

HOUSE OF KEYS By-Election
Thursday 23 May 2013

MANIFESTO



Clive DAWSON

for Douglas West

Living in the constituency

Understanding the issues
that matter to you



It gives me great pleasure to present to you my manifesto for the forthcoming Douglas West by-election on Thursday 23rd May 2013. I would like to thank all the members of the Douglas West constituency who know my background, values and views and were unanimous in their nomination and support of my candidature in this by-election.

You should have all received an introductory letter from me confirming my candidacy and giving details of my background and experience, which I hope gave you confidence in my ability to serve Douglas West as one of your representatives in the House of Keys.

The Island is facing many challenges right now and I believe more are to come in the near future and it is therefore vital that we approach these issues head-on to ensure the stability of our Island and our way of life - that we have come to know and love. I hope you will read this manifesto and subsequently support my bid to become your elected member.

Yours sincerely,

Clive Dawson

Who am I?

I was brought up on the Island and have lived in Onchan, Jurby and Douglas, where I now reside in Tennis Road with my wife Angel and my daughter's Emily and Sophie. My school life included attendance at Onchan Primary, Ballakermeen and Ramsey Grammar Schools.

What is my experience?

- Working in the family hospitality and promotions business.
- Over 9 years service as an Army Officer.
- Sales and Marketing in the construction and educational sectors.
- ADC and Private Secretary to two Lieutenant Governors of the Isle of Man: including when H.E. Major General Sir Laurence New was President of Tynwald.
- International Schools' Business Manager in Thailand and Qatar.
- Honorary Consul for the Isle of Man Government in Thailand.
- International Educational Consultant to a South Korean Government agency.
- Member of the Chartered Management Institute.
- Marketing experience in SE Asia including China.
- Exposure to over 25 different countries and cultures world-wide.

Constituency Issues in Douglas West



As a local resident, living in the constituency, there are a number of ongoing issues that I know are of concern to both you and to me. These include

- Parking problems
- Condition of roads and pavements
- High cost of rates for both council and water
- Litter
- Dog dirt

The town of Douglas has 26 elected representatives, made up of 18 Town Councillors and 8 Members of the House of Keys, and yet the same local issues seem to arise every year!

If elected I would commit to working closely alongside the other MHK for Douglas West, as well as with the elected Local Councillors. It is my opinion that there should be a formal body for Douglas as a whole, made up of all the 26 political members to tackle these issues, which are common across all of Douglas. It is my hope that this body could work together to make Douglas the Capital city it should be.

The Economy

- The Manx Government must create the right environment in which business can prosper. I have spoken with a number of people involved in various business sectors who believe that central government could assist them more in considering carefully how and to what extent imposed external and internal legislation should be applied.
- In any cost cutting measures by government, redundancies should be the last option. Further unemployment increases benefits payments and lowers confidence, which in turn affects such things as house prices and consumer spending.
- As various European economies crumble (and more are to follow) we should be creating an alternative banking system that offers amongst other things a safe, secure, transparent and ethical deposit scheme for funds from legitimate sources.
- Many international regions, such as the Gulf and South East Asia, are economically vibrant and we need to increase our ties and business connections accordingly.
- Where practical we should encourage partnership with private providers for the provision of public services, reducing the burden on the taxpayer, whilst guaranteeing the level of service, the protection of government assets and where possible, the existing workforce.
- I would recommend investigation as to the formulation and implementation of legislation to encourage charitable institutions to make the Isle of Man their chosen location for their headquarters operations.
- Personal Allowance Credit payments should be scrapped immediately. Did you know this payment existed? It is a £500 annual pay-out to those who earn under the personal tax allowance including those serving custodial sentences. I believe this would **save the taxpayer £5,000,000 per year.**

Residency Qualification and Entitlements



- We should re-visit the work permit legislation and residency rules especially in the wake of the expansion of the EU. Whilst we cannot stop the freedom of movement of entitled persons, I believe we could introduce some safeguards to protect local workers and local jobs.
- I would like to see full implementation and further strengthening of the qualification rules for 'entitlements' such as social housing, benefits and health, to include a **ten year qualifying period**.
- We should base our immigration policy on the Australian and Canadian models where well qualified individuals who will be 'net contributors' to the Island's economy are encouraged to work here.
- The automatic issue of a work permit to the spouse of a person granted leave to work on the Island should be reviewed.
- The Residency Act should be reviewed to encourage net worth individuals to re-locate to the Isle of Man.

