

About me

I was born on the island and brought up in East Douglas, I am a single homeowner.

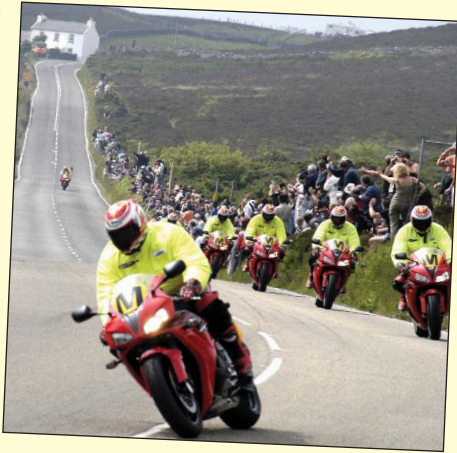
I was educated at Douglas High School and the IoM College.

I have worked in the motor trade all of my life and have set up and run franchised dealerships both on and off the Island. Starting as an apprentice technician and progressing to Director and General Management roles within Lex Group PLC in Essex and Corkills Isle of Man and UK. The training given to me was to degree level and sponsored by manufacturers such as Porsche, Jaguar, Audi and Volkswagen. I am a Fellow of the Institute of the Motor Industry and past Chairman of the Retail Motor Industry Federation Isle of Man Branch.

I have a wealth of experience in all aspects of running a medium sized busy and diverse business, including staff motivation and recruitment, financial planning, achieving targets, customer satisfaction and facilities planning.

I am experienced and comfortable communicating at all levels.

My main interest is motor sport, I have competed in the TT and MGP and spent twelve years acting as a TT/MGP Travelling Marshall until I suffered an accident and sustained significant injuries forcing my retirement. I also enjoyed the preparation of Historic Rally Cars which proved competitive. I am now a race controller for the TT and MGP, I am Chairman of the MGP Riders Association and Vice Chairman of the Isle of Man ACU Centre. I am also a director of the Manx Motor Cycle Club, organisers of the Manx Grand Prix and Classic TT. I am Chairman of the 1st Douglas Scout Group and a Lay member of the Island Scout Association Executive.



John Caley McBride

For Douglas East The Island's Gateway

House of Keys By-Election

Thursday, 12th November 2015

If you require transport on polling day please call

493859

Or email john.mcbride@manx.net

My promise to the constituents of East Douglas

- If elected I will stand up and do my utmost to deliver what I say that I will do.
- I will use all of my knowledge and experience for the benefit of all constituents.
- I will take responsibility and be accountable for my actions.
- I will treat all constituents and colleagues with respect.
- I will stand up and fight injustice wherever I find it.
- I will work with other MHK's to ensure a bright future for our Island.

My Key objectives

- Fair taxation.
- Growth of the economy as a priority.
- The provision of a world class health service.
- The care and respect of our Senior Citizens.
- To help disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our society.
- The provision of meaningful and well paid employment opportunities for all.
- To protect our Manx Heritage and our way of life.

Dear East Douglas Voter,

On the 12th of November, you will be asked to choose a new Member of the House of Keys to replace your long standing representative Brenda Camell who has sadly retired.

The person you elect at this by-election will only hold the post for less than one year before the next General Election in 2016. Although this is a very short period in political life, it is important that East Douglas is represented during a time when many important Island issues will be decided.

I offer myself to you for election as your representative for the next year and beyond.

If elected, you will find me to be a man of my word and not afraid to speak out about issues which are important to you and the Isle of Man in general.

I am currently recovering from an operation and I will be on crutches for a few weeks. This may mean that I am unable to get around to every household in East Douglas.

However, if you wish to ask me anything at all, please feel free to call me on 493859 or email me on john.mcbride manx.net

I do hope that I do get to meet you, and thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto.

