

Political Questions – Pat Ayres (2011)

Why this candidate wishes to be a member of the House of Keys?

To be part of a team that gets the House of Keys working for the people of the Isle of Man again. I would like to play a part in protecting the future for our children and our grandchildren. I believe that the Isle of Man is a wonderful place and its people deserve better government than they are getting right now, it is not too late to save some of the treasures the Island holds, this government appears to have given up too much to the UK, I would like to see that returned to us. The UK government is bullying the Island into a submissive position, I would see that reversed.

How well does the candidate think that the present?

MEA, abysmally handled, where else would a government give the ok for a loan years after it was 'illegally' taken out? Scope and structure of government initiative has been ignored in favour of the 'old boys club' and tightening the reins of the CoMin. RHA, an embarrassment to the Island, why were they quite happy to see elderly members of our community imprisoned on the Island

If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a constituency level?

for want of a 'plan B'. Shocking incompetence. Buying things and paying over 50 yrs when the life of it is only 25 yrs? In 25 yrs we will be paying for both the old and the new but not having the old. A fools charter.

Agriculture has been the backbone of the community for years but is being spoilt by short-termism. Investment is need now to ensure the long term future. Planning, why can 'High Net Worth Individuals' be allowed to fast-track their second homes in the country yet locals are being refused permission to put sheds on their allotments? That isn't right or fair. Housing, I would like to see social housing upgraded and improved all over the constituency. Some first time buyers available and relaxing of the agricultural tie to enable local youngsters to get a start in life.

If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a national level?

I would like to keep unemployment at a manageable level by encouraging investment in manufacturing and agriculture. Look again at the work permit legislation to see if it is working as intended. A decent level of overview of Government, presently

What does the candidate view as the main political and social issues facing the Isle of Man in the next 5 years?

there is scepticism about much that is done in our name. FOI act is needed now and must not be put off for another 5 years.

How would the candidate deal with the challenges/issues over the next five years - as stated in the Main Social Issues question?

Economy is the obvious answer here, diversification is a possible route to take. We just survived the last crash, the next might be even heavier. VAT grab-back by UK. Why are we allowing British companies here take VAT from us and giving it to UK? Employment, we need jobs to fill the gap left by the crash. I would instigate start up areas with tax breaks to encourage entrepreneurs.

Diversification and inward investment, we have promising local workers and school-leavers. Freedom to Flourish should mean something, not just a pretty strapline of literature. Make all foreign businesses register as an IOM company. It won't cost extra for them but will retain, on Island, their taxes. Control the work permit system properly. Spousal work rights should be curtailed.

What does the candidate feel has changed for the better, for Isle of Man

Recognition for the importance of transparency and the need for the

residents, in the past five years - giving examples?

Council of Ministers legislation to be challenged to bring about an effective audit and accountability of Government. OECD and other international organisations have recognised the Island and its' good financial governance. Realisation by the general public that the way that the Island is run is not sustainable and must change to place the care of the community above that of business.

What does the candidate feel has changed for the worse for Isle of Man residents, in the past 5 years - give examples?

A centralisation of work places into Douglas, the financial sector is at risk and if there is no diversification a collapse would be catastrophic for the economy. Wages haven't kept pace with inflation for years. A lack of cohesion by Governmental departments in communicating and dealing quickly with social changes. More 'joined up' thinking is needed and less parochialism by ministers.

Does the candidate feel that the Isle of man has been too reliant upon the financial services industry?

Yes.

If the candidate feels there is too much Financial Services reliance,

Create a 'can do' society where innovation is rewarded and go

how does the candidate feel that they would further diversify the Manx economy?

ahead thinkers are encouraged to take the step 'out of the box'. Provide a soft landing for them by way of incubator units. Refresh the tourism industry to cater for today's market, conferences, seminars and trade shows. Look at an Island Stock Market, take the initiative.

Is the candidate in favour of independence from the United Kingdom?

Eventually, Yes. But only if a referendum of the people supported it.

Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for- a popularly elected Legislative Council?

Yes if at all possible.

Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for- a popularly elected Chief Minister?

Yes but they must be a member of Keys first.

Is the candidate in favour of nationalisation of air and or sea services to and from the Isle of Man?

No, not feasible.

Is the candidate in favour of onshore wind farms in the Isle of Man?

No.

Is the candidate in favour of Means testing for "universal" benefits and social housing?

No.