

Carol Quine – Arbory, Castletown and Malew

Political Questions (2016)

Why do you want to be a member of the House of Keys?

I have Become increasingly concerned by the lack of compassion shown by the current administration and disappointed that others in government weren't coming forward with the alternative vision of a fair and inclusive society, delivering this vision is my motivation for standing.

If you were elected, what would your priorities be on a national level?

Following the UK'S brexit we need to ensure the economy remains stable. But I also believe that our current government has focused on the economy to the exclusion of everything else and have lost sight of the fact that it is supposed to serve society not the other way round. As a result more and more of us feel neglected by a government we pay for. To counter this the next administration needs to put democracy and equality front and centre of its next programme of government.

If you were elected, what would your priorities be on a constituency level?

There is considerable overlap between constituency and national issues but those of greatest concern are affordable housing and the amount of houses, the ongoing problems with the square, traffic control, flooding plans, Callow's yard,

How well do you think the present administration has handled the major challenges of the past five years?

Police station for the south.

Appallingly..... on rebalancing the budget, although the deficit has been reduced this has not been done fairly, it has raised revenue by rent hikes within public sector housing, toilet tax, train and tram travel etc these charges are hitting the poorest in our society leaving them even worse off and in some cases going into debt.

What are the main political and social issues facing the Isle of Man in the next five years?

Growing inequality: not only is it unfair and a cause of social tension it will also directly harm our Islands economic performance. We already know that the falling incomes of many island residents is being felt throughout the retail and hospitality sectors. We have become an island of two economies, one forging ahead and the other struggling to stay where they are. In a small community like ours this cannot be allowed to continue; a fair society is essential for our islands future. The ageing population is an asset and not a burden! We need to include and not exclude them in society.

How would you deal with the challenges referred to in the previous answer?

There is no one simple solution but a main contributor to the islands growing inequality is the use of the GDP as the

How would you deal with the issue of public sector pension reform and the public sector pension deficit?

only measure of the islands performance. As a society we seek to improve what we measure therefore in addition to economic performance government needs to give equal focus on social measures of wellbeing and bring about a balance to the same.

All though a far from perfect solution recently endorsed by Tynwald. Prolonging the debate surrounding PSP, as several members have tried to do is already damaging our society. The ongoing uncertainty surrounding pensions has led to difficulties in recruitment of healthcare professionals and other vital public sector workers. To remain attractive to Doctors, nurses, teachers etc our PSP will need to at least offer parity with those available in the UK.

What has changed in the past five years for Isle of Man residents for the better? (Please give examples)

This depends entirely on where you are on the socioeconomic scale. I'm sure there are some that have benefited from economic growth with better jobs and increased incomes, but I am concerned for those that have seen very little, if any improvement in their daily lives.

What has changed in the past five years for Isle of Man residents for the worse?

As stated above the standard of living for many people has fallen considerably;

(Please give examples)

this is a result of wage stagnation, inflation and the introduction of charges for and restrictions to government services and as already mentioned the uncertainty surrounding PSP's has led to difficulties in recruitment of personnel in both HC and education resulting in longer waiting times and larger class sizes.

Is the Isle of Man too reliant on any one sector of its economy?

The Island has done better than its competitors in diversifying its economy but this is an ongoing project and we must remain constantly vigilant for threats to our existing industries and opportunities opening for new ones.

If you feel it is, how would you further diversify the Manx economy?

The tourist industry and farming and producing crops for export.

Are you in favour of increased independence from the United Kingdom?

I do feel we need to distance ourselves from much of the influence of their political ideology.

If you are, in which areas?

Our government routinely adopts ideas and practices directly from the UK without looking to see if other countries have taken an alternative and better approach to the same problems, ie the Netherlands approach to addressing

long-term disability not only takes into account an individual's impairment it takes into consideration personal factors such as age, education, qualifications and work experience.

Are you in favour of parliamentary reform in the Isle of Man?

Yes

If you are, which aspects of the parliamentary system would you change?

MLC's should not be members or ministers their role should solely be scrutiny and guidance. They should also be popularly elected.

Who should have the responsibility of electing the Chief Minister?

If all members popularly elected then Tynwald, but failing that then just the House of Keys.

Are you in favour of the nationalisation of air and/or sea services to and from the Isle of Man?

I would favour the nationalisation of sea services but they should be operated as a state owned enterprise rather than run directly by government SOE would be managed along the same lines as private company but as the sole shareholder and all profits would return to the Isle of Man Government to benefit the Islands population.

Are you in favour of renewable energy

Yes, providing they directly benefit the

projects in Manx territorial waters?

Manx economy.

Are you in favour of an increase in means testing for financial support and/or services provided by Government?

This is a complicated issue and I couldn't support means testing for the vast majority of government services, means testing generally results in a lot more bureaucracy and would not make any savings in the long run, a possible exception is social housing.

If you are, in which areas?

In the last 4 years LA housing rents have increased by 33% well above inflation and this is causing some residents financial hard ship, at the same time though there is a perception that some tenants are exploiting the system and could easily afford private sector rent, means testing this one area would address this by helping to ensure that those in difficulty received assistance and those who could afford it paid a reasonable rent.