

Hazel Hannan

FOR PEEL

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Manifesto

I am proud to have played my part in a Government which has seen the Isle of Man make 'real and significant progress' over the past five years in developing its public services, economy and international reputation.

Our Achievements have been:-

National

- Economic Growth of 25% in five years
- New Hospital
- New Energy-from-Waste plant
- Refurbished Villa Marina
- Start of a new Prison
- Continuing progress on an all-Island Sewage System (IRIS)
- Introduction of a minimum wage

Local

- New swimming pool
- Extensions and refurbishments to both schools
- New Housing for first time buyers and public sector
- Refurbished public sector and sheltered housing
- Harbour Bridge and Water Retention scheme
- New Dental Practice
- Thriving new Arts Centre

The Challenges for the next five years are:-

National

- Increasing the National Income to improve services that we all expect.
- The provision of good quality affordable housing
- Increased energy costs
- Repayment of Manx Electricity Authority borrowings
- Climate change and global warming
- Waste management including landfill and recycling
- Immigration, especially of the very wealthy, attracted by our new slogan "freedom to flourish" interpreted as "anything goes".

Local

- Maintaining the character of Peel
- Integration of new estates into Peel
- New Health Care facilities
- Encourage new businesses
- Improve shopping facilities.
- Car Parking
- Improve leisure and sports facilities
- Funding for the Conservation Area

Health

Nobles Hospital is now well established and the spending on health and social services increases year on year as the number of people being treated also rises.

New specialists are providing services for the first time but some waiting

lists are unacceptably long.

I will continue to do all I can to assist the doctors in Peel to find a new site for an enlarged Medical Centre to provide new facilities and to cope with the increase in the population, and to assist the Corrin Home to make improvements and extend its provision of care.

I fully support the residential Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation unit being fully staffed and operational, and the proposal for a new nursing home in Peel.

Education

Spending in education is the next largest area of commitment by the Government investing in the youth of our nation for the future. One of Peel's strengths is that all our children are educated together but a new approach to schooling will be required for our increasing population.

I welcome, at long last, the upgrading of the Clothworkers School and the continuing investment in the QEII High School.

The provision of nursery education is also welcome but even more investment is required so that all children have the same opportunities. My view remains that money well spent in the early years of family life is more than repaid – not just in educational achievements but socially and in the reduction of teenage crime. Investment in all round education for all abilities must be our aim. We must not be like England concentrating on exam results and league tables. All students should be encouraged and given the opportunities to consider further education whether at college, university or in apprenticeships of which there should be more.

Housing

House prices are one of the main problems to be tackled in the next five years and I will propose putting a stop to multiple home ownership by non-residents, and the removal of tax relief on multiple mortgages. Many new houses being built are unaffordable for our young people as house prices have outstretched earnings.

Whilst fully supporting the ideal of home ownership and government grants for first and second time buyers it is obvious that this is not possible for everyone and it is therefore essential that good quality government financed housing be provided in each locality. Government funds local authority housing although under the care of the Commissioners, so Government must ensure that there is accountability in a proper planned programme of repair and maintenance and that tenants have an independent appeal procedure when work is not carried out on the properties in a timely manner. Good quality sheltered accommodation should be available within the community in all areas together with housing and workshops for the disabled of all ages.

Tourism

Tourism is important to not only the Island but to Peel and we must do more to welcome the visitors we have and to improve the appearance of our streets and countryside. The Heritage Centre and Castle provide focal points for tourists, but we must do more to encourage our visitors to shop locally, support our cafes, and other facilities. The protection of our natural assets and the unspoilt character of our City will also serve as an attraction to both visitors and locals.

Peel harbour has seen major changes with the provision of the water retention scheme increasing shelter for local and visiting vessels. The associated bridge affords a wonderful continuation of the promenade and access to the Castle. Further upgrades and pontoons are planned and I will support existing users who wish to retain their current moorings.

I support the provision of a sympathetically designed hotel on the promenade.

Agriculture

The last twenty years has seen many changes in agriculture with the introduction of higher health standards in food production, animal welfare, farm assurance and traceability, and these costs have had to be absorbed. Investment by both government, in financial support of the meat plant, creamery and flourmill; and by the farmers has been behind the success of the industry along with import controls on beef and sheep meat. These import controls are likely to disappear in the future so we must plan for this eventuality but in the meantime I will support all efforts to continue the EU derogation.

Government funding to support local food production, conservation of the countryside and protection of habitats is essential and I will continue to support organic farming.

Fishing

I pledge to continue to support this important traditional industry. Training and finance must continue to be available to encourage young people to ensure there is a future for both the catching and processing sectors of the industry. I welcome the setting up of the Fish Producers Organisation, conservation of stocks, retention of licences, and, if re-elected, will continue to press for greater control and influence of our 12-mile limit.

Highways and Transport

A wide ranging and informed debate must take place on the traffic routes in and out and around Peel. The interests of businesses, shoppers, residents and visitors must be recognised before changes are introduced. Car parking, road signs, yellow lines and pedestrian areas need continuing consideration and part of that discussion must centre on policing the policies.

Industry and businesses

Employment and diversity of opportunity is important in offering work so that there is not over reliance on the finance sector.

Peel should be able to offer a wide range of employment. Existing units must be encouraged to expand, and new business encouraged to locate to Peel. It is therefore essential that the land in the Peel Development Plan be retained for industrial use.