John

Senior Citizens

Claims have been made by government which suggest that the Island's ageing population is the biggest threat to our future prosperity. This conclusion is reached by adapting UK statistics to our own census figures. How can we plan our future care requirements based upon 'made up' statistics? We need to carry out a proper analysis of the island's ageing population to determine who actually needs care, pensions etc and not be reliant upon UK statistics. These are heavily distorted by post industrial disease and urban problems. There are many over 65 year olds on the island who are self reliant, in work and healthy. The fact is that the level of chronically sick and those not feeling so well is realistically lower than UK statistics suggest. When we have a clear picture we need to prioritise care for those who need it. Senior citizens are far from a problem, many of them have saved and worked hard to make the Island the success it became and have certainly earned their place in society. We owe it to them to ensure that they benefit from the best that we can provide. We need to restore travel and TV licence concessions, ensure that pensions are linked to inflation and an elderly person's tax allowances are adequate to help them take care of themselves. We need to make better use of the experience of our Senior Citizens and encourage more of them into voluntary work to benefit the island.

Cost of Living

The island has become a high cost area in terms of energy and heating costs, food pricing, housing, transport and leisure costs. Much of this is due to the small size of our market but is also due to the monopolies enjoyed by certain service providers. I believe that we need a pricing commission, independent of connections with monopoly organisations. Some of these have their monopolies granted by government and yet pay no or limited tax on their profits. The regulatory body should allow a certain level of profit for reinvestment but limit dividends to shareholders. As it currently stands, government is paying benefits to some employees to allow these operators to make profits.

Opportunities

I believe that we have to look at every opportunity with an open mind, including some which we may have visited before. Times have changed and what may not have been right for us ten or twenty years ago, may be absolutely right for us today.



Education

I believe that we have one of the best education systems in the British Isles, I would however like to see us move away from the UK National Curriculum and be able to offer the levels of education commensurate with the old Grammar School and current Prep School systems. I believe teachers are there to teach, not to do countless hours of administration. I would also like to see more higher education facilities established on the island, capable of providing degree level courses which would attract students from the UK and beyond. Young people are the future of our island and deserve the best education that we can afford.

Security and Policing

Our Police force needs strengthening. They are reeling after budget cuts have reduced their numbers significantly. I believe that more community and Special Constables could be a good way of lightening the load on the existing force whilst giving people an opportunity to serve the community in a practical way.

I believe that we are entitled to know who is coming and going from our Island and welcome the idea of airport style identity checks to confirm that passenger lists at the harbour. I don't believe that this is an infringement of human rights but I do believe that it should ensure that we are able to assist the police in the prevention or investigation of future criminal activity on the Island.

Kaizen and Business Principles

The Japanese Toyota company created Kaizen, the art of continuous improvement by involving all employees in analysing how their job works and empowering them to change. It has since been adopted worldwide by successful organisations. I believe that if we adopted this one principle in government, we would all benefit.



Economy and Employment

This is the single most important issue facing government today. Without a strong economy we will be unable to afford to provide the services which we have now, let alone improve them. It has been touted that we need another 20,000 residents to make our economy viable and whilst agreeing with this to an extent, I would revise that statement to say that we need another 20,000 taxpayers, economically active members of the community. In order to achieve this we need meaningful, well funded jobs and employment opportunities. I know the government recognise this fact but I feel that we are still a long way from being able to provide anywhere near that level of employment. It is a fact, however that for each productive job created, there is an increase in demand for jobs to service that job holder.

I believe that we have to maximise and expand our opportunities in areas such as tourism, Manx produced goods for export, business administration for off Island companies, light specialised, high quality manufacturing and of course IT and communications.

We need East Douglas to be able to offer vibrant recreational and retail opportunities for residents and visitors alike. This is the Island's gateway and probably its most important constituency. I welcome the Promenade regeneration scheme but question the cost and the length of time that the scheme is scheduled to take to complete. We also need to ensure that there is adequate parking provision to compensate for lost space and to enable deliveries and drop off to businesses.

I am convinced that we do not make the best use of what our Island has to offer and would advocate a 'joined up' approach to marketing ourselves to the outside world.

I feel that it is of key importance to secure our vital sea and air routes, provide agreements which ensure long term, low cost, high quality services to encourage both tourism and business and ease of travel for residents.

We also need to address the high operational costs to businesses on the island. Electricity and gas charges alone disadvantage most employers and when added to the high cost of premises, transport and travel costs we are simply uncompetitive compared with most UK jurisdictions which provide competitive incentives to set up in their location.

