



**House of Keys  
General Election  
Thursday 23rd November 2006**

# **PHIL BRAIDWOOD**

**YOUR REPRESENTATIVE FOR DOUGLAS EAST**

Dear Constituent,

I would like to use this letter as an opportunity to announce my intention to seek re-election to the House of Keys in the forthcoming general election on Thursday 23rd November 2006.

My background, personal information, political experience and views will follow in my Manifesto, which will be sent to you prior to the election.

I will, once more, stand as an Independent candidate. I am not a member of any alternative party or group, nor am I "backed" by an individual, agency, party or group. This is also a chance to welcome those of you recently moved into Douglas East and to say hello again to those whom I have already met.

It is my intention to begin calling on all constituents shortly and I look forward to talking with you, hearing about those issues causing you most concern and listening to your views on how best I can represent you in the future. I will also be glad to share my own views and vision for the future of our Island.

**IF YOU REQUIRE AN  
ABSENT OR PROXY VOTE  
PLEASE LET ME KNOW.  
IF YOU HAVE NOT YET  
REGISTERED TO VOTE,  
I CAN ARRANGE TO HAVE A  
FORM SENT TO YOU.  
FINALLY, IF YOU WILL  
REQUIRE TRANSPORT ON  
THE DAY, GIVE ME A RING.**

**624286**

I have now served Douglas East, as a Member of the House of Keys for almost 12 years and there is no doubt that the last three years have been extremely challenging for Government. The issues have been well documented and, as I would like to keep your attention, I will not re-iterate them here!

What has been of great regret to me personally throughout the difficult times the Island has experienced, is the lack of a strong "working together" ethic in the House of Keys. I believe that, on an island of this size, when faced with combating and coping with issues that affect us island-wide, we should have representatives that employ teamwork more and work toward consensus resolutions with a positive "can do" attitude.

This does not mean I am against healthy opposition or useful criticism which is necessary if not always welcome! Opposition should not, however, be based on the personal agenda of an individual or on a clash of personalities, but should be of a positive and constructive nature and offer alternative workable solutions to difficult issues. This has sadly not often been the case in the past administration, and in my

**OVER**



## PHIL BRAIDWOOD - YOUR REPRESENTATIVE FOR DOUGLAS EAST

opinion, this approach is detrimental to the well being and reputation of the island as a whole. Despite this observation, we do have some members, and I include myself in that number, who do want to concentrate on the many positive aspects of Island life and do try to work together to improve those areas that need to be improved.

There is no doubt, as in all walks of life, some things could - and should, have been achieved more effectively by Government. It is imperative to learn from mistakes made and it is equally imperative to continue to build on good beginnings. The next administration will certainly continue to face many challenges to both meet and address.

There is an old saying that "A smooth sea never made a skilful mariner" and it is certainly true. It is easy to cope when everything is going well; it is only when the chips are down that the strong survive. I have experienced some of my toughest challenges in Government this past few years but at all times, despite opposition, I have sincerely tried

to do what I believed was fundamentally right and what was ultimately beneficial to the people of the Isle of Man.

It is often tempting in politics to try and court the popularity of the electorate, on the radio or in the newspapers, or by voting for or against certain issues that are perceived to be popular or unpopular by a section of the public, regardless of what this vote will mean for the longer term well being or prosperity of the Island as a whole. I will not follow this route. If the Government is to better serve those sections of our community who need it most; the elderly; the chronically sick and the less well off, then we need to concentrate less on minor transient issues and concentrate more on the "big picture". We need to work together to continue to improve our economy. If our economy is healthy, many beneficial consequences flow from this. We do need to ensure in doing that, however, that we maintain the quality of life we have come to enjoy and expect on the Isle of Man. We have to continue to strive to get the balance right, not always an easy task. I will elaborate on matters of

economy and other issues in my Manifesto.

They say "no experience is wasted" and "you only learn by experience", and I can honestly say that my past political experiences have taught me a great deal. They have made me stronger both personally and politically, I have become more resilient and most of all they have made me more determined than ever, despite opposition faced, to continue to work hard to try to elicit positive change for the constituents of Douglas East and for the Isle of Man as a whole. With your help and support I would like to continue in this endeavour.

A sincere "thank you" to all for your past support and your kind words, letters and phone calls of encouragement. I should also mention the many useful ideas and suggestions you have shared with me for improving things in the Douglas East area, this has been very helpful to me in my role as your representative.

IF I CAN HELP WITH ANY  
OTHER MATTER, IN THE  
MEANTIME, PLEASE  
CONTACT ME AT  
**624286**

Best regards,

*Phil Braidwood*

**PHIL  
BRAIDWOOD** **MHK**  
**YOUR REPRESENTATIVE FOR DOUGLAS EAST**  
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