

Vote Phil Gawne for Rushen

Your Voice in Government

If elected I will:

- get involved, not shout from the sidelines
- listen to all points of view
- make sure Government lives within its means
- be decisive
- support measures to grow our economy
- be open, honest and accessible
- be fair to all sectors of society
- develop a stronger international profile
- protect and promote our heritage

Difficult economic times lie ahead and I offer you eight years of experience in Government together with my full-time, independent dedication to maintaining and improving our quality of life in this beautiful Island. If it is your wish, I would be honoured to represent you again in the House of Keys, and I ask for your support and your vote on 29th September.

My election campaign is wholly self funded.

Topics raised here appear in greater detail on my website: www.philgawne.im
and see my election videos on youtube at www.youtube.com/PhilGawneMHK

Can you help on polling day or would you like to put up a poster?
Do you require transport to the polling station?

**If so please contact me on 834844, 823555 or 416221 or send me an email
to phil@mooinjerveggy.org.im**



Remember you can vote for one, two or three candidates

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HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION

Thursday 29th September 2011

MANIFESTO

Lamode, Ballakillowey Road, Rushen

Dear Voter

In this manifesto I have tried to offer common sense and achievable solutions to the main problems facing our Island nation. I have also addressed many of the issues raised with me on the doorstep which directly affect the people in Rushen.

Undoubtedly, the most pressing issues we face in the next five years are maintaining sustainable economic growth and rebalancing government finances. To achieve this we need people **with a proven track record in tackling difficult issues and delivering change**. During my eight years as MHK and six years as Minister I have learned how to make the system of Government work better for you and most importantly have retained the desire and commitment to make the Isle of Man a better place.

I believe I have been **open, honest, accessible and accountable**, and if elected, will continue to be so.

Yours sincerely,



**An open, effective,
common-sense
approach for Rushen
and the nation . . .**

Vote Phil Gawne

**"My style of politics is pragmatic."
"I work hard for the achievable - anything less is grandstanding."**

I care passionately for our small Island nation, our people and our independent spirit. Having lived all my life in Rushen and with strong family roots in the constituency, it has been my privilege to represent you for the past eight years.

In considering the significant economic and political challenges ahead, it is vital that our distinctive political independence, our history, culture and beautiful environment are maintained and that our Island remains a wonderful place to live.

Government's record

The previous five years have been challenging ones for Government and whereas I wouldn't suggest that everything in the garden has been rosy, I certainly feel that Government has a much more positive record than has been suggested in some quarters.

Despite the difficult internal and external financial pressures, Government has increased expenditure on health in each of the past five years; we have the highest expenditure on public sector housing for 50 years; recorded crime is at its lowest rate for 25 years; we are into our twenty seventh year of unbroken economic growth; and we still have relatively low levels of unemployment. Government has implemented a five year strategy to deal with the first £100 million reduction in our VAT take without needing to use reserves, it has cut predicted expenditure by £50 million and reduced the number of public sector employees.

The impression that Government has been continually taken by surprise by external developments is quite wrong, but it is true that the Government has not been good at communicating its achievements to the public and must do better. Nevertheless, I am not complacent and the future challenges to our way of life should not be underestimated.

Energy

Energy costs have a massive impact on people and, as 95% of our energy is bought from other countries, it is important to secure energy resources over which we have control. Use of affordable and proven renewable energy technologies should be embraced, and measures to reduce energy waste encouraged as Government works to wean the Isle of Man off its massive reliance on imported energy.

Government has a good record in insulating public sector properties and needs to do more to encourage private households to do the same. There is a clear economic imperative to do this, as we collectively spend over £100m on imported energy and every pound saved is a pound which can instead be spent in our local economy. **Energy prices currently have a massive impact on Manx inflation, so we need to reduce our energy waste.**

While the private sector 'energy champions' have had a major role in changing cultures across Manx businesses, more can and should be done to provide incentives for reduced energy consumption particularly through grants for use of low energy technologies.

Biological Diversity

As DAFF Minister, I was very pleased to expand the number of protected areas of land and seabed. I also began the work to get the Isle of Man signed up to the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity.

With the help of farmers and fishermen, conservation work should continue to ensure that our biological diversity is retained.



Secure Food Supply

Ensuring a secure supply of food and energy for the Isle of Man is an important strategic objective for Government with the global population set to increase by 50% and the effects of climate change predicted to reduce food production by 18%. **In 2008 I promoted a strategy to ensure our own food security, which was unanimously supported by Tynwald.** If elected I will continue to call for the full implementation of this strategy which provides a framework for the delivery of a secure, robust and self-reliant food chain capable of feeding the Manx people.

Low Cost Travel and Tourism

I would also support any measures to develop increased low cost travel to the Isle of Man, as we have a fantastic tourism product if only people could afford to come here. Provided we can introduce lower cost travel, we will have a viable, sustainable tourism sector which can have a big impact on the overall quality of life of Manx people and visitors alike. **If elected, I will lobby for a full review of air and sea travel to see what more we could do to reduce the cost of travel to and from the Island.**

Rates and Local Government

As Government looks to rebalance its budgets and tax base, it is important that we review the current outdated rates system and introduce a new relationship between local and central government.

