



Liberal Vannin Party

A NEW FORCE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT



ONCHAN CONSTITUENCY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2006

WHY YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED YOU!

Dear Constituent,

As your MHK I do hope you will read my Community Letter to you. I know that you will hear about some of the things that I achieve on your behalf as your MHK on a National level particularly as I am often the only audit in the present system of Government. Being in this position I am able to help expose many issues that should, by rights, be exposed by a proper parliamentary system which recognises the importance in the separation of power between Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary. In a healthy democracy investigative journalism plays an important role in keeping checks and balances right within Government but sadly many times I am the only voice that stops things from being even worse than they are.

I want to continue to work as your MHK simply because I still care as much as I did when elected 21 years ago, and I remain passionate about social justice and creating an inclusive society for all. I believe that the recognition of the way we treat the weakest in our society is the yardstick by which we measure our success as a caring and prosperous society.

Over the last five years I have been fighting to put accountability back into Government to protect the people's interests simply because it is unsustainable the way Government has been run like a one party state created by patronage. Many of the benefits I am proud to



**Peter Karran MHK
AGAIN FOR ONCHAN**

have worked on behind the scenes to achieve throughout my political career will be lost if we don't succeed in bringing audit and accountability back into Government. I hope I will keep your confidence and your support as I have been doing my job without fear or favour as one of your MHK's who puts your interests first!

THE HOUSING CRISIS

The lack of affordable homes is a **damning indictment** on the failure of Government Policy -

READ ON...

It is shameful that this vital commodity of life has been so woefully neglected by the people who have been elected to protect the whole community.

The Government have repeatedly failed to stand up to the vested interest groups and have run away from their responsibilities to you and your children.

Two of my Parliamentary Bills were to address these important issues. The first was to use Government land with special planning permission to build houses with restrictions for limiting the sale to an Isle of Man worker, and with a cap on the rent that could be charged for these houses. Such a property would be of little interest to the investment market as it would only appeal to people who wanted a home and not a profit opportunity.

My Part Equity Mortgage Scheme Private Members Bill would provide for people in local authority housing who have the income but not the years left to pay off a mortgage on a home. Government would have bought a part equity to be redeemed when the purchaser surrenders the property with appropriate restrictions to prevent profiteering.

Both these Bills failed to get Government support.

Inside of this Issue

'The scandals and the **RUNAWAY** spending that has cost YOU dearly must end after the next general election'

Peter Karran MHK

Onchan Community Cross

The Onchan Community Cross is an award that is given out every other year at a reception provided by the Commissioners. It was nice to see that Miss Jean Davie was this year's recipient for her voluntary work, especially in connection with the churches.

The Community Cross came about because I felt that there were many unrecognized heroes who make our village a better place to live in. Many will remember the late Do Kelly who did outstanding voluntary work for many years for a wide variety of organizations around the village. As your MHK I felt that something should be done to recognize these people.

All those who run voluntary groups - the sporting facilities for the kids, the band, the pensioners clubs, the church groups, cubs, scouts and the many others who go to make Onchan a better place - all are eligible for this local community award, which is given by a panel including the Captain of the Parish, the Chairman of the Commissioners and myself.



**THE LIBERAL VANNIN PARTY
HOLDS CENTRAL BRANCH
MEETINGS ON THE FIRST
TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
CHURCH WOODBOURNE ROAD
DOUGLAS. AT 8PM.**

Putting Audit back into Government

My private Members Bill over auditing in Government was thrown out by the Council of Minister's block vote but it was good to see that they brought an Audit Bill in

the same Parliamentary session. It was rewarding to see that one can get things done, maybe not in one's own name, but the outcome results in steps towards good governance. While some of the issues raised by my Private Members Bill were initiated there is much more to be done in this field in the new House if we are to protect social advancements.



Liabilities

Our children will face many dangers because of the liabilities they will inherit from our current system of Government. Lack of accountability, combined with the chronic failure to cost and audit projects properly has cost you, the Manx taxpayer, hundred of millions of pounds. All we have to show for the last five years is the burden of revenue costs which, if we are not careful, will be your children's major inheritance from Government.

Safeguarding our heritage

I have tried to get the function of registering buildings away from the DLGE to give it some independence. Far too many buildings have been lost simply because the present system is farcical and we need to protect these buildings for the enjoyment of ourselves and future generations. The developers have too much influence with the DLGE and although my Private Members Bill was killed off by Government they did finally concede that the function of registering buildings needed to be carried out independently so that future generations can appreciate and enjoy the heritage we want to safeguard for them.

Bemahague School

It is a disgrace that about two million pounds has been spent on the proposed new school at Bemahague without a single brick being laid. To add to the scandal, my proposal that the sports fields should have been developed in the first phase so they could be used if there were problems with the remaining development has been ignored.

I hope that we will see a review of this decision as this would be a really vital facility for both the people of Onchan and of Governors Hill.

