



ABOUT JON

Aged 56

Married to Angela for 35 years, with two grown up children, Emma and Myles

Educated on the Isle of Man

Lived in East Douglas for 25 years

Postman for 33 years

Union Branch Secretary and Chairman for 10 years

Isle of Man Post Office Pension Trustee for 10 years

Small business owner for 12 years

An independent member of Employment Tribunals

Elected to Council 2012

A member of the housing committee

Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Local Government Board Pension Scheme

Deputy Major of Douglas for 2014

Elected MHK November, 2015

A Member of the Home Affairs and Infrastructure departments

House of Keys Election, September 22nd 2016

JON JOUGHIN

Independent candidate for Douglas East

Dear Constituent

On September the 22nd the Isle of Man electorate have an opportunity to change the way our Island is governed.

The next five years I believe will be the most difficult and diverse in our Government's history and when it comes to an election, candidates make all sorts of declarations such as diversifying the economy, calling for a more open, accountable, smaller and smarter government and promising to look after the vulnerable of our community. I too respect and fully declare all of these promises but with a difference I believe in them and know I can achieve and protect these values. I know the voters of the Isle of Man have been disillusioned and angry with this present government and I too am no exception, and as your newest MHK for East Douglas for only 10 months give me a chance to show you what I can do for you the constituents of East Douglas and the Island nationally.

I believe I can make a difference and I make a sincere commitment to put your interests first and fight for your voice to be heard. I don't believe in leaving a job unfinished, I will stay and fight for what I believe to be right and when it comes to being unpopular with the government so be it, and to you the electorate I promise to tell you with integrity and honesty why I believe something is not right and just.

Politics needs to come back to the people. You need to know where your money is going. You need to have your say. We now, more than ever, need a sensible and responsible government, candidates who act for the good of the public and not their own political career.

Your vote is very important. It's more important now than it's ever been in a long time. Spend your vote wisely this is not a popularity contest. This is your future.



MY KEY PRIORITIES

GROWING THE ECONOMY
PROTECTING THE FRONT LINE SERVICES
SMALLER SMARTER GOVERNMENT
PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

THE LAST DATE FOR RECEIVING ABSENT VOTERS FORMS THE 15TH SEPTEMBER.

IN EAST DOUGLAS YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CAST TWO VOTES AS THERE ARE TWO SEATS TO FILL. BUT IF YOU HAVE A PREFERRED CANDIDATE YOU MAY VOTE ONCE. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

I ASK YOU TO CONSIDER CASTING YOUR VOTE FOR ME AND YOU WILL GET IN RETURN 100% COMMITMENT.

POLLING STATIONS

DOUGLAS EAST	POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING STATION BUILDING
Douglas East	CDGE1	Promenade Methodist Church Hall Loch Promenade, Douglas
Douglas East	CDGE2	iMuseum Kingswood Grove, Douglas (opposite The Ellan Vannin Home)
Douglas East	CDGE3	Freemasons Hall Woodbourne Road, Douglas
Douglas East	CDGE3	Spiritualist Church Lower Dukes Road, Douglas
Douglas East	CDGE5	Promenade Methodist Church Hall Loch Promenade, Douglas

Email:
jjoughin@manx.net



If you require transport on polling day please ring

463202 or 413546



JON
JOUGHIN
for Douglas East

Proposer: Councillor Ian Clague, C.B.E.

Seconder: Councillor Raina Chatel, Freeman of the Borough

STORMY WATERS AHEAD

The biggest and most important issue this next government and the people of the Isle of Man will face will be the Brexit talks with Westminster. These talks will affect our Island's future for us and the next generation to come. We will need skilled politicians and negotiators with experience and knowledge to take this monumental agreement forward successfully. The Crown Dependencies have already written a joint letter to the new Prime Minister Theresa May regarding this issue. She has written back giving us her assurance that the crown dependencies will be one of her main priorities.

We cannot allow time to lapse on this issue we need to be proactive and lead the discussion making sure our voices are heard and the decisions made, are the right ones for our Island and the road ahead.

On the plus side this may also be a golden opportunity to gain more autonomy for our Island. Whatever happens we need to be pragmatic and open minded.

