

KEITH FITTON

Candidate in Douglas South 2016



PLEASE BE HEARD
USE YOUR VOTES ON SEPTEMBER 22ND

It will not be possible to get around to every voter before polling day. If you would like to meet me to discuss my views or to tell me what is important to you and your family, please contact me and I will visit you at a convenient time.

Email: keith.fitton@manx.net

Phone: 235043



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This booklet can be supplied in large print

Who Am I? Why Am I Standing?

I am a fifty year old married man, living with my wife in Santon. I'm a Registered Nurse & a charity manager. I grew up in Morecambe and we moved to the Island twenty-five years ago.

I stood in the Douglas South by-election in 2015 and I hope that people will remember me from then. I believe that I can have a positive influence upon people's lives by representing them in government.



When only three people put themselves forwards to stand in Douglas South, I felt that at least four candidates were required to offer the voters a full choice. I discussed why I believe lack of choice is not good for democracy in the 'newsletter' that you should already have received.

One of my favourite sayings is 'regret the things you did, not the things you didn't do'. Would I look back in five or ten years time and regret not standing up for my beliefs? If the next government continued with the policy of the last, where those least able to afford it, the pensioners, the disabled, the low paid, were expected to carry most of the burden of austerity, would I regret not trying to influence government so that it is fairer? And if the next government are a success, then would I would regret not being a part of delivering that success?

Honesty



Opportunity

Fairness

Manifesto: [noun]

A public declaration of policy and aims, especially one issued before an election by a political party or candidate.

It is not my intention to produce a manifesto in the traditional sense. I don't see any point in making 'sound bite' promises, knowing that if elected it will be whoever the new Chief Minister is, who will drive the policy direction. I would endeavour to influence policy, but I will not be leading it. The promises and commitments that I make are personal. I promise that even when making tough decisions, they will be made because I believe they are for the over-all good of the people, not self serving.

I feel that it will be better if I share with you my thoughts regarding certain key issues. You will then have a better idea about who I am as a person and the type of issues that I feel are important. If my thoughts and values are similar to the ones that you hold, then I hope you will want to support me by lending me one of your votes.

If my views run counter to your own, then you can make a more informed decision when it comes to placing your vote with one or two of the other candidates. If elected, I will work hard to shape the direction of government in a manner that is fairer for everyone. I will try to influence government in a positive manner. Hopefully we will have a Chief Minister who has values that I can support. But regardless, I will always remember that the people hold the power and if elected, I am in a position of trust, to work for your benefit and the benefit of your family & community. In my career, I've never been motivated by wealth or status. I can promise you, that won't change.

VOTE KEITH FITTON

This manifesto cannot go into depth with every important subject but I will be delighted if you contact me to arrange a personal meeting before deciding whether to trust me with your vote.

It may sound like a strange campaign message, but I really would rather people turn out and vote for other candidates than not vote at all. There is often a disconnect between the people and those who represent them. Voting is your time to be heard.

If I am elected, I intend to go on listening and to be easily accessible to the constituents of Douglas South.

The manifesto will not go into depth. I intend to use my Facebook page to expand upon my thoughts and cover issues in more fully as well as those not mentioned here.



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If you do not use Facebook, please email me for more information keith.fitton@manx.net or contact me to arrange a face to face meeting, either before or after the election (tel: 235054).

Opportunity: or Where are All the Young People Going?

This is the number one concern in my opinion. And yet with notable few exceptions, it is barely being talked about. Too many young people are leaving the Island and not returning. This will result in an imbalance between the economically active and those reliant upon them. We need to attract opportunities for economic development on the Isle of Man. One of the advantages of a small government is that we should be able to respond swiftly to opportunities. We may need to look at a different relationship with Europe to take advantage of 'Brexit'. I think we could be ideally placed to develop renewable technologies. We need a government that enables an environment that is attractive to new businesses and that means removing some of the barriers to bringing investment here, such as the price of utilities and import/export, which I will mention again later. This will in turn develop the jobs that can attract people back.



We could offer 'cost of living' loans to key professionals who we are trying to attract. For example, an additional £6,000 per year loan. The government then pays the loan off over a five year period, every month the person is using their qualification on the Isle of Man. If they don't return, they pay the debt off themselves. This encourages people in teaching, nursing etcetera to come here and costs less than agency staff, so would eventually be close to or actually cost neutral. It also reduces the barriers faced by some less well off people when it comes to doing additional or professional training.

New Industries, New Jobs

One industry that I would enthusiastically pursue is the development of shale gas extraction in Manx waters. I know this is politically sensitive and instinctively many people are against shale gas extraction. Perhaps that is why little appears to have been done about it?

But I would add a 'twist'.

I would have a fixed amount of the tax revenue, for example 60%, going into a fund that would be used for the development of renewable energy. This could be research & development, set up costs for production of items such as solar panels or subsidies for generating equipment in homes & businesses. This would bring employment to the Island and ultimately the money from gas would fund the development of renewables industry, potentially placing the Island in a central position globally.

I'd use a further 20% to pay off the loans on the power station. I believe that one of the reasons why our electricity is so expensive and the lack of incentives for renewable energy, is the need to service the loans by selling expensive electricity. If we can use money from another source to make repayments, and increase home production, we can drive down the cost of electricity on the Island and in doing so remove one of the barriers for creating other industries.

VOTE KEITH FITTON

It may be that geologically, gas extraction is not possible in significant enough quantities. However this is an example of how we can think creatively to develop opportunities.

Protecting the Vulnerable?

In my opinion, this has been a hollow cliché during the last government. For example;

- The already discredited ATOS were brought here to take benefits off disabled people.
- The now discredited Dependability brought in at £275,000 a year, added further misery to vulnerable people.
- Our Disability Employment Service is still two men in an upstairs office, with a case load of more than 200 people.
- The Treasury Member said “we do loads” to support disabled people into employment. Yet ‘Access to Employment’ has been specifically removed from the 2006 Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).
- The 2006 DDA is still not enforceable ten years after being enacted.
- Removal of free TV licenses for over 75’s.
- Still no definition of ‘fuel poverty’. Pensioners this winter will again be choosing whether to ‘heat’ or ‘eat’.
- The growth of food-banks on the Island.
- When the government themselves say that a policy is “unfair” on the poorest people in society, but implement it anyway, as they did with the ‘Toilet Tax’, they lose the right to say they’re ‘Protecting the Vulnerable’.

We need a fair tax system, not one that keeps hitting the poorest with indirect taxation.

Health & Social Care:

I've spent more than thirty years working in Health & Social Care and it is something I am passionate about. Our biggest threat is recruitment. In Mental Health, up to 40% of Registered Nurses could retire within five years. We need to urgently address this before the service collapses. The loan system mentioned earlier could help to counter this.

One of the successes of the last government was in raising awareness of Safeguarding procedures, this needs to continue and be embraced by everyone.

We need to introduce inspections within the Health Service. This may be an extension of the Registration & Inspection Service on the Isle of Man or 'brought in' such as further 'West Midlands Quality Review Service'. Inspections should be welcomed to improve standards.

Give budget setting to ward & unit managers, then give them monthly feedback. How can managers achieve budgets if they are not in control of them?

Transport, housing, rates, police, pensions, Government Reform, education, Douglas promenade & trams and taxes. All important subjects that could warrant pages of text on their own. If you want to know more of my views, please do contact me.

I hope you trust me with a vote on September 22nd and allow me to represent you.

Thank you, Keith Fitton

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