

It is a fact that culture helps to create bonds between people. This holds true for both corporations and communities.

## Independence

*Instead of reacting to outside influences we must act with coherent initiative.*

At present, our interests are sometimes compromised by UK policies that are indifferent to the unique nature of the Island.

The ability to set our own agenda (such as VAT to suit our own economy) and negotiate our own terms is essential for our economic and cultural benefit.

We need a current appraisal of our relationship to the UK. If our status as a Crown Dependency is no longer tenable, then constitutional reform should not be avoided.

## KEY LOCAL ISSUES

### Jurby

The area would benefit from focused initiatives to help the community build a greater sense of identity. Community spaces, such as the new healthcare centre, should be made fully accessible, while leisure facilities such as a themed transport park would attract further retail opportunities.

### Ballaugh

The possible building of a wind farm in the constituency is a recurring subject and residents need to be reassured that their concerns will receive sympathetic consideration. I would favour alternative methods of Co2 reduction, such as switching to LED lighting where possible, which does not carry any implausible risk or costs. I would fight for the continuing presence of the school.

### Kirk Michael

I would urge community groups to come forward with suggestions for the use of funds set aside for regeneration projects. Similarly, I would encourage progress on issues such as a fit-for-purpose medical facility and the prevention of further coastal erosion.

## Positions & Qualifications

- Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (IOM Chairman 1995-1997)
- Member of the Institute of Financial Accountants
  - Director: Waltons Digital World
  - Trustee: Connect2Charity
- Founder Trustee of St John's Mill Development & Regeneration Project (2003-2011)
- Commissioner for Patrick Parish 2008-present (Chairman 2010-11)
- Police Advisory Board: Community Representative
  - Government Overseas Marketing Committee
  - Professional Treasurer Archibald Knox Society Fishermen's Mission
- Co-Manager of Tourist Board registered self-catering unit, Best Self Catering Award 2007
- Corporate Sustainability Group (third sector focus)
  - Municipal Association Deputy Chairman



*Contact me if you want transport, an absent voter or proxy form and if you can help on polling day.*

For the full Manifesto please visit  
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HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION

# David Talbot

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR MICHAEL

*Serving the Community First*



## Serving the Community First

*I believe that 'a good quality of life' refers not only to financial prosperity but to the deeper social values of morality, fairness and a sense of community.*

**Acting as your MHK, I will bring over 35 years of business experience to the job. I am a qualified Accountant with detailed knowledge of the finance sector and of business management. At each stage of my career, I have been proactive in instigating changes and following them through. Starting out as Company Secretary for Waltons, within four years I had become Managing Director of Waltons Finance, before organising a management buyout of Waltons Digital World in 2000 and starting my own business.**

**My varied public service work includes setting up Connect2Charity. This organisation helps to raise the profile of Manx charities and has given me insight into the increasingly important dynamic between business and the third sector. Since 2008, I have acted as a Commissioner for Patrick Parish - a position that relies on the ability to communicate diplomatically when working with community and government representatives at all levels.**

**I am motivated by a desire to use my accumulated skills to effect positive change. I consider myself a 'people person' and a family man, with a genuine desire to uphold the principles of a fair society. If successful in my bid for MHK, I will always be available to speak with you and to take firm action on your behalf. I will work to achieve enlightened policies that are integrated for sustainability, while empowering communities with increased influence so that we may all become investors in the future.**

# KEY NATIONAL ISSUES

## Restoration of Trust

*I believe that mistrust is commensurate with the gulf between government and community.*

One way to encourage a culture of trust is to develop the existing interaction between government, business and the third sector.

I support the increased transparency of a Freedom of Information Act while also welcoming an appraisal of the number of serving MHK's and the appointment of MLC's by popular election.

To ensure maximum efficiency, I am in favour of the continuous reformations indicated in the Minister's Scope and Structures Report 2006.

## Finance

*Economic policy should not be viewed in isolation, but as part of integrated social and environmental policies that consider the bigger picture.*

In order to combat the recent VAT deficit we must play to our strengths. Our world-class finance sector is the backbone of the Manx economy, with scope for development.

The government must work towards developing a sustainable social finance model as the way forward. Clean Technology industries and the management of Intellectual Property are examples of new diversification for the Island.

Diverse industry needs diverse funding: I would instigate a change in legislation to enable community investment and micro-lending schemes such as Credit Unions.

## Regeneration

*We must continue to invest in our services infrastructure.*

Efficient transport links; shopping outlets; recreational facilities and affordable housing are all essential factors for prosperity. While it is favourable to diversify business growth outside of our towns, careful planning is needed to ensure that suburban growth does not result in the ultimate deterioration of our townscapes.

## Health & Education

*With sensitive consideration for the individual, we must look towards long term solutions that benefit the majority.*

If government is to maintain its commitment to universal benefits, final salary pensions and healthcare it will require us as a nation to find new ways of income generation and cost scrutiny, while minimising the impact on the vulnerable. This approach needs urgent review.

Since we have pioneered the lowering of the voting age to sixteen, we should consolidate this through education and outreach programmes that teach young adults how to engage with the political process.

## Energy Policy

*Government must commit to following a sustainable and socially responsible energy policy.*

The debate between fossil fuels and renewables has not yet produced clear answers. While the Island's investments in gas and diesel turbines could be seen as a backward step environmentally, we have no workable financial model for renewable replacements. In the UK, present renewable policies cost each household on average an extra £200 per annum.

While we have a well-functioning power station able to meet our needs, I advocate keeping our options open and investigating all possible means of reducing our Co2 emissions.

## Culture & Heritage

*'Freedom to Flourish' applies not only to business, but to the individual in relation to those cultural practices that shape our identity.*

Great steps have been taken to raise the profile of Manx culture in recent years. Our language and musical traditions now flourish, having been reinterpreted for a new generation.

It is both socially and economically important to celebrate our culture and to protect it from indifference. Our world class artists, musicians and sportspeople are excellent ambassadors for the Island - often drawing on their Manx heritage to find expression and inspiration.