

FOR THE PEOPLE

Phil Kermode



MY PRINCIPLES ARE CLEAR.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT, HONEST AND COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS THOSE IN NEED.

YOUR CANDIDATE

I was born in Douglas in 1949 and lived in south Douglas for most of my 57 years.

I was educated at Douglas High School. I served the community as a Douglas town councillor for five years and was an MHK from 1986 to 1996 and held numerous Government posts, including the Chairman of the Board of Consumer Affairs. From 1992 to 1996 I was a member of the Department of Health and Social Security with special responsibilities for social services. From 1991 to 1996 I was a member of the Department of Highways, Ports and Properties with responsibilities for harbours and road safety. I was also a member of the Department Tourism Leisure and Transport.

I was also Chairman of the First Time Buyers Committee which produced the Sellers report in relation to the problems with the Ballavarga Estate.

I am proud that I sponsored the campaigns for free bus passes for the elderly and free TV licences. Also, during my first five years I sponsored more legislation into the House of Keys than any other MHK, including a Bill that gave greater powers to the Department of Trading Standards to protect the public. My campaign to introduce provisions for the removal of non Manx habitual offenders from the Island by the Courts was successful.

I rebuilt and was Chairman and Trustee of South Douglas Old Friends Association for fifteen years once again working in the community to give some of our elderly citizens a place to go where they could mix with people their own age and meet new and old friends. I have been a keen sportsman over the years involved with many sports and I am currently a county football referee for the I.O.M. football association.

I am employed as an ambulance driver for the British Red Cross working in the community on patient transfer.

The pillars of my manifesto are for the continuation of the Island's diverse economic prosperity, law and order, social

inclusion and justice and healthcare for all.

I am committed to education and the young people on the Island who hold the key to our future prosperity.

I can be contacted on 302985 or 620439.

OUR SOCIETY

We have seen good progress in certain aspects of our society over the past five years. However, with this has come a dark side, including increasing crime and unavailability of housing for our young people. Certain aspects of Government policy have led to massive capital losses to our precious reserves that have led to price utility rises (e.g. gas and electricity) affecting those least able to cope with them. We need to rectify this situation. If we can deal with these issues in the next term of government our society will flourish for generations to come. My commitment is to these values.

OUR DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE

Young people still cannot afford to buy their own homes. They are paying i £400-900 per month in rent because they cannot afford a deposit and the legal fees to buy their own homes. I will be proposing that the Government introduce a mortgage funding scheme to overcome this hurdle for our young people and that the current grant scheme be adapted to assist in dealing with purchase costs.

There are many professionals in our community that have had to give up careers to look after their children due to the expense and limited availability of crèche facilities. I will campaign for Government to assist crèche service providers to make such facilities more available and more affordable so that our professionals can continue their careers and continue to contribute to our economy, by work and taxes, which will engender economic growth and justify the investment in such projects.

Whilst in many respects the older members of our community are in a better position than their counterparts in the adjacent Islands, the ever rising cost of living, fuelled primarily by rising energy costs, are making living harder. The Government must address this issue and support our older citizens through this difficult time. This should be by grants and better regulation of energy suppliers.

OUR GOVERNMENT

The absence of party entrenched party politics from our parliament is not necessarily a bad thing. However, we need more transparency, efficiency and accountability from our next Government. Reports that are commissioned at vast expense must be implemented and revealed to the public who pay for them. I shall press for this approach from our next Government.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Our Island is a beautiful place and one of our greatest assets. This Government has invested vast sums of our money on projects such as the Iris scheme and Energy from Waste plant. Whilst well intentioned these projects are under-performing and massively exceeded budget. To preserve our environment for generations to come we must rectify the mistakes of previous Governments and invest wisely to ensure value for money.

OUR ECONOMY

Our economy has enjoyed twenty years of substantial economic growth. However, we should not be complacent and assume that without good management that this will continue indefinitely. Our economy now operates in a globally regulated world, where offshore jurisdictions are increasingly subjected to scrutiny by various regulatory bodies. Whilst we must ensure that our business community is well regulated and robust to such scrutiny, we must enable our business entrepreneurs to flourish without unnecessary beaurocratic red tape.

We must ensure that we engage with the business community to ensure that our legislation is progressive and enables rather than inhibits economic progress.

Sound financial management depends on quality civil servants and managers ensuring that the correct contractors are engaged on appropriate contractual terms. Our next Government must learn from the mistakes of the past five years that have led to massive overspends on most capital projects. These will be a plank of my term if elected.

We must also monitor the effects of the new tax regime to ensure that it achieves its purpose without damaging our revenue stream to fund our public services and infrastructure.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

We must continue to invest in our young people, both in educational terms and in recreational facilities. Our schools are excellent and projects such as the NSC have been wise investments. However, more must be done to provide the youngsters of our future with facilities that they can use and enhance their future. If our upcoming citizens leave this Island for perceived brighter lights elsewhere our society and our economy will be weaker as a result. Our next

Government must make this a priority.

IMMIGRATION

Visitors to our Island have always been welcome and many immigrants have contributed to our society. However, with the expansion of the European Union and failings in the policing of border controls we have seen the unlawful immigration of undesirables. It is clear that we cannot simply assume that HM Customs and Excise are going to get it right in the future. Accordingly, I shall be pressing for enhanced controls by our customs officers at our ports and airport, including visibility at entry points and random checks. Whilst our Society is welcoming and non-discriminatory, its resources are finite and can only afford to welcome those who abide by our laws and contribute.

LAW AND ORDER

Reported crime statistics on our Island indicate that we live in a safer environment than in most other parts of the World. These are police reported produced statistics of reported crime rather than independently verified statistics of actual crime. Therefore we should not be complacent, particularly in view of the increase of drug related crime. We must ensure that our entry points are efficiently probing for drug importers and that our police officers are focusing on serious crime rather than being diverted by completing paperwork in offices relating to minor offences.

HEALTHCARE

We must continue our healthcare strategy, but ensure that our precious finances are invested prudently on assets that will help our people rather than others. Whilst massively over budget, our New Nobles is an excellent asset. However, the doctors and nurses and support staff who help our people there are just as important as the building, without them it would be irrelevant. We must ensure that we employ and retain and reward the best possible staff at one of our most critical establishments. This requires good management and accountability and I will campaign for these.

OUR FUTURE

In an uncertain World we are fortunate to embrace the next five years with a stable economy, good infrastructure and educated population. However challenges confront us, particularly in addressing certain of the mistakes of the past five years. I believe that if many of my manifesto principles are adopted our society, our disadvantaged people, our economy and our future will be healthy and prosperous.

I am trying to meet and talk to you in your homes but as I am in full time employment and the constituency is vast this may not be possible but if you have a question for me or you would like transport on election day Thursday 23rd November please don't hesitate to call me on Home 620439 or Mobile 302985 and after reading my manifesto I do hope you can give me your support.

Please remember you have two votes

Published by Phil Kermode.