The second important issue will be the Steam Packet User Agreement which is due to expire in 2026. The Steam Packet has already tried to push through an unacceptable offer during the last few months of this outgoing parliament. It has been proven in the past there is only enough business for one main operator. I am not opposed to the Steam Packet as a company and I respect the long term and historic service they have provided for the Isle of Man but they need to be a part of the solution and not the

problem. There are many theories of how to run a modern, quality and regular service for both passenger and freight. The Isle of Man Government has already invested heavily into securing the new Liverpool Princes Dock Landing Stage site and Liverpool City Council have made a financial commitment to invest into upgrading its infrastructure in way of access to the site. The new government must now negotiate with the Steam Packet or any interested third party a new user agreement.



The other option would be for the Isle of Man Government to buy its own vessel and lease it to either chosen party. Or option three, the Isle of Man Government runs its own national shipping company.

All of these decisions carry massive consequences. Most importantly the Isle of Man Steam Packet is a major employer with over

400 employees. Before any decision is made we need to secure the future of these employees, making the employees as important as the deal.

There are indeed stormy waters ahead a decision has to be made and this is something that could affect all island residents and tourism for the next thirty years and you should have a chance to have your input and thoughts put forward by way of some form of consultation.

We are an island race and this is our national life line.

STATE PENSION

I did not support breaking away from the UK Government Reciprocal Pension Agreement. But now we have our own stand, alone pension scheme which although I believe is not ideal at least the government can keep control of its funding.

The payments of all those pensioners already receiving a state pension and the Manx supplement will be unchanged and protected. But from 2019 any new pensioners will receive the new fixed rate payment. Now we will have a two tiered pension scheme. Where I would for both schemes at least like to see an automatic annual pay increase, indexed linked to the Retail Price Index or Consumer Price Index so protecting it from any political interference.

I do believe in state pensions, it is our fundamental basic right. Pensioners have worked hard all their working life, they deserve dignity in retirement and it's the government's job to honour their pledge and provide it. I would always do my utmost to protect the state pension.

OUR FRONT LINE SERVICES

This Government has publicly stated that they have balanced the books. It is important going forward that what funds we currently have allocated to our front line services such as policing, education and health are ring fenced and protected from any further cuts and not further eroded away.

THE ELECTORAL REGISTER

The system we have now has proved it is not fit for purpose and still is based in Victorian times rather than the needs of the 21st Century. It cannot be right, that in this modern day and age, anyone wanting to join the electoral roll and exercise their democratic right to vote has to wait up to three months to appear on a paper roll. It should at the very least be updated weekly.

If we are to attract our young voters we must make this roll more accessible and convenient. We should be able to electronically update our own voting register. I would encourage and support reform of this antiquated system.



SMALLER SMARTER GOVERNMENT

The Government should lead by example when cutting costs, by reforming itself first and foremost. Starting with the Ministers and departments, these should be condensed into smaller numbers.

I also believe that serious consideration should be given to reducing the total number of MHK's and MLC's and we are seriously overburdened with local authorities, councillors and commissioners. I have been actively involved in talks concerning local government reform and I support the establishment of five main local authorities plus Douglas, with the council being reduced to twelve members. This will stop uncontested seats and voter apathy. This is long overdue and the Government needs to act swiftly with no further delay.

HOUSING

The building sector has suffered greatly in recent years. This is mostly due to the banks not lending or putting strict guide lines in practice making for unrealistic deposits and conditions. The Bank of England has cut its interest rate to the lowest ever and made more money available to the banks with the condition they must lend. This is just the news we need to stimulate our stalled building sector. Now is the time to increase the building of our first time buyer's homes. We need affordable housing for our young people giving them a good start, a foot on the ladder and hope for the future. The Government need to work together with the banks and support affordable lending. The housing market has always been a good barometer of any economy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD HOUSING

I support the government refurbishment of local government board housing stock in particular the total redevelopment of the Willaston housing estate, which is long overdue, and shows the governments long term commitment to social housing.

The government now needs to invest more in sheltered accommodation for our ageing population. Sheltered accommodation will be included in the Willaston project and I would like to see the much talked about development of the former Park Road School site, which has been earmarked for residential sheltered accommodation, come to fruition.

