

Rodger Gimbert

PEEL



Dear Voter

I grew up in Orkney, where I went to Orkney Primary School, Ballynagreen Junior High School and St Ninian's High School. I continued my studies at the Isle of Man College of Further Education.

I have been married to Jan for 10 years and we have 2 children, Aaron age eight and Beau, four.

My job in procurement, means that I am constantly striving for the best value for money, through service level agreements, and monitoring of contracts, whilst maintaining the highest levels of service.

If elected I would like to use my experience to provide the voters of Peel, and the Isle of Man, with the best value for money solutions from within government.

Together we can make a difference

Vibrant Economy

It is essential that we have a viable and vibrant economy, which should not be based solely on the Finance Sector, but on a diversity of knowledge lead industries.

All the improvements necessary to the Government are going to be funded by the Manx economy, and this is why it is essential that we have a vibrant

economy. The Government has a duty to ensure that the economy is vibrant and that it is not based solely on the Finance Sector. The Government has a duty to ensure that the economy is vibrant and that it is not based solely on the Finance Sector. The Government has a duty to ensure that the economy is vibrant and that it is not based solely on the Finance Sector.

The Government has a duty to ensure that the economy is vibrant and that it is not based solely on the Finance Sector. The Government has a duty to ensure that the economy is vibrant and that it is not based solely on the Finance Sector. The Government has a duty to ensure that the economy is vibrant and that it is not based solely on the Finance Sector.

The Government has a duty to ensure that the economy is vibrant and that it is not based solely on the Finance Sector. The Government has a duty to ensure that the economy is vibrant and that it is not based solely on the Finance Sector. The Government has a duty to ensure that the economy is vibrant and that it is not based solely on the Finance Sector.

The Health Service

The health service needs to be adequately funded, but equally it is imperative to get in place a management structure that is capable of running a modern, complex high tech service industry, utilising a best value for money approach.

One of my main reasons for standing is to highlight and fight for an ambulance station for the West of the Island. We are the only area not to have one! The reasoning from Government is that percentage-wise, we, in the West, do not warrant one. The question I would ask is, what value can be put on a life?

Currently, the rapid response vehicles are stationed where the

Pensions

I support the efforts of IOMPA (Isle of Man Pensioners Association) to resolve the long

running discrepancy in the pension payments. All our pensioners, surely, should receive the most generous pension the Government can afford. If in some cases this means a voluntary contribution, (from those who do not have the required ten years residency) to bring the contribution level into line with others who are resident, as is being discussed with the DHSS at the moment, then so be it. What is needed, and with some urgency, is a resolution to this patently unfair situation.

Essential services and strategic planning

We need to encourage our most important

resource, our people, to train in essential areas. We need doctors, dentists, nurses and teachers. With this in mind we should encourage, through a separate bursary, additional funding for training in these areas. There should be a clause on the bursary that the person would have to work on the Island in that capacity for a given timeframe, much the same as in the UK where service in the NHS is part of the qualification process. If the person wishes to decline a job on the Island, they would have to pay back the bursary.

Immigration and the European Union

We need to ensure that we encourage the essential workers necessary to the Island's development. Work permit applications

need to be better scrutinized to ensure that undesirable immigration does not occur.

There needs to be a reciprocal health service agreement for within the European Union. Possible alternatives would be either to have those on work permits paying an enhanced National Insurance contribution to cover their costs, or for them to have private health insurance.

We need to look into whether we would benefit more from being wholly in the EU, with a voice in the parliament, or to pull out totally. There are benefits both ways and I would like the next Government to look closely at the options and recommend a strategy, to be put to the people as a referendum. As the UK have signed up to having the Crown Dependencies follow their lead, we will, whether we like it or not, be forced to adopt the EU's laws without having any of the benefits.

Economy

The economy needs to be diversified to ensure that we not only maintain the current level of services but are able to expand.

The way I would like to see the Island diversify would be to utilise the O.E.C.D. tax strategy, where tax incentives are offered for five knowledge based industries, Research and Development, Patents, Workforce training, Software and Organizational change.

Environment

We need to make certain that all means of waste disposal are fairly rebated, not just the incinerator and landfill. This would enable recycling initiatives that can cost less than incineration and landfill. Green waste can be recycled for a lot less than the current cost. As it is not equally rebated, it is a social cost, which the individual has to fund either through the local authorities or directly. When we have a level playing field we will be able to utilise the savings of recycling to further fund kerb side collections and at the same time reduce the amount of waste going to the incinerator or landfill.

We also need to utilise multi-composting initiatives, utilising the home composting bins and also in vessel and windrow composting. Government funding needs to be provided to instigate these initiatives, which should have long term benefits to the environment to the tax payer and to the rate payer.



Waste processing

The IRIS project has stalled, the idea of pumping waste all over the Island to a central processing plant has always been, in my opinion, flawed.

We should have been looking to area treatment works that are environmentally friendly and of low visual impact.

Agriculture

We should ensure that our farming is encouraged and protected. With the derogation stopping in 2010, we should be looking at ways, now, that we can protect the industry for the future. The cost of slaughter on the Isle of Man is higher than in the UK and, as a result, you can buy Manx grown meat cheaper in the UK than at home. We should therefore either find a way to make our abattoir more cost effective or provide Government support, thereby enabling the sale of Manx produced meat at a competitive price when compared with imported meat of a similar quality.

The rest of our agricultural industry also needs to be supported, to protect, and promote, a viable future.

Our farmers are the custodians and guardians of our precious countryside and must be supported.



Government buildings

All Government buildings and establishments need to be aware of best practice to achieve the greatest possible level of energy saving.

