

House of Key's Elections – 23rd November 2006 – Candidate for Middle

ANDREW JESSOPP BSc (Hons)

Dear Voter,

The first thing I did before I sat down to write to you was to read my previous manifesto. What struck me was how few of my concerns have actually been addressed by the outgoing House of Keys.

Sadly, in the last 5 years, our Government has made very little progress in strengthening the democratic process. In fact I would say that this Government has put it back by years. Its lack of accountability has undermined the foundations of political representation.

Neither has it made a significant improvement to the lives of many ordinary residents. It has overseen a massive decline in the public's faith - faith that the Government is really committed to delivering a 'prosperous and caring society'. I would suggest it is more a case of "prosperous for some - and we only really care about them".

I believe that everybody should share in the Island's prosperity - and have a vested interest in ensuring that it remains economically successful. Increasing the number of home owners is one method.

I support low personal taxes as an incentive for wealth creation – yet, no one wants a society obsessed by wealth. I believe that we all have a duty to protect the 'quality-of-life' of future generations - by not destroying the environment in our pursuit of an ever higher standard of living.

I believe that too many MHK's claim they "represent the views of their electorate" in Tynwald. But the reality is that, once elected, it is unusual for a member not to become a fully paid-up member of the 'Club'. There is an extra £10,245 per year available for joining the Government and a further £3,415 p.a. on top for a Board Chairman. They claim they are working for you from within the system. In truth they should say, "We are not really doing much and, because we are doing it behind closed doors, you will not know that – so we can get away with it!"

The Island needs politicians that will work for the good of **all** of our community. It needs politicians that will not be seduced by money, power or self-interest.

It is vital that you use your vote – as apathy is the 'saviour' of a poor Government.

I am **no** 'yes' man - unlike so many of the politicians we have in the Keys.

I have demonstrated over many years, not least in the last 2 ½ years as a Commissioner, that I have the determination, the guts and the staying power to remain true to my beliefs and principles.

If you believe that I am the candidate that **will** make a difference and **will** work hardest in your best interest than please vote for me on Thursday 23rd November.

Andrew Jessopp

The candidate who cares for the community, the environment and can make a difference

In the space available I have addressed many of the issues that are of concern to Middle residents. If, there is an issue with which you have a concern, and it is not covered here, please contact me. I will be more than happy to discuss the matter with you. More information is also available at www.manxradio.com www.iomelections.com and www.iomonline.co.im

**CONSTITUTIONAL/DEMOCRATIC ISSUES AND THE SCOPE AND
STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT**

I endorse the Positive Action Group's Charter. This calls for significant changes to the political structure of Tynwald - including 'safeguards' to protect the public interest. A copy of the Charter is included with this manifesto.

However, other issues, not covered by the Charter, need to be addressed by the next House of Keys.

I am not convinced that we need 33 members of Tynwald or a tricameral system.

We need a national Parliament concentrating on national and international issues, not on whether people have a right to walk past Jeremy Clarkson's window. Many issues debated by Tynwald are for local authorities to resolve.

I agree with many of the recommendations of the Report on the Scope and Structure of Government. However, any proposals that emerge must be subject to public consultation.

We need to equalize our political representation. It is unfair that Middle residents receive only one vote, and one representative in Keys, whereas other residents have two or even three.

I question whether our elected representatives are truly representing the electorate or their own self-interest - and an influential minority. I question whether a Parliament, in which every member is a member of Government, can genuinely scrutinize Government activities - and hold the executive accountable.

It concerns me that a large section of the public are fed up with the mismanagement of public finances. They have lost confidence in the integrity of the political process and some individual politicians. They doubt the ability of our current politicians to get us out of the mess they have got us into over the Manx Electricity Authority debts etc. There is also a widespread perception of 'corruption' within our Government.

My view is that the Council of Ministers' system, and 'Consensus Government', coupled with a tame media, has stifled rigorous debate. It has led to a rather cosy and complacent Parliament - where there is a failure to resign, or to sack those responsible, for serious mistakes.