I will press for an urgent rates revaluation and changes which would allow more local issues such as hedge trimming, street cleaning, dog fouling and litter clearing to be dealt with at a local level.

Sustainable Transport

I will continue to support measures to encourage greater use of more sustainable means of transport. A cycle to work scheme could be introduced with modest funds raised from increasing charges on higher-polluting vehicles. Public transport needs to be cheaper and more customer friendly to encourage people to leave their cars at home.

The Future

There are two big issues facing Government in the next five years: maintaining sustainable economic growth and rebalancing government finances.

Economic Growth

To ensure that sustainable economic growth is maintained and a more diverse economy developed, we need to reinforce and enhance our collective ability to identify emerging markets and back winners. The creation of the Department of Economic Development was a significant step in the right direction. By working more closely with business, this relatively new Department is delivering better value for money for taxpayers. It needs to strengthen existing high potential sectors, and to develop new ones, as the Island has successfully done in the past.

Devising and implementing a new economic development strategy is an urgent priority.

With limited resources we have to spend money wisely but if we are to find the next 'big thing' in business we need to be prepared to take considered risk and spend some 'seed corn' money on emerging new sectors. If significant progress is to be made, Government needs robustly to defend this 'considered risk' approach against the 'blame and shame' culture often engendered by the media and some Tynwald members.

Departments of Government must actively engage with all economic sectors to ensure the best possible environment for business to thrive. Such engagement will not, of course, guarantee that business gets everything its own way - the overall needs of our community must come first - but it should allow for more business-friendly decisions.

More than ever Tynwald needs to work as a team. The constant backbiting and negativity which has become increasingly prevalent in recent years, is undermining our ability to succeed.



Economic Diversification

Measures to diversify our economy have been quite successful over the past decade. With an uncertain global financial outlook **it is important that we continue to look for new sectors for future expansion** as well as doing all that we can to maintain the finance sector.

Significant expansion of our embryonic 'clean tech' sector is a must. We are well placed not only to exploit the opportunities created by the UK's expansion of its renewable energy programme, but also to encourage and support research and development companies specialising in emerging 'clean' technology.

The Department of Economic Development should continue to develop strategies and support packages to assist in the establishment of such new sectors. Tynwald and Government must allow the new Department the freedom to take considered risks in exploring new economic sectors.

Rebalancing Government Finances

Government has already implemented a strategy which addresses the first £100 million loss from our VAT income, without using reserves. This included a £50 million spending cut, reduced capital expenditure and increased income. A further £75 million must now be found which will require further reductions in expenditure.

While our economy is being buffeted by the considerable financial uncertainties and turmoil facing the global economy, further reductions in public sector expenditure must be taken with great care. **Government expenditure represents about 25% of our economy so savage cuts at a time of private sector fragility would be unwise.**

In the short term it may be prudent to use some of our £1.4 billion reserves while maintaining Government's 'managed retreat' approach to spending cuts. This approach has saved £50 million in two years, largely without the need to consider compulsory redundancies.

Constitutional Reform

Greater Independence

I have always believed that the Isle of Man should continue the process of gradual constitutional reform started in the late 1950s which has been leading us to greater independence from the UK. The 'International Personality Agreement' formalised in 2007 gives us a much stronger ability to put our case externally and **we must do more to build links and strengthen existing friendships with other countries.**

We must, however, be careful not to cut off our nose to spite our face. We are still benefiting from our relationship with the UK – the customs agreement is still of advantage to us – so we must be sure if we were ever to finally break our UK link, that we have a better solution to replace it. **I am committed to ensuring that the new Government undertakes a fully costed review of all our options regarding independence.**

Legislative Council

I have supported all measures brought forward to try to deliver a more democratic process for Legislative Council elections.

However, if we cannot reach agreement on a popularly elected Legislative Council, I would favour introducing legislation to diminish the role of Legislative Council Members instead.

Chief Minister

There is also a democratic deficit in the current way in which the Chief Minister is chosen which I believe needs to be addressed. However, it will be difficult to justify spending a huge amount of time introducing legislation for popular elections for Legislative Council or Chief Minister in the immediate future, bearing in mind the scale of the financial challenges we will be facing.

Transparency and Freedom of Information

I will continue to press for a more transparent system of Government and support the early introduction of stronger freedom of information legislation.

Restructuring Government

Government has restructured its Departments and as a result begun a cultural change across the civil service, as well as saving over £1 million a year through reduced rental of private sector property.

