

Commissioners' Finances

The Parish has enjoyed financial stability with the rates remaining the same for some time. However, there continues to be the uncertainty of the outcome of legal action by the former Commissioners' Clerk against the Authority and the impact that this may have on future Parish finances. Robust action by the Commissioners' legal team needs to be taken during the coming year to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion in order to remove future uncertainty. A value for money approach to all aspects of finance needs to be taken. Where the Commissioners rely on services supplied by outside bodies, these should be subject to competitive tender wherever possible.

Social Issues

We have to work with Government departments, the police, residents groups and associations to create community wellbeing. We have to do all that we can to stop nuisance being caused by anti-social behaviour. This includes noise nuisance, children and young people causing distress to other persons, rubbish dumping and harassment of the public.

Open Government

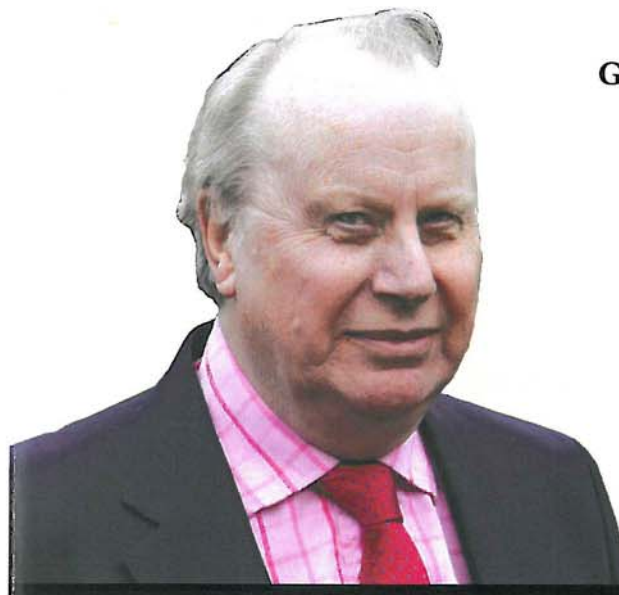
It is essential that all decisions by the Commissioners are open and transparent. Where controversial decisions have to be made, these need to be fully explained to the public with the reasons for making them. We should actively encourage members of the public to attend Commissioners' Board meetings so that they can judge for themselves the performance of Commissioners.

Please Vote for
Colin Slinn

Representation of the People Act 1995 Local Elections Act 1986

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Colin Slinn



**Local Authority
General Election 2012**

**Braddan Parish
Commissioners**

Thursday 26 April

Dear Elector

This is my first foray into the political arena since I stood in the 1982 Michael by-election against David Cannan. In standing as an independent candidate in this election I believe that, as a retired businessman, I have a wealth of experience that can be put to the use of the local community if I am elected. This is all the more important in these hard economic times when we have to ensure that every penny that is spent is done so wisely.

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I started my working career in English local government. I therefore have a good knowledge of how local government should function and the relationship that it requires to have with central government.

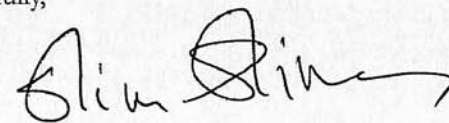
Over the next four years the Island's Chief Minister is committed to reforming local government. This must not be done at the expense of ditching local democracy. The Commissioners have a vital role to play to ensure that the voice of the local community is heard and taken into account BEFORE any major decisions are reached to alter the existing system of local government administration. Any alteration in the way local government works and serves the community must not involve more centralisation and the removal of local services from local control. Democracy works best when public services are administered locally with local accountability. There needs to be more delegation of functions from government to local authorities, such as Braddan, who have the necessary expertise to deal with them.

Since 2007 I have been the secretary of the Save Camlork Committee. This body has been established for some 25 years with the object of preserving Camlork Farm at Union Mills/Mount Rule Road as a viable farming unit rather than as a sprawling urban residential development. During the last five years we have successfully stopped, via a public enquiry, the land being developed. Through court action against the

Planning Department, in which we were awarded costs, we were able to stop the demolition of the existing farmhouse and its replacement with a so called "millionaire's mansion". We have just submitted our views on the Government's consultation paper regarding the use of the planning system for economic development. There has been very little publicity about this consultation paper. If it is allowed to go forward unaltered it will mean that the whole Island will become open season for development and the Strategic and Area Plans will count for little.

I now set what I consider the major issues that the Commissioners are likely to face over the coming years and my views as to how they should be dealt with. If elected I will always be available to discuss problems and issues that you may have regarding all aspects of the Commissioners' work. Polling day is Thursday 26th April. I hope that you will give me your support. Should you wish any assistance in getting to the Polling Station, please let me know.

Yours faithfully,



Colin Slinn

Planning

Braddan has within its boundaries areas that are zoned for commercial and residential development as well as large areas of both farmland and open space. It appears that there is going to be pressure from Government, for so called economic reasons, not only to build on the zoned land but also on land that is not zoned for development. Whilst national policies are important they should not be allowed to ignore the democratically established Strategic or Area Plans. There is an argument to decentralise the decision making planning process from central government to local authorities so that the people making the decisions are more accountable to the local population. As the Commissioners' 2012-2017 Strategic Plan states, we have to reinforce the rural identity of the Parish and keep local community identity from inappropriate development. We should ensure that this is maintained in the new Eastern Area Plan.

Environment

We have to continue to encourage kerbside recycling wherever possible. As a responsible dog owner myself, we have to enforce and encourage action to be taken against owners who allow their dogs to foul pavements and Commissioners' owned open spaces. It may be necessary to provide more bins for this purpose.

Commissioners and Public Housing

Consideration needs to be given to the recent David Tolson Partnership review of affordable housing provision on the Island. The key recommendation is to "introduce a programme of rent increases for public sector housing linked to income threshold". As at May 2010 the Island had a total of 5,316 public housing units, with Braddan having 185. The report also highlights, from a small percentage survey, that the average annual income per household for public housing for the Island is £65,000. The Commissioners need to carefully consider their response to this consultation report, taking into account the hard economic realities that face both the Parish and the Island as a whole. The Commissioners should continue with their policy of upgrading and improvement of their existing housing stock.

Highways

Running through the Parish are several of the Island's busiest roads. The Commissioners have to ensure that, working with central government, the police and local residents, we maintain and enforce safety requirements and react proactively to problems as and when they arise. We also have to ensure that proper and adequate street lighting is maintained at all times. The Commissioners should insist that central government properly maintains both the highways and pavements within the Parish.