

Paul Craine

Manifesto

Fogrey polasee



Dear fellow Middle residents

Since declaring my intention to stand for the House of Keys, I have been visiting homes in Braddan and Marown. It has been a privilege to meet so many people and hear your views and concerns - thank you for your warm responses and the challenge of your questions. I have done my best to answer as openly and honestly as possible and I have learned a great deal. I look forward to meeting with many more of you in the weeks leading up to the election. I hope to visit all houses and have scheduled 230 hours of door to door visiting, but if I don't get to meet you, please forgive me.

This manifesto provides you with a clear view of how I see the key local and Island issues. In the interests of economy (and saving trees!) I am distributing just one copy per household. I hope that is acceptable. **The sections in green spell out my views and what I would aim to achieve, if elected – you may wish just to focus on these.**

Background

You should have already received an introductory letter about me. In brief, I was born and brought up in Douglas. The family roots were at the Cooil and in Manx Methodism. My father was 'Craine the Chemist' by the bus station. I am married to Ann and we have two grown-up daughters. We have lived in Middle for 27 years: 16 in Union Mills (our children attended Braddan Primary School) and 11 in Glen Vine.

I have a research degree on Population and Taxation in the Isle of Man as well as an MA in Education. I taught for 20 years and, since 1999, I have worked in the Department of Education and Children as the Co-ordinating Adviser for Secondary Education. I am a qualified secondary headteacher and a trained Ofsted

inspector. I have resigned from my post in order to stand for this election.

Outside of work, I have been chairman of such diverse organisations as Churches Together in Mann and the Island Games Association of Mann. For the last four years I have been a member of Marown Commissioners and, last year, I was chairman. If elected, I would bring a range of experiences and professional skills to the role and would have a reflective, evidence-based approach.

What do I want for the Isle of Man?

I believe that the Isle of Man is a great place to live and has a good community spirit. I want the Isle of Man to thrive - economically, politically, socially and environmentally. I am keen to see the Island's reputation improve, particularly for the integrity of its business dealings and for the honesty and openness of its Government.

The Key Middle Issues

Your views on the doorstep have confirmed my belief that the main issues in Middle relate to planning: the planning of local services (shops and other amenities), the planning of future developments (whether industrial or housing), the planning of transport and the planning of recreational facilities.

1 Planning of Local Services

Work on a new Eastern Area Plan, covering both Braddan and Marown, will start later this year. This will take a couple of years to produce – there will be drafts, consultations, and inquiries. It is hugely important, as it will become the planning blueprint for Middle for the next decade or two!

One item that the Eastern Area Plan will cover is services – i.e. shops, post offices etc. The parish

of Marown already has no local shop where daily goods such as bread, milk and newspapers can be purchased. In the latest strategic planning document (for the Southern Area Plan), Union Mills has been downgraded from a 'Service Village' (providing basic services for surrounding settlements) to a 'Village' ('a smaller settlement with little or no service provision which relies on other centres for various services'). Instead of being ranked with St Johns and Ballasalla, it is now ranked with Dalby and Glen Maye. The planning system needs to recognise that rural communities need shops selling basic amenities. The Eastern Area Plan must provide for adequate services in Middle.



If elected, I will:

- **Champion improvement in the services in Middle to secure basic local amenities providing everyday items.**
- **Work with local Commissioners to secure this improvement.**
- **Work to have the Regeneration Fund widened to support the development of village amenities and centres.**
- **Ensure the Eastern Area Plan delivers what local people need.**

2 Planning for Development

The Eastern Area Plan will also involve landscape assessment and the identification of areas for development. There is considerable evidence that Middle is the area of choice for many developers – both for housing and commercial premises.

Between 2001 and 2006, the population of Braddan grew by over 18%; an enormous rate of growth. Any notion of the containment of office development within Douglas also seems to have disappeared with the on-going development at the Cooil.

The views I have heard as I have visited homes in Middle have been mixed. A few of you want planning to be de-regulated for business activity and 'High Net Worth Individuals'. The vast majority want development to be controlled and wish to retain separation between villages, preserve countryside and create good communities.