So I was struck by a recent article, in the Daily Telegraph. A former employee, and whistleblower, of the infamous Enron company has established the Integrity Institute which plans to introduce a 'kitemark' for corporate cleanliness.

Political groups, like the Positive Action Group, have a valuable role to play in the Island's political process. They raise awareness of issues, provide a platform for the public to express their views, and offer a wealth of experience and ideas for our politicians to tap into.

The advantage they offer over a political party is that they are not constrained by dogmatic political beliefs. This means PAG members can more readily consider matters on their merits. PAG members are able to speak out, and vote, freely.

The problem with political parties - think New Labour/Old Tory - is that they become more concerned with the issues of leadership, and personalities - less with the policies and the representation of the people who elected them.

If elected, I shall support or initiate:

- **Legislation for the reorganization of national and local government responsibilities**
- **Legislation for the equalization of Key's representation**
- **Proper Parliamentary scrutiny of proposed Government policies and expenditure**
- **A policy that all Government Departments, Boards and Local Authorities be subjected to intense scrutiny to make sure they would pass a test of integrity! Any found wanting - and I will be calling for the appropriate action to be taken!**

NATIONAL STRATEGIC ISSUES

Where is the Island heading - is it in the direction that most residents want?

Many residents worry that the Island is fast becoming a mini-version of England - and of importing many of that country's problems.

This is not what the vast majority of Manx people and new residents wish of this very special island.

The Island's good quality of life is founded on a relatively unspoilt environment and a small, but productive, community. This community has generally lived together in peace and harmony – so why then jeopardize this situation?

The current 'open-door' policy is unsustainable and brings with it the risk of future community conflict.

I share the view that Manx is a nation and not a brand - and we must protect its unique identity.

We need a procedure that ensures that new residents will be an asset and not a liability. We need to control the entry and length of stay of any visitors/workers. A pointing procedure and work visas are options and, if necessary, further powers to remove and exclude those that abuse the privilege of living here.

Too often our current MHK's choose the easy option rather than look for the best option. We must strive to provide the best services and be prepared to reject the adequate service we often receive. The best is nothing less than we deserve considering the amount of money and resources we have invested and still have at our disposal.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **The introduction, as a priority, of legislation to control who is coming to live and work in the Island**
- **The policies required for the protection of the Island's special identity and environment**
- **A policy for the setting of higher standards for our public services**

European Union

I am a member of the Manx E U Realists Group and view the EU with great suspicion.

One of the attractions of the Isle of Man is that it is not part of the EU. I doubt whether many Middle voters wish to live in a European Super State - which is widely regarded as governed by a largely unelected, unaccountable and corrupt bureaucracy.

Unfortunately, the Island is slowly being sucked into the EU and we are now governed more by Brussels than Tynwald - with secondary legislation and regulations being introduced in response to EU activity. If we adopt the Euro then we may as well join because, bar all but name, we will be in 'Europe'.

Do you wish to sacrifice our 'Independence' or rather retain control over the way we live?

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **A policy to negotiate new trade agreements/partnerships**
- **Stronger relationships with the likes of Norway, with whom we share many historic ties**
- **Scrutiny of EU legislation to see how it may impact on the IOM**

Economy & Industry

So the Island's economy has recorded growth for 21 years and GDP per head of population now exceeds that of the UK.

This is welcome but, considering the low level the economy started from, it would have been difficult not to see an improvement.

However, we are still behind Ireland, and a long way behind Luxembourg.

We cannot afford to be complacent and must do more to prepare ourselves in case of a major contraction in our economy. You do not need to be an accountant to realise that if your income falls, and your expenditure exceeds your income, you get into debt and ultimately you go broke!

The spend-it-or-lose-it budget system is clearly counter-productive to the delivery of cost effective and value-for-money public services.

It is essential that we attract high income generating businesses, which can be serviced by the existing pool of people on the Island, or a very small number of new residents.

Any new business to the Island must be beneficial to the economy and our image. Businesses such as e-gambling may not be.