Education



- The Island has a well organised education service. However, there are certain issues that need addressing:
- The provision of EAL (English as an additional language). Why is this service being provided at the tax payers' expense? Parents of these children should pay for private tuition to bring them up to a standard where they can function within the classroom setting. The savings made, could be reallocated to other areas. I know many of you are concerned about large class sizes.
- Tuition fees: This needs re-examining. How can we best allocate tuition fees, so as to support those students who might best contribute to the Island's future?
- I would recommend some form of tax relief for companies and organisations who sponsor undergraduates on the understanding that they would commit themselves to a minimum agreed period of employment with the sponsoring body on graduation.

Steam Packet Link

Steam Packet Link

- This strategic life line is absolutely essential to the Island and as such, steps should be taken to ensure Government has a controlling capacity within the company. This is an exceptional case and not a generic rule.
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Unemployment and Training



Unemployment and Training



- School pupils to be encouraged to choose career paths leading to apprenticeships / training / further education / employment available on the Island.
- I support the recent initiatives concerning National Insurance 'holidays' for employers contributing to work experience and / or apprenticeships.
- I support the use of private companies to undertake specific targeted training in partnership with Government to ensure our locally unemployed are better placed to meet the requirements of the current job vacancies, especially in the service industries.

The Benefits System

- The current burden is unsustainable - **nearly 30%** of government expenditure is spent on benefits. While I welcome the recent initiatives and consultation papers issued by the Government, we need to go further.
- The people I have spoken to want a 'level playing field for all'. There is a growing perception that there is a 'good lifestyle' to be had on benefits in preference to working hard, paying a rent or mortgage and trying to save for a few luxuries like a holiday.
- Regarding 'Fair Access to Care Services', if elected, I will seek to ensure that the proposals for care of the elderly are transparent and do not discriminate against those people who have worked hard, saved hard, own their own property, have probably never availed themselves of the benefits system and who wish to leave an inheritance to their relatives.
- It is right that anyone who, through no fault of his/her own, should receive appropriate support when in difficulty, in order to assist them back into a non-benefit-reliant lifestyle. I would support the policy of targeted benefits in kind, as opposed to cash in hand.

Council and Commissioners' Housing

- Regarding social housing, whilst I welcome the current reviews on rents, I believe that housing should be removed from politics altogether and placed under the control of a Housing Association that would operate on a needs basis. The maintenance and servicing would remain with local Commissioners/Town Councils funded by the rents received by them.
- The Housing Association could also run shared equity schemes for potential purchasers.
- There are some 6000 'social housing' units on the Island: tenants should receive a rates bill as well as paying a fair rent as most other householders do. This could raise considerable funds for local and central government: a conservative estimate of 6000 households paying rates at an average of £800 **could raise £4,800,000.**

First-Time Buyers

Environment and Sustainability

Voluntary Organisations

First-Time Buyers

The problem of affordability and availability could partly be addressed by:

- Equity share/partnership via alternative banking and Housing Associations
- Availability of government subsidised, serviced building plots for 'self-build' options.

Environment and Sustainability

- I am in favour of any measures that protect our environment whilst balancing this against any on-going extra costs that might be incurred by local business.
- I would support the extension of preservation areas within our sea and measures that would return our fishing industry to a state of sustainability.

Voluntary Organisations

- The Isle of Man would be lost without local voluntary organisations. I would like to see the Government appoint a Focal Point for these organisations who already play such a vital role in our society and who will in the future be even more important, key players in our social network on the Island.

The Prison Service

It was unacceptable that prisoners were not available to assist the recent consequences of bad weather. If necessary, legislation should be introduced to enable sectors of this potential workforce to be used for tasks such as cleaning rivers, hedgerows, beaches and for emergency work in inclement weather.

Legislative Council

I would support any move to make the Council publicly elected.

Your Opinion Matters!

By-elections can often be uninspiring and fairly mundane affairs with low voter turnout. I would like to encourage you to raise issues with all the candidates and where possible attend any public meetings in which all the candidate's opinions and views can be scrutinized.

Don't forget to tune-in to the live constituency debate on Manx Radio at 12 noon on Sunday 19th May.

And of course remember to vote on Thursday 23 May.

Clive DAWSON for Douglas West

For:

- Transport to vote
- A proxy vote
- An absent vote

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