I do not own, or have vested interests in, any large areas of land in the constituency. My only motivation will be to ensure that planning meets the needs of our local communities.

Some development is necessary, and desirable – but, if elected, I will work to ensure that the Eastern Area Plan:

- **Does not swallow up green fields.**
- **Does not overwhelm our villages or create further dormitory settlements.**
- **Does not bring Douglas to our doorstep.**

3 Planning Transport and Traffic

"The traffic is travelling far too fast..." As I have met with people from the constituency, I have heard this cry from residents of the Braaid and the Foxdale Road, from parents of children living near Braddan School, from residents of Crosby in relation to both the main road through the village and Eyreton Road, from people living in Union Mills, from people in Ballamillaghyn who walk along the Mount Rule Road, from Quine's Hill, the Strang and Cronkbourn Village – indeed from all over Middle. I have been asked about introducing speed limits, reducing speed limits, enforcing speed limits, installing speed cameras, adding pedestrian crossings and introducing all forms of traffic calming. I have even been told of cars that drive through the pedestrian lights in Glen Vine when there are children on the crossing and the green man is showing!

The daily flow of traffic into and out of Douglas increases each year. Our villages are split by busy roads, making it difficult for elderly people to cross, and hard for children to access parks.

The Eastern Area Plan needs to address the problems of traffic throughout the constituency of Middle. I do not favour an all-Island speed limit, but we need to be very clear about our policy for the management of speeding.

If elected, I will:

- **Work to ensure that road and traffic issues are addressed in the Eastern Area Plan.**
- **Ensure that a very high profile is maintained for traffic issues in Middle.**
- **Fight to secure additional pedestrian crossings and traffic calming.**
- **Seek a public consultation on the issue of managing and reducing speeding on the Island's roads.**
- **Work with local residents to secure the adoption of roads at Cronk Grianagh.**

4 Planning for Recreation

Many families have expressed their concerns about the lack of "things to do" for the young people of Middle. As a local commissioner, I am committed to working for young people. For the last 3 years I have chaired a Sports Hall Committee working to secure agreement and funding to build a Sports Hall in Marown. After many hours developing a business plan and many, many meetings, it seems highly likely that Middle will have a new Sports Hall within the next two years.

At Ballagarey, the failure of the developers to hand over the public open space to the community is a very serious neglect of responsibility. The Eastern Area Plan must recognise the need for further recreational amenities and must offer more than just sporting opportunities.

If elected, I will:

- **Keep working towards the Sports Hall at Marown School.**
- **Increase the pressure on the developer to hand over the public open spaces at Ballagarey.**
- **Work to ensure that the need for recreational amenities is recognised in the Eastern Area Plan.**
- **Work with the local Commissioners to secure facilities for young people.**

The Key Island Issues

There are more important things than finances: things such as the Health service, Education and support for genuinely vulnerable groups of people – but without a strong economy, the Government cannot meet expectations. The Isle of Man has not been immune from global economic problems.

1 The Economy

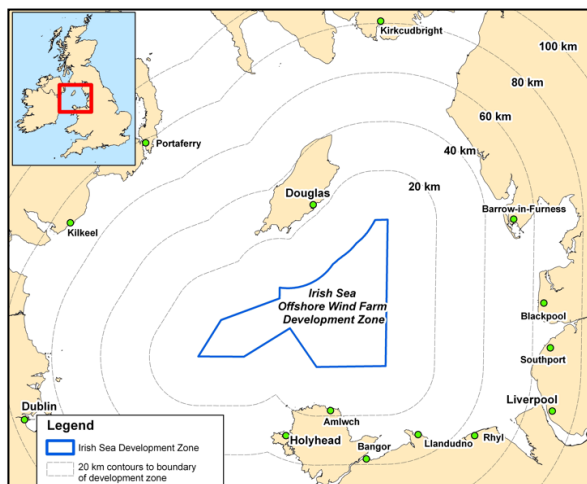
In many ways, the private sector of the Manx economy is still doing well. Having talked to several hundred of you on the doorstep over the past few weeks, I believe that the reality is better than many people think – there is a great deal that is positive.

