

Robert Howard **QUAYLE**

GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 29th SEPTEMBER 2011
CANDIDATE FOR MIDDLE

MANIFESTO



This is not the time for politicians to make promises
that cannot be delivered.

Above all else, this General Election should and must be about honesty
and the creation of a better Island for us and the generations
that will come after us. We must continue to protect the most vulnerable
in the face of harsh economic circumstances.

I will work hard to protect and enhance investment in our Island,
in our schools, our public services and our community facilities.

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ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE MANIFESTO



Introduction

This will be my first entry into the political arena, however for five years, leading up to 2010, I was President of the Manx National Farmers Union which involved fighting the industry's corner at meetings all over Europe, including at the heart of the EU in Brussels. In this context I was involved in discussions with many members of the European Parliament, as well as the Agricultural Commissioner.

Educated at King William's College, I am 44 years old from Ballavitchel, Crosby, and have established and built up three successful businesses from scratch. They include breeding pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle for sale locally, in the UK and Europe. Lorraine and I have also built, and now operate a range of high quality self catering tourist cottages together with some rental property. It is this diversity of experience which I believe is needed in the House of Keys today.

I started off my working life as a civil servant, based in Treasury, before moving into a variety of roles within the finance sector. This has given me a grounding in various elements of the public, and commercial world.

The Isle of Man has been good to me and as a proud Manxman I want to do something in return, so when I was approached to stand for the Keys as far back as 2009 I gave it serious consideration.

I have always taken a keen interest in Government affairs and feel it is essential that the House contains more people with relevant experience of financial planning and budgeting gained from an independent business background which is one of the reasons why I have decided to seek election.

Over the last year I have spent a considerable amount of time visiting and talking to the residents of Middle and I believe the people of the Island deserve better leadership from individuals who will protect the interests of the Isle of Man, individuals who will act with honesty and integrity and above all represent the people locally, nationally and internationally.

I am married to Lorraine and we have three children.

Chantal (20) is studying Chinese and International Business Studies in Beijing; Cameron (12) is a pupil at King William's College while ten year old Elizabeth is at Marown Primary School.

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The Island has had 20 years of growth but it is now confronted by some very big issues – notably the change in the VAT sharing agreement and the future of the corporate tax regime. The world's finances are in a mess and the next few years will necessitate protecting and growing our Finance Sector and the need to “up our game”. Anyone can take the helm in a calm sea but the test comes when you hit stormy waters which is undoubtedly where we find ourselves at the moment. We need people with proven business acumen to see us through the problems ahead. I believe I can offer these skills.

Up to very recently our politicians have had the money to provide virtually whatever was asked of them, but the years of plenty are over. With a large drop in our VAT revenue annually savings have to be effected and better business decisions made.

In my opinion it is a crucial time to act constructively, the move to set up a Department of Economic Development was an excellent concept – providing it is properly financed so it can ‘sell’ the Island. On the other hand, I find it incredible that we could spend £3.5 million on Richmond Hill at a time of severe financial constraints.

We have to get better value when spending taxpayers’ money and that is why I believe we must get more businessmen and women into the House of Keys.





Education

“Investing in our youth, is investing in our future”

We all have a responsibility to develop our young people to be successful learners and confident individuals.

Our children's education must be a priority for the next House. Whilst there has to be a review of education provision it is important front line services are not affected and the number of qualified teachers is not reduced which is what took place under the previous administration.

We must continue to improve the quality of teaching and provide lessons that are more engaging, inspiring and relevant to every day life. The policy of putting two separate years into one class is very unpopular in the constituency and as a parent I can relate to this concern. Before government thinks of cutting any front line services it must review its own manager/consulting staff levels.

Government Nursery Care and Pre-school services have become a post code lottery and we need to provide a fairer system for everyone. We also have a responsibility to ensure parents are better informed about education policy and that the needs of our children are being met. Greater support must be available for parents and children with special needs – resources must be made available to all.

We need to ensure that there are clear lines of communication and a free exchange of information between relevant departments so that all departments work efficiently, successfully and cost effectively for the good of the whole Island.

If elected I will do my utmost to maintain the support for our students going to university. I will also support and encourage initiatives between local businesses and the Department of Education and Children in providing courses and subjects that are required to ensure our students have the right skills and experience, which will help grow our Island economy.

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Health

Fairness for all!

