to be developed to maximise all our resources and secure our future.

It is essential that we continue to invest in our construction industry. Not only to preserve jobs and ensure that we can enjoy a high standard of living, but also as it plays such a critical role in the development and employment of local trainees and apprentices.

Be pro-active in promoting the Isle of Man to attract new international business to the Island

- Support and encourage new and existing local businesses in our communities
- Maintenance and growth of the local employment market
- Reduce bureaucracy and barriers to trade, making it easier to do business on the Island
- Work with the private sector to encourage development opportunities

I will continue to support economic policies and actions that will protect both our future and that of future generations.

- **Chairman, Planning Committee, 2010 to date**
- **Vice Chairman, Office of Fair Trading, 2010 to date**
- **Department of Education and Children, 2010 to date**
- **Department of Infrastructure, 2010 to date**

Local Community Clubs and Charities

- **Chairman of Onchan Pensioners Social Club**
- **President of Onchan AFC**
- **Chairman of Onchan Silver Band**
- **Vice President of Onchan Horticultural Society**
- **Isle of Man Flat Green Bowling Club**



HEALTH

Our health service should be first class, planned and designed around the Island's population to meet the needs of the whole community. The healthcare service must remain our top priority, with front line services taking a patient centred approach.

Whilst worthy attempts have been made to try and reduce lengthy delays for treatment, hospital and GP appointments, there are still issues in this area and further work must be undertaken to improve this. I believe that an independent audit of the governance, management and structure of our health care system must be regularly undertaken, in order to protect and secure the long term future of front line services. This will also increase efficiency and ensure funding is not being unnecessarily wasted.



Reciprocal Healthcare Agreement

After the controversy and confusion regarding the Islands Reciprocal Healthcare Agreement, we must ensure that the Government continues to stay one step ahead with open dialogue and plans in place, should the UK Government make any future moves to give notice and terminate the new agreement.



Hyperbaric Chamber

I am a great believer and supporter of the Hyperbaric Chamber. There are a large number of medical uses for hyperbaric oxygen treatment which has been extremely beneficial to many people both on and off the Island. This important facility has proved that it offers a life and limb saving treatment as well as being cost effective. The Government must ensure that it continues to provide funding and encourage private sector support.

The people of the Isle of Man need to know that their healthcare service will remain protected and I want to ensure that it delivers high quality care for the future.

SOCIAL CARE

We have tough challenges ahead in the social care environment; with greater needs for affordable housing, increasing strain on available funding and an ageing population who will require a wide range of social support in the future.

Part of the social care policy needs to be reviewed to cut administrative red tape; for example, where requests for housing adaptations are required. In my experience, this often takes a number of years to progress, which is not acceptable to those who are in need.

Housing

Despite a substantial government housing programme, there is still a great demand for more affordable housing in both the private and public sector. I still believe that there is a need for further sheltered accommodation in Onchan and across the Island, which would help to release some Local Authority stock to ease pressure on waiting lists. There are too many Local Authority properties lying vacant, awaiting refurbishment. It is unacceptable to have these houses empty for months on end and I would like to see greater efficiency and a quicker turn around, to move people back into this much needed accommodation.

Support for Young People

I am very concerned about the growth in numbers of young people between 16 and 24 years old, who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs). We need to combine the skills

of the Departments of Social Care, Economic Development and Education to support and develop them in their future career paths. An incentive scheme should be available for employers who are prepared to assist with this project. Government must engage with the Chamber of Commerce and trade industries to encourage employers to join the scheme and provide basic training.

Safeguarding Our Children

We must continue to improve legislation to protect our children and in 2010, I introduced a bill which was enacted earlier this year. The Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act 2011, provides for special guardianship orders and support services for a child who is the subject of such an order. In a wide range of scenarios, the appointment of a special guardian can assist in the long term protection of a child, whether living at home or in public care.

Pensions

There is a clear need for greater pension reform, which must be addressed now. I want to ensure that the Government continue to protect those on lower incomes, ensure those who have contributed do not lose out and provide 'real' incentives to people who choose to save money for their retirement.

