



Liberal Vannin Party

Protecting the Future of Mann



House of Keys General Election Thursday 23rd November 2006

X VOTE NIGEL DOBSON



GARFF

'I was glad to take Nigel on board with the Liberal Vannin team not just because of his good business sense but also his understanding of the importance of having good governance that works for all our people if we are going to protect what makes the Island a great place to live in'

Peter Karran Liberal Vannin Party Leader

Liberal Vannin

THE NEW FORCE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF MANN

www.liberalvannin.im

NIGEL DOBSON - Your Liberal Vannin Candidate

Dear Constituent

Welcome to my Manifesto, I hope you will take the time to read through it.

In preparing this document I was conscious that it had to be thorough enough to show that I have given thought to a range of issues, but not so long as to put you off turning the page! If you would like more information on Liberal Vannin policies than is contained here, then please visit www.liberalvannin.im

I am also aware that although I have visited many of you, and continue to do so, you may not know much about me and my background, so I would like to introduce myself.

Born in Leicester, I am a 53 year old, who settled on the Island around 10 years ago, at first working for Heron and Brearley for whom I managed, with my wife Marilyn, Molly's Kitchen and Tavern in Onchan. My parents were in the licensed trade starting as pub managers in Leicester and retiring a few years ago with two 'country house' style hotels in Scotland. While building their business they somehow managed to raise six children of which I am the oldest. My career has seen me travelling the globe on more than one occasion and has varied from being a ships steward at the age of 18 to now being the Managing Director of D's Leisure Limited who, among other things, operate The Liverpool Arms in Baldrine and the Niarbly Café and Visitors Centre in Dalby. I am an active member of the Rotary Club of Onchan and was President of the Club during Rotary's centenary year. I launched the AQUABOX appeal days after the Asian Tsunami and raised nearly £30,000 in 4 weeks for clean water equipment, much of which came from the Islands children in school, scout and guide projects. For the last 5 years I have sponsored youngsters at the Andreas Gliding Club through to their first solo flight.

So why have I decided to stand, and why on a Party platform?

I am standing because, although our government has done many things well, their mistakes have been huge and mainly caused by mis-management and short sightedness.

In business you have to plan for the medium to long term rather than spend your time problem solving. Too many times, Government plan this or approve that without thinking it through. For example, the Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit was approved and built at a cost of around £1,000,000 – but no one thought to provide funds to staff it! That's a bit like me opening a new restaurant but not knowing how I'm going to pay the Chef. I could quote the IRIS problems, over budget and not working, the MEA crisis which our grandchildren will still be paying for, the Health Service which is top heavy in management and not always managed well. The list goes on.

I have decided to stand with the Liberal Vannin Party as I believe that, with the best intentions in the world, a single individual in the House of Keys can achieve little. Government moves slowly at the best of times, but if my party is successful in getting a number of members elected then at least we have a chance of progressing some of our policies.

So what are the policies that are most important to me?

Affordable Housing

Some progress has been made in providing first time buyers houses but there are many others caught outside of the housing ladder. The policies in this manifesto will offer schemes to assist those in public housing move into the private market, those from marriage break ups who leave the family home re enter the market and the children of Garff to buy homes in Garff if they so chose.

Reform of Government

The Legislative Council must be popularly elected. I am also in favour of much of the recent report on the future of Government but would want to know how devolved power to local authorities would be funded. If there is to be reform of local government, Garff should be seen as a single entity rather than Lonan going to Onchan and Maughald being swamped by Ramsey.

Financial Control

Transparency and audit must be strengthened within our public finances. The waste and mis-management that is endemic in our system must be faced. Future major capital projects must be audited by an outside agency. The Civil Service cannot be allowed to continue expanding at its present rate. A break must be put on committing us to future liabilities that we will not be able to afford when times are not so good.

Education

We must continue to invest in our children. The current grant system for our brightest students must be maintained to allow our students the best possible education without the fear of debt when they leave University.

Health

The problems our Health Service face are not purely financial. Prioritising health education and preventative procedures may cost a little now, but will pay dividends in the medium to long term. Our politicians must look beyond the next election. We also need to streamline management to free up funds for front line services.

Transparency of Government

We must dispel the perception that government is doing deals behind closed doors. Openness of the decision making process should also be improved. At this election there is a report within Government presenting 40 or so options for the future of our Health and Welfare services. This has not been published so, even during an election campaign, we can not debate it.