Despite increased investment, there are still problems. I have been made aware of inefficient administration within our Health Services with medical records being sent to incorrect addresses, people missed off waiting lists etc – We must also tackle waiting lists themselves as, despite vast amounts of money being pumped into the Health Service, they seem to be growing rather than shrinking.

Speaking to doctors and nurses in Middle the common complaint is that we are employing too many locums, paying too much for medical equipment, and there is too high a ratio of managers to front line staff.

Our current system whereby some people pay for their nursing home care while others do not is morally wrong. We must ensure our Health Service provides “fairness for all” and that any review or reform protects the most vulnerable in our society. If you have worked hard and paid your taxes why should you, in some cases, have to sell your home or assets to fund your care?

Our Health Service must be as effective at preventing ill health as it is at treating those in need of care. I will fight to ensure everyone who needs medical care and support, whether through old age or disability, is properly looked after.

I fully support the retention of the Reciprocal Health Agreement and will work to achieve better political links so that the farce we all experienced is not repeated.

If elected I will work in partnership with the Department of Health to make certain we protect front-line services such as cancer treatment, mental health care, maternity services, and preventative medicine.





Business, Finance and the Economy

Growing the economy is my top priority. A successful economy is key to our future prosperity and a pre-requisite for building first class public services, social justice and an Island of opportunity.

I do value enterprise and will promote an entrepreneurial culture and recognise the need to support risk-taking as a means of expanding the economy.

I will act to help raise the long term sustainable growth rate as well as supporting the start up and growth of local businesses, encourage and support manufacturing industries and nurture our financial services sector.

I will work hard to ensure every pupil has the opportunity to learn practical entrepreneurial skills at school.

Other key points:

- There is a need for further diversification and re-energising of the economy.
- Initiatives for growth in the Island's Finance and Banking industries have to be developed.
- There must be a stable and transparent Government.

I do not believe that Treasury has considered how much will be lost by removing the Attribution Regime for Individuals (ARI) in relation to the Zero Ten tax strategy.

Our politicians must establish more joint private/public working groups with representation from various sectors within the community. This will enable government to help with fresh ideas to attract new businesses and improve or retain existing ones.

I would like to see greater efforts in trying to attract business from new emerging markets such as China.

Putting up income tax is not an option as it could lead to a reduction in the levels of economic activity. The Island will have to live within its means.

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Pensions Black Hole

Just like the VAT cuts, our government must have known for a long time that we have a pensions black hole with over £2 billion of liabilities and only a few hundred million put aside by way of cover.

The government's annual wage bill is approximately £307 million, with a pension provision of over £70m required to be put aside to cover the liability - but this has not been happening!

While it is good news that we are living longer, this has a serious impact on the cost of providing a pension. Our government should have done more to address this problem and prepare for it. The subject of final salary pensions, the retirement age and the amount of your pension contributions are all topics that should have been discussed in detail over the last five years but in reality very little has been achieved.

Would it be too cynical of me to say that as this is an unpopular issue, and a possible vote loser, our government has chosen to bury its head in the sand and leave it to the next house to sort out? Unfortunately, it is a Catch 22 situation - the longer you put off sorting out the problem the less money there will be available for pensions in the future.

It is incredible that our politicians voted against contributing towards their own pension! We are all facing problems in this regard and worry whether our pensions will provide enough for us to live on. Our politicians had the ideal opportunity to lead by example and agree to contribute towards their pensions, but they chose not to do so.

Should I be successful at this election I pledge to put forward a motion that MHKs and MLCs contribute towards their pension provision. We are all going to experience cuts in the next five years and it is important our politicians show that "we are all in this together" and lead by example.





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International Relations and Government Structure

The UK, which is charged with looking after the interests of the Island in Europe, seems to be doing the opposite with bullyboy tactics and a smash and grab approach towards our finances.

Our Government has been rolling over when pressured by the UK instead of putting up a fight. I am a battler and do fight for causes I believe in.

A comprehensive and independent report on our constitutional options is long overdue. For example, what new business could we attract if we had our own VAT scheme; would this outweigh the benefits of a shared one? From the evidence I have my doubts.

I always try to have a Plan B and do not believe that the current administration has had the foresight to consider a range of options when faced with challenges.

Government need to adopt a more pro-active approach rather than re-active. The current administration has been guilty of not acting with sufficient vigour to protect and promote the interest of the Island in its dealings with the UK government. It has given in too easily to pressure from the UK Treasury and other departments of UK government. To that extent it has been a major contributor to the financial situation we now find ourselves in.