I have and shall continue to support Town Centre Shopping and have over the last two years have held regular meetings with Peel Traders and the Commissioners.

I support the establishment of more Government financed, centrally situated, free car parking, which is desperately needed to keep the centre of Peel alive.

Environment

Climate Change brings many challenges which must be addressed through a reduction of fossil fuels in all areas of our daily living. The development of more renewable energy, and grants for individual householders, will be an incentive to us all to do our bit to save the world from global warming and the extremes of weather that will affect even the Isle of Man. Financial incentives should be available to us all to use low energy equipment, insulation, and renewable energy schemes. I welcome the commitment of Government to grants for energy saving boilers and the continuing introduction of central heating in local authority housing so improving air quality generally.

A good bus and rail service both for Peel and the Island will cut down car travel and save on fossil fuels.

Waste management

I opposed the incinerator but although it is now operational we must keep valuable materials out of the waste stream by reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting wherever possible and incinerate only as a last resort. To

aid recycling of our waste we must develop an island wide cost effective kerbside collection scheme.

Sewage

The development of an all island sewerage system (IRIS) removes pollutants from our sea and rivers and, when completed, will be a major advance in Public Health. On completion, Peel's shore will meet the most stringent bathing water standards. I have and will continue to make representations for our connection to Meary Veg, or a local treatment plant, whichever is most cost effective.

Planning continues to be poor, slow, and inconsistent and in urgent need of reform. Large scale developments continue to take place with no consideration for the infrastructure and provide few facilities for the community.

Local Authorities already have the power to insist that some if not all of these issues are provided by the developer. I will press for even more changes when the Strategic Plan is introduced. Development should be lead by the planners and not by the developers; urbanisation of the countryside continues to be unacceptable

Law and order

The certainty of detection together with firm fair and consistent sentencing, served in full, will help reduce our crime rate. Community policing, local knowledge, and neighbourhood watch will assist in the detection and thus the prevention of crime. However more still needs to be done to reassure residents that help will be available when required.

The new prison must provide education and training opportunities in an effort to reduce re-offending and thus the number of victims.

I welcome the work of the Youth Justice Team which has made such a difference to the offending rate of young people and reduced the number of our young people continuing a life of crime. However we must do more as a community to provide activities for our young people and I will continue to work with the teachers, youth workers, and police, within the Inter-agency Group and Youth Project to improve amenities in Peel.

Pensioners

I will continue to fight for improved pension and health care so we can all enjoy our prosperity. I will continue to support free bus travel, free prescriptions and the Christmas bonus for all pensioners. I will also press for increased heating support for people with low incomes bearing in mind the rapidly increasing energy costs.

Tynwald has already approved and I have supported the principle of free nursing care for all residents in residential and nursing homes which will be introduced when funds become when available.

Population

The increase in the population is due in part to Government policy. Our successful economy has provided full employment and population growth which in turn has lead to calls for controls. Legislation has been passed which could limit numbers through residency controls but if it were to be introduced would be bureaucratic and could be intrusive to us all whilst doing little to control numbers. If unemployment rises the legislation will be introduced.

I shall continue to support the work permit system of job controls.

Democracy

During the last five years there have been many debates in the House of Keys on reform of the electoral system, in the House of Keys, Tynwald, and Local Authorities, I have supported changes which would have improved democracy at both national and local levels. I will continue to press for Legislative council to be elected by the people and "one person- one vote" for all elections. I fail to see why people in Onchan and Rushen should have three votes, while those in Douglas and Ramsey have two and in Peel we have one vote. Equality, one person, one vote is my aim.

Economy

I am pleased to have been associated with a stable, forward thinking, and prudent government which has overseen improvements in public and private services, employment opportunities, wage levels and living standards.

The Island's economy has grown for twenty-two successive years in complete contrast to the previous low wage, high unemployment economy which gave rise to winter work schemes and economic emigration. The national income per head which was 75% of the UK figure ten years ago is now 10% higher than the UK figure, and 21% higher than the EU equivalent.

Finance is now a varied sector of our economy which includes banking, insurance, shipping, aircraft, and space. Strict financial controls, audit and supervision must continue not because of outside pressures but because we want to protect the good name of the Isle of Man

Our ability to vary VAT is welcomed and look forward to the introduction of other tax changes, however it must be remembered that we can only provide services if we have the income from taxation to pay for them.

Many of you will know how deeply I care for Peel, its people, appearance, heritage and culture. Everything possible should be done to keep the charm of Peel but also provide much needed local employment.

If re-elected, I will continue to work for the good of Peel and do my best to improve available facilities within present financial constraints. My twenty-eight years experience in politics has shown me how difficult it is sometimes to bring these plans to fruition. That is not to say that I will not keep trying, but neither will I make unreasonable promises.

If you require transport to the polling station on November 23rd or if you will be off the Island and require a proxy vote, or require a sick vote, please let me know as soon as possible so that it can be arranged for you.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Many of you know that you are able to discuss problems with me by calling at the house or by stopping me in the street. If re-elected I will continue to hold weekly surgeries to help people with any problems. I aim to try and call on you all before the election and shall be holding a public meeting at the Centenary Centre on Monday 20th November at 7.30pm.

Hazel Hannan