

VOTE ALEX ALLINSON

I'm Alex Allinson and four years ago I was honoured to be voted in as a Ramsey Town Commissioner for the first time. It's been a busy few years and I've learnt a lot about the way the town hall works, and the huge influence that Central Government has on it. There is still a lot to do, and I'm back asking for your vote again.

My wife, two kids and I moved over from London ten years ago, and have never looked back. We love the Island, and still feel Ramsey is one of the friendliest places we've ever lived. Our kids are thriving here and have benefited from the excellent local schools, and we have made Ramsey our home. Through my work as a local GP, and my wife's involvement as a School Governor and with various clubs we've met some great people here and made some great friends.

For the last four years as a Commissioner I have been the local representative on the swimming pool board and tried to get more people swimming, keep the admission prices down, and ensure that the facility and the café are run for the benefit of local people. I've also had responsibility for the parks and library. The exercise equipment around the Mooragh Lake was an Island first and we must make sure we have more sports facilities for both young and elderly people in the town. The commissioners worked hard to get the bowling alley established, despite opposition from some in the south, and have worked hard to ensure that any regeneration meets the needs of the people, not the whims of architects!

Local elections normally get a poor turnout, and I too feel a bit despondent about politics at the moment. Every week there is news of more cuts, job losses and price increases. One of the most important roles of the Commissioners is to make sure that your money is spent wisely. I am dedicated to making sure that rates stay low, that local people can see what they get for their money, that we encourage new businesses and shops in our town but more importantly protect the services and facilities we already have.

I'm standing again because there is a really important job to be done protecting and developing our town over the next four years. There will be challenges but also real opportunities to make it an even better place to live.

I am FOR;

- ✓ **Low rates, fair rents and an efficient town hall that doesn't waste your money.**
- ✓ **A Marina from the Swing Bridge up to the Old Harbour to try and redevelop the quay side and bring more tourists to the town.**
- ✓ **Breathing life into Market Square, restoring it to a meeting place and open air market rather than a dull car park.**
- ✓ **Working with local businesses to keep our High Street alive and encouraging new shops and offices to be set up.**

- ✓ **Providing more sheltered housing so that elderly people can be looked after properly and not have to spend their life savings on a care home.**

Let's not be too negative but what I am AGAINST?

- × **Central planners who have never visited the town trying to decide what local people can and cannot build here.**
- × **Any attempt to introduce parking charges in the town as they have done in Douglas.**
- × **Any plan to demolish the Pier or destroy it further.**
- × **The closure of the pre-school unit and other planned cuts to our schools.**
- × **Private landlords demanding Rip Off Rents and those who seem happy to leave a dilapidated building unused.**

I don't think that Ramsey is "dead". I'd like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for all the work they put into events like the Santa Trail. We have new shops opening, and the scaffolding along Parliament Street shows that people are improving and investing in the towns' future. We need to support our local businesses and oppose big out of town shopping centres, which avoid local tax and suck the heart out of town centres. I would like to play my small part in making sure Ramsey has a bright future, for me and my children. If you feel the same please come out to vote on Thursday 26th April.