

# Braddan Parish Commissioners Election

## **THURSDAY APRIL 22ND**



New Candidate:

**Mrs. Margaret  
Hodge**

*Dear Elector*

*I would like to introduce myself as a new candidate in the election to the Braddan Parish Commissioners.*

*My husband Dick and I moved to Braddan two years ago, but Dick has been a regular TT and Manx GP supporter for more than 20 years. With a grown-up family of three sons, we are technically retired but we seem to be quite busy – Dick with his old motorbikes and me with voluntary work as a Welcomer at the new Nobles Hospital. We are members of Trinity Methodist Church, Friends of the Glens, Friends of the Gaiety and keen walkers.*

*I appreciate the opportunity to stand for the Braddan Commissioners and feel that as a woman and a relative newcomer, I can perhaps bring a new perspective to the working of the Parish. With eight years as an Independent District Councillor in Oxfordshire, I have considerable experience in the delivery of public services.*

*An English District Council covers very much the same responsibilities as a Parish Commissioners Board here in the island. My particular interests were Housing; Direct Services management; Planning and Development.*

*Housing:*

*I was concerned with the allocation of local authority houses, their maintenance, and the management of tenants' problems.*

*Direct Services Management:*

*I chaired the Management Board, and dealt with refuse collection, waste disposal and recycling, and the upgrading and refurbishing of the authority's housing stock. Our Direct Services organisation had to compete against private contractors under the compulsory competitive tendering scheme, and were regularly successful in securing contracts for the authority. We had an excellent workforce, and I was instrumental in introducing an apprentice training scheme.*

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## *Planning and Development:*

*I sat on the Planning Committee for 6 years, and although planning applications are not determined by the Commissioners, the knowledge of planning issues that I gained will undoubtedly be of use in commenting on applications in the Parish.*

*Development was concerned with strategic planning policy for the district, looking forward some 10 years and determining how the land should be used, balancing the various needs for housing, commercial development, and most importantly, open space.*

*As Chairman of the Development Committee I was involved in discussions with the Ministry of Defence over the redevelopment of a former airbase in our district; we were able to thwart plans put forward by a heavyweight consortium of house-builders who wanted to build 5000 houses there!*

*I have always been interested in making a community work successfully, and if elected I would hope to work with enthusiasm to this end in Braddan.*

## *Priorities for Braddan in the immediate future:*

*From my reading of recent agenda papers, I would identify the management of waste materials (including recycling) as one of the most important issues, and this will be a subject on which I hope to make an informed contribution.*

*I also feel that it is important that Braddan retains its own rural identity, by emphasising the value of our green open spaces.*

*A year or so ago I participated in a project initiated by the Commissioners and local Police officers, 'Community Oriented Problem Solving' (C.O.P.S.) which sought to involve the whole community in solving local problems, and would hope we could expand on that type of approach.*

*I have been impressed by the commitment and forward thinking of the current Board of Commissioners, and would welcome the opportunity to join them. All four have signed my nomination form, so I believe that I have their strong support.*

*I would be happy to talk to anyone on issues relating to this election; I will be walking around the Parish delivering my leaflets, and I look forward to meeting at least some of you, or hearing from you. My phone/fax number is 611411, or you can e-mail me at 'margaret@hodge1.co.uk'.*

*Margaret Hodge*

***I believe that the women's point of view is important!  
Please vote for me on April 22nd!***

<b>HODGE</b>	<b>X</b>
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