

Health

We are justifiably proud of the Island's health services and of the people who work in it.

However, during the last term of government we have lived with the constant threat of cuts to front line services despite the huge amount of investment that has taken place..

A recent report into our hospitals was critical of what was seen as weak financial management.

We need to address this problem to ensure that we increase efficiency and direct the proper resources to overworked services, avoiding the risk of corner-cutting to meets targets.

Education

The Isle of Man boasts a very impressive education system and we should do everything in our power to ensure its continuing success. The education of our children is a vital element in ensuring a crime free society. I believe that this can best be achieved by handing more control to head teachers and governors so that they can make decisions that benefit the pupils in their schools.

Housing

With house prices on the Island continuing to rise we must take the necessary steps to ensure that first time buyers are given the best possible means of access to a place on the property ladder . Building a small stock of new houses for first time buyers may seem like a viable solution but doing so may have an adverse effect on the housing market as a whole and could leave many existing house owners with the burden of negative equity. Instead we should be working to develop new initiatives, such as shared equity schemes. At the same time we need to ensure that we maintain an adequate stock of good quality rented accommodation.

Immigration

Migrant workers are vital in maintaining our strong economy and fill the gaps in the employment market not taken up by Manx residents. However, our Government must implement measures to ensure that immigration is kept at a rate which is sustainable. The introduction of a new residency bill will enable us to control this situation.

Pensions

The rate at which the state pension is currently paid means that many people are still caught in a poverty trap and have to rely on means-tested benefits. The allowance needs to be re-assessed and brought into line with the cost of living.

**Gura mie eu son lhaih my chlaare-eieghyn
Thank you for reading my manifesto**

“Economic migrants and vital, but controls are needed”

HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION

Thursday 23rd November 2006

Vote for



DOSSOR ANDREW J.



DOSSOR ANDREW J.



Dear Onchan Voter

My name is Andrew Dossor.

After completing my degree in Law and Criminology at University in Sheffield, I returned to the Island where I am employed as an HR manager. Until the current election campaign, I also worked in the local media, reporting and commenting on events in Parliament.

I have maintained a close interest in Manx politics since my time at Ballakermeen High School and, like many of you, I have been dismayed by events as the latest political term unfolded.

As the youngest candidate in this election, I think that I can bring a fresh, energetic and distinctive perspective on the issues we face today as a community. I believe that new ideas are needed if we are to build on the undoubted successes that the Island has achieved in the past and capitalise on the opportunities and challenges that we face today.

In my manifesto, I not only set out these opportunities and challenges as I see them but, unlike others, I also offer proposals and policies on how we should deal with them.

Commentators tell us that there is now a significant level of apathy within the voting population. I believe that this is partly because of the manner in which our Government has handled major public interest issues in the recent past. Whilst there is much talk of the need for the House of Keys to operate in a more open and transparent way there is little evidence that this is happening. Many of you have told me that you no longer believe that the Government properly represents the ordinary people of this Island and that Ministers' decisions are made without adequate scrutiny. It has not been unusual to be told that you have not seen any of your MHK's since the last election and that you do not feel that your voice is being heard. In discussions on the doorstep, residents have even expressed doubts about the value of casting their votes!

Other candidates may advocate openness and transparency in Government, but few give any indication of how this will be achieved.

Whilst I believe that there is an urgent need for new Freedom of Information Legislation, as an elected representative, I intend to play my own part in bringing the activities of the Government back to the community. I will make myself available and accountable to the electorate by holding constituency surgeries, attending public meetings and publishing newsletters to tell you what I am doing as your representative in the House of Keys. We need to reverse the trend of our elected representatives moving the business of Government further away from the people that it represents and further into the shadows.

I believe that it is time for change in the way our Government operates, and having spoken to many Onchan residents personally and listened to their views, I hope that the ideas and principles contained in my manifesto, will go some way towards addressing your concerns.