The re-structuring of Government was a missed opportunity, I would have liked to have seen the number of government departments cut from 9 to 8 with the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure being integrated within the remainder. This would reduce costs and weaken the block vote in Tynwald resulting in better debate.

If I am elected I will bring to the table the experience gained while representing the Island in Strasburg, Brussels and Westminster. I have links with a number of members of the European Parliament and would look to extend my contacts in Westminster and Europe, ensuring the Island has stronger representation in the future.

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Immigration

A healthy cultural mix is a good thing for any society and we should welcome newcomers to our shores.

However I believe there is a need to ensure that immigrants from wherever they come contribute to the Manx economy and are not purely a burden on our health, education and social services.

It is essential for the Isle of Man community that new arrivals are encouraged to integrate into Manx society, join local organisations, and embrace the Manx culture as a way of displaying their commitment to the Island which has welcomed them.

The Work Permit Regulations must be properly policed to make certain we only allow into the Island people whose skills are required and not those who are simply going to take jobs which could easily be done by local workers.

We also have to be aware that the results of one person being granted a work permit could be five or six dependants arriving here without jobs and immediately taking advantage of our health, education and social care.

Anecdotal evidence tells me there are people here who have no right to be and I would call for inspections of building sites, and similar, to be stepped up.

We should welcome new residents who want to play a part in the Island's future but there is no place for those who simply wish to abuse our hospitality.



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Transport

Transport plays a vital role in helping people access services across the Isle of Man.

However, a major overhaul of the bus timetable failed to address the problem of giving our rural areas a better service.

The use of mini-buses in the Island would offer a much better solution. Whilst there has been talk of a new bus depot in Douglas with private development, due to the current financial climate this may not go ahead. If this is the case, we need to build a modest bus station so that passengers can take shelter from the elements while being able to obtain warm drinks. Toilet facilities are also a must.

Middle's roads are the main artery into Douglas with all the South and West traffic coming through Marown and Braddan. Our island population is now approximately 83,000 and the number of cars has dramatically increased, but our roads are basically the same as they were 20 years ago with a few exceptions.

I want to make residential areas safer for children and want traffic to recognise the needs of all vulnerable road users. We must encourage, where appropriate, traffic calming schemes, 20 mph zones, safe routes to schools and the use of transport including car sharing.

There have been various meetings throughout the Island on solving the problems of speeding cars along the country lanes, I attended the most recent one at Port Soderick. While the Department of Infrastructure had various proposals for traffic calming measures these can sometimes impact greatly in areas where they are used to the detriment of those living in the vicinity, such as speed bumps along Strang Road. I believe we have to consider a multi pronged approach to the traffic question.

The high cost of transport links to and from the Island not only affect tourism but are a major determinant of the high costs of goods and services on the Island which affects every resident and more so the less well-off members of our society. The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company has a virtual monopoly on freight movement by virtue of the User Agreement with the Isle of Man Government which gives them effective sole use of the Government's Douglas Harbour facilities. The User Agreement has been investigated by a Select Committee of Tynwald yet their conclusions have not been made public. WHY?

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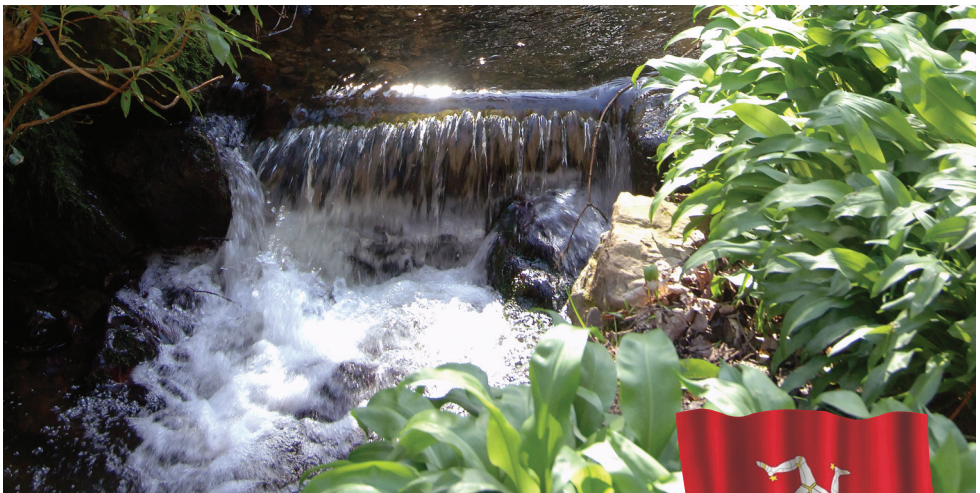
Tourism

Tourism is an important industry that supports small businesses in the Isle of Man and keeps hundreds of people employed. Our economic plan must ensure we provide investment to strengthen this vital sector. We have to improve the coordination of our efforts and better sell the Isle of Man as a tourist destination for both domestic and international visitors.

