

HOUSE OF KEYS ELECTION

Thursday 23rd November

Dear Voter,

I am 54 and live in Ballafession with my wife and two children. I was first elected as your MHK for Rushen in June 2000. Prior to this I ran my own landscaping business, taught Mathematics and British Government Politics and worked as a Computer Programmer for a major bank. I have a degree in Politics.

I am asking for your vote on November 23rd.

I have a keen ability to scrutinise public finances, and a deep sense of social responsibility. In the last five years I've successfully used these skills to advance many of my 2001 manifesto commitments.

An MHK is elected to **serve** the Island, to **represent** his constituency, to **help** his constituents and to be a **steward** of the public finances. I pledge to fight for the interests of individual constituents and I will **always** respond when you need assistance in dealing with the Government.

As DoLGE minister I've been in a strong position to initiate new policies and to take necessary decisions on issues of importance. I would again be willing to accept a ministerial post.

If re-elected I will always speak out for what I believe to be the best interests of the Island – and for integrity and natural justice.

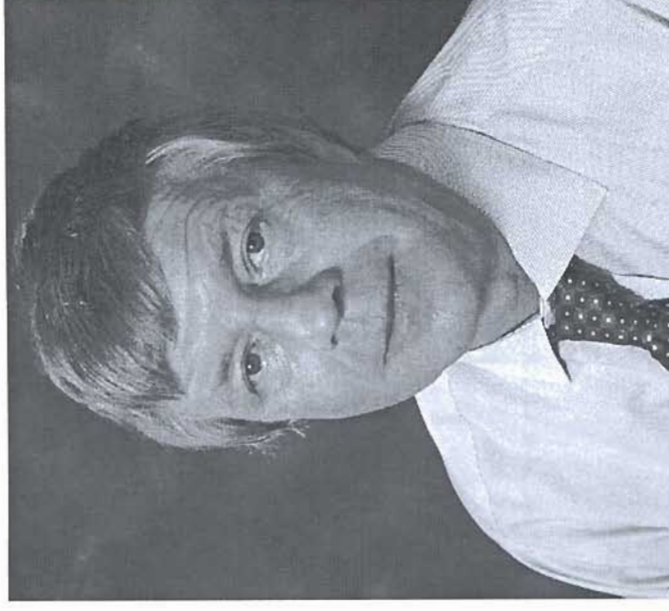
My manifesto highlights some of the important issues facing the Island. I will gladly discuss these and any other issue with you.

Make sure you have your say in who represents you.
PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CAST YOUR VOTE
ON POLLING DAY.

VOTE

X

John Rimington



Independent
Candidate
for
Rushen

I pledge full-time commitment to the constituents of Rushen and for the national interests of the Isle of Man.

If you need a lift to the polling station or would like me to call on you, please contact:

John Rimington

Tel: 835405 or on polling day, Tel: 833024 / 421076

I have been privileged to serve as one of your MHKs since June 2000. During that time I've worked hard to represent you. I'm constantly accessible through my surgeries or at home and, whenever needed, I've assisted with individual concerns.

As Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, and then as Minister of the substantially larger Department of Local Government & the Environment, I've been given the opportunity to act on my 2001 manifesto commitments. However much remains to be done.

I am asking for your vote again because I want to continue tackling environmental issues, working for social justice and for a sustainable society that is fit for the future of our children.

Social Responsibility and the Welfare State

I strongly support the Welfare State and I firmly believe that services should be targeted at those in our society who need them or where the need is universal (e.g. health).

With public finances under pressure, it is our duty to ensure that our benefits and public subsidies reach those who need them most and do not subsidise those on higher incomes.

Immigration

We have very low unemployment. The vast majority of new arrivals are here legally to work in jobs that we can't fill from local labour. Many residents are free to find work in the UK and further afield. Our work permit system protects Isle of Man workers but does not regulate population growth about which there is genuine concern.

The International Arena

As both a DAFF and DLGE Minister, I've represented the Island's interests in Brussels, London, at Sellafield and at meetings of the British/Irish Council. Government needs increased resolve so that our voice is clearly heard across the Irish Sea.

A vote for John Rimington is a vote for:

Strong action on environmental issues

- Reducing CO₂ emissions and promoting renewable energy
- Kerbside collection of waste for recycling
- Cleaner transport alternatives
- A commuter train service to the South
- High quality house building for thermal efficiency

The restructuring of Government

- Greater efficiency and better service provision are crucial – the recent report has much to offer
- Core services, such as the buses, should not be privatised
- There are areas where private contractors could provide a more efficient service of equal or better value

The strength to tackle difficult issues

- Reform of Local Government for stronger management of local services and fair rates
- The consideration of 'Death with Dignity' legislation
- Increasing waste disposal charges to promote environmental responsibility

A Legislative Council elected by you

- The Council should be elected separately from the Keys
- I do not support a 32 member Tynwald with 16 x 2 seat constituencies

Public finances that work

- We need a reformed local tax system
- We need to ensure general taxes are sufficient to provide good quality services for everyone
- Greater financial discipline

A new approach to Planning

- A service that is efficient and provides helpful advice
- A greater focus on design and quality of the living environment – particularly in new estates
- A public debate on planning policies for the future
- Consider a New Town instead of more suburban sprawl

These are some of the key issues facing the Island in the next five years.

