

Braddan Parish Commissioners Election



Andrew Jessopp BSc (Hons)

- *Married to Ann, a primary school teacher; we have three children*
- *Self-employed business consultant*
- *Chairman BADAIR*
- *Deputy Chairman Zero Waste Mann*
- *Association of Braddan Residents former committee member*

Dear fellow Braddan resident,

Our local authority, Braddan Parish Commissioners, has had a chequered history. In recent years it has swung from an authority renowned for its profligate use of ratepayers' money to one of the most efficient and effective on the Island. However, there has been one common theme throughout its history – the threat from outside forces to the survival of its rural character and way of life.

These forces have appeared, among others, in the form of:

- *Douglas Corporation who land-grabbed a large junk of Braddan in the 1980's and despite their current denials still pose a threat – and in the meantime continue with a policy that pushes businesses out of Douglas and into Braddan*
- *DHSS who located the new Nobles Hospital in Braddan despite sustained local opposition*
- *DLGE who dumped the incinerator into our green fields because Douglas, who has 8 MHK's to Middle's 1, objected to a site at the Whitehoe - and who now hope to rezone large tracts of Braddan, turning a rural landscape into one consisting of housing and industrial estates*
- *DHA who wanted to build a new prison at Ballafletcher – and who may yet return as the site at Jurby is still being resisted*
- *DoT who have bulldozed road widening schemes and leaky IRIS pipelines through our country lanes despite serious questions about the sense of them*

Currently leading the Council of Ministers' offensive on Braddan is the Minister for the DLGE, Mrs Pam 'no more popular votes for me' Crowe MLC. This cynical appointment by the Chief Minister was obviously made to ease the way through Tynwald, and onto the public, indefensible policies on waste management, local authority reform and planning.

It is essential that Braddan voters elect a board of Commissioners that have a sound knowledge of how government works. We also need a board that understands the full implications of COMIN's policies and who are willing and able to challenge them.

I wholeheartedly believe that there is an important role for local authorities to play in the future of the Isle of Man. The provision and funding of local services should be controlled at a local level by local people. If central government becomes responsible for all local services then the ability of small communities to influence any decision involving the provision of services in their area will be virtually impossible.

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If that is allowed to happen then grass roots democracy will wither and die. It is vitally important that a halt is called to the erosion of local authorities responsibilities. In fact a reversal of this policy must be put into effect. Tynwald already spends too much time debating local issues whilst neglecting important national matters.

I have acquired considerable knowledge and experience of the people and systems involved in the government of the Island at local, and national, level through my environmental campaigning and political lobbying activities. I hope that I have put that to good use over the last few years in fighting the cause for many Braddan residents, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to do so without statutory recognition.

It appears from recent events in Tynwald, e.g. the scrapping of the Waste Management Board, that even when you have that recognition the 'executive' now feels sufficiently empowered to ignore it. However, it would be just too easy to bury our heads in the sand and allow the situation to deteriorate further. Over the next four years an awful lot of damage could be wreaked by a central government, whose systems have been found to be 'corrupt', if they face little or no opposition from local authorities.

If you agree that local government is worth fighting for and that local people should be making the decisions on housing, planning, traffic management, rates, community facilities & policing, waste disposal, protecting the local environment and many other 'local' services then you can count on me to do just that.

Turning to more individual areas of concern, different parts of the Parish (which because of its size and location is like a microcosm of the whole Island) have quite diverse concerns and priorities. Whether these concerns are: what is going to happen with Leece Lodge; how can traffic be prevented from speeding through the Strang; will the anti-social behaviour of a nearby resident be dealt with; who will be responsible for the cost of dealing with the fly tipping on Marine Drive; will a fire engine be able to make it to my house on Mount Murray; when will we get more facilities for young/older residents; why can a MHK get planning permission for a new house in the countryside when I can't get permission for a new garage - I will do my best to work with whoever necessary to find the solutions to these problems.

*Some say that the road to hell is paved with good intentions but, beware, in rural Braddan the road is more likely to be full of pot holes or closed! My intention and promise is that I will devote my time and energy to work in the best interests of **ALL** of Braddan Parish.*

Finally, thank you for reading this to the end, mind how you go on our roads and if you think that I am the candidate most likely to live up to your expectations – then please vote, on Thursday 22nd April,

ANDREW JESSOPP

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