

Manx solutions to Manx problems

This has been my mantra for the last two general elections and after each election I watch new laws and statutes appearing in the Isle of Man that are unsuitable in many cases, addressing problems that simply do not exist here.

Before the last election the UK justice committee on Crown dependency reported they had found undue interference with our affairs. To quote, "It is the informality of this process together with these rather broad responses which leads us to suspect that the UK government does indeed influence island legislation at policy level. This seems a rather paternalistic approach to island legislation."

So just what is happening? It seems to me in many cases our ministers or members have lost the will, or maybe lack the ability, to produce legislation and regulation appropriate to our island.

Unfortunately it is very easy to let so-called progress from Europe and the UK wash over us: it is a lot harder conceiving new legislation and drafting it on island.



We are an independent country with more independence than Scotland where they are flexing their muscles. We should simply on occasions turn around and say NO when the UK or Europe try to impose inappropriate regulation or legislation.

In addition to this, elected politicians would do well to interfere less in

the minutiae and concentrate more on policy and strategy. Local matters should be dealt with by the local Commissioners where possible, that's not to say I might be the initial point of contact or a facilitator at Government level.

We must as a matter of priority have better representation in the UK and improve our lobbying ability in Europe. Also co-operating with other dependencies like the Channel Isles and Gibraltar (who by all accounts are doing well at present economically), will help give us new ideas and new solutions.

Trust me and I will endeavour to solve some of these problems. I've seen it from both sides of the fence and frequently it seems to me that we react after the event, rather than being proactive and using contacts who have prior notice or, better still, educate and nip problems in the bud.

Voting — your vote really counts

The By-election takes place on 10th September. You will be sent a polling card by post in the next few weeks. Your polling station is shown on that card and will be open between 8:00am and 8:00pm. You will only have one vote so please make it count.

If you are going to be absent or unable to vote please ring me on 801027 and I will be happy to bring you an Absent Voter's application form or alternatively you can get one from the Cabinet Office website (www.gov.im/cso/election). If you don't receive a polling card but are on the electoral roll you can still vote. You can check with me or simply go to your local polling station and ask them to check the electoral roll on the day.

Time for positive action. Manx solutions to Manx problems

A Manifesto for Positive Action



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By-election—10th September 2015

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A short concise overview of my positive vision

Full employment with more private sector jobs replacing those in the public sector.

Opportunities for young people.

Proper local engagement: letters, consultation, face-to-face surgeries, working with the Local Commissioners.

Economy

- ◆ Encourage new interest and ideas that grow our economy which pays for all the good things we want, we need a larger tax base.

Health provision

- ◆ Support on-island health care and expertise wherever possible.
- ◆ Reduce waiting lists.
- ◆ Resist so-called efficiency savings that do not stack up.
- ◆ Ensure proper consultation before changes are made.

Education

- ◆ No to adopting UK education policy per se.
- ◆ Work with teachers to provide a system that addresses our present and future requirements and aspirations, not those of a distant UK government. Pre school where possible.

Policing

- ◆ Ensure proper manning levels so that we don't slip into the UK Laissez-faire attitude to minor crime.

Immigration

- ◆ Continue protection for the island workforce without inhibiting economic growth, using the present work permit legislation. Benefits restricted to those that have worked for them.

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Housing provision

- ◆ A fairer planning system with more democracy and transparency, particularly at local level.
- ◆ Address local needs with particular emphasis on affordable housing and provision for older people.

Government

- ◆ Stop regulation and legislation creep from the UK or EU.
- ◆ More independence.
- ◆ Support changes made in rationalisation of departments.
- ◆ More transparency.
- ◆ Limit or downsize the public sector. But no to mass redundancy.
- ◆ Control the impact of Health & Safety regulation.
- ◆ Use my UK political links to rebuild political contact with the UK.

Agricultural

- ◆ Work with farmers to bring back some reality and certainty to the system that will enable young people to continue farming, preserve our landscape and provide viability for our meat processing facilities.

Environment

- ◆ A planning policy that reflects our population's requirements and aspirations.
- ◆ Support green initiatives where they bring real benefits and not perceptions to the Isle of Man.

Future government expenditure

- ◆ Pay close attention to and scrutinise large capital projects better. We simply cannot afford to go on making the mistakes of the past.
- ◆ A fair tax system that sustains all.
- ◆ Press for a proper appraisal of what impact leaving the present VAT agreement with the UK would have. Then make appropriate decisions as to various degrees of independence.

Transport and/or roads

- ◆ Get our local roads repaired.
- ◆ Review and promote road safety and appropriate traffic calming and speed limits where necessary.
- ◆ Work with public transport to ensure timetables and destinations accord with people's needs.
- ◆ Be tougher on fuel prices, find out why we pay more.

Your Views Count

Tourism

- ◆ Support better promotion of the Isle of Man as a tourist destination — we have a good story to tell.
- ◆ Transport to the island: I am against a monopoly in either sea or air transport. We need to carefully examine and have control over future user agreements.

Government reform

- ◆ At local government level once again consult, and think very carefully about, any proposed changes or amalgamation that will simply lead to a larger bureaucracy and more expense for ratepayers.

Constitutional reform

- ◆ Support changes and make the Legislative Council more accountable and change the electoral process.

Broadcast Media

- ◆ It seems strange to me that the Channel Isles have far better TV coverage than us. We barely get a mention on BBC or ITV, its time we took the BBC to task either to cut the license fee or fund proper island coverage. We should encourage local internet TV and its promotion.

Local issues

- ◆ I think its imperative that MHK's stay in contact with their electorate and I will maintain a website, Facebook page, send out regular newsletters and be available for face to face consultation.

The Local Community

People feel frustrated that no one you. Not only will I consult regularly listens, particularly so when you need and keep you posted with my website advice or help. This can occur blog and newsletter but if there is through serious illness, accident, demand I will hold face to face family unrest, financial problems, surgeries to discuss problems. employment problems, housing I think it is beholden upon your difficulties, planning problems. When MHK to keep you informed so that these things happen you need to you don't learn about things that are know that you can get help and happening just through the advice. newspapers or second hand. You

I pledge to you that if such should be able to talk and correspond problems do arise I will be there for with your elected member.

Yours views Count