Action on the Environment

I have always been strongly committed to environmental action.

- There will be kerbside recycling by 2008 because of the policy I've introduced.
- I want to introduce a system of polluter-pays charging for waste disposal.
- I've introduced our first energy policy to reduce CO₂ emissions, and provide grants for domestic solar panels and wind turbines.
- We must improve energy efficiency, work for cleaner transport, and introduce renewable technologies wherever practical.
- Green taxes will help force down pollution levels.
- Climate Change is the biggest single threat to our planet. We must accept our responsibility to future generations.

The Island must ACT now to reduce carbon emissions and invest in protection against extreme weather events.

Tourism

Tourism should have a healthy future.

- We need to promote our natural beauty and history with less focus on motor sport events.
- Our coastal footpath is a vital part of tourism and must be completed. We should not be afraid of compulsory purchase.

Local Government Reform

We need a robust system that works efficiently, keeps our environment clean and is democratically accountable.

- **The current rates system is UNFAIR.** We all receive the same basic services across the South – yet different areas pay vastly different rates.

Rate in the £		Rate in the £	
Rushen Parish	67p (+£5)	Arbory Parish	90p
Port Erin	229p	Port St Mary	312p
Malew	149p	Castletown	261p

- There should be one well run Housing Authority (not six!) for the South providing a professional and accountable service for tenants, one waiting list, and easier transfers.
- I strongly support the retention of parish and village authorities (with part time clerks) to give a voice to the local community.
- There should be one main service provider for the South with only one administration.

- Reformed local government would give the South a stronger voice and bring more central Government services under local control (including pavement and footpath maintenance, street cleaning and road repairs).
- Genuine pride in our communities means taking firm action on litter, cleaning our coastline and addressing dereliction (e.g. the old Port Erin swimming pool).

Housing

- There have been great strides in the provision of affordable housing, but buying a home is still difficult for many people.
- All new developments will contain a 25% affordable housing provision because of the policy I introduced. This will help in coming years.
- We must look to the future and provide more sheltered (or semi-sheltered) housing for the elderly.
- Greater effort to provide affordable housing for single people is required.

Built Environment

- I have deep concerns about the quality of new housing, the poor use of land and the expansion of estates by repeat plan amendments.
- From the outset our estates should be designed for a better living environment, sustainability and improved energy efficiency.
- We should halt suburban sprawl and consider creating a new town designed for living space, community facilities and sustainable energy use.

As the planning minister, I know we're not yet providing the service householders and businesses deserve.

I've introduced more openness in planning procedures and I've started to remove minor works from planning control. I'm committed to continuing these reforms.

- I've ensured energy efficiency and sustainability are now part of the All Island Strategic Plan.

Demand for services is outstripping Government Income. 70% of public services are funded from VAT receipts.

I am committed to excellent services:

- A high quality NHS
- High quality education
- Sustainable agriculture
- A responsive police force
- A healthy, clean environment
- Care for the elderly
- Affordable housing
- Facilities for sport and young people
- Help for those on low incomes

We must have money to pay for them – and politicians must grasp this nettle.

I'm concerned at the Island's dependence on income from VAT receipts. We have a buoyant economy and more National Income per head than the UK. Yet there's now a growing gap between available funding and the cost of public services. The next few years will require **DIFFICULT DECISIONS** to balance the need for services against the shortfall in taxes. Corporation tax is 0%, and personal income tax is just 10% and 18%.

Inefficiency and waste must be addressed, but it will take more than this to resolve the financial deficit. Further economic expansion will increase pressure on our infrastructure but, through our current taxation structure, will generate less revenue for Government.

I believe our public services need to be properly funded.

We will need to look carefully at:

- Our personal tax levels and our local tax structure
 - Our National Insurance contributions
 - Taxing those who pollute our environment
- to find a **FAIR** and acceptable solution which balances ability to pay, social need and a healthy economy.

Agriculture & Fisheries

Local **agriculture** is surrounded by a ruthless global market. Island farmers, consumers and taxpayers must work together secure the future of agriculture on the Isle of Man.

I want to see:

- Food security. Managing the land for our own needs is strategically important and essential for a healthy society.
- A vibrant agricultural industry which can continue to protect the Manx countryside.

I support a sustainable Manx fishing industry.

Modern fishing has reduced fish stocks by destroying the seabed and ocean ecology.

We need:

- Effective control of our 12-mile territorial sea
- Rigorous management of trawling and dredging by expanding closed areas and the development of low impact fisheries.

Port St Mary Marina

I've consistently supported a Marina that meets environmental standards, has safe and secure access and meets the needs of boat owners.

I believe a properly developed marina:

- Is the only realistic means of regenerating Port St Mary
- Will boost tourism and commerce in the South
- Will boost tourism for the whole Island
- Will be a practical commitment to developing a diverse economy

With considerate planning, the Marina could be a valuable asset to our local economy.

The Marine Laboratory

I am committed to securing a viable future for the Laboratory to support fisheries and the environmental management of our seas.

A small aquarium would be a bonus for both tourism and local families. This should be part of the vision for the future.

Recreation at Ballakilly

This land is zoned for 'Civic and Recreational' purposes and could provide a range of welcome facilities for sport and young people.

However, the landowner is not prepared to sell without permission for new housing on part of this land. This will not be resolved until the new Area Plan for the South is completed in a few years time.