The Steam Packet Affair

One finds it incredible why the Government allowed the extra 10 year User Agreement to be nodded through when there was several years still left on the present agreement for the Steam Packet Company. This vital lifeline doesn't just affect our seaward travel, but everything from what we buy in the shops to freight charges which can make a huge impact on new businesses and whether they will be viable or not. The Steam Packet Company was sold on for a vast profit and we need to ask who is going to pay for the new

owners to get their money back? I still cannot understand how we could agree to such a monopoly situation without having the right to see the detailed accounts for such an agreement. Twenty three of my colleagues voted against me on this important issue. This served to highlight the fact that they should have supported my motion in Tynwald of April 2003 concerning Government purchasing a controlling interest in this vital lifeline which could not even get a 'seconder' for it to be debated.

Reorganising the DHSS

The Isle of Man should have a first-class Health Service. The issue is not the lack of money but rather the way it is spent and in order to restore a sense of pride back into the Health Service we should address issues of Management and Accountability. A restructuring package could have been introduced by the Council of Ministers if they would have supported the spirit of my motion introduced in May 2003 introducing the principle of an Administration Committee representing a cross section of people in society who are not in the employment of the Health Services getting the staff employed doing their job of looking after patients and throwing away their clipboards and ending non-productive meetings. The same goes for Social Services – how many scandals do we have to have before common sense is allowed to prevail and some accountability and audit is put into the system?



The Isle of Man should have a first class Health Service

Onchan Minibus

I am glad, after fifteen years since I first tried to get a community minibus for Onchan, that we now have this facility.

The idea of the minibus is to help any Onchan organisation who needs a minibus for their group's use.

The bus is run by the Onchan Community Scheme, which is a Registered Charity, and organisations wishing to take advantage of this service should contact **Nigel Kane on 428143.**

Police Authority

Once again the dead hand of the Executive throws out my Bill for a Police Authority without putting anything in its place. My proposed Bill would have drawn a line under the ever-growing number of scandals that have beset the Manx Police Force.

It is essential to get the balance right to ensure that the police are not politically controlled, yet also ensuring that they are accountable for what they do. They must address the difficult side of policing our community and not be content to cherry pick easy prosecutions leaving deep-rooted problems to get worse. It is important that the new administration picks up the principles of this Bill in the new House.

Future of Coutts Bank

I have assurances from the Chief Minister who has promised to raise the issue of purchasing this building with the Treasury Minister. Being in such a strategic location, this building lends itself to many community uses.

It is therefore all the more disappointing that after being given such assurances the opportunities have been lost because the building has been sold to the private sector. Government has failed to appreciate the potential benefits to the Community.

**COUTTES BUILDING COULD
HAVE BEEN USED AS A
NATIONAL ART GALLERY...**

OR A NURSING HOME.

**IT COULD HAVE BEEN
PURCHASED FOR THE NATION.**

Why we need Party Politics in the Isle of Man

The Liberal Vannin Party was formed by Onchan MHK Peter Karran in August 2006. The Party has nine candidates standing in the General Election. The Liberal Vannin Party aims to bring true democracy, accountability, and audit into the Manx government - offering a real choice to voters. We have government by patronage and are at risk of losing a lot of social advantages we currently have here on the Isle of Man. Community Politics are a vital part of the Democratic process and it is only by your participation that progress can be made, don't forget to use your vote on 23rd November 2006 and make sure that you get the government you deserve.

MINISTERIAL MISRULE WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

There are Minister's who in the past five years have helped to drag the Island's international reputation through the mud, and have given you scandal after scandal including;

- The Manx Electricity Scandal.
- The Pensions Fund Scandal.
- The Ramsey Cottage Hospital Scandal.
- The IRIS Scandal.
- The Mount Murray Scandal.
- The E. Habitant Scandal.
- The Film Studio Scandal.
- The Tourism Development Grants Scandal.
- The Social Services Scandal
- The Health Services Funding Scandal
- The Home Affairs Scandal
- The Housing Scandal
- The Transport Scandal
- The Monopolies Scandal

"The sense and context of the allegations made related primarily to maladministration and weakness in government allied to lack of transparency. However, we do find that there was corruption of the system of government by reason of consistent maladministration and weakness, allied to wrongdoing by officers, and the lack of transparency in government dealings. Because the weaknesses and failures by government in the handling of those matters continue in significant degree with a still present belief, in many areas of current influence, that there was really little wrong with the systems of government, and there was simply negligence or misconduct by some limited number of individuals who were operating the systems. Such opinions are seriously misconceived."

Nigel McLeod QC.

They want you to vote for them so they can be a Minister or even Chief Minister.

The question is. Do you want to vote in the same people who have proved a deadly level of incompetence over the past five years in handling your affairs?

HAD ENOUGH OF THEM?

Vote for a new beginning, Put back the pride in the Isle of Man.

VOTE LIBERAL VANNIN AND WE ARE ALL WINNERS.

Please help us to help you and elect your local Liberal Vannin Candidate into the House Of Keys on Thursday 23rd November 2006. It's time for change – Liberal Vannin gives you the power to change our Island for the better

Liberal Vannin

Protecting the future of Mann

THE NEW FORCE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF MANN