A low tax strategy does carry with it a certain amount of risk - as the Channel Islands have found out – some say it is unsustainable.

The Government must make sure the risks are properly debated. If the Government needs to consider raising revenue in new ways then this has to be done openly and honestly.

Traditional industries, such as tourism and agriculture, are still important to the Island's economy. With safety a growing concern of tourists on foreign holidays, the Isle of Man must capitalize on this opportunity. The quality, and availability, of accommodation and attractions must improve.

Specialist manufacturing and construction are also a valuable part of the economy. We need these sectors to retain a good mix of businesses and skills on the Island. I have extensive professional experience of this sector and it is one that is not properly represented in Tynwald.

We are over-reliant on a boat laden with food, and supplies, arriving each morning from England. We need to keep Manx farmers farming and fisherman fishing as the boat may not always arrive!

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **A new budget system that encourages Government employees to save money - which does not penalize the department at the same time**
- **The establishment of Research and Development and other 'high-tech' companies**
- **A policy incorporating a cost/benefit analysis of new businesses – which should include environmental and image criteria**
- **A procedure that offers better financial protection for sub-contractors and suppliers**
- **The formation of a Monopolies Commission - there is currently insufficient consumer protection in respect of ferry, telecom, and gas services**
- **Initiatives that reduce our reliance on imports**

Infrastructure

Nobody can deny that the Island's infrastructure needed improving.

However, it is entirely appropriate to question whether taxpayers have received value for money from the major capital programmes. I doubt that we have.

Lessons must be learned from the extravagant mistakes made on the meat plant, incinerator, hospital, IRIS, MEA, and Wedding Cake building.

We must ensure that future projects are appropriately scaled, and affordable, for a small community that may not always have money to squander.

We must also differentiate between the necessity and desirability of projects. Government must also accept that the model of 'predict and provide' is no longer appropriate and should embrace the 'demand-side management' model.

We all want to have additional or enhanced community facilities but they must be sustainable. However, the projected cost, to the Braddan ratepayers, of the original proposed development, at the Strang, of £5 million, was absurd. A more realistic proposal is now being developed in conjunction with the DHSS.

I am concerned that some of the new infrastructure was, apparently, only designed to cope with a population of 85,000 people. Despite what the official population figures state, we may already have 85,000, or more, people on the Island.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **Close examination of any proposed new, extensions or amendments to existing capital schemes, e.g. IRIS, to make sure they are necessary, appropriate and viable**
- **A comprehensive review of the strategic planning for population and infrastructure – especially as it would appear the Council of Ministers got its projections wrong - again!**
- **Rigorous scrutiny, and independent audit ,of expenditure on capital projects**
- **Improved community facilities in Middle**

Energy Costs and Sustainable Development

The problems we face are price volatility, due to external factors, the excessive costs of providing natural gas to the Island - and the new electricity generating infrastructure.

Tynwald, and the retiring MHK's, are ultimately responsible for the mess we are in. Had they properly scrutinized the MEA this mess could have been avoided.

Why the MEA thought they could reduce the cost of energy, when the electricity consumer would be paying for this entire infrastructure, defeats me. Those, who approved the additional borrowing and expenditure, should be held responsible if their actions were *ultra vires*.

I warned the current, and previous, Government that their energy policy was flawed. The notion that the Island, by building new power stations, would have its own independent electricity generating capacity was ludicrous when the Island has no oil or gas wells! The MEA should have been investing in renewable technologies such as wind, wave, tidal, geothermal and solar.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **Improved fuel payments to those most vulnerable to the cold so that they can afford to keep themselves warm and alive!**
- **A policy that all new houses are required to have, as a minimum, a passive solar hot water heating system**
- **Improved grants for the purchase and installation of 'green' energy systems in new and existing houses**
- **A change to planning regulations to allow certain green energy installations to be carried out as permitted development**

Fishing, Farming and Food Production

There is no guarantee that a boat will arrive every morning to keep us supplied with food.

