

**Liberal Vannin  
Party Member**



**PERSONAL BACKGROUND  
AND LOCAL MANIFESTO**

*Bringing  
common sense  
back to politics  
and politics  
back to  
the people*



**Kate Beecroft**  
née Costain  
for **Middle**

## Background

I was born in 1953 and am the fourth of five children of Norman and Joan Costain, who lived at Ballafletcher, Tromode which was then a pig farm. I am proud to be Manx, which is just as well, because with a name like that I would have a hard time denying my heritage.

I am old enough to remember the Island in the days when tourism was the main industry and 'spuds and salt herring' formed a large part of the staple diet in the leaner winter months. I detested this meal, which was served every Wednesday night and had to be washed down by copious glasses of water. I would hate to see a return to those days but fear it could happen if our government do not start exercising basic good business practice and common sense.

In those days most people, particularly girls, did not have a career. They just left school and got a job - any job. As I grew older I realised the value of education and went to night school. I studied for my 'O' and 'A' levels in accountancy and went on to pass the Association of Accounting Technicians exams.

My working life has given me a broad spectrum of experience from running a pre-school in Baghdad to managing a Trust Office in Nevis, West Indies. I have been employed in the finance sector as an accountant for more than 20 years and currently have an interest in three companies, one of which is a Manx trading company.

I have one son, Norrie, who married Frances last year. They are expecting their first child in December and I am delighted at the prospect of being a granny.

Kate Beecroft, Troutbeck, Strang Road, Union Mills

## Background

I married Tony last year at St Lukes, Baldwin. Tony has four children and we happily 'share' families so we now, jointly, have five children. Our extended family includes Norman, my father, a fit 90 year-old, who lives with us at Troutbeck.

It is because of my concerns for the future of the Island, and therefore the future of my children and grandchildren, that I decided to stand for election.

As a newcomer to politics I know that I have a steep learning curve ahead of me but I thrive on challenges and new experiences and am eager to put these attributes to good use for the Isle of Man and, in particular, the constituents of Middle.

I am not what I would call a typical 'political animal', but I think this is an advantage. I am not 'in the mould' so can, and will, act as I see fit. I do not intend to go into politics looking for peoples' errors just to ridicule them or stab them in back. If I think some-one is right, I will say so. If I think some-one is wrong, I will equally say so. But what I do want is for government to be open and transparent. That way can all know the facts and be in a position to know who is right and who is wrong. At the moment we are not given the facts. We are guessing about the rights and wrongs of situations instead of being able to make informed decisions.

I do not believe that any one person, on their own, can achieve this. The government is too set in its ways to allow change easily. I believe in the core policies of the Liberal Vannin Party and believe that as a party we can, and will, make a difference.



I have listened to the concerns of as many people as possible in the constituency. The national issues such as housing, immigration and planning have been addressed in our National Manifesto but at local level the main areas that need addressing appear to be:

- Provision of facilities for the young
- Speed of traffic
- Safe places to cross the road
- Policing
- The little things

### **Provision of facilities for the young**

It is important for suitable facilities to be provided at a local level. These must include areas for the youngest, such as parks with play areas, and also adequate facilities for the teenagers.

You need to know that your young children can play safely. You need to know where your teenagers are and what they are doing.

Parents have to take responsibility for their children just as government should be responsible for providing the necessary facilities to help you.

Parents, children, teenagers, local commissioners and your MHK should meet and decide what is needed, where it is needed and how to achieve it. It is not good enough for decisions to be made without your input.

You are the ones who know what is needed.

You are the ones who know where it is needed.

Those with the power to implement your plans should listen to you.

## **Speed of traffic**

This is a huge issue for many of you and, after trying to cross the main roads during my canvassing, I can truly sympathise.

For instance, I was getting into my car in Port Soderick village and could feel the wind produced by cars passing very close to me. Trying to get out onto the main road from Glen Vine Park is not something I would enjoy doing on a daily basis.

These are just two examples from the many I could have chosen.

Again, I would advocate getting all those involved together, residents, commissioners, police and relevant government bodies.

Solutions have to be found before more accidents happen.

## **Safe places to cross the road**

You have told me of several places where it is unsafe to cross the road, particularly for children.

- From Mount Murray crossing the Castletown Road
- The main roads at Snugborough and Crosby
- The end of Strang Road by the Post Office

I understand that Braddan Commissioners have the Snugborough and Strang Road crossings in hand, but crossings for Mount Murray and Crosby need to be investigated urgently.

## **Policing**

More 'local bobbies' is the message that has come over loud and clear and I wholeheartedly agree.

I have been told that, statistically, this means of policing is not a good use of resources. I do not agree and, having discussed this with you, I know that you do not agree with this statement either.

Common sense and a bit of life experience tells us that 'bobbies on the beat' stop a lot of trouble **before** it happens.

Isn't it better to prevent trouble rather than have 'rapid response times' after it has happened?

## **Little Things Mean a Lot**

It is the little things that mean a lot to our quality of life.

Little things such as:

- Litter
- Bus shelters
- Trees that are too tall
- Doggie bins

We should never underestimate the importance of 'the little things'. They affect our lives on a daily basis and should be so easily solved.

## **Promises**

If you vote for me and I am elected, there are things I can promise you and there are things that I can't.

### **I can promise:**

- I will always act with honesty and integrity.
- If you ask me something that I don't know, I will find out and come back to you with the answer.
- That I will do my best
- To care and to listen to whatever concerns you have
- You will not have to wait years to see me. I will hold regular meetings where I will be accountable to you.  
*(Details of this promise are on the back page).*

### **I can't promise:**

- To get it right all the time, but I promise to try.
- To change all the things that need changing, but I promise to try and change as many as I can.

# My final promise to you

It is common sense that for anyone to act on behalf of someone else, they have to listen to that persons wishes.

Members of the House of Keys are meant to represent the wishes of the people of the Island.

How often have they listened to you or been accountable for not listening?

## **I promise that I will listen to you and be accountable to you.**

In addition to the usual surgeries and regular newsletters, I will hold quarterly constituents meetings.

- I will tell you what I have been doing.
- I will tell you what is going on in government.
- I will listen to your current concerns.
- I will answer any questions that I can.
- I will find the answers to the questions I can't answer and come back to you.

Then I would like to have an informal, forum type of meeting where we could all discuss ideas. We have such a wealth of diverse experience on this Island and we do not utilise it.

If you have a dinner party or go down the pub and start 'putting the world to rights' you will hear so many ideas. But they go nowhere. No-one listens. Bring them to these meetings. Let us discuss ideas for anything and everything. Between us we can find solutions and ways to progress.