Local Issues

I would like to see a youth worker for the constituency, as in other parts of the Island, to co-ordinate activities for our young people. Facilities within the constituency need to be improved. Maintenance of our sub post offices is non negotiable. We also need a commitment from government that, as funds get tighter, national assets such as the Laxey Wheels, Celtic Crosses at Dhoon and other historic sites will not become a burden to rate payers.

My commitment to you

If elected, I will be a full time member of the House of Keys. I intend to appoint a manager and secretary to run my business interests. My motives for standing are simply to try and make a difference for the better.

There are many more issues which are covered in the pages that follow and those above are covered in more detail. Please take the time to read through and let me have your thoughts.

Regards,
Nigel Dobson

1 Addressing the Housing Crisis

Nests for People not nest eggs for investors

The Problem

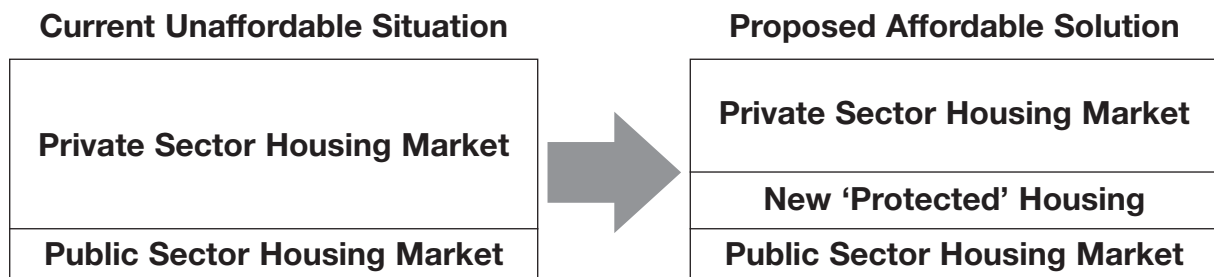
The fundamental problem is the lack of affordable housing right across the Island. Young professionals, first-time buyers, families, Manx workers, people recovering from broken homes, and key workers find it increasingly difficult to get their feet on the first rung of the housing ladder. For many it is now totally out of reach!

The Danger

Liberal Vannin is committed to introducing realistic and workable measures to address this issue head on. Put simply, if people cannot afford to live here they will leave the Island! This will have a devastating effect on our entire economy and the prosperity of the Island as a whole and hence our ability to care for our citizens.

The Solution

Liberal Vannin is prepared to take the radical steps needed to secure affordable housing to enable the long term stability of our economic base. We are therefore proposing the creation of a new “Protected Local Housing Market” as seen in other parts of the world. This policy is designed to create nests for people and not nest eggs for investors.



This new layer in the property market place will be subject to strict conditions to ensure the system is not open to abuse. The proposed criteria being:-

- Owner occupied (they may not be rented)
- Restricted to Manx workers (similar to council house qualification criteria)
- Will be open to both existing council tenants and other Manx workers
- Supported by a number of government initiatives including:
 - Government backed Part-Equity Mortgage schemes
 - Release of government owned land for development of affordable housing
 - Incentives for 'brown field' development initiatives
- Will include both properties from the existing housing stock and new developments



Our goal is to provide affordable homes for ordinary people in ordinary streets in ordinary towns and villages throughout the Island. Restrictions will be put on the property regardless of its location, thus creating a steady supply of housing stock to meet the local housing demands of the Manx workers in areas where they want to live.

Raising the Rental Standards

Research by the Policy Team revealed a startling gap between the quality (and hence living standard) of rental properties at the lower end of the market compared with the rest of the market.

The Liberal Vannin housing policy also includes a commitment to establish an “Approved Landlords Registration Scheme” whereby professional landlords work alongside government housing standard officers to comply with a new minimum standard for rental properties. This is just one example of the realistic public / private partnership where the net result is a win / win for all involved. The tenants will be happier to make long-term rental commitments; this supports landlords by providing a long-term and secure income to protect their investments. Everybody wins!

Sheltered Housing

The Liberal Vannin Party believes that in order to house the vulnerable and needy there must be partnership between the DOLGE and the DHSS to establish small units of sheltered housing. These units would be for groups such as senior citizens, the homeless, and people in recovery from drug and alcohol addictions. Such units must receive proper funding with accompanying support schemes such as counsellors, therapists and social workers. The Provision of a young chronically sick facility and long-term respite care unit is long overdue.

Long-Term Planning

Liberal Vannin is committed to creating and implementing a strategic plan for the Island to support our plan for long-term economic growth. Currently no long-term strategically coordinated plan exists; the last one was agreed in 1982, which results in pockets of developments without any thought being given to the “bigger picture”.