It is difficult to argue that cheap imports should be denied to residents. However, what would happen if there was disruption to the supply chain - from terrorism, flu pandemic, or transport fuel shortages?

To avoid empty shelves, it is essential that we retain a viable fishing and farming industry - which is financially attractive for people to remain in, or join.

It must be done without involving vast amounts of taxpayers' money.

The sale of old farm buildings to allow investment in new modern facilities is an option.

The better farming land needs to be protected from development. It makes no sense to concrete over productive farmland when there is alternative land available.

More value is needed from the basic products our fishermen and farmers produce. Branding basic commodities as quality is not sufficient when so are many other producers.

Even if we do not like it, we are living in a consumer/supermarket driven age. The reality is that our busy lifestyles mean we often resort to ready meals.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **A policy of self-sufficiency and sustainability - in order to protect ourselves from external events over which we have limited control**

- **A beneficial planning policy to enable farmers to sell off old farm buildings for redevelopment**
- **The renegotiation of existing trading agreements – e.g. the meat derogation**
- **A policy to promote investment in production facilities - to combine Manx meat, fish, vegetables and dairy produce into high quality ready meals**

Environmental Issues – Climate Change & Sustainable Development

My environmental campaigning record speaks for itself.

I have constantly lobbied the DLGE to improve the regulation of potential harmful discharges into the environment.

I have regularly chided the Department for weak enforcement of planning and licence conditions at the incinerator and elsewhere.

The Minister for the DLGE has stated, in a response to a written Tynwald Question (TQ95 October 2006), that my removal from the RHCC, the body which monitors the incinerator, by my fellow Braddan Parish Commissioners “was a disservice to the people of Braddan and the general public of the Island”.

Climate change will affect the IOM as much as any other part of the globe. I take the issue very seriously and I have participated in several conferences and seminars held on the Island.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **The formation of an independent Environment Agency**
- **A policy for the incorporation of Agenda 21 principles into future Government planning**
- **A policy for planning how the likely adverse impacts, and potential costs, of climate change can be minimized**

Community Pride

Notable for its absence from the Government Plan is a comment on the general appearance and ambiance of the Island. For such an important issue – “how do visitors view the island” – it is somewhat surprising.

The Government, with its trite branding project, projects the image of a successful, wealthy nation. But, the reality is that for many areas that success and wealth has yet to touch them - and give the appearance of dereliction and decay.

A Council of Ministers’ sub-committee has, since my becoming a representative on the working party, been charged with responsibility to address this issue. However, we must **all** play a part if the initiative is to have a positive impact on the Island’s appearance.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **A policy to extend greater importance and resources to tidying up the Island**

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Law, Order and the Police

The police consider themselves low down in the order of priorities for government funding.

This is amazing when it is clearly a high priority for the public.

Many people I speak to are concerned that public safety is declining, particularly in the towns, and they worry crime and anti-social behaviour will spread into the more rural areas of Middle. They want the decline stopped and more effort and resources put into crime prevention.

Savings can be made across Government to help fund an expansion in the Force.

The costly new prison should be reserved for offenders who present a threat to the safety of the community. Sending people to prison is an admission that we have failed to address the issues relating to why people offend.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- A policy to recruit additional policemen
- A policy to train more ‘sniffer’ dogs
- A policy to recruit more ‘Specials’ and pay them an annual ‘bounty’ for their public service
- Policies to prevent people offending
- Alternative punishments to prison for offenders that are neither dangerous nor habitual criminals
- The establishment of an independent Police Complaints Authority.

Health Services

Health Services have come under intense scrutiny in the last few months - with at least two reports identifying weaknesses in the management and provision of health care on the Island.

One report identifies that there is “commitment to providing an excellent healthcare service” - and for the amount of money we have invested, and continue to invest annually, we should accept no less.

It is unfortunate that, in many respects, we have an ‘illness service’ rather than a health service. If we had fitter, healthier citizens we would then have more resources to treat those that had no choice in their condition. However, positive steps are at last being taken in health promotion.