I believe that MHKs should be leading from the front and support the proposal that all members of Tynwald contribute to their pension.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department of Infrastructure provides a diverse range of services for the Manx community; including highways, planning and building control, waste management, air and sea port facilities, properties management, maintenance and improvement works, road safety and coastguard search and rescue.

We need to improve the general maintenance of highways, footpaths and unclassified roads. The severe weather in the last year caused tremendous damage to roads and footpaths throughout the Island. We need to prioritise, continue with essential repairs and ensure robust plans are now in place for this coming winter; increasing storage facilities for stocks of salt, de-icing materials and specialist equipment.

In light of the economic challenges facing the Island, our focus should now be on maintaining existing infrastructure, ahead of developing or improving new facilities and services.

Since the Government re-structure in April 2010, responsibility for planning was transferred to the Department of Infrastructure and I was appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee. Subsequently, the Department has been giving consideration to several issues, some of which have arisen out of the transfer of the planning function.

One such issue is the current rights around permitted development. I believe they must be reviewed, as in their current form, they prevent certain types of uncontentious development, unless an application is submitted. The result of this is a substantial amount of time and resource being expended by both applicants and Government, in submitting and determining applications which are relatively minor.

I support the current consultation on proposals to improve the extent of permitted development orders for both householders and Government departments. The aim is to allow an increased scope in development, without the need to apply for planning permission. This would reduce approximately 300 planning applications per annum. These amendments are just some of the proposed changes to the planning system with the aim of increasing customer focus, improving efficiency, better value for money and providing increased freedom for people to improve and develop their own property.

Some changes that have already been implemented are; an on-line facility to view planning applications and provide formal submissions on current proposals.

I would also like to introduce a change to public planning committee sessions to allow the public to speak and put forward their views.

EDUCATION

The Department of Education and Children provide high-quality educational opportunities for our young people.

Funding

To ensure everyone can continue to receive good standards of education, we must provide enough teachers and well equipped facilities. This provision must be one of the priorities in the allocation of government funding.

Bemahague Secondary School

Following my election in 2006, I promised to influence the delayed development of the Bemahague Secondary School to ensure it would be put back on track. Following a lot of hard work and commitment from The Department, the school will be coming on stream in 2012. This will also provide Onchan and the wider community with the benefit of access to an excellent range of sporting facilities.

Pre-Schools

Although some schools already have established pre-school education classes, I would support further pre-school places across the Island, which

would help reduce the cost of childcare for families, especially those on lower incomes.

Higher Education

I will continue to support our government in funding students' tuition fees and providing maintenance grants to support those where family income is limited.

Isle of Man College

The Isle of Man College is currently utilising sites in Hills Meadow and Union Mills for construction industry courses. It is my view that these sites should be utilised for other government use and these courses be delivered from a central modern facility. I believe there is potential to expand the proximity of the Isle of Man College into the Government owned site at the old water treatment works on Greenfield Road. The land and buildings at the old Glencrutchery School should also be included in an evaluation, as this site has now deteriorated to be more of a liability than an asset.



LAW AND ORDER

Whilst crime on the Isle of Man is relatively low in comparison with our neighbours, I would like to ensure that effective policing and law enforcement remains a key feature in our neighbourhoods. I believe it is important to tackle crime at all levels, including drug and alcohol abuse; with offenders being properly held to account, so public confidence in the law can be secured.

I would like to encourage ways for our communities to regularly consult and partner with the Police by liaising with local neighbourhood Officers. It is important for the Police to provide a visible presence, ensuring they are known to residents, able to identify what matters to local people and tailor their service to meet those needs.

A new Inspector has recently been appointed to the Onchan area, and I welcome the enthusiasm of Inspector Britton, who recently met with me to discuss ways of working with both myself and the community. I would like a bigger push to see offenders fulfil their community service orders in useful ways, such as completing community tasks in areas where Government funding is being reduced. Larger work projects could also be identified to add value, reduce costs and assist in the rehabilitation of selected offenders already detained in prison.



ENVIRONMENT

Energy

We need to protect, preserve and improve the quality of our environment; disposing of waste in a safe and environmentally acceptable way and seeking to secure sustainable development wherever possible.