- Unemployment in the Isle of Man is just over 2% (it is 7% in the UK and over 9% in the EU).
- Economic growth in the Isle of Man is more than 4% per year (it is under 1% in the UK and below 2% in the EU).
- There is very strong growth in the IT, space and 'clean-tech' (green energy) sectors.
- The average weekly wage in 2010 was over £590 – more than 20% up on 2005.
- The Manx economy is larger and perhaps more diversified than ever before.
- There is enormous specialist expertise across several sectors in the Isle of Man and considerable confidence in the Island's future.

Of course, this does not guarantee our future economic success. The Isle of Man is in a vulnerable position. We face increased competition not just from the growing number of international offshore business centres but even from business tax reductions in Ireland and enterprise zones in the UK. We have a number of international bodies that are challenging our taxation system. Our international reputation is not as good as it should be. Unemployment in the 16-24 years age group is too high. Farming output has fallen since support payments were 'decoupled' from production.

It is the role of Government to create the right environment for the private sector to thrive. This will, in turn, bring investment, jobs and an economy that moves with the times. We need able, well-qualified, professional representatives in Tynwald who have a good grasp of the bigger issues and are not afraid to offer real leadership.

There is always the danger in elections that candidates talk in general terms and do not offer specific solutions, so let me offer one example of a specific idea to improve the economy. The UK Crown Estates have completed Round 3 of offshore wind farm licensing. An enormous area of seabed between the Isle of Man and Anglesey has been licensed to 'Centrica', the giant company that owns British Gas. Between 30% and 40% of this area is nearer to the Isle of Man than to any part of the UK.



Under a 20 year-old agreement, the Isle of Man has a 12 nautical mile limit to its territorial waters. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea allows independent countries to establish exclusive economic zones, which normally extend to 200 miles, or the mid-way point to another country. The Isle of Man should encourage commercial offshore wind farms and should also open discussions to extend our territorial waters.

If elected, to encourage further economic growth I will:

- **Work to improve the international reputation of the Isle of Man.**
- **Fight to keep business taxes low to encourage new investment and jobs.**
- **Take steps to ensure that the Department of Economic Development has the policies, resources and drive to develop all sectors with a priority on fast-growing e-commerce, space and 'clean-tech' industries.**
- **Make maximum use of the on-Island expertise in every sector.**
- **Push for talks with the UK about the rights of Crown Dependencies in relation to surrounding sea areas.**

- **Argue the case for licensing offshore wind farms to export green energy.**
- **Advocate strengthening business links with the rapidly growing economies of China and India.**

2 Government income

The biggest problems currently facing the Island relate to Government income and expenditure. The UK's actions to reduce our VAT receipts have left a hole in Government finances. Many of the constituents I have met have admitted that they do not understand the VAT issue and are not sure if the UK is somehow 'selling us short'.

Let me offer a very brief overview. Under the Customs and Excise Agreement, the Isle of Man and the UK both collect VAT for each other. This makes it very easy for goods and services to be exchanged between us. The VAT is then shared out under the Revenue Sharing Arrangement.

Over several years, this arrangement had come to favour the Isle of Man. In 2007, we received over three times more, per person, from VAT than the UK received. This situation existed even though the rates of VAT were identical. Clearly this was more than just a 'very good deal' for the Isle of Man.

Not surprisingly, the UK indicated that there had to be changes. In October 2009, and again in July 2011, the 'Revenue Sharing Arrangement' was revised, reducing the Island's VAT income by an eventual total of around £175m per year. A new method of calculating the Island's share of VAT, based on those sectors of the Manx economy that generate VAT, has been agreed. The Isle of Man will still receive an estimated 40% more, per person, from VAT than the UK which is clearly a reasonably good deal. There is no case for us to argue that we should be receiving a larger share of the VAT.

What is abundantly clear is that Government income in the Isle of Man has been reduced down to its 2006 level. In 2007, over 60% of the Government's income of £580m came from VAT. In the current financial year it is likely that just 40% to 45% of the Government's estimated £535m revenue will come from VAT. Over the

next three years, the contribution from VAT will decline further.

