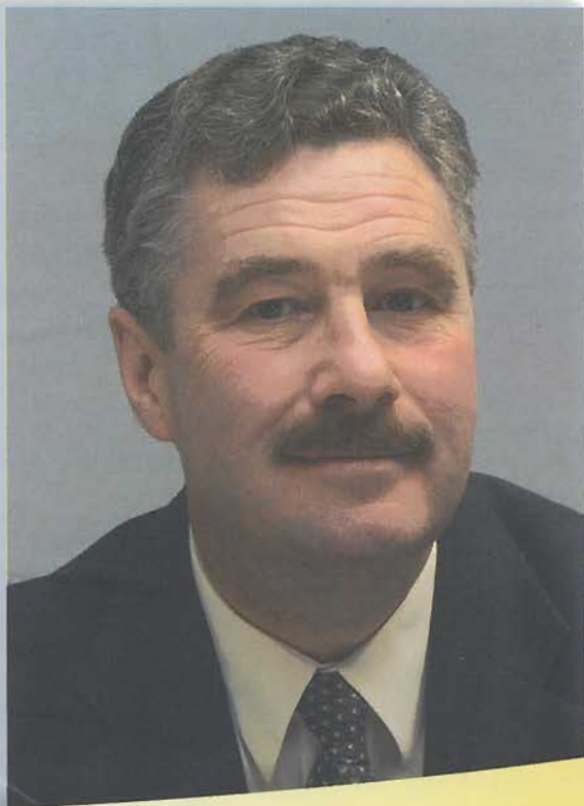


House of Keys General Election

Thursday 23rd November 2006



Orry's Mount, Ballaragh Road, Laxey

Dear Elector

It is with great pleasure that I once more offer myself as your Member of the House of Keys. Since being first elected in May 1995, I have always done my best to ensure that Garff has had strong representation in Tynwald, and it has been a privilege to assist many individual constituents with their concerns.

Several years of experience in Government as Minister for Education, and more recently Health and Social Security will, I hope, be of value as I seek a further opportunity to serve the people of the Isle of Man, and Garff in particular. I very much look forward to your support again on 23rd November.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Rodan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the large printed name.

Steve Rodan

"This General Election is vitally important for our Island. We have enjoyed five very successful years with rapid economic growth, full employment and buoyant government revenues to fund essential public services and infrastructure renewal.

Steve Rodan Says...

The next five years are bound to be more challenging - the Isle of Man will need clear strategies and political leaders with breadth of vision and experience.

We must vigorously defend our national interests against unwelcome political pressure and interference whether from the UK, European Union or beyond. The Island's future economic well-being depends totally on its continued freedom of action over its own taxation arrangements and domestic legislation.

At home, we must ensure that costly services such as health, social care and education, can meet the growing needs and expectations of the public, and that better standards of living are shared with those on low or fixed incomes and pensions.

My commitment to the Isle of Man as an economically strong, politically self-confident, stable and successful small country is total."

ABOUT STEVE RODAN

Steve Rodan BSc(Hons),MRPharmS. Is aged 52, married with two daughters, and has lived in Laxey for almost 20 years. A Graduate of Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh he owns a pharmacy business.

First elected in May 1995, he has been Chairman of the Planning Committee, Minister for Education for 5 years, and is currently Minister for Health and Social Security.

Steve served with Laxey Village Commissioners in 1991 (chairman from 1993 to 1995), was founding Chairman of Laxey Traders Association, and former Pipe-Major of Cair Vie Manx Pipe Band. Currently President, of Lonan and Laxey Branch Royal British Legion; Chairman Laxey and Lonan Heritage Trust, Vice-Chairman of Laxey Fair Committee, member of UN Association Isle of Man Branch, and Maughold Social Club.

EDUCATION

Dhoon and Laxey Primary Schools...

Very much at the heart of the community, the educational start in life our children get in these, and indeed other, schools cannot be bettered - anywhere.

As Education Minister, I drove forward a programme for quality school buildings in the Isle of Man, to further enhance our excellent system of education.

At Dhoon School, a £2m scheme for a new 4-classroom extension, multi-purpose hall, new play areas and off-road parking has now been completed.

Laxey's recent extensions have created excellent new facilities, and relieved previous overcrowding. But we must still be alert to future pressures on the school from growing pupil numbers and worsening traffic congestion.

I also strengthened our system of **student support** - to guarantee continued 100% funding by the Government of University tuition fees, and our system of maintenance grants, something which has been largely abolished in the UK. Specialist business education at degree level at the Isle of Man International Business School, which started during my term of office, continues to develop well, but I am also keen that value should also be attached to vocational qualifications, with the good work being done at Isle of Man College in skills training being worthy of strong support.