Energy conservation has never been so important. Spiralling fuel costs are hitting all our pockets hard and we all need to be concerned about the detrimental effect of burning fossil fuels on the environment. Everyone on the Island needs to look at their own energy consumption, with the aim to be more efficient. One way to achieve this and reduce household bills; is to install solar panels to heat hot water all year round and photovoltaic panels to generate electricity for homes.

I support the introduction of alternative energy sources, whether this is onshore or offshore; such as wind turbine farms developed by a public/private initiative. A first step towards generating alternative energy would be to introduce micro generation wind turbines. With recent advances in technology, both industry and the domestic market could benefit and achieve realistic cost savings.

Regeneration

It only seems a short time ago that town centres were flourishing and shops like Woolworths were keeping the Island's population supplied with pick and mix! Now, there are a number of empty premises in towns and villages throughout the Island, which is a reminder that local traders have fallen on hard times. I welcome the current initiative for town and village regeneration. This is an opportunity for businesses and Government to work together; putting plans in place to safeguard and improve the retail environment, secure local employment and boost the local economy.

Agriculture and Land Use

We need to identify and protect prime agricultural land throughout the Island. Government must continue to support local farmers and assist the farming community to increase business through diversification. Tried and tested examples include; growing crops to produce Biodiesel and the production of 100% Manx Rapeseed Oil by Pentti Christian at Ellerslie Farm.



ONCHAN COMMUNITY

A new Eastern development plan will commence in 2012 and I believe that regional dispersal of industry and business activity into Onchan must be included in the objectives.

I supported the regeneration programme for Onchan village and was disappointed that Onchan Commissioners did not fully engage with the proposals. I believe this is still an opportunity to install new tactile surfaces, pavement enhancement, seating and energy efficient street lighting. This would improve the overall feel and appearance of our village and encourage businesses to invest and relocate here.

The local authority process of allocating ratepayers funding, must have greater accountability, be more transparent and efficient. I would encourage and

support the people of Onchan to establish a ratepayers association.

Industry Development

There are two prime development sites within Onchan; Government owned land behind GE Aviation in School Road (formerly known as Dowty's) and privately owned land at Tromode Estate. Both these sites could be easily used to provide business starter units and have good access and utility services nearby.

Sheltered Accommodation

I believe there is a need for a further sheltered housing unit in Onchan. The two complexes already in existence have proved to be invaluable to the community and I am sure that a further complex would also be a fully utilised facility.



ONCHAN COMMUNITY

Kerbside Recycling

It is very disappointing that the kerbside recycling collection will be stopping in Onchan. In order to continue the service, save money and cut costs, I have suggested that an alternative option is to pick up the recycling at the same time as the weekly refuse collection; using coloured waste bags and splitting the refuse vehicle 60/40. One trip, one cost.

Police

The trust and confidence of the Onchan community is built around visible community policing. I believe that MHK's need to regularly consult with Neighbourhood Policing Teams and identify what is important to local people, so the Police can provide the kind of service that our community needs.

Abandoned and Large Vehicles

I have concerns about the number of abandoned and large vehicles that are being left on our residential streets and would be supportive of controlling this problem with a variation to current legislation.

Local Authority Housing

We need to continue with a programme to refurbish our older housing stock to acceptable standards and ensure sufficient funding is approved to adapt housing to support the disabled, elderly and infirm to live in our community.



I intend to call on as many homes as I can before the election, so I can
answer any questions you may have
and discuss the matters that are important to you.

Would you like more information?
Do you need transport to and from the Polling Station?
Do you need to arrange a sick, absent or proxy vote?
Would you be kind enough to display a support poster or
help with my campaign?

DAVID
QUIRKX

The Candidate who cares for the Community

Please feel free to contact me
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POLLING STATIONS

ONCHAN COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR BIRCH HILL & HOWSTRAKE
MANX BLIND WELFARE CENTRE FOR BALLACHURRY
VIEWS CAFE, ONCHAN PARK FOR HAGUE & ONCHAN PARISH

In an effort to be environmentally friendly,
one manifesto has been sent to each family.
If you would like additional copies, please do let me know.