We need to establish how many of the Government's buildings are actually owned by the Government and

which are leased. Where possible we should look at reducing the number of leased buildings. All Government services do not have to be based around Douglas; offices in outlying areas would reduce traveling and be a useful environmental contribution. For the future better strategic

Housing

We need to ensure that the whole Island has sustainable, affordable, housing so that not all the land in any given area is developed at the same time. I would like to see the Government strategy change from having 400 houses per year to having a maximum of 100 houses per area per year. We, at present, do have an issue with the number of houses and the available amenities, and these issues need to be resolved before any further development is approved. This should not

affect brown field site re-development as these areas should already have adequate services provided.

All the social housing needs to be covered under the town authorities, rather than split with DOLGE. The town authorities already have the manpower and resources available to manage the housing stock and they would also be in a position to employ a housing manager to monitor housing for necessary improvement.

A difficult question to answer is means testing as it is very emotive. A local authority house is also a person's home and people build up friendships in the area. If we do go down the means test route, I feel the best way to achieve this is to have it done via the tax system; no extra employment costs and no extra forms to fill in. There should be a question added to the form "Do you own your own house, rent commercially, or occupy local authority housing?" The response will affect the income tax bracket allocated and the extra funding generated should help to pay for more social housing stock and repairs. Once a family's income reaches an agreed level then there should be

Fishing

We need to ensure that the Island gets the rights to protect fish and shell fish stocks in our territorial waters and that we continue to have a viable fishing industry. The licenses for fishing need to be allocated to Manx based vessels, allowing stocks to be better monitored and enhanced. I am concerned that the EU issues licenses to European Countries who do not have any concern for the size of nets used or the destruction of the fishing environment and the breeding fish/shellfish stocks. It has recently been documented that fish & chips will soon disappear as the fish stocks are being irreversibly decimated.

Recent research has demonstrated how easy it is to protect our local stocks by good and prudent house-keeping, to the benefit of the Manx fishing industry.

Education

As is the case at the moment Manx Culture should be part of the curriculum delivered to our students in school. This is so they develop a Manx identity while still being able to achieve in UK national examinations and ultimately compete in national and international employment markets.

Recruitment and retention of quality teaching staff is rapidly becoming an issue on the Island due to the high cost of housing. The Government has made some provision for this, but shortages still exist.

There needs to be a centrally employed pool of 'Excellent Teachers' able to cover staff sickness or an inability to recruit staff in the short term (especially in shortage subjects). When not being used to cover, these teachers could be used in schools to advise on and help implement curriculum changes. They could also act in a consultative capacity to develop and internally validate School Self Review (Inspections) Systems to ensure high quality teaching and learning across all schools.

Best Practice from Secondary School and Primary School Strategy Documents need to be implemented in all schools on the Island. This process needs to be further supported by the Department of Education and good practice need to be routinely shared between schools.

We also must ensure that nursery place provision is available to all so that our children get a good start to their education.

Government reforms

We need to look at ways to improve the system of Government, as at present, there is a lack of transparency, accountability and freedom of information. There always seems to be someone else to blame for something going wrong rather than admitting that a department has made a mistake.

Responsibility for mistakes must be admitted to as a first step to trying to put in place a system to try and reduce the likelihood of a recurrence. There needs to be ownership of the reports that are generated and a timeframe for implementation of the recommendations or reasons for not complying in full.

Transport

The all Island speed limit debate is still active and there has been a concerted effort to get one brought in. On the one hand, the people promoting the speed limit were the Government appointed, consultative group, made up of those who wanted a speed limit, and they were opposed by those who saw better ways of achieving the desired road safety outcome. The best way to reduce traffic speed is through sensible constructive traffic management methods and better use of much more thorough driver education.

Our roads need to be pro-actively maintained and I would like to see a strategy of advising those responsible for the utilities when road works are scheduled so that they can take advantage for the installation/maintenance/modification of services buried under the road, thereby avoiding duplication of road works along with its resultant inconvenience to the public and waste of materials and manpower.

Planning

The Government should be looking to encourage energy conservation in all new housing and provide grants for upgrading existing housing. Renewable energy should also be investigated by central Government. Tidal, solar and wind turbines need to be carefully evaluated, as to sites, design and environmental impact.

Tourism

The Island needs to promote itself more for all year round tourism, there needs to be more conference facilities available and I would like to see Peel having its own hotel and conference facilities.

The water retention scheme now in place is likely to become a marina, following which the existing users, both commercial and recreational, need to be assured that the availability of affordable berth facilities will be maintained, and any increased costs to be phased in gradually.



Democracy

We need to ensure that we have ~~will remember of the~~ Government publicly elected. I would like to see all members of Government, including MLCs and the Chief Minister elected by the people, and not appointed or elected from within the Government's own ranks.

Law and order

~~Paying lip service to short term, emotive issues is not the way forward for effective and efficient policing.~~ We need a community based police presence, on foot, and involved with all levels and sectors of our society. Old fashioned policing, where the policeman was a respected and valued member of the community needs to be encouraged. To this end we need to return to our police force the authority and ability to deal effectively with petty crime. Petty crime, nipped in the bud, is a far better deterrent than ASBOs. We have to encourage respect for the law, and at the same time, self respect.



I will be calling on as many people as possible in the time available. If you would like to discuss any political issues and I have missed you, please contact me on 01445532 or mobile 488267.

If elected I will fight to achieve the following:-

1. An ambulance station for the people of the West.
2. To have MLCs elected by the people not by MHKs.
3. To secure an extra elected seat for Peel, due to its expansion.
4. To achieve a greater accountability of government expenditure.

To achieve this we need to ensure that we further develop a proactive and robust economy based on sound business principles.

Please vote

GIMBERT



**Please
take the
time to vote,
your vote
does count**