Message to Young Voters

Are you between 16 and 23? This is your first opportunity to vote in an Isle of Man General Election. It is important to use your vote - the sort of place the Island will become during your lifetime is being decided today!

In February of this year I succeeded in changing electoral law by extending voting to 16 and 17 year-olds. With Citizenship now being promoted in the school curriculum, more young people should be given the opportunity to exercise civic responsibility if they wish.

THE ECONOMY

How Do We Stand Today?

The last 20 years has been a time of spectacular economic success for the Isle of Man.

In this period Government has progressively reduced personal and business taxation, whilst still increasing public expenditure and reserves.

Our overall standard of living, whether through individual disposable income, full employment, or the range and quality of public services has grown steadily.

Government spending has gone up from £95million in 1986 to over £500million and 7000 staff today - the result not simply of inflation, but a rising population, increasing expectations and soaring demand for quality public services.

We have seen substantial expenditure on a new Hospital, schools, water, electricity, public housing, drainage and other infrastructure. This was needed to redress chronic underinvestment of previous years, when the financial resources were simply not there.

All this with NO funding from the UK or EU - every penny spent in the Isle of Man is earned in the Isle of Man.

Quite an achievement.

...BUT what of the Future?

The economy continues to grow by 5% a year, generating the wealth in the private sector that's needed to fund our essential public services. But will this be at a cost to the Island's quality of life or the environment? - An overheating economy bringing in large numbers of new residents will put intolerable strain on housing, schools, health, welfare and other services, traffic congestion etc and would be self-defeating.

The demand for services like Health is simply outstripping the public purse. It is good to have low direct taxation - both personal and business - but it all has to be paid for somehow!

And for those on low or fixed incomes, how do we ensure that they TOO can share in better overall standards of living?

MY POLICY...

- If we, the public, want services we must be prepared to pay for them. Provided the public has confidence that existing tax revenues are being spent effectively and are not disappearing into a black hole, then I believe they would pay more if this was ring-fenced FOR SPECIFIC Purposes. *But how?*
- The abolition of the Upper Earnings Limit on National Insurance Contributions. Every extra 1% levied on incomes at or over this £33,000 annual income limit, could bring in £1.4m from higher earners annually. If this was consciously earmarked for the DHSS many much needed developments could be brought forward.

For example....

£1.4m would almost entirely fund long term nursing care for the elderly in care homes - at comparable levels to the funding support which has been introduced elsewhere in the British Isles, but not yet in the Isle of Man.

£1.4m would pay for the introduction of Screening services for Bowel Cancer and Chlamydia, PLUS 24 hour services at Ramsey Cottage Hospital, PLUS Opening the 8-bed In-patient facilities at the new Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit PLUS Training for extra Mental Health Nurses who are needed.

...not to mention funding the reduction of Waiting Lists to see Consultants, and subsequent operations.

These are services which each and every one of us may need one day. I will vigorously pursue such a policy of revenue-raising if elected.

- Face up to Demographic Change. We're all living longer, and by 2020 there will be 21,000 retirement pensioners, up from 15,000 today. We must plan NOW for Pension reform to ensure affordable State and Personal pensions - and tackle the problem of largely unfunded Public Sector Schemes to ensure they are affordable for future pensioners. The same applies for affordable Healthcare, support for people in their own homes as long as possible, and long-term nursing care.
- Apply Residency Control Legislation whenever it becomes necessary, with a reformed work permit system and strict entry gateways based on economic, social or family criteria

EFFICIENCY AND VALUE FOR MONEY

I support many of the radical ideas in the recent independent Report into the Scope and Structure of Government. The next administration must not be afraid to tackle these, but also ensure any changes will actually work in the Isle of Man...

Wholesale Privatisation UK-style, for instance, would be disastrous and is NOT the answer - I am strongly IN FAVOUR of supporting rural post offices and rural bus services - which may be uneconomic in purely accounting terms, but are essential to the social fabric of our community. (I was able to save the No. 13 linking Laxey to Douglas via the Hospital, but sadly unable to prevent curtailments in the No 16 serving Maughold).

We must cut our coat according to our cloth - Government must become more efficient with better control over costs and budgets, and avoid Rolls Royce solutions.

- Strengthen Central Leadership. The creation of a Cabinet Office would bring better co-ordination, and more dynamism into long term strategic planning over policy, and the public administration.
- Restructure Government Departments and agencies to improve value for money for the taxpayer, and better service to the public. I advocate the abolition of the Departments of Tourism, Trade and Industry, and parts of Treasury - and the creation of a single Department of Economic Development to work better with entrepreneurs in manufacturing, international financial services, tourism, E-business - and all those income generating sectors of the economy which are so vital to fund our schools, hospitals and other essential public services.
- Target help with rising **FUEL COSTS** to those on low or fixed incomes and vulnerable groups through Winter Bonus, tax breaks with heating costs, and promoting grant assistance for fuel efficiency in the home. At a national level, we must recognize that self sufficiency in Natural Gas in the UK (from where the Island imports it) has ended. We must develop Alternative Energy sources and the use of bio-fuels in partnership with private enterprise.

