



BILL MALARKEY

Manifesto

*House of Keys: Douglas South General Election -
Thursday 22 September 2016*

Working for you – always.

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Seconded: Mary Carter MBE**



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Dear Constituent

My name is Bill Malarkey - I am a Manx born electrical engineer, company director, father to three daughters and have lived in South Douglas for over 20 years.

At the by election last year, you gave me the privilege of representing you again in Tynwald. At that time, I promised to 'hit the ground running' to influence our future. I believe that is exactly what I did.

Some of my direct victories in the past fifteen months have included: a select committee to look into the first time buyer's scheme at Harcroft Meadow; new legislation that makes the owners of derelict buildings pay rates; the setting up of a working group to look at the future of our sea services; leading the community to establish the Pinewood Social Club Limited.

We all know that the next five years are going to be challenging – strong and decisive political leadership is needed now, more than ever.

These are not ordinary times and this is not an ordinary election.

It is time to take a proactive stance - our Nation belongs to us, the people.

Thank you.

Bill M.

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1 The Challenges

Our legacy pension debt, the focus on our strategic sea services and the uncertainty surrounding 'Brexit' are known challenges.

We also have the possibility of further amendments to our VAT sharing agreement, if the UK Government reduces their standard VAT rate to below 20%. This will drastically hit our income again.

Competition from other jurisdictions, with regard to our internationally endorsed tax regime, is a real risk to our economy. We must do all we can to protect our position on the global stage.

There will be many more trials ahead - we need knowledgeable and practiced politicians, including a proactive Chief Minister, to deal with them.

2 Our Economy

The Government of the last five years have placed much focus on balancing the revenue budget. Whilst commendable, it has cost Manx residents through stealth taxes and price increases. This is not the solution.

Diversifying our economy and implementing financial effectiveness must be at the heart of government policy.

It is essential that we find new sources of revenue and reduce the burden on individual tax payers.

We must look globally for inward investment. We have a strong, active and important private sector doing this. We must actively engage with them to help us sell the many advantages the Isle of Man has to offer, in an ever increasing competitive market.

We should utilise the experience and contacts of the Island's talented entrepreneurs - active and retired - to become a much larger player on the global stage.

Many other jurisdictions are envious of our infrastructure, reserves, diversification and international standing.

Given the tentative approach on 'Brexit', it is time that we make very opportunity we can. We need to shout from the rooftops about our growing and stable economy. This will ensure our future growth. The Isle of Man is a great place to do business and an even greater place to live - that is the message we have to promote.

A crucial step in boosting our economy is a determined focus towards attractive businesses providing appealing jobs. Whilst we have strong business sectors, we should be actively encouraging more. Technology, science and research are examples - just to start with. This would also encourage many university graduates back to the Island.

We have a £50 million Enterprise Development Scheme (EDS). The primary aim of the scheme is to start, grow and relocate businesses to the Isle of Man. This will create jobs, nurture local talent and positively contribute to our economy. Who knows about it?

A real focus on positive public relations and marketing of the Island is essential.



We must get the message out that we are
“open for business”.

3 Tourism & Travel

Tourism in the UK is booming at the moment, the weak pound and concerns over foreign travel are both contributing factors. We must take the opportunity to attract part of the domestic travel market. This can only be achieved with better, cheaper and more reliable air/sea travel.

Being part of the recent Strategic Sea Services Working Group (and having sat on two former select committees on the Steam Packet), I firmly believe that this is not the time to be renewing our User Agreement with the Steam Packet Company.

There is an aggressive hedge fund investor who has bought 31.05% of the company shares and is waiting to make a large profit if the agreement is signed. I have campaigned, and will continue to campaign, for the Isle of Man Government to purchase a controlling interest in the company. If we do not renew the agreement, at this time, this will become a real possibility for a fair and realistic price.

To clarify, I do not want the Government to operate the company, I want the Government to be the majority shareholder of a very profitable company.

With this done, we would further control our sea services destiny and secure the dedicated workforce.

We should be focused on what is right for our Nation.

Air travel has been in the news a lot lately, reliability and cost are both major concerns. Corporatisation is not an option I favour at this time. I would welcome open dialogue with the airlines to secure cheaper, more reliable services first.

4 Health

Waiting times, low morale, overspends, lack of specialists, too many locums and managers - these are just a few of the issues you have been talking with me about, with regards to our health services.

The Manx health system requires radical reform. We must not shy away from our responsibilities in caring for all members of our community. We must find the funds through appropriate management.

Without good health, we have nothing.

5 Education

I am delighted to have been a member of the Department of Education and Children for the past fourteen months, including being part of the team that has seen the Isle of Man College become University College Isle of Man (in conjunction with Chester University). This will give more opportunities to students wishing to study on Island. It is my vision, and that of the Department, that within five years, we will have our own stand alone University. This will enable many more students to achieve their educational dreams without having to leave the Island. This will also help our local businesses have a steady stream of new recruits with the skills demanded by a modern economy.

