

# Andrew NEWINGTON-BRIDGES

## *MY BELIEFS....*

Manifesto - NO!

Party Line - NO!

Party Politics - NO!

The whole truth, not  
misleading words!

I think you should know more about your Candidate's thinking and beliefs rather than a form of "wish list" or the "Party Line". An individual can not put down a list of policies which he will achieve alone in the next Government if elected - that is a MANIFESTO. No 'Party' in our form of primarily independent candidates can claim a manifesto which will be enacted if elected either. Let us have more honesty INSTEAD OF HALF TRUTHS. Here are MY BELIEFS which I shall work to achieve if I have your vote.

*If you share my beliefs and passion for our SPECIAL NATION  
please give me your vote on Thursday 29th September 2011*

HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION

I BELIEVE...



DO YOU?

YOUR CANDIDATE  
**FOR AYRE**



# MY BELIEFS...

**I BELIEVE:  
in our Special Nation**

We live in the most special place on earth compared to the rest of the world, most of which I have been fortunate enough to visit and experience whilst working overseas.

*We have to ACT to keep it.*

**I BELIEVE:  
in our exceptional  
quality of life**

Whether we compare our levels of all crime, serious and petty, or our quality of health care, or our standards of education or the beauty of our countryside or our help for those with special needs, we exceed the standards of all our near neighbours. Quality of life has real meaning on our island.

*We have to ACT to keep it.*

**I BELIEVE:  
we have work to maintain  
all our advantages  
for ourselves**

No Englander, no European, indeed no one in the world is going to look after the best interests of our Nation.

*We have to do that for ourselves. We have to seek help from all quarters of this ever closer world and its growing economies. We have to earn increasing international respect, we have to be there fighting our corner, not waiting until it is too late. We have seen, all too recently, what our 'friends' can do to us if we do not actively take care and promote and protect our nation.*

**I BELIEVE:  
the reciprocal health  
agreement withdrawal was  
a political fiasco**

If we had not had the support and effort of individuals OUTSIDE of Government, we would now all need to have private medical insurance to travel to Britain. Our families, friends and tourists would all have needed similar insurance to visit us. Our Government told us that there was nothing that could be done about the situation. They had exhausted all avenues of discussion with the UK Government. Yet, their defeatist stance was proved wrong by the concerted efforts of concerned Manx residents and the speaker, Steve Rodan. They, unlike the Government, simply would not take "nothing can be done" as the final word.

*Much more effort, with far better skills in International negotiation, and making better contacts at the right levels are required.*

**I BELIEVE:  
the one sided VAT sharing  
changes with the UK  
are disgraceful**

Nothing demonstrates more clearly the need for being there "fighting our corner" than the UK's behaviour over deciding, on their own, to change the proportion of VAT which we should share. Having willingly entered into a bilateral agreement, which both parties had agreed was fair and just, to then unilaterally change those terms to the considerable detriment of our carefully balanced economy was not the action of "friends" or of those wishing us goodwill. With whom have our Ministers fought the fight? Did they just accept that there was nothing we could do about it? Did we take our case to the highest in the land? The fiasco over the reciprocal health agreement negotiations, or lack of them, begs the question how well have we fought over VAT?

*We can no longer imagine that everything will be all right, that others will look after us. We have to develop better individual relationships with our neighbours and also further afield.*

**I BELIEVE:  
we were getting a fair  
division of VAT  
(Contd.)**

Have you noticed how the word has now been circulated that we were still getting more than our fair share from the agreement entered into just 2 years earlier? The UK is our major overseas trading partner. Trade passes in both directions. Huge benefit accrues to the City of London. Huge VAT revenues are generated in the UK through the trading originating from our Nation. It is entirely fair and just that we should benefit from these revenues as well as also participating in the large product purchasing between the UK and the island. These or similar arguments must have been agreed by both parties, but as times have got increasingly tough for the UK they have made unilateral changes.

# MY BELIEFS...

**I BELIEVE:**  
we were getting a fair  
division of VAT (Contd.)

Have these further changes been fair? Did we fight our corner well? I refer you again to that Health Agreement fiasco. I fear that the evidence suggests that we have rolled over on this as well. Again, we have to develop better individual relationships with our neighbours and further afield.

**I BELIEVE:**  
elected politicians are the  
servants of the people

Politicians are elected to serve the people. Frequently after election one hears the words that the elected are "honoured to serve the people". Not long after that initial euphoria of victory however they suddenly become experts in nearly all matters and you and I, the electorate, are treated as though we know nothing, or at best very little.

**I BELIEVE:**  
Spin and misleading the  
electorate with half truths  
is wrong

Bring some humility back to elected representatives. They are not the sole custodians of all knowledge, nor should they act that way, nor should they be able to unduly withhold information.

**I BELIEVE:**  
Laws from EU without  
consideration for what is  
good for our Nation, is  
wrong

Unfortunately we are now also witnessing an imported technique of political spin, perfected by Mr Blair over there. This includes the twisting of facts or the re-use of the same detail to tell an additional or alternative story.