REGENERATION

The town centre regeneration scheme will now be completed to include Castle Street, Dukes Street and Market Hill. The regeneration of Strand Street has been a great success making it a better environment in which to shop and socialise. I believe we now need a proper Town Square where we can accommodate street performers and entertainment to be used as a focal point for the Town. Phase 2 of the Douglas Promenade regeneration also includes Greensills corner in front of the Sefton Hotel. Where a large open plaza space will be developed which will link the promenade walk way through the street areas to the quayside bars and restaurants which will only enhance the whole shopping experience. This has been a long time coming and I shall endeavour to push these schemes through quickly and not allow them to be delayed any longer as they have in the past.

PARKING

The streets of upper East Douglas have fast become a free public car park, and this is totally unacceptable to the residents. We need more residential parking zones and more affordable, car parking space. The bus station site is in desperate need of development and this would be a long term solution to our problems.

BLOTS ON THE LANDSCAPE

I feel there are currently four main sites of concern in central Douglas. We have Summerland, Middlemarch (Walpole Ave), Cambrian Place and the Bus Station. These are all major pieces of real estate that are crying out for development and they belong to us, the taxpayers of the Isle of Man. There have been numerous grand plans from major investors that have been either rejected or stalled by our Government. These sites need to be developed not just to improve the appearance of the gateway of our capital but also to increase growth in our economy and give Douglas the vibrancy that has long been lacking. This in turn will generate jobs and new places of interest for visitors and residents. I would actively encourage and support any viable development of these sites.

Alongside this all local authorities need to be given more authority from government to deal with the increasing numbers of derelict buildings around the island. We have a prime example in the Castle Mona Hotel. My personal view is this historic and iconic building cannot be left to fall into further disrepair. I have tried in the past to secure the property as our National Art Gallery. This is a building with significant historic provenance and it should be secured and utilized as a national treasure and if the future of the Castle Mona continues to be uncertain I feel we should compulsory purchase this landmark building.

PUBLIC SECTOR PENSIONS

For too long the government had buried its head in the sand and did nothing to address this problem. Over twenty years ago it was known that a problem was imminent in pensions in general. At last the government has grasped the nettle and took the first step to resolve this problem. It has not been easy to get all parties on board. The government has now amalgamated all schemes into one pension pot called GUS (Government United Scheme). Government have increased funding to reduce their liabilities and employees have seen an increase in their contributions and changes in terms and conditions for all new entrants to the scheme. This is only the first step in a long journey and may have to be revisited sometime in the future.

This is a debt we are obligated to pay, despite the media's portrayal these pensioners are not all high ranking civil servants. The majority of the members are hospital porters, nurses, manual workers, police, firemen and teachers. All front line services, people who serve all of us on a daily basis.

We all need to remember that employees are the most important asset of any organization and only by mutual respect and working together can this long term problem be solved.



EDUCATION INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

It is important that we continue to invest in education. The increasingly difficult job market demands higher qualification criteria putting increasing demands on our young people. It is crucial that we retain and recruit the best possible teaching staff, in order that our young people can achieve the best educational start in life.

We now have the ICT project in the Nunnery finally up and running. This involves supporting present skills and developing them further to include a wider range of qualifications for the modern more demanding job market. Because of the shortage of IT skills at this present time on the island work permit status have been temporarily lifted to accommodate the demand of the job market. But once our own students have qualified they will be able to fill more of the vacancies and so our students have more exciting job prospects.

It is a great achievement that our College has been upgraded to University status and this will certainly help to keep the cost of higher

education down by keeping more of our students at home. But I believe, It is also important to expand the old traditional apprenticeship schemes as they are continually oversubscribed, which has had a knock on effect with employers not employing, unless their already accepted employees have obtained a position on the scheme. We should have a way of keeping these enthusiastic young people employed and fulfilled until the next year's intake by helping the employer and apprentice.

It is better for the young to be working and gaining experience rather than being on benefits. The new Henry Bloom Noble School is a much needed addition. It not only improves the surrounding area but also improves morale and confidence in the sector by providing an excellent environment for both staff and pupils to excel. A modern school with modern facilities in this area was well overdue and should be an example going forward of what we need across our whole island.

OUR OVER 75s TV LICENCES

In 2018 the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands have been granted free over 75 TV Licences from the BBC. The BBC already short-change the Isle of Man by the tune of an estimated one million pounds per year. They are contracted to support both local radio and local news of which they do neither.

This should be the first item on the agenda on the first sitting of Tynwald in October. Not only do we need to secure the over 75s free TV Licence we need the complete service that they are contracted to supply.