The next five years in Government will be difficult for those in power and, for this reason alone, it is essential that we elect candidates of the highest calibre who can re-engage with the electorate, who are seen to be accountable and who possess the drive and initiative to deal with the challenges faced by the Island and its residents. I believe that I possess these qualities and that you can be confident about supporting me in the election.

I hope you enjoy reading my manifesto. This next Government will only work if the people of this Island feel represented by it. If ever you needed to vote for change, the time is now. Do you act or do you not?

If you can help on Election Day or require a lift to the polling station, please call 663362 or 432871.

Crime

Although many of the offences committed in our constituency are regarded as being minor in the eyes of the law, the effects of any crime are far from insignificant to victims or the wider community. Research shows that the threat of custodial sentences is often not a deterrent to crime at any level but it is widely accepted as being a counter-productive measure for dealing with the minor offences. In particular, branding young offenders as criminal often serves no purpose other than to further alienate them from our community, and increases the likelihood of further offending. Instead, community based restorative justice is a much more practical and worthwhile initiative.

Bringing together offenders and victims in an informal yet mediated setting will ensure that offenders are helped to recognize and acknowledge the true consequences of their actions and to make reparation. Victims are given the opportunity of having their harm or loss acknowledged and are provided with a sense of closure and justice.

More serious offences should, of course, be punished with a custodial sentence, and as a society we should work together to ensure that we do not tolerate crime of any degree. However, the current practice of imprisoning young and adult offenders in the same institution is an issue that needs to be addressed. Young offenders should not be treated in the same way as adults. Research shows that juvenile and young offenders are less likely to re-offend when placed in an institution tailored specifically to the needs of their rehabilitation.

Teaching society's norms and values to our children begins at home and it is within family environment that lies our best chance of cutting youth crime. It is accepted that parents are key role models in influencing their children's behaviour and where there are difficulties we need to provide parents with the appropriate level of support and accountability. With rights come responsibilities and our community has the right to be free from crime and the right to equal protection under the law. It also has the responsibility of ensuring our children become productive and valued members of society.

The Environment

Environmental issues should be near the top of the agenda for any government. Climate change is occurring and is adversely affecting our lives. Whilst there may still be time for world governments to bring about changes that will slow or halt the harmful effects of global warming, we as a community have an important part to play. We cannot leave it solely to others to tackle this issue and we need to promote new policies that are environmentally friendly, for example making 'green living' the easy option.

A cost effective recycling service incorporated into the current refuse collection system, would be a viable and practical step in the right direction, that could be incorporated by most people into the often hectic pace of modern life. Too much potentially recyclable waste is going into landfill and it is no longer enough to say that we use 'Bottle Bank' facilities.

Government subsidised energy saving initiatives would further enhance the Island's contribution to the reversal of the effects of climate change. For instance, promoting the usage of energy saving light bulbs would result not only in a significant reduction in the Island's electricity consumption but also the energy bill of every household.

Local Issues

Having spoken to many of you prior to writing this I know there are many issues within Onchan that need addressing. All of these issues are important, but are too many in number to list here. My main priority, if elected, would be to head new initiatives to give the youth of Onchan something to do at night or at weekends.

The youth of Onchan have very little to do on a night or at the weekends and this situation is easily rectified. It would be inexpensive to build a skate park, erect basketball hoops or designate areas for sports like football, but not all young people are into sports. We need to increase the time the youth club is open and have a full renovation of Onchan Park. The older generation need a place to go to be with their friends, big enough to allow for different interest groups to have separate areas of the building. Also, we should provide facilities to allow for those interested in music and the arts somewhere to practice and perform. Most importantly, if we actually engage with the young people by asking them what they want and providing it, it will take them away from the street corners and move to cut petty crime arising from boredom.

“Imprisoning most offenders does not solve the problem or stop reoffending”

“We need to look at subsidies for energy saving products”

“I will bring Government back to the people”

“Green living must become the easy option”

“Ask the youth of Onchan what they want, and provide it”

“MHK's haven't been seen since the election”