I am committed to seeking to address the serious problems facing the health service.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **A reasonable timescale for the DHSS to demonstrate an improvement in waiting times, clinical outcomes, and infection prevention etc - albeit requiring regular public reports on progress so they have no opportunity to become complacent**
- **Health promotion policies**

Education

Education is the key to building the type of community that we would all like on this Island – confident, self-reliant, law abiding, prosperous, respectful and considerate to others.

However, too many young people are leaving school without the necessary skills and/or qualifications to make their way in society. When less than 100% of the community appreciate the value of education it will take some time to address this problem.

We must create an environment where children want to go to school and learn - rather than one in which some cannot wait to leave. Everybody should be leaving school knowing how to read, write, do basic maths and be able to speak properly.

Schools need to be fully resourced and staffed with the best teachers. There is no excuse for failing schools.

The International Business School is apparently haemorrhaging money from the Department of Education, particularly from the budget for the IOM College.

Adequate funding is required to ensure that residents wishing to improve their education and skills, which will benefit the Island, are not inhibited by financial restraints. We want the best public services and we want them to be run by local people - who have gained their positions on merit - so we must ensure they are suitably qualified and experienced.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- A policy for learning through practical activities in the early years and teaching life and vocational skills – rather than teaching to pass tests
- A Motion to close down the IBS if it can not be very quickly turned around financially

Local Authorities & Rates

I remain committed to having more local services controlled by local people - but my time as a Braddan Commissioner has convinced me, more than ever, of the need for local government restructuring.

The review should include the scope, the method of funding services and the political structure.

Accountability should be the norm – not the exception. I take little pleasure that my own stance, in pursuing the interests of Braddan ratepayers, has been vindicated.

Tynwald recently unanimously backed action by the Auditors and the DLGE against Braddan Commissioners - and to set up a Tynwald Select Committee, to investigate matters relating to the withdrawal of the draft Braddan Plan. Sadly, this might have been avoided if others had followed my advice.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **Proposals for the restructuring of local government and funding**
- **A policy that, once approved by Tynwald, proposals for reform be put to the people in a referendum**

Planning, Housing and Sustainable Development

It is a scandal that, on at least one occasion, Government has in effect allowed a development company to dictate planning policy.

Government needs to regain control to improve the availability of affordable homes.

Housing, commercial development and redevelopment must be subjected to stringent sustainable development principles. It is not acceptable to write “towards a sustainable island” on the front cover of the Strategic Plan if the policies inside have little substance to justify the statement – the current position!

I was an interested party at the Strategic Plan Public Inquiry and several of my submissions, to modify the draft, were accepted by the DLGE and independent inspector.

I argued that all developments should be appropriate for the size of the community and preferably located to stimulate the economy in the peripheral areas of the Island. This should prevent an ever increasing mass of commuters on Middle’s unsuitable rural roads.

Even though some planning decisions are announced in public, the public still lacks confidence in the integrity of certain decisions.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **Policies on self-build, ‘free’ building plots, shared ownership, a ‘right-to-buy’ - including a share in local authority housing**
- **Innovative ways of funding these initiatives**
- **An annual audit of planning decisions to ensure that they were fair and consistent**
- **A policy for building ‘better communities’**

Young people

The vast majority of young people are a credit to their parents, and this Island, and deserve recognition of this fact.

We must ensure that they have a happy and fulfilling childhood and are properly equipped to meet life's challenges. They deserve to have a wide range of employment opportunities available on the Island – although gaining life and work experience elsewhere should not be discouraged.

I regularly hear the statement “there is nothing to do”. This annoys me because there are lots of things for young people to do - some provided at great expense by the rate/tax payer, others by commercial operators and many by voluntary groups and organisations.

I accept that some of these activities are not always readily accessible or affordable to all residents - and that we must address these shortcomings. Even so, no matter what the community provides, a small proportion will still find their own way of entertaining themselves.

Early intervention, and investment, in young peoples' lives is almost certainly cheaper than dealing with the product of anti-social, or criminal behaviour - the building, and running, of secure care homes and prisons.