In order to pay for good health care, education, pensions, road maintenance etc, the Government needs income from somewhere. It has already begun to address this issue by raising the higher rate of income tax to 20%, increasing National Insurance contributions and freezing or restricting salary increases. The Government has also been helped by the increase in the rate of VAT up to 20%. Some steps have been taken to increase Government income but there are still further opportunities available.

In the light of the reduced income from VAT, there would appear to be four good reasons why the Island's tax strategy should undergo a substantial review.

i) Many of the businesses and jobs in the Isle of Man benefit from low business taxes. Indeed, under the so-called 'Zero-10' the standard rate of business tax is 0%. However, there are companies here that were not attracted by the Zero tax policy and yet still pay no tax. Branches of the large, off-Island retail chains, for example, pay no business tax - at least, not here. Most of these large stores do not have Manx companies so their profits flow back to the UK and their head offices pay UK tax. We are allowing tax on profits made in the Isle of Man to be paid to the UK. We don't want to discourage high quality retailers from operating here, but this situation needs to be changed.

ii) The Zero-10 policy has also brought criticism from the Ecofin Council (an EU body) and others on the grounds that it is a 'harmful tax practice'. The issue gets quite technical here because, as a result of this external pressure, the Isle of Man Government has been forced to drop 'ARI' (the Attribution Regime for Individuals - a regulation that prevents local residents who own companies from avoiding Manx income tax). The possibility of on-Island tax avoidance needs to be addressed.

iii) In 2006, in the hope of attracting 'High Net Worth Individuals', the Government placed a cap (currently £115,000) on the amount of income tax that an individual has to pay. This policy appears to have cut the taxes of over 60 of the Island's wealthiest, existing residents and has

attracted just a handful more. There appears to be an absence of clear evidence to show that this has been a successful policy.

iv) It is simply not possible to run a modern democracy, with health care and education systems that meet the expectations of the residents, without an adequate tax base.

To increase Government income, if elected, I will:

- **Push for a review of the Island's tax strategy to increase income without damaging the economy.**
- **Advocate wide public and private sector consultation on taxation.**
- **Challenge the tax strategy that allows profits made here, to be taxed elsewhere.**
- **Advocate, and work towards, the promotion of economic growth in all sectors which, in turn, will deliver more tax to Government.**

3 Government Spending

Reduced Government income must inevitably be balanced by reduced expenditure. Having visited several hundred houses, this issue is very clearly understood on the doorstep but many people were not sure that Government had made a start on reducing spending. Again, the reality is probably better than the perception. Government has been reducing its outgoings.

Recent Manx budgets show sharp reductions in Government spending, especially in some departments. In 2010-11, the revenue budget for the Department of Transport was reduced by 40%. Over last year and this year, the Department of Education and Children has received budget reductions of 4.7% and 3.5% respectively. In the current financial year, only the Department of Health has had an increase in budget. Overall Government spending fell £26m last year and will fall a further £25m this year (despite 6% inflation). Public sector salary increases have been frozen or restricted for three years and by the end of this year more than 380 Government jobs will have been lost.

With a lower tax base, this reduction in spending has to continue. Five years ago a report to the Council of Ministers reviewed the 'Scope and Structure' of the Isle of Man Government. It

advocated that consideration be given to the commercialisation, contracting out, corporatisation or even privatisation of Government entities such as the Harbours, Airport, Manx Electricity Authority, Water and Sewage Authority, Works Division, Quarries, Commercial Forestry, the Villa Marina, NSC, Buses, MER/Steam Railway and the Post Office. The time is now surely right to take some of these ideas forward. I would be opposed to any privatisation that would result in a private monopoly, but I am prepared to consider all other possibilities.

Above all else, we need to ensure that Government spending provides good value for money.