Health, Social Care and Pensions

Long term affordability of health, social care and pensions could be addressed through a 1% increase in national insurance contributions and more cost-effective service delivery. An increased focus on low-cost interventions such as community support to allow elderly people to remain in their homes, is not only better for the people concerned but it's cheaper too. That said, **I am pleased that after many years of lobbying by your MHKs the Department of Social Care has agreed to open Surby Ward in Southlands providing twelve new spaces for those who need them.**

Aspects of our Health Service have been enhanced through the improved use of IT to allow access and transfer of medical records and enhanced medical procedures. Also, new screening services for breast and bowel cancer have been introduced. Again low cost interventions such as health education and physiotherapy reduce the need for higher cost treatments at a later stage. **More must be done to improve efficiency and reduce waiting lists.**

Uncertainty over pension provision is a big worry for people approaching the end of their working lives. A new scheme to ensure public sector pensions are affordable in the future has been introduced. This allows public sector workers to have certainty that their pensions can be paid in the medium term and reassures taxpayers that they won't have to face massive tax bills to pay for future public sector pensions. **MHKs must contribute to their pensions and I will continue to press for the early adoption of such a scheme.**

People of my age and younger will have to work longer and expect a later retirement age if pensions are to remain affordable. Government needs to do more to encourage people to save for their old age. A significant review of the benefits system is also long overdue.



My Record in Reducing Expenditure

I have a proven record in implementing spending reductions, both as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Minister for Infrastructure. In the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry **I reduced the budget over the five year period I was Minister by 12% and reduced staff numbers by 7%.** During this period the direct support to farmers was increased and the level of service was largely maintained. In the Department of Infrastructure I have this year reduced the budget by 7% and staff numbers by 2.5% with only limited impact on the services we deliver.

In principle I agree that some services could be outsourced and run more successfully and efficiently by the private sector. For example, in DAFF **we 'outsourced' our fish hatcheries** to a company which pays the Department for the use of its facilities and provides the service we formerly ran. On the other hand, updating management practice and rethinking strategy at the Government run Saw Mill at St John's, enabled the Mill to move from a half million pounds loss to a break even position whilst maintaining a strategically important national asset.

We need to revisit the report into the Scope and Structure of Government. In particular, **the suggestions for improved service delivery need to be urgently considered.** In searching for improved management structures for public services, serious consideration should be given to the cooperative or mutual model. Private or public sector service providers would **involve staff, users and members in ensuring decisions are taken for the greater public good** - a practice I have tried to adopt in all my Departmental work.

Significant savings and improved productivity can be delivered through simplifying the bureaucratic way in which Government employs and manages staff. Savings can also be generated through the expanded provision of online services.

I will support and encourage such measures.



In Rushen

Tackling Dilapidated Properties and Boosting the Construction Sector

I would look to establish a Task Force on redundant and dilapidated properties which would urgently introduce legislative, financial and taxation measures to ensure such properties are **transformed from eyesores to productive and attractive assets in our communities**. As part of its budget rebalancing strategy, Government intends significantly to reduce its capital expenditure programme. As this programme represents about 70% of the construction sector's work, it is essential that urgent measures are introduced to encourage private sector development.

Local Issues

Clearly Government finances will be severely restricted in the next five years, so Government will not be able to deliver as much as it did in better times. If elected I will strive to deliver the following for Rushen using good-value public sector or privately funded means:

- A skipper bus linking the ports and villages to the main Port Erin to Douglas route
- Improved bus service to the Hospital
- Enhanced delivery of regeneration schemes for the Ports
- Development of a Marine Heritage Centre in Port St Mary
- A stronger, longer Alfred Pier and seasonal pontoons in Port St Mary harbour
- Development of the Ballakilley land for recreational purposes and some limited social and first-time buyer housing
- Redevelopment of the Lower Promenade/Shore Road in Port Erin
- Development of Port Erin as the Marine Leisure Centre for the Isle of Man
- Redevelopment of the Marine Laboratory site
- Road improvements, particularly from the Four Roads into Port Erin
- Low cost solutions to reduce traffic speed
- Support for small business to establish in Rushen
- Support for some Government offices to relocate to Rushen
- Fairer access to nursery education

Housing

The cost of purchasing a house makes home ownership unaffordable for many, particularly the young. We must develop more practical solutions to address this in the next five years. It is important that Government adopts **stronger policies to ensure housing development brings benefits to the Manx community**; if elected, I will ensure more is done to address this serious matter.

The lack of transparency and monopolistic practices evident in sale and development of new housing needs to be addressed. **I was successful this year in getting Second Reading for a Bill which would bring more transparency to this area and, if elected, I will reintroduce this Bill at the earliest opportunity.**

Young People

Our most valuable asset is our people so providing a good education is an essential investment by Government. **I support the continuation, as far as possible, of Government funded degree level and vocational education.** In difficult financial times, however, it may be necessary to have part Government-funded, part top-up loan funded postgraduate education.

Growing youth unemployment is also a very big concern. In attempting to address this problem I will continue to support good quality vocational and academic training and look to encourage more apprenticeships and paid internships in Government and the private sector.

Immigration

More appropriate implementation of work permit legislation has reduced the numbers of people from outside the Isle of Man competing for Manx jobs. Introduction of a five year residency qualification for most benefits has reduced 'benefit tourism'. It is important that in difficult economic times we maintain robust measures to control immigration.