The cost of getting to the Island, allied to the lack of wet weather facilities, is a major problem which has been directly impacting on the industry! We must continue to explore different types of tourism such as Eco-tourism, Adventure tourism and Heritage tourism.

We should embrace the effective use of the opportunities provided by the internet to promote the Isle of Man all over the world. Our Island is a beautiful tourist destination; you don't have long airport waits or high euro costs and if we can solve the travel problem and improve facilities then the future will be very good.

I would like to consider privatising aspects of tourism promotion as there are many skilled business people who can promote the Island adeptly and their livelihoods depend on it.





Agriculture & Fisheries

These industries have been badly let down by the previous Government. I spent three years, with others, working on the new Countryside Care Scheme which was supposed to help agriculture become a more viable industry with a future for our young farmers. However, I was extremely disappointed when, (after it had been approved unanimously by Tynwald) within a few months some of the key elements were cut. This has caused major problems for the farming community and if we want food security, and to keep our countryside looking beautiful, then the full scheme needs to be honoured.

If elected I will continue to support local marketing schemes, with clear accreditation and labelling of local produce to increase consumers' ability to identify and choose Manx wherever possible.

Obviously I have a good knowledge and a keen interest in Agriculture and believe the whole sector could be further developed to create a greater contribution to the Island economy.

Planning and Housing

The Planning Department has to be further streamlined to help reform and speed up the decision-making process.

Local authorities should be able to decide some of the less contentious issues such as small extensions, change of windows, doors etc.

I believe that planning policies should be shaped to become a tool and should enable economic development rather than a barrier as has so often been the case in the recent past.

I would like to see more self builds and energy efficient housing. The cost of oil and gas is only going to increase and I am very concerned at our total reliance on off-Island energy. I would like to see support being made available for solar, wind and geothermal heating/ energy sources.

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Environment and Countryside

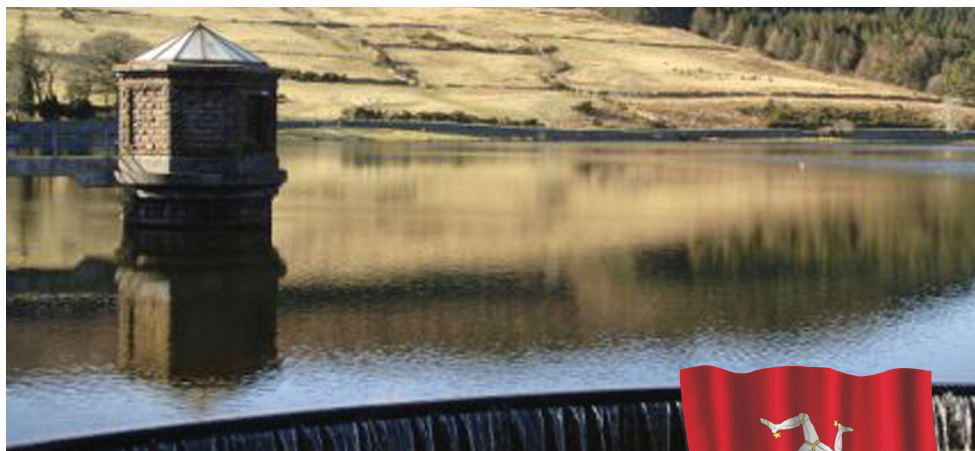
Climate change is one of the most important challenges facing our world today. This means we are likely to experience more flooding, faster coastal erosion, more heat-waves, droughts and extreme weather events. We need to take action now to prepare for these changes.

We have a great diversity of wildlife and plants on our Island and in our sea and this needs to be not only safeguarded but also promoted. Having won a major conservation award, creating various wildlife areas, I personally practise what I preach.