There is a need for further reductions in Government Spending. If elected, I will:

- **Promote controlled spending reductions across most areas of Government, encouraging the continued use of basic expenditure and activity reviews and the identification of budget rebalancing opportunities in every Department.**
- **Vote against expenditure on grand capital projects when something more functional would be ideal.**
- **Fight to prevent spending reductions that would affect education, health care and genuinely vulnerable groups – whilst seeking good value for money.**
- **Argue against spending reductions that would replace on-Island, private sector activities with in-house arrangements, making Government 'bigger'.**
- **Advocate action to implement elements of the report on the Scope and Structure of Government – perhaps beginning with the selling of the MEA retail business and the contracting out of the Villa Marina/Gaiety complex.**

4 Additional Island Issues

Constitutional change

I believe that Tynwald is at its worst when it gets bogged down looking at itself – but I hold balanced and evidence-based views on the following constitutional issues.

i) Direct election of the Chief Minister

There may be some arguments in support of this idea but it would undoubtedly increase the

power of the Chief Minister. A recent poll suggests that no single candidate would have the support of more than a quarter of the voters. **On balance I would not support the direct election of the Chief Minister without a range of accompanying changes. If a referendum were to be held, I think that the public discussion would persuade people that this would be a bad move.**

ii) Direct election of the Legislative Council

The Legislative Council has always provided some able and experienced people, but it cannot be right to have departmental decisions made by unelected politicians. The key role of the Council should be one of scrutiny as a revising chamber. **I would support a reduction of the role of MLCs so that they do not sit on Departments. I would also support direct elections to the Legislative Council but only on an appropriate basis. I would prefer MLCs not to be tied to a constituency.**

iii) Representation for Middle

The residents of Middle are the most under-represented voters on the Island – hopefully the current Boundary Review Committee will offer some practical solutions. Most of the voters in the Isle of Man are able to call on more than one MHK. **I believe there should be an equal numbers of seats in each constituency. I would support any solution if I thought that it gave better representation to Middle but I would prefer House of Keys constituencies to match local authority boundaries. I would not wish to see half of Marown in Glenfaba and half of Braddan in West Douglas just to 'balance the numbers'.**

iv) The Council of Ministers

I believe that the Council of Ministers' vote is not as powerful as some people argue. The 10 CoMin members effectively form a minority, coalition Government – if we reduce their number we could make their role impossible. If MHKs outside of CoMin always voted in accordance with their independent beliefs, then any 'block vote' would be neutralised. Tynwald always retains the power to remove the Chief Minister and CoMin through a vote of no confidence. **I would retain the current position.**

Other Issues

Abrogation

Abrogating the Customs and Exercise Agreement (breaking away from the common Customs and VAT duties with the UK) always remains an option. If our economy was more like that of the Channel Islands, and we had no manufacturing, it might be a stronger option. If we abrogated now, our manufacturing and other exports would be subject to EU tariffs. We would gain the ability to remove or lower VAT - but this would only leave an even bigger hole in Government income. **I would retain the current position.**

Disability Discrimination Act

This Act, making it unlawful to discriminate against a person with a disability, was passed in 2006 but has not yet been introduced. Organisations have had plenty of time to make changes to comply with the new requirements. **I believe it is now time to bring the Disability Discrimination Act into effect.**

Scrutiny in Tynwald

There is a need in the Keys and Tynwald for effective scrutiny (which is not the same as opposition). The establishment of three new policy review committees in the new House (Social, Economic and Environment and Infrastructure) will be a major step forward. **I would always seek to understand issues, do the homework and contribute to effective scrutiny. I would also be keen to participate on one of the new policy review committees.**

Responsibilities and Reputation

The reputation of the Isle of Man could be improved by a clear recognition of our international responsibilities. The introduction in July 2011 of 'automatic disclosure' of interest paid to citizens of EU countries was an important step in this direction, helping to reduce illegal tax evasion. The Island does well on supporting environmental agreements such as Kyoto, Cites and Ramsar. Our reputation would be further improved by a better record on international aid. **I would encourage Tynwald to meet its international obligations.**

