

MARC MELLOR

For ONCHAN

Local Authority By-Election June 14th 2012

Dear Voter,

I am standing for election to Onchan Commissioners on Thursday 14th June 2012 and I would like to invite you to vote for me.



Please let me introduce myself, my name is Marc Mellor, I am 52 years of age and I have been married to Yvette for 20 years and we have lived in Hillcrest Grove in Birchill for the last 18 years. I was brought up in Poolvaish in the South of the Island and attended Rushen Primary School followed by Castle Rushen High School. Our daughter Rhiannon attended Ashley Hill School, is now at Park Road and will be starting at the new St Ninians Lower School at Bemahague in September.

I have worked for over 32 years at what is now the IOM Water and Sewerage Authority and during that time I have carried out a variety of roles from digging holes, fixing bursts and laying water mains, to supervising networks operations to my current position of purchasing manager and H&S adviser. I have a graduate diploma in procurement and also other management and H&S qualifications.

I have been a school governor at Ashley Hill for 6 years and am currently in my second term as Chairman, I was also a committee member of the Friends of Ashley Hill and still help out when I can.

I was appointed secretary to the recently formed St Ninians High School Community Council which is seeking to develop strong links between all areas of the community and the new school at Bemahague to utilise the excellent range of facilities that will be on offer later this year.

I have been a volunteer with Junior Achievement for a number of years and have presented their education programme in various primary schools, it is designed to help develop the children's understanding of their community, their environment and also finance and business.

My interests are varied, we have a chocolate Labrador that enjoys being taken for walks and keeps us fit, I had a mid life crisis and passed my motorcycle test 4 years ago and ride out whenever I can and have even ventured on two occasions to Europe. I have a keen interest in cookery and have a collection of over 300 cookery books from a wide variety of cuisines. I also enjoy various types of music and like strumming the guitar. As a family we enjoy travel, particularly in France, and I am now trying my best to learn the language.

When I have been out and about talking to Onchan residents there are areas of concern that are continually raised. There may not be easy answers to all the issues, however it should be possible to prioritise actions to make improvement. It will also be important to further develop working relationships between the commissioners and other agencies to work together to continually improve the facilities and services for the residents of Onchan.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Recent Government reports indicate possible changes within this term of office that are likely to have a significant impact on Onchan. The changes being considered include restructuring local government to give it the capability to deliver a wider range of public services by transferring functions from central government which will possibly be funded through the rates. The reports also suggest the need to reform outdated rateable values. The commissioners must ensure the effects of any restructure are well managed to best protect the interests of the residents of Onchan.

FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN

There are some good leisure amenities for children in Onchan however many people feel that they could be further developed to include new facilities to make them even better. There are particular concerns over the lack of facilities available for older children.

CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT

Onchan will undoubtedly need to expand in the future but the commissioners must ensure that any housing development, particularly on green field sites, is strictly monitored to minimise the impact on the local area.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Traffic through the village, parking in some residential areas and traffic using side roads to try and avoid traffic jams is a major concern and the commissioners must liaise with the Department of Infrastructure to develop an effective traffic management plan for Onchan to try and ease the problems.

DOGS

Dog mess is unpleasant subject but a big concern for many so we need more dog waste bins, education for owners and greater enforcement of by laws for those who do not clear up after their dogs.

RECYCLING

Many people miss kerbside recycling and while it may not be practical to replace the scheme there should be increased education on the benefits of waste recycling and consideration given to the possibility of putting in place more bring banks.

FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

The condition of some roads and footpaths in the area is deteriorating and causing a hazard and the commissioners need to encourage the Department of Infrastructure to make the necessary repairs.

This is my first attempt to seek any form of political office and I am fully prepared for the significant time commitment in carrying out not only the official duties of a commissioner, but meeting and getting to know you, the residents of Onchan, to help me to act effectively on your behalf. I believe if I am elected that my commitment, enthusiasm, communication skills and broad experience will help me give the best possible service to the residents of Onchan to help them face the challenges that lie ahead.

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT EVERY HOUSEHOLD, BUT IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES YOU WOULD LIKE TO RAISE WITH ME OR IF YOU WANT AN ABSENT VOTER FORM MY NUMBER IS 342198 OR e mail marcmellor@manx.net

If you would like a lift to the community centre to make your vote please telephone 342198 or e mail marcmellor@manx.net

Please vote at the community centre 8am to 8pm on June 14th

Marc Mellor