The Commission of Inquiry into the Care of Young People has made copious recommendations and they need to be implemented.

Braddan and Marown Commissioners have worked hard to provide playgrounds for younger children and activity areas for the older ones. Braddan are actively pursuing a new community facility at the Strang - and I am sure Marown have similar ambitions.

An ice-rink, and minimoto/karting tracks etc, although desirable, require a good business case to demonstrate that they represent a worthwhile investment.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **A policy to improve the accessibility to, and affordability of, sport, leisure and recreational facilities**
- **Well prepared and costed proposals to provide further facilities for young people**
- **Involvement of young people in the consultation and decision making process**
- **The creation of a 'Boot Camp' for our really 'bad lads and lasses'**

Pensions/Benefits System

People who have worked hard all their life deserve a comfortable retirement and should not struggle to survive.

We need to rethink how we plan for retirement - and how we pay for it.

Public sector pensions are a major financial problem and no matter how difficult and contentious the subject, the next Government must not duck the issue. It must work out how we are going to fund the liability - estimated to be in excess of £1billion - for the current scheme for members' pensions, without crippling future taxpayers. We must also decide on a replacement for the current scheme.

Some benefits are perceived to act as a disincentive for people to get a job, or to go back to work, and support themselves. Some people are missing out on benefits that are due to them. This may be true in a small number of cases.

If we improved the earning potential of those in the benefit system we could save a fortune. Benefits should be targeted at those really in need.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **A review of retirement pension schemes and funding**
- **Consultation on closing the current public sector pension scheme to new entrants**

- **A review of state benefits**

Care of the Elderly

The current system for providing care for the elderly is grossly unfair.

The issues and principles relating to this subject are complex - as are the responsibilities of individuals to provide for their old age, the family - if there are any relatives - and the state.

This needs to be fully debated by the community to see where, and in what proportion, they believe the responsibilities lie. This would need to include a cost-analysis, so that everybody can make an informed decision.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **A comprehensive review of care provision**

Traffic, Speed Limits and Sustainable Development

If everybody improved their driving skills, drove more considerately, and according to road conditions, there would be no need for speed limits.

Unfortunately, this is unlikely to happen soon – so measures are required to calm traffic down

However, I do not support an all-island speed limit as I believe it will divert resources and attention away from the real problems.

I wish we still had the railway to Peel. It may be desirable to restore it, if only to Union Mills, but it is unlikely to be a viable project - at the moment. More use should be made of the other railways, considering the recent investment made in the track.

Planning, and financial, measures should be used to create employment opportunities, recreational and leisure centres near to where people live in Peel and Ramsey etc - then we may see a significant reduction in traffic. It may also help rejuvenate the town centre in those places.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **A combination of hard engineering solutions, education, further regulations and enforcement with tougher penalties to improve road safety**
- **Initiatives to reduce the amount of trucks thundering along Middle's country roads**
- **Policies and investment to encourage commuters to use the existing rail network**
- **The completion and delivery of the long awaited Integrated Transport Strategy**
- **A Policy to persuade people to car share - even if it is only one day a week**
- **A Policy to persuade businesses to allow some of their staff to work at home more often**

Environmental issues/Archallagan

I am a founder member, and deputy chairman, of Zero Waste Mann, the recycling charity.

I am passionately committed to reducing the amount of 'waste' generated on the Island.

I gave evidence, as an opponent, at the incinerator, Archallagan landfill and Richmond Hill animal waste plant planning inquiries.