Energy issues

Our expectation has to be that oil, petrol and

gas prices will continue to rise and rise as world population grows and hydrocarbon fuels get harder to exploit. **I would support more stringent insulation standards for new housing, incentives to insulate lofts and walls and education programmes to encourage reduced energy use. I support the Government's commitment to producing 15% of energy from renewable sources and would welcome a private, on-shore wind farm application on a suitable site. I would support any viable initiative that would make use of the waste heat from the Energy from Waste Plant or would further exploit biomass energy (burning wood pellets from local willow).**

Education

The Island has a good education system that serves our children and young people well. Over 75% of the Island's young people now stay in full-time education beyond the age of 16. **I am opposed to any reduction in education funding but recognise that it is essential to get good value for money. I support the development of greater vocational opportunities in the 14-16 years age range and post-16 – both schools and the Isle of Man College have a role to play in this. I support the continuing payment of university tuition fees, if affordable. I would be in favour of nursery provision in every primary school but the current economic position makes that look unrealistic in the short term.**

Farming

The Countryside Care Scheme appears to have taken some farms out of production and reduced output. Meat production has many issues as reflected by the large number of live animal exports and the recent application for a second abattoir in Marown. **I support the current farming consultation and welcome the plans to develop a new agricultural strategy. I favour a system that provides greater support for producer farmers.**

Housing

Housing is a very real issue in the Isle of Man. Prices to buy and to rent privately remain higher than the northern half of England. Local Authority housing lists are long. **I support a review of the first-time buyer 'House Purchase Assistance Scheme' to remove**

anomalies (I believe there are lessons to learn from the new UK 'FirstBuy' shared equity scheme). I do not favour means testing for local authority housing but there should be greater encouragement for people living alone to release 3-bedroomed houses.

Infrastructure

Spending reductions, together with extreme winter conditions, have left roads with potholes, hedges untrimmed and weeds in gutters. Many residents have expressed despair over the three Rs: Richmond Hill, Roundabouts and Ramsey Pier. **I would support the provision of adequate funding to maintain an acceptable standard of roads but getting value for money is essential.**

Freedom of Information Act

A Freedom of Information Bill was taken to the House of Keys for a first reading in June this year. **I support the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act taking us beyond the current Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.**

Health

As people live longer and as medical treatments get ever more sophisticated, our health care is not going to get cheaper. There is growing concern over waiting lists. **I am opposed to any reduction in health care funding but recognise that it is absolutely essential to get good value for money.**

Local Authorities – reform

The extent to which local authorities already work together is underestimated. They have joint regional bodies to deliver civic amenity sites and other facilities (eg Western Swimming Pool). The economies of scale that might be gained by merging local authorities is overestimated, as demonstrated by refuse collections in Marown where the use of a small private contractor is more cost-effective than large authorities can achieve. **I would oppose**

merging Braddan with Douglas. I would retain the current position and encourage increased regional co-operation between local authorities. I would support the handing over of a range of activities, with funding, from central Government to regional groups of local authorities.

Minimum wage

The Isle of Man minimum wage gives an adult working 40 hours per week less than £250 before stoppages. The lowest paid 10% of the Island's population earn less than £300 per week. Given the price of accommodation, food and fuel in the Isle of Man, it must be difficult to get by on these income levels. **I would support an annual increase in the minimum wage at least in line with inflation. I value good trade unions that support workers and negotiate with fair and professional comment based on sound analysis.**

Pensions

As people live longer, we cannot simply expect to have more and more years on a pension. Change is inevitable but it needs to offer a fair deal for all groups. Public sector pensions have rightly been amended. Tynwald members' pensions must also be reviewed. **I believe that Tynwald members should be making a contribution towards their pensions.**

Finally

I have no political ambitions of my own other than to contribute to the future development of the Isle of Man and to serve as a highly effective Member of the House of Keys for Middle.

If you share my views and beliefs, I would welcome your support for my campaign.

I invite you to give me your vote.

Gura mie eu (Thank You)

Paul Craine



If people don't vote – democracy doesn't work
29 September – please use your vote

Tel: 851861 Web: www.paulcraine.im Email: mail@paulcraine.im

Published by Paul Craine, 6 Elm Bank, Glen Vine – Printed by The Copy Shop, Buck's Road, Douglas.
Representation of the People Act 1995