We need to provide the facilities where they are needed and where they can support a sustainable economy in the long term.

2 Facing the Facts on Immigration

A Prosperous and Caring Society, NOT Unlimited Immigration

The facts on immigration are very simple. We are a small Island with limited resources, limited space, and a limited economy with limited support infrastructure. We cannot - and must not - continue an unrestricted “open borders policy”. The UK has given control of its borders away to the EU with devastating social impact and we are at risk of following suit.



We have a range of treaties and regulations including the common travel area with the UK and Ireland, Protocol 3 with the EU, the Work Permit system, and the Residency Act which has yet to be made law. The existing agreements are far from robust – in fact it leaves us “wide open!”

Liberal Vannin is dedicated to both facing the facts and implementing radical immigration policy changes to protect the Island for both our citizens of today and for our future generations.

Our research shows that the best policy for the Isle of Man is a policy of controlled immigration supplemented by an effective system of border control where economic migrants from the UK, Ireland, Europe and the rest of the world are treated equally and fairly and entry is based wholly on the economic benefits they can bring to the Island economy.

One of the most successful economic migration policies and systems in existence has been created by the Australian Government. Australia enjoys a magnificent standard of living and continued economic prosperity. Liberal Vannin is committed to updating our Treaties and Regulations in such a way as to maintain the privileges for Manx citizens in travelling and working abroad, whilst limiting immigration to the people we need.

3 The Economy

Making “Freedom to Flourish” more than just a slogan

Liberal Vannin is committed to a sound and growing economy.

To this end, steps will be taken to reduce the Net Financial Liabilities that have been built up by the government, by reducing the cost of the public sector, through the introduction of an emphasis on value for money.

It is widely recognised that the majority of the economic prosperity over the last 15 - 20 years can be attributed to the efforts of the finance sector. This has not been without its challenges to which the Isle of Man has regularly and commendably tackled issues raised by organisations such as the OECD, FAFT and the EU.

However, the EU views the Isle of Man and similar jurisdictions as a serious threat to its tax harmonisation policy. The EU must not be allowed to impose damaging legislation which will harm or destroy our finance industry. It is therefore, imperative that any economic policy has, as its foundation, diversification into other areas. It is simply common sense to spread our risk.



The Charteris Report

Liberal Vannin advocates the need to diversify the economy and will take steps to implement many of the recommendations of the Charteris Report. The Party is committed to looking beyond the Charteris Report and develop the economy in other areas such as tourism, farming, alternative energy, space and other high-tech areas. We also see a golden opportunity to build on the success of the Douglas Marina example and create additional marinas in key strategic areas such as Ramsey, Peel, Port Erin and Port St Mary. As part of our economic diversification strategy we see a need to develop a strong and buoyant professional service industry in IT, e-commerce, specialist consultancy, legal and professional services, medical services, professional development and training.

Heathrow & Europe

Additionally the physical infrastructure and transport system to and from the Island needs to be developed and enhanced. To support business, tourism and travel needs of the people of the Isle of Man, Liberal Vannin is committed to finding ways to protect the London City route, the reintroduction of the Heathrow route and establishment of direct routes to other European destinations to make our economy more accessible to other business centres.

Real Support for Small Business and Entrepreneurs

Liberal Vannin is committed to supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop new sectors of the economy. We support the creation of a Business Facility whereby small businesses are supported through the early years which is their most vulnerable time.

We will actively investigate and seek to create a local venture capital market so small businesses have access to the full range of funding and support options they require to expand and grow.

Reducing the Burden of Bureaucracy

Liberal Vannin is committed to ensuring that all regulations are responsive to business needs and maintain a realistic level of quality control. Liberal Vannin firmly believes the regulations should support business and not restrict it. We will take a commonsense approach to ensure we work with business and not against it.

Continuing Development for All

Liberal Vannin Party is committed to establishing opportunity for continuing development for all people. The change in best practice in all areas of work requires the Island to invest in Continuing Development of its workforce. The government is by far the largest employer on the Island and Liberal Vannin will be looking to ensure that by good training and leadership, the productivity of the public sector improves.

Farming for Profit - Setting a New Standard

Liberal Vannin will develop a sustainable agricultural policy which will promote 'quality over quantity' with the possibility of the Isle of Man becoming the first totally organic farming nation and a centre of excellence in small-scale agricultural methods. We



recognise a great opportunity for the farming community to set standards in the creation of new markets in the provision of high quality, high value foods and to follow and promote compassionate farming methods. Animal health and welfare has to be of the highest priority and we would seek to guarantee this as part of the Manx product name. We will develop a strategy to support diversification into new markets such as a national distillery to broaden the base for the grain sector and a natural herbal and scent industry involving lavender farms which would also enhance tourism on the Island. Industries like these offer imaginative opportunities to further develop and widen the agriculture base on the Island.

