

REAL CHANGE

Issue 1

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INTRODUCING FRANK SCHUENGEL CANDIDATE FOR DOUGLAS SOUTH

Frank was born on 26th August 1977 in a small town called Murnau. At school he was educated to A level standard and since leaving school has worked in a variety of fields including the hospitality industry. It was the hospitality industry that first brought Frank to the island six years ago, where he worked at the Regency Hotel in Douglas.

Looking for a new challenge Frank then went on to work for the Isle of Man steam packet company, a job in which he gained wide experience of the island. Frank is currently employed as a Sports Trader and Risk Manager (dealing with hundreds of thousands of pounds a week) for one of the top internet companies on the island.

Among his many interests Frank is the founder and Chairman of the Safer Island Driving group which is currently working in conjunction with the Department of Transport to find ways of making our local roads safer for all commuters, be they drivers or pedestrians.

At the age of 29 this year, Frank will be one of the youngest potential candidates for Tynwald at November's election. However this does not deter him.

When asked about this Frank simply replied: *"With my wide range of work experience, from customer service within the hospitality industry to financial matters, I believe I bring the skills necessary to the people of the Isle of Man to ensure that the Island can move forward with confidence in this new century. I don't believe that age is an issue, what matters in a candidate is that they have the enthusiasm, drive, ideas and ambition to make sure that this Island is not only a great place to live but the best place to live. But most importantly of all that the people of the island get listened to about what they actually want. After all the government is there to represent the people who elected it, and I believe too many people in the past have forgotten that."*



AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS TO BE GOVERNMENT PRIORITY!



One of the most important issues facing our government over the next five years is the need to provide affordable housing for our young people. Although certain steps in the right direction have been taken, these are nowhere near enough. Affordable housing needs to be in the form of **actual houses, not more apartments**. We need to be catering for the future families of our island not just single individuals.

The Government needs to ensure that contractors are building low cost, quality houses that are within the price range of first time buyers or the government will begin to lose a lot of these skilled people to other countries where homes are more affordable. Already a large amount of our university educated graduates do not return to the island, and house prices play a large part in this.

The current government assisted programme only covers houses up to £140,000 but these days it is very hard to find a suitable property below this price.

If current government contractors cannot provide homes to meet these needs, or are not willing to, then it is high time the government found a new partner who will.





GAS AND ELECTRICITY PRICES ARE CAUSE FOR CONCERN!



I have extreme concern about the way the electricity and gas prices are rising on our Island. These rises affect the most vulnerable in our society the most but ultimately impact on all our lives. With the recent announcement that electricity prices will rise yet again, and gas prices are rising at an equally large amount, I am concerned that the Manx people are not getting a fair deal. My greatest concern is that both the increases by percentage in electricity and gas prices in the Island by far out pace the rises in the wholesale price of gas over the last decade. It is time it was looked into as to why the Manx people cannot get a fair deal!

Questions:

The way gas is being purchased needs to be looked at, why are we time and again paying more per therm than other countries of similar size?

Why are stockpiles not being purchased when the price per therm is lower than the ten year average, rather than when the price is either at its peak or its average?

MORE COMMUNITY FACILITIES NEEDED!

Feasibility study to see if we can create:

A Centrally located youth centre facility for the under 18's, offering amongst other things, a place to socialise, play snooker, or use the Internet.

More pensioners social clubs for the local communities around the Island.

[Look for local private partners to help fund the above through advertising.](#)

TIME TO LOOK AT THE COST OF TRAVEL!

Look at the cost of travel from and to the Island with a view to establishing whether:

The Manx people receive value for money.

If the services provided are up to the standard expected of today's travellers.

If the volume of services on offer are of the the volume necessary to provide first class services in a competitive economic market.

If there are ways that the cost of travel can be reduced further to the benefit of all travellers.

**I want to hear YOUR views! Should you want to offer any comments, or support, I can be contacted as follows: Frank Schuengel, 6 Leigh Terrace, Douglas, IM1 5AN
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