The first question that should be asked is how has this been left to go on for so long.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND SELF SUFFICIENCY

One of the most important issues we need to address in the next parliament is how we make our energy costs more affordable for the people of the Isle of Man. Firstly dropping costs in the home and secondly encouraging business and manufacturing, new and old, with lower costs. There are currently three ways we could keep our costs down - tidal, solar and wind all of which we have in abundance on the island. Technology has come a long way since this has been first looked at and we have sat on the fence for long enough we need to become more self-sufficient and not solely reliant on imported fuel. We also need to explore and exploit our natural resources in the P 50 Ramsey Bay gas field site. Exporting the gas will bring much needed income to the treasury and cheaper gas to the door.

GROWING THE ECONOMY

Our Island needs a long term economic growth strategy, one that focuses on how the economy is going to be expanded and developed over a 30 year period rather than one just for the length of one parliament.

The Isle of Man is truly fortunate in already having a diverse economy such as finance, shipping, Gaming and insurance to name but a few, these are all flourishing and expanding businesses but we must not forget our old traditional industries such as tourism, manufacturing and farming these are the key areas of the economy that need to be expanded and encouraged.

As the Island was awarded Unesco Biosphere status we should do more to promote our agricultural products and our marine produce. So promoting, organic, healthy food, sourced from our land and shores.

Manufacturing should be given grants and subsidies to promote growth for established businesses and to encourage new business to the island.

Exporting will result in long term growth in our economy.

DOUGLAS PROMENADE

There are three major problems with Douglas promenade that need to be urgently addressed in the forthcoming term. Firstly the promenade wall and shore steps of Loch Promenade and the Strathallen area are in an extremely serious state of repair, money has already been allocated to this area by treasury. This work needs to commence urgently as this is having a detrimental impact on the whole promenade walkway and road.

The promenade causeway is well over 100 years old and it has never had any major maintenance and expenditure spent on it during that time. It is built on reclaimed land which is eroding and collapsing above and more worrying below. The money has already been allocated to infrastructure for the entire development of the promenade but it has been held up by planning fiascos. Our Douglas promenade is a major thoroughfare and the shop front of Douglas and the gateway to the Isle of Man. I don't agree with any short term fix this is a major project which needs to be done now. I know this will cause inconvenience to the residents and businesses of East Douglas but it will bring major employment to the Town and the future benefits will outweigh the problems this will bring.

After Douglas Corporation's dramatic decision to terminate the Horse Trams I joined the committee to look at their future. This committee consists of Councillors, MHK's, Manx National Heritage, IOM Transport and Infrastructure members. A temporary solution has been agreed that the Government would take over the running costs for a two year period and already the costs have been substantially reduced. The horse trams were running at a £260,000 loss to the ratepayers of Douglas but now are reduced to an estimated loss of £50,000. This is a huge achievement in such a short period of time.

I have always believed that the ratepayers of Douglas should never have had the cost burden of the horse trams, this is a heritage attraction and should have always been under the same remit as the Steam Railway and Electric Trams.

Once negotiations with Douglas Corporation have been completed to secure the Strathallen site for a nominal fee a new tourist and heritage visitor's centre can be developed, with a shop and café to serve both the Electric and Horse Tram service.



TOURISM

We have to recognise that the Island will never have mainstream tourism again in the way it did in the 1970's/80's. However, I do think the Island has great potential to increase its footfall of tourists from where it is today. I feel the government should give more help to support the promotion of events should as athletics, cycling and other sporting events. We have a great sporting culture and history on the island. There is already a fantastic following for motor cycle racing. Recently we have seen a huge growth in the vintage motor cycles and cars events. The Jurby festival has been a phenomenal success story. As an owner of a vintage motor cycle I have spoken to many fellow vintage enthusiasts, who would love to come over and hold events on the island. This island is full of vintage machinery and transport. It is an untapped gold mine for enthusiasts. We should do more to promote walking, camping and rambling holidays around the island's wealth of coastal walks, footpaths and glens. The island has fully stocked reservoirs and a bountiful sea, we should be promoting all of these facilities.

During TT week this year a visitor I was speaking to said firstly how difficult and expensive it was to come to the Isle of Man these days (he used to come every year through the late 60's and 70's). He said the Island turned its back on tourism in the 80's in favour of finance. How true that is, we should never be complacent again. We need a diverse economy and should never again put all our eggs in one basket.