Protecting Our Environment

Liberal Vannin is committed to “Sustainable Development” for the protection of our environment and supports the encouragement of a culture of recycling and environmental awareness. We are developing a ‘green’ policy and aim to invest in the appropriate technology and infrastructure to support this important environmental and economic goal in the spirit of the United Nations’ “Agenda 21”. As an integral part of this goal we will investigate tidal and wind power as a means of generating alternative energy sources for the Island.

4 Law & Order

Putting the Bobby Back On The Beat

Whilst we recognise the need for the accurate recording and administration of all police matters Liberal Vannin strongly advocates that the administration side of policing is better served by civilian personnel rather than police officers trained for front-line duty. We will provide an additional layer of administrative support to allow them to police our streets and neighbourhoods more effectively.

We are committed to a complete review of the penal system and its administration and want to move away from the statistical policing methods introduced over recent years and get back to real policing and performance based on tackling real crime. Furthermore, we will strive to reverse the stifling trend of “political correctness” which is restricting our officers’ ability to do their jobs effectively.

We will implement a policy of criminalising criminals and rehabilitating the misguided. For example, drug users should be offered the help and support they desperately need to “clean up their act” rather than going directly to jail. Drug dealers, on the other hand, should be handed harsher sentences and we should get back to the penal system that punishes criminals, rather than providing them with accommodation and privileges one would expect to find in a holiday camp!

Liberal Vannin supports the creation of a Police Authority and an effective independent complaints system to ensure that the Police are accountable to the public.



5 The Health Service

Giving Patients More Choice

Liberal Vannin believes that our well funded Health Service now suffers from unacceptably long waiting lists and in the restriction or delay of essential services. From talking to Health Service staff at the “grass roots level” it is clear that the morale is poor, whilst the motivation and dedication of the majority of the health service professionals is second to none.

Liberal Vannin believes that we can learn from other countries about methods of introducing more patient choice, which have the effect of improving the efficiency of the providers and the satisfaction and control felt by the patients.

We will be more pro active in health education and preventative programs. Investing in these areas now will reap dividends for future generations

The mismanagement of Health Service finances must be addressed as a matter of urgency. A complete review and implementation of an effective, efficient, and auditable financial accounting and management system to manage the Health Service is an absolute priority for Liberal Vannin.

Residential & Nursing Homes

Liberal Vannin believes that a review of this legislation is long overdue. This section of the community is one of the most vulnerable and the Independent Inspection Procedure needs to be broadened with lay input from interested organisations as part of the inspection procedures. Reports about these institutions should be open to public scrutiny so that residents and relatives are aware of any concerns surrounding these establishments. A total review of alternatives to this type of accommodation and funding for people entering these facilities is required. The Party would investigate a compulsory insurance scheme for the younger generation’s long term needs.

6 Protecting Pensions

Providing certainty and fairness to pensioners

Liberal Vannin will ensure that policies are in place to safeguard the funding of both state and public sector pensions. We believe that state pensions should be linked to average earnings and not retail prices and we will investigate ways of funding this improved scheme.

To assist widowed pensioners we will introduce additional financial assistance for single pension households in the form of a 25% discount on general and water rates.



7 Education

Towards a Competent and Self Reliant Society

Liberal Vannin recognises that young people differ in their aptitude for academic and vocational learning. Our policy is to ensure opportunity is given to each individual to get the best out of themselves and make a valued contribution to society.

Academic Education

Liberal Vannin will protect the right of all our children to have a free education to help them to achieve their maximum potential in life and we will provide more parental choice in the selection of which school a student attends. We will ensure that children with learning difficulties are given the opportunity and resources to reach their full potential as part of an inclusive education system. We will cease the policy of 'buying in' services to deal with troubled and troublesome children and encourage parents to take a more active role to ensure their children do not behave disruptively and inhibit the educational opportunities of others. We are committed to review the current style of curriculum taught in schools, which is out of date. We will address the issue of diminished morale among the teaching profession as a result of blindly following UK education reforms and look to more successful countries to learn of best practice. Liberal Vannin will continue the commitment of providing grants to Manx students wishing to further their studies at University level.

Vocational Training

Where these courses suffer from insufficient numbers to make them economically viable we will make up the numbers by offering spare places to both UK and Irish based fee paying students or to third world support organisations such as Christian Aid as part of our commitment to overseas aid programmes.