This is another imported 'skill' which we must actively work on rejecting. We need to keep our standards, not theirs.

**I BELIEVE:**  
Taxation from Europe  
through the UK  
without representation  
is wrong

Being required to fulfil treaty obligations, follow directives, and put laws on our statute book at the behest of the European Union without any of the benefits of membership is both wrong and unreasonable.

To restore balance we need more special small nation consideration, negotiated exemptions (derogations) and direct involvement in such discussion and negotiation. **BETTER INVOLVEMENT.**

**I BELIEVE:**  
We have to protect our  
Agricultural interests

Currently we have taxation demands from Europe, their proportion of VAT, without representation. This is wrong. Pressure, direct or from behind the scene, applied to conform to ideas whether appropriate to our Nation's best interests or not is wrong. These 'wrongs' are very serious.

We can not put all these matters right overnight, but it is certain that we have to apply very much more effective effort into improving the situation. We should not continue to apparently sleepwalk into allowing ever more external influence over our national interest. More and better negotiation and better representation of our interests are needed.

**I BELIEVE:**  
Our real financial problems,  
mainly imported, will require  
close work with all our  
trading partners worldwide

When we give away protection for our exceptional farming community, it has to be because we gain in another area or areas for the industry. Such reciprocal negotiation appears not to have been used over the loss of red meat derogation.

It must not be that we continue to constantly give ground without obtaining benefit in return - currently our international negotiating skills appear weak or non-existent. More and better representation and negotiation is needed.

We face real financial problems, the worst extremes of which have been imposed upon us from outside our shores. Competence in dealing internationally with negotiations and with reaching agreements with our deeply troubled neighbours is essential and will become ever more important over the next months and years.

Europe, all of the UK, Ireland, Asia and the US need to be on our frequent visiting/contact list. Much better and willing effort to 'network' is an essential element which needs to be improved in our Government's skill set.

# MY BELIEFS...

**I BELIEVE:**  
**Others are jealous of our financial well being, our low taxation rates, our credit rating**

We see what appears to be real evidence of a form of financial jealousy of our Island Nation's comparative financial and commercial well being. Most of our neighbours would dearly wish to have our levels of unemployment, our uninterrupted years of growth and our international credit rating, rather than their own.

Most of our neighbours would like to be able to run their nation with as low a tax take as we are able to do. Correcting the mis-representation of our island by means of closer personal contact and improving all forms of media collaboration is essential.

**I BELIEVE**  
**We need to create a department to coordinate our external relations**

We have heard much about joined-up Government. However there appears to be too little evidence, at Ministerial or Chief Executive level, of working to essential common goals. There also appears to have been too much individual department building at the expense of more efficient combined action.

Coordination through an External Relations Department would create opportunities for shared resource and hence cost savings. It could also break down the inter department competition for ever increasing head count.

**I BELIEVE:**  
**We have to actively promote our position in the world rather than always being defensive**

International attempts seemingly to blacken our reputation, often linking us with other jurisdictions, enjoy too much success as a result of virtually no proactive effort or with too little, too late reaction. The term 'Tax Haven' has gradually been converted into a virtual form of abuse to the point where we have had to invent a new term for our considerable abilities that of an area of 'lower taxation'.

See Department of External Relations above.

**I BELIEVE:**  
**We have to be out fighting our corner in the corridors of power and amongst the opinion makers**

We are witnessing a progressive change to the long established difference between legal Tax Avoidance and illegal Tax Evasion. Both terms are now being mentioned in the same breath as equally evil. There is real danger that because we are more efficient (requiring lower tax take to run a better society) this drip feed poison will replace reasoned argument - especially if these arguments are not being made or are being made ineffectively.

Again, we must not sleepwalk into ever greater pressure for "tax harmonisation" or give away our other massive advantages over our neighbours, be they thought of as friend or foe. See Department of External Relations above.

**I BELIEVE:**  
**That the frequent use of consultants should include protection for Taxpayers**

When consultants are employed, it should be their professional insurance which meets overruns in costs, not we, the tax payers of the island, that have to find the increase which is due to their errors in the original design and or specification/calculations.

When expensive consultants are employed and their scheme is found not to work as recommended then they should have been contractually bound to meet the costs of the replacement method to achieve the originally agreed specified goals of efficiency and cost.

**The IRIS Scheme**

The IRIS scheme is an ongoing classic case in point. Costs keep escalating. It will never be an "All Island" sewerage system as originally 'sold' to the Nation. The concept of pumping out the drains from one end of the island to the other was always a highly doubtful scheme to put it at its politest.

**The Incinerator**

The "Energy from Waste" plant, known to you and I as an incinerator, was another major capital expenditure fiasco. Government talk now is that it might not be large enough. Reliance on consultancy has to be matched by responsibility from the professionals. Not bail out time by the taxpayer.

If you are not able to vote on the day, I would be pleased to help you to arrange a postal vote or proxy vote, please contact me on 898073 to help arrange this.