

are certainly less confrontational than we used to be! Local government review is again high on the political agenda, with cost cutting at the heart of everyone's thinking. I personally think there is scope for some reorganisation of the authorities, and welcome the prospect of positive discussions on that topic over the next four years. It will need all our diplomatic skills to cope with the challenges that may face us.

"Give me the grace to accept the things that I cannot change; the courage to change things that I cannot accept; and the wisdom to know the difference."

These words have inspired me all my political life and I think should be in the minds of all right-minded politicians. Please know that, if you do return me to office, they will continue to inspire and encourage me in all that I can do for the Parish.

Margaret Hodge.

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*On April 26th
please vote
for me*

**MARGARET
HODGE**

Dear Residents of Braddan

Four years ago you did me the great honour of re-electing me to the Board of Braddan Parish Commissioners: and it is now time to ask for your vote of confidence yet again. As Chairman for the whole of that period I am pleased to report that it has been a time of reconstruction and consolidation at Braddan, and that the Authority is now on a secure financial footing in spite of the turmoil that has affected the Island on a national basis. Evidence of this financial stability is reflected in the fact that, for the fourth year running, we are able to hold the rate at 227p in the pound. In a time of constantly rising prices, at least we can say that Braddan rates have not gone up!

Four years ago the Board was just recovering from the fallout following the dismissal of the former clerk, and I am proud to have led the team that had the courage to change a regime that has subsequently been revealed to have been even more unacceptable than was first thought. That fallout continues to this day, with the threat of litigation still hanging over the heads of the Board. This has meant that money that we should have been able to use for the benefit of the Parish has had to be

put to one side to pay for legal representation. However, we are confident that matters will draw to a close in the near future, enabling us to at last release these funds so that we can progress some of the projects that have been on the back burner for some time.

Details of all the projects can be found in the excellent Business Plan that has recently been distributed with the Rates documentation. Strang Corner Field, Cronkbourne Village, Cronk Grianagh Park, car parking at Port Soderick and Union Mills; all these will see some construction during the coming year.

These developments, although seemingly slow in coming, have been progressed by the Board and the staff working together, negotiating with other bodies to achieve the results that we want. I do feel that the past four years we have made tremendous strides in building a great working relationship between Commissioners and the staff, and between Braddan and other outside bodies; this teamwork has enabled Braddan to become one of the leading local authorities on the Island. Having women on the Board has made a difference in the way that we deal with other organisations: we

MARGARET HODGE

Local Authority General Election
Braddan Parish Commissioners
Thursday 26 April 2012