If elected, I will support or initiate:

- **The introduction of a kerbside collection of recyclable materials**
- **Alternative policies for the disposal of our 'waste'**

Andrew Jessopp BSc (Hons)

- **Married to Ann, a primary school assistant head teacher, we have three children – 1 boy and 2 girls aged 5, 15 & 18 years old respectively**
- **Age 47**
- **Born in Warwick, moved permanently to IOM in 1989**
- **Self-employed since 1993 now offering Public Relations, Marketing and environmental planning advice (DTI registered Business Support Service) mostly to manufacturing businesses**

- Educated at Dean Close School, Cheltenham.
- I achieved, as a ‘mature’ student, an Upper 2nd class honours degree in Geography (major) and Sports Studies (minor) (including combined science in 1st year) at St Martin’s College, Lancaster.
- After leaving school I undertook a variety of jobs, including voluntary youth work/outdoor pursuits instructor, whilst attempting to join the RAF as a pilot. Employers included General Motors, Cheltenham General Hospital and Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.
- In about 1980 I became involved in the ‘building services’ industry and I have remained involved ever since. This has included almost every aspect of the business from installing products, technical sales, customer service, market research and product development to business planning and book-keeping.
- During the period 1980 - 1993 I worked for several large and small companies, including Hormann, who claimed to be the world’s second largest manufacturer of steel doors. I ran my own garage door business for two years prior to selling up and moving to the IOM.
- During 1992/3 I was involved in the project to restore Port Soderick to tourist and leisure use (disgracefully now all boarded up and facing an uncertain future).
- I quit ‘sub-contracting’ in 1996 and following my first Petition of Grievance a new Construction Act was introduced (although it doesn’t entirely resolve some of the issues relating to the protection of sub-contractors and suppliers from non-payment of invoices by contractors and client companies).
- Since 1996 I have been involved in company administration/business start-ups, historic building research and various planning matters, but mostly PR and Marketing support for businesses manufacturing physical security products, roller doors and control equipment; which often includes giving advice on various EU Directives.
- I have also provided services to Douglas 2000/Douglas Development Partnership including a town centre ‘health check’, assisted with the Maritime Festival in 1994 and devised, researched and wrote the initial Maritime Heritage Trail around Douglas Harbour
- I researched, wrote and published the first comprehensive IOM Pub and Brewery Guide.
- I have participated in sport and outdoor activities all my life including 5 TT’s, 1 MGP, cycled across large parts of south west Europe, climbed mountains, run up hill and down dale, played club cricket, football, hockey and shooting, swum countless lengths of Castletown pool, and have encouraged and assisted many other people to participate in healthy activities or resist unhealthy activities, such as smoking, drug taking and excess alcohol consumption. For several years I was the Treasurer of the Milton Keynes & District Sports Council.
- In the 1980’s I served for 5 years as a Territorial Army infantry soldier.
- I have campaigned tirelessly to rid the IOM of the ‘corruption’ of the systems of government, improve environmental protection in the IOM and to protect the rural countryside from inappropriate mass build development.
- I have helped with the formation and/or run many ‘political’ lobby groups/associations including BADAIR (anti-incinerator), Tynwald *Watch*, Positive Action Group, and ABR.
- I am currently a member of Zero Waste Mann, Permaculture Association, CAMRA, CTC, TT/MGP Riders Association, TTSC, S100MCC, ILOC, MEURG, IOM Freethinkers and MROA.

Positive Action Group

PAG CHARTER

We BELIEVE that three "core principles" should apply to the system of Government in the Isle of Man from November 2006

- 1) *OPEN, ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT*
- 2) *RIGOROUS CONTROL OF PUBLIC FINANCES; and*
- 3) *A FAIRER SOCIETY FOR ALL*

Towards this end we RESOLVE that six steps be taken by November 2011 to implement "the core principles":

- i. The people to have the right to elect Members of the Legislative Council:
- before this is implemented, no MLC may become a Minister*
- ii. The number of Ministries to be reduced;*
- iii. The number of Departmental members to be reduced.
Those members whose position has been lost to be diverted to
backbench positions to provide proper scrutiny and to hold
government to account;*
- iv. An Independent Audit Commission to be set up
(as recommended by the Commission of Inquiry into Mount Murray);*
- v. An Independent Ombudsman scheme to be set up; and*
- vi. Tynwald to pass:-*
 - (a) A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT; and*
 - (b) A CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ACT; and*
 - (c) BRING INTO FORCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 2001*