OPENNESS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY

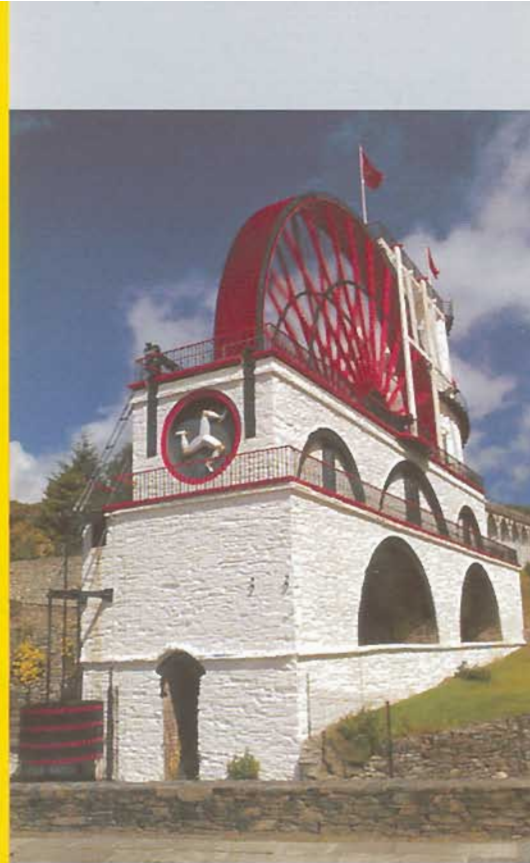
Public confidence in Government and the political system must be restored. There must be learning from mistakes.

I strongly support the introduction of an Auditor General whose office would conduct Value for Money Investigations and work closely with the Tynwald Public Accounts Committee. Concerns would be referred to it - not only by members of Tynwald - but by the public direct. To ensure its independence, the Auditor General's functions would be set in statute, with annual reporting to Tynwald.

An Independent Ombudsman Service to deal with complaints of maladministration is also a must, and I will also continue to argue for the strengthening of parliamentary scrutiny committees, (with some members of Tynwald having NO government role) to hold the Executive more closely to account.

Freedom of Information Legislation is the mark of a civilized country - public consultation on what should be included is already in the pipeline.

I look forward to renewed Tynwald investigation into the MEA finances, to get the true facts out to the public.



RAMSEY COTTAGE HOSPITAL

As Health Minister, I firmly reject rumours that it is to close to save money. Far from it! - Government is committed to extend its services as an important part of the Health service for the North and the whole island, including 24 hours services from the Minor Injuries Unit when finances are found.

AGRICULTURE

Manx Agriculture is facing major change, as Government financial support to farmers switches from pure production to include high quality landscape management of the countryside.

I will support current efforts to build a more diverse agricultural industry based on a larger variety of market needs. The recent success of specialist Manx cheese exports shows it is possible to successfully market competitive, premium quality food products.

Almost 2/3 of Manx agricultural products are exported to the EU and UK - an "Isle of Man Quality Food" brand will add higher value in the marketplace, and increase consumer choice.

More efficient marketing systems and better use of co-operatives, allowing individual enterprise to be rewarded with higher returns, will create more sustainable farming businesses less dependent on government support. More work is needed to tackle farmers' high operating costs, including the Meat Plant.

COMMUNITY POLICING

While the Isle of Man is a safer place to live than most, drug and alcohol related offences, together with vandalism, petty crime and late night disturbance continue to grow. Let's support and **strengthen community policing** - but the need to tackle root causes remains..... **95% of us do not commit offences**; this is due to a sense of self control, of "right and wrong", deeply ingrained since childhood - the consequence of good parenting in the home. Good manners, patience, honesty, respect for older people and their property - these are the values which underpin order in society. My own work as part of Government's Drug and Alcohol, and Children's Strategies focuses on preventive as well as punitive measures, and the value of pre-school education, parenthood classes, family centres, and all schemes which promote social skills and civic responsibility.

YOUTH SERVICES

I am pleased with the recent opening of Laxey Youth Centre as a drop-in centre for young people. As Minister I made sure the Department of Education acquired the former Doctors' Surgery on New Road in order to establish a permanent home for youth activities, with adequate staffing.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NO to Meddling with Local Authorities. I OPPOSED recent Government attempts at Local Government "reform". Local authorities based on our towns, villages and parishes are an essential part of maintaining traditional social bonds, pride in the community and social identity. Their job is to provide local services in the most cost efficient manner, with a rates burden as equitable as possible. I will continue to work with Boards of Commissioners to promote voluntary joint-working , to better resist any future attempts to force local government control from Onchan, Douglas or Ramsey.