We often hear of interested companies who never actually move to the island, but do we ever ask them why they didn't follow through, and do we ever try to do anything to address the reasons? I would suggest that the answer to that question is no!



The Manx way of life

The Manx quality of life is very important to me as I am sure it is to you. With the downturn in the economy in recent years, we have been forced to accept over bureaucratic legislation imposed upon us from the UK and Europe. The VAT sharing agreement debacle



resulted in us losing huge portion of our tax revenue overnight. We really must stand up for ourselves against these impositions whilst recognising that we do now live in a global market place. The fact that we are not in the European Union nor part of the UK, and benefiting from EU or UK handouts, should mean that we are free to self determination and tailoring Manx solutions to Manx challenges.

Scope and Size of Government

The government need to revisit their own report on this subject and get out of areas such as Heritage Railways, which in my view would be better run by a properly organised and funded enthusiasts group. Of course we need to maintain a level of service and there will always be a cost in these areas but my belief is that government should only be involved in the areas which provide essential services. They should buy in expertise in other areas as and when it is needed.

I believe that partnerships with private operators are the best way to go forward. We need to appreciate the work of volunteer groups who are always more passionate and knowledgeable about what they are doing. It seems that our government does not value anything unless it is paying for it!

I believe that we need to reform the Legislative Council to become a publicly elected body from candidates pre selected by Tynwald for their experience from varied walks of life. The current system which ensures long serving MHK's are given a seat by their friends is not acceptable

We need to be working towards a smaller, smarter Government for our island.

Equal Opportunities and Fairness

The Island has a diverse population but not everyone is born equal or has equal opportunities. It is vital on the Isle of Man that we all work together to ensure that nobody is forgotten or pushed to one side. To this end we must ensure that we maintain a supply of affordable housing for the young and elderly, that we are able to provide meaningful well paid employment opportunities for all and that our social care provision for the sick, elderly and disabled is more than just adequate.

Taxation

We have built our economy around low taxation for both individuals and business. This has served us well during the boom times but I believe that we need to look at our strategy for the twenty first century. There are many businesses operating on the island which pay little or no tax whatsoever despite substantial profits. We rely solely upon them paying their staff a living wage in order to collect personal income tax from them as individuals. In some cases these businesses pay insufficient wages and some of those individuals, far from paying income tax, are claiming income support in order to survive. We have to recognise that without taxation, we have no income and no money to provide services and grow our economy. I believe that those businesses which rely on paying low wages should be taxed on their profits or given practical assistance to review their employment structures. It doesn't make sense for businesses to benefit from low salaries and no taxation, this costs us all.

Without tax income, we can't afford any of the things which make our island tick, to this end we need to grow our economy and increase our tax base but ensure that we retain fairness in our tax system.

Long Term Plan

It seems that we have plans for everything such as the Douglas Masterplan, the Braddan Plan etc, but we don't appear to have a long term economic plan other than to grow the economy! I believe that we urgently need a clear long term plan with short and medium term objectives and clear Key Performance Indicators to let the population know our objectives and see how we are performing.

Health Services

I have been a beneficiary of the superb skills and commitment of the staff of our health service. I owe my life to the staff at Nobles Hospital for their diagnosis and fast actions following an accident sustained during TT 2009 whilst carrying out my duties as a Travelling Marshal.

During the latter stages of my recovery, the health service staff taught me to walk again and cope with life in general.

However it is still sad to note that some people struggle to get convenient timely appointments to see their family doctor. Others are on waiting lists of more than three years to see a specialist at Noble's Hospital. The quality and timeliness of treatment is affected by the workloads which the dedicated staff are expected to handle, which can lead to serious incidents with unfortunate outcomes. This has to be addressed, even if this means that we have to send more patients to the mainland or fly in consultants in order to reduce waiting times. We must ensure that we guarantee a level of service to the Island commensurate with the cost and quality of the new Nobles Hospital. We need to reassess what we believe Nobles Hospital should be doing for us and create a new sustainable model.

Funding our health service is of critical importance and we need to look at all options open to us, failure in this is not an option.