Mature Students

Liberal Vannin will develop a progressive policy of both academic and vocational education for mature students in areas of skills shortage with financial assistance where appropriate.

We will work towards making the apprenticeship schemes more financially viable for both students and the employers. Liberal Vannin is committed, where possible, to providing educational courses on the Island to give the opportunity to those who have family commitments and who are seeking a change of career.



8 Government Reform

Getting more value from the Public Sector

The Scope and Structure of Government

Liberal Vannin welcomes the report of the team that reviewed the “Scope and Structure of Government”.

Liberal Vannin supports their observations that the current structure of the public sector is unsustainable and needs to be addressed under five general headings of:-

1. The Scope is too large;
2. There has been insufficient emphasis on value for money;
3. There is a necessity for greater working together across government;
4. There is a great need to redefine and separate the roles of the politician and the public sector manager;
5. There is a need for more transparency and openness to improve public understanding and debate.

Liberal Vannin is committed to implementing the recommendations of the report with priority given to the creation of a new department of Corporate Development as a driver for obtaining value for money in the public sector. Some of the recommendations might prove controversial and after further study the people of the Island will be given the chance to vote in referendums on each controversial issue.

Audit of Government

Liberal Vannin believes that every minister should have a ‘shadow’ that will be responsible for scrutinising the ministers actions and decisions and hence holding him/her responsible in the House of Keys. This is the only way to get auditability and transparency into the system to ensure the best policy choices.

Liberal Vannin will support ‘A Conflict of Interest’ legislation, a Freedom of Information Act and a Public Accounts Committee whose membership is free of Departmental responsibility and supported by lay input, to give it the additional skills base it needs to protect the public purse.

Liberal Vannin will support the long overdue Ombudsman for the Island’s residents.

Ministerial Reform

Liberal Vannin advocates that all representatives of the people should be elected by the people.

A fundamental flaw of the current system is that unelected members of the public may be appointed to Ministerial positions and exercise Ministerial powers without the democratic mandate of the people. Liberal Vannin firmly believes that only members of the House of Keys should be appointed to Ministerial posts as it is only MHK’s who carry the mandate of the people.



Bringing Government to the People

Liberal Vannin is committed to actively encouraging the regeneration of towns such as Ramsey, Peel, Port Erin, Castletown and other areas. This will have an obvious beneficial impact on key issues such as traffic congestion, parking, air quality and the environment in general. It will encourage a much-needed boost to the local economies in these areas and the Party is committed to “leading by example”. Liberal Vannin is committed to the redistribution of public sector employees to the major towns of the Island by moving both back office and front office government functions. Furthermore, the distribution of some front office activities to local towns will have the added benefit of the public not needing to travel to Douglas to conduct their business with government.



Liberal Vannin Party

Protecting the Future of Mann



House of Keys General Election Thursday 23rd November 2006



VOTE
NIGEL DOBSON

Vote Nigel Dobson



Nigel Dobson

**Your
Liberal Vannin
Candidate
for Garff**

Dear Voter

I am both delighted and honoured to be able to choose from such a strong team of candidates from all walks of life enabling the Party to present a viable and realistic alternative to the current government system.

I have fought on my own on the real important issues to get basic common sense to prevail. I have witnessed the continual mismanagement of so many capital and revenue projects which undermines the long term financial health of our nation.

We need to improve our government so that we can maintain the benefits such as the pensions, family allowance and student grant system that are so much better than those of our UK neighbours.

Liberal Vannin will work as a team to get audit and accountability into government. Liberal Vannin will develop the economy, address issues such as the housing crisis, uncontrolled immigration, the health service and law and order to protect the very things we love about the Island's way of life.

Each member of the team has been carefully selected on the strength of their skills, previous experience, and commitment to Liberal Vannin's vision for the future of our Island.

*I hope you will support **Nigel Dobson** in the forthcoming election and help to protect the future of Mann.*

*Protect your future by voting **Nigel Dobson** on the 23rd November!*

Peter Karran

Liberal Vannin Party Leader



**Peter Karran
Party Leader
Onchan**



**Roland Arden-Corris
Douglas West**



**Kate Beecroft
Middle**



**Nigel Malpass
Ramsey**



**Bill Malarkey
Douglas South**



**Roy Redmayne
Castletown**



**Carol Jempson
Douglas East**



**Tony Wright
Rushen**

Please help us to help you and elect your local Liberal Vannin Candidate into the House Of Keys on Thursday 23rd November 2006.
It's time for change – Liberal Vannin gives you the power to change our Island for the better

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