THE ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE - The Isle of Man must play its part in tackling this global concern, and meet CO2 emission reduction targets as part of UK commitments to the Kyoto Agreement.

WASTE - The Energy-from-Waste Incinerator is only PART of the answer for dealing with the Island's waste. Let's reduce wasteful packaging! - environmental taxes on plastic bags, and other fiscal incentives should be considered.

Now is the time to treat waste as a commodity and resource by stepping up efforts at re-cycling and composting. We already have civic amenity sites (though not in Garff) and collection banks for glass, aluminium, paper etc. Steve Rodan supports a Kerbside Collection scheme, on a trial basis. "I am convinced there would be community support to separate certain materials out of the domestic waste stream (plastic bottles for example), for direction to commercial markets - a pilot scheme would test the viability and practicality of such a community recycling initiative.



HOUSING

For people who do not already own their own home **Affordability** is the key problem for those on medium or low incomes. Small Family Units, Sheltered Accommodation for the elderly, and Starter Homes for the first time buyer all require clear strategies.

- Further develop the House Purchase Assistance Scheme for First-time Buyers.
- High house prices are partly the result of shortage of available building land - BUT land for housing must be zoned **in the right areas**. Encourage urban regeneration in the towns, but permit limited sympathetic small scale development in rural parishes aimed at local people - for starter homes and sheltered housing. No large scale housing estates to encroach on open countryside to put pressure on local services and amenities.
- Public Housing - I will continue to press for refurbishment and upgrading schemes to housing estates at Ballacannell, Glen Mooar, Minorca Crescent, Glen Road, Gretch Noa and Coronay. An all-Island Housing Authority, with local input, to replace the multitude of regional housing associations would achieve greater efficiency, value for money, and consistency in allocations.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

ALL Members of Tynwald should be directly elected by the public.

The present system where 8 members of Legislative Council are appointed by Keys Members is wrong. They represent a quarter of the voting power in Tynwald but are NOT directly accountable to you, the electors, for their actions. It is especially unacceptable in a democracy that they should serve as Ministers - however worthy the individual may be.

For two years I steered the Constitution Bill through the Keys to try and correct this - ensuring that 32 members of Tynwald would be elected by the public at a single election. Unfortunately conflicting and vested interests thwarted this reforming legislation.

AND MORE LOCALLY...

- **TRAFFIC and ROADS**
- With numerous complaints still ongoing. I will continue to deal with the Department of Transport, Police and Commissioners for better control of traffic congestion and speeding in residential areas

While there has been recent maintenance to some roads, resurfacing work on Ramsey Road, and numerous other public highways remains essential

- **DOCTORS SURGERY** - the new Laxey Health Centre has now been completed ensuring first class medical and community health facilities for patients
- **QUARRYING** - the prospect of prolonged and extended Quarry operations at Dreemskerry is a source of major concern to residents in Maughold. I am committed to ensuring their voice is clearly heard over proposals for such industrial activity in the countryside
- **DRAINAGE** - The future of IRIS as a whole-island drainage policy looks problematic, (as I said 10 years ago!) and I **continue** to press for separate sewage treatment facilities serving the north of the Island, replacing the polluting short sea-outfalls at Laxey, Garwick and Port Lewaigue.

A FUTURE IN EUROPE?

Whether we like it or not, Europe's economic and political changes will impact more and more on the Isle of Man. Since there is no such thing in today's world as true "independence", Steve Rodan believes we should continue our "Protocol 3" relationship with the European Union, guaranteeing free trade for Manx goods into the UK and Europe, but without the political and fiscal take-over of the Isle of Man that full membership would bring.



FOR EXPERIENCE
FOR A *STRONG*
VOICE IN TYNWALD

RE-ELECT
RODAN
Again
for **GARFF**

WHERE TO VOTE

LAXEY	Laxey Commissioners Office, New Road
LONAN NORTH	Minorca Methodist Hall, Laxey
LONAN SOUTH	Baldrine Methodist Hall
MAUGHOLD NORTH	Maughold Church Hall
MAUGHOLD SOUTH	Dhoon Church Hall

8am to 8pm

DO YOU NEED TRANSPORT TO THE POLLING STATION?

Phone any of these numbers...

Laxey 861514 424591

Lonan 861675 464319

Maughold 814696 471466

Steve Rodan's Election Committee Rooms:

Church Hall, Glen Road, LAXEY

Newlands, Main Road, BALDRINE

Pinewoods, Corony, MAUGHOLD

THOUGHT TO PONDER

The late US Senator, Hubert Humphrey, once said ;

"The moral test of Government is how that Government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life - the sick, the needy, and the handicapped."

Let that message guide the next Administration