Police, Law and Order

Nearly half the crimes committed on the Island are drink or drug related. Our youth, drug and alcohol advisory agencies must be better resourced to tackle this problem. I will consult with the police and local authorities to look at this issue and ensure they have a coherent policy in place. I will lobby for improved counselling services and treatment programmes for those with substance abuse, drink or drug problems in the community.

I fully support the drink and drugs programmes that are being carried out in schools. I would like to see this support extended further into the community by the extension of the successful Douglas drop in centre for young people at other key places around the Island.





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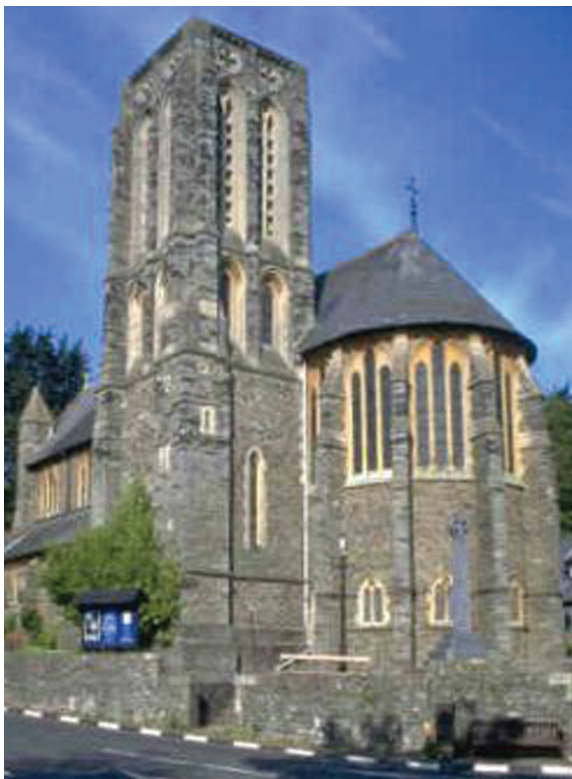
My Commitment to you

If I am elected I will provide a part-time office for constituents to contact so that, even if I am in the Keys, if you have a concern or problem that cannot be resolved by your Local Commissioners, a professional service will be provided by my office to assist you. This is a level of accessibility which has been lacking in the constituency over the last ten years. You deserve to be listened to and have your concerns addressed promptly.

In these times of cut backs we need to ensure that vulnerable, elderly and disabled people are protected and that our young people are given the best chance in life through a sound education.

I will hold regular advice surgeries across the constituency every month so as to be a listening MHK. I will always put residents' views first and make sure we get our fair share of services. I will ensure the voice of the residents of **Middle** is heard loud and clear.

Middle needs better facilities for young people and I would like to encourage people of all ages to get involved within their community and give whatever time they can to support youth projects. I will do my best to support any initiatives that would help improve community spirit. With this in mind I provided, and helped start, 80 allotments for the people of Middle and further afield.



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Local issues

If elected I will work closely and be supportive of your Parish Commissioners. Working together will increase the chance of getting better services and facilities.

If elected I will campaign hard to support and encourage:

Local convenience shops and local businesses.

A bus shelter opposite the Crosby Public house as well as pelican crossings throughout Middle.

Work closely with our community policing to build better relationships and focus on issues such as speeding on our local roads.

The Eastern Area Plan will have a major impact on the residents of Middle regarding the zoning of land for future development. I would support Braddan residents in their opposition to development at Camlork.

If elected I would encourage local authorities to press for the zoning of land for first-time buyers and sheltered housing with priority being given to young people living in the area. One and two bedroom bungalows are essential for local people struggling with inappropriate housing for their needs.

In Conclusion

I feel strongly that the Island needs a strong Government with MHKs who have a wealth of business and political experience, who can see us successfully through the critical years ahead. I have a considerable amount of experience in business, and have good working relationships politically both with many current civil servants and politicians, and have significant UK and International contacts. I would use it to promote and safeguard the Islands unique way of life if I am elected.

Every VOTE is vital, so if you want change please make your VOTE count.

Yours sincerely



VOTE ROBERT HOWARD QUAYLE

**The General Election takes place
on Thursday 29th September 2011**

The Polling Station is open from 8am to 8pm.

If you require an absent voters form because you are unable to attend the polling station due to incapacity or absence from the Island please contact me on 496038 or 851659.

Alternatively a proxy form may be completed if you are absent from the Island and you wish to appoint another person to vote on your behalf.

If you would like transport on Election Day, please do not hesitate to contact me.

VOTE QUAYLE
Robert Howard



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