My views regarding the pre-school voucher system have been well heard - in public, in the Department and in Tynwald. The system is not the best option for our young children. Since the schools no longer run these, the head teachers tell me that teachers are no longer able to assess the next year's intake, there is very little bonding friendships built and makes assessment of any additional needs of the pupil difficult. An important extra year of education in the school system has been lost. I will maintain my determined efforts to have pre-school reviewed.

6 Pensioners

This is the section of our society that has been hardest hit in the past five years. The free TV licence for over 75's has gone, their Christmas bonus has been cut, the Age Allowance has been reduced, free transport on our heritage railways and peak bus travel has been removed. This generation is extremely important to us, for what they put in to the economy and also the free childcare that they give to their families, allowing them to further contribute to our economy. It is time they were treated with more respect - they are not a burden, they are an asset.

7 Local Government & Rates

At the last General Election, we were promised Local Government reform; this is slow in coming. With a population of our size, do we really need the current high number of Local Authorities?

Whilst controversial, I have always been a supporter of an all-Island rating system. I welcome the new capital banding system being proposed. Sample cases have shown that it will not make a considerable difference to people in Douglas. Those living in expensive out of town houses will pay more water and sewerage rates, reducing the cost for those in less expensive houses. I favour rate rebates for those living on their own.

More and more responsibilities are being transferred from the Department of Infrastructure to Local Authorities. I would support more of this, such as road maintenance - certainly to Douglas Borough Council.

Central Government should be focused on the economy and not 'cutting grass'.

After my amendment in July, Tynwald agreed that we are going to keep our heritage Horse Trams the full length of the Promenade. We must not experience further delays to the refurbishment of Douglas Promenade. No more consultations and definitely no more consultants - let's just get on with it.

8 Law & Order



In my last manifesto, I made it clear that I was a supporter of Advanced Passenger Information (API) for all entering and leaving the Island. We need better information to help preserve our security and protect our treasured quality of life. After a meeting with the Chief Constable and the Home Affairs Minister, I was delighted to see that a public consultation was launched. It has been one of the most responded to consultations ever undertaken. We await the findings with interest.

Living on an Island that has one of the lowest crime rates in Europe is very satisfying, though we cannot become complacent. There are new threats emerging every day and we must make sure that we secure the funding for our police force to deal with them.

9

9 Government Reform

I have long campaigned for Tynwald reform.

When Lord Lisvane undertook the review of Tynwald, I launched an online poll to allow you to have your say. With over 300 detailed responses, it was your opinions that I presented to the enquiry. Being the only MHK doing this, it made your contributions to the review highly respected.

It should always be the views of the people we represent that are sought and shared.

I will continue to fight for a more effective, smaller, Government that serves us better.



10 Other Matters

NSC & Hills Meadow - flood defences

In December last year, we experienced torrential rainfall (combined with high tides) that resulted in the unprecedented flooding of the NSC and Hills Meadow businesses - costing over a million pounds in damage. I am happy to report that I successfully lobbied for this area to be the number one priority for future flood protection and was happy to see the rivers being dredged. If re-elected I will ensure that this work continues.

I will continue to support environmental projects where benefits exceed cost.

Energy charges

The cost of energy on the Island is staggering. It is crippling us and discouraging businesses from operating on Island.

We need a market driven by competition, not monopolies.

Government must set up a body with the authoritative powers to review and challenge prices.

Work place pensions

It is vital that Government looks to introduce workplace pensions for all. This will ensure personal savings for our mature years. If re-elected, I will pursue this.

10 Other Matters



For many years, I have tried to get a community centre for both Anagh Coar and Pulrose.

With the eager and enthusiastic support of the community, things are happening.

The recent closure announcement of the Pinewood Pub in Pulrose was a blow to the community. The people got together, shared their views and found a solution. With considerable time and energy dedication, I have been able to secure a positive future for the building. It will be a members social club intended for a wide range of social activities.

Keeping specific promises I made prior to the by election, I was successful in securing funding to enable the Youth Club at the Sunshine School to have a new “chill room”. Our children now have somewhere safe and secure to relax.

Your interests are best served by a track-record candidate who will make your voice heard.

If you believe:

- ✓ **We need to increase our profile on the global stage, diversify our economy and increase revenue from inward investment, rather than higher taxation**
- ✓ **We need to re-generate our tourist industry and have more control of our sea services**
- ✓ **We deserve a well-funded, world class health service fit to serve our society**
- ✓ **Our children deserve the best education - to maximise their, and our, future**
- ✓ **We should look after our pensioners and prepare for our future**
- ✓ **Local and Central Government needs to be effectively streamlined**
- ✓ **We must do everything we can to preserve our safety and security**
- ✓ **That we need to 'get on' with Douglas Promenade**

then please

Vote MALARKEY



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