



## **Andrew Jessopp BSc (Hons)**

- **Married to Ann, a primary school head teacher, we have three children**
- **NWRFCA admin officer**
- **IOMHACA administrator**
- **Independent publisher**
- **Positive Action Group Committee Member**
- **Deputy Chairman Zero Waste Mann**

**Dear fellow Braddan resident,**

I had hoped in the time since I was re-elected in 2008 a lot of the issues of the past would have been resolved and we would be a lot further forward with many of the projects we have planned for the parish.

Even so, we have not sat still in that time and have managed to deliver a number of improved services and facilities in the parish; and, despite the current economic climate, I remain upbeat about the prospects for further achievements in the next four years.

Our recently published 5 year Strategic Plan, which I fully endorse, sets out what we intend to achieve and how we are going to go about achieving our aims. It also sets out the key challenges we expect to face as an authority during that period and how we intend to respond to those challenges. I hope I can count on your support for the next four years in order to see that our strategic vision is realised.

I still have no regrets whatsoever in the decision to dismiss the previous clerk for serious misconduct as I believe the long term benefit to the Authority, and the ratepayers of the parish, will far outweigh the cost of defending the decision in the courts.

The on-going legal case is obviously a distraction and is consuming an amount of our time, resources and your money; but I believe it is necessary to defend the claim against the authority by Mr Lewin as the alternative option is far less palatable.

Similarly, I also agreed with the Commissioners' decision to defend the petition of doloance by one of our ratepayers, Tels Ltd, who claimed they had a right to access all the financial records held by the authority. Had their petition been successful then information such as tenants' rent records, our employee's pay records and housing applicant's personal financial details could have been accessed. In the event, the court agreed with the Commissioners that the legislation does not allow a ratepayer to have unfettered access to all the authority's records.

That being said I wish to make it clear the Commissioners sometimes have to take difficult and unpopular decisions, and when it is in the best interest of the parish I remain prepared to consider a pragmatic resolution to any problem faced by the authority, even if the solution is unpalatable to me personally.

Fortunately, the introduction of more robust financial procedures and tighter controls on expenditure has meant our financial situation is much more secure than it was four years ago; with a dramatic turnaround from a substantial deficit to a significant reserve now held on deposit. Hopefully, if all the outstanding legal matters are resolved within the next financial year we will be able to invest more time and resources on the positive aspects of our activities.

In our Strategic Plan we have identified several of the challenges facing this and many other authorities in the next four years. The role local authorities will play in the future of the Isle of Man is one of the key issues for both local and national politicians to resolve.

In Richard Ronan we have an MHK who I think genuinely believes the reshaping of local authorities should be driven by a bottom up process; but I suspect the majority of his colleagues in the House of Keys think it should be the other way around, and dictated by the needs of their own political objectives. We will need strong willed Commissioners to ensure any reform of local authorities is for the benefit of the majority, and not for a small group of senior civil servants and their political masters.

I would also like to continue the fight to retain and protect the rural environment of our parish and with the imminent launch of the first phase in the preparation of an eastern area plan I want to be in a position to see that residents' views are not ignored. If the manner in which comments submitted to the Southern Area Plan were disregarded is anything to go by, then we are in for quite a battle.

I would like the opportunity to carry on representing your interests on the Richmond Hill Consultative Committee; the body that helps regulate the operation of the incinerator. I continue to challenge the Department over its less than robust approach to SITA's operation of the plant and as a result some improved practises have materialized.

On a more positive note, I am pleased the authority decided to continue with the kerbside collection service as I believe this is a worthwhile and environmentally sound service. I am also confident that in the next four years the new Board will be able to deliver the long promised community facility at the Strang corner-field, and many of the other projects planned for the parish.

Furthermore, my intention and promise remains, as ever, that I will devote my time and energy to work in the best interests of electors and ratepayers of Braddan Parish. If I don't get to meet you on the doorstep in the next few weeks and there is any matter which you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, thank you to those of you who have supported me in the past and if you think that I am the candidate most likely to carry on living up to your expectations – then **please vote Andrew Jessopp on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April.**

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