

**VOTE CARL PARKER**  
**FOR**  
**ARBORY**  
**CASTLETOWN**  
**MALEW**

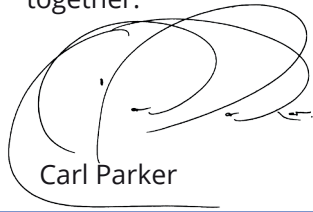
**ISLE OF MAN**  
**GENERAL ELECTION**  
**22ND SEPTEMBER, 2016**



Dear voter,

This manifesto is for our families, our children and our future; based on a strong set of principles which we collectively share and believe in; a National Health Service that we can rely on in times of sickness; a mental health service that provides emotional and psychological support in times of distress and mental illness; a free and diverse education that ensures our children have the best opportunities in life; a strong economy and financial security; a guaranteed state pension; safety and security from criminals; policies that protect the most vulnerable in our

society; support and care for the elderly; equality that does not discriminate based on race, sex or background; policies that aid the disabled and offer support to carers; a society where the elderly are valued and not marginalised; an Island proud of its heritage and history, creating a brighter future, together.



Carl Parker

Carl, aged 36, is both executive producer for Parker & Snell Company and businessman; having over 15 years experience working at a managerial level within the private sector.

His early working life began as a junior accounts clerk, before moving in to an executive sales position where he gained experience in public relations, marketing, customer service and business planning.

He has worked extensively as a business development manager and channel sales manager, before establishing his own company in the creative arts industry. As an executive producer, Carl is a dedicated project manager who is responsible for the

financial and administrative aspects of productions staged in both the Isle of Man and UK.

He regularly coaches young people and adults on the Island, helping to develop confidence and self-esteem through communication and presentation skills, alongside television and film acting classes.

He is also a volunteer for Junior Achievement and acts as a business mentor for young entrepreneurs, visiting high schools to work with students on a regular basis.

Born and raised in Port St Mary, Carl now lives in the parish of Arbory with his partner Laura and son James.

# ECONOMY

***“Delivering a Strong and Diverse Economy.”***

## DELIVERING A PRIORITY BUDGET

It is imperative for the next administration to implement a priority budget. I am against any further cuts to public services. In times of austerity, I would suggest that the £20+ million pounds put aside for the Douglas promenade rejuvenation scheme would be better spent on our front line services, for example: 30 extra nurses, 20 extra police officers, specialist doctors, tuition fees in education, while delivering policies such as: free pre-school places for 3-4 year olds, roof and wall insulation for the 3,500 homes in fuel poverty, extra fuel allowance for those most vulnerable in our society and the provision of a free television licence for senior citizens. A priority budget would allow for a common sense approach to government spending, however, I do believe Douglas promenade needs to be resurfaced and brought up to standard.

## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION & EMERGING MARKETS

The Isle of Man needs to be at the forefront when it comes to attracting new business and investment to the Island. We would benefit immensely from creating an official group of

business ambassadors to represent our economic interests at the highest level; on the international stage. Having official representation would help boost our economic growth, create new jobs and bring vital investment to the Island.

## INVEST IN NEW SKILLS AND TRAINING

It is imperative that we invest in the development and training of our work force; we need to encourage new learning for all ages and backgrounds in order to ensure the people of the Isle of Man have every opportunity to move in to higher paid jobs and develop the skills needed to move in to new areas of business, particularly ICT and e-commerce. I would recommend a full-scale review of our current industry in order to develop a long-term skills and training strategy.

## HELP SMALL TO MEDIUM BUSINESSES GROW & DIVERSIFY

As well as the need to invest in new business, the government needs also to focus on supporting long established small to medium businesses on the Island. A company which has been running for longer than 10 years is a safer investment than a new start-up business when it comes to providing investment from our £50 million economic development fund. I believe that the government should help implement a national apprenticeship scheme in order to actively encourage

businesses on the Island to expand and grow.

### GREEN TECHNOLOGY

We have a fantastic opportunity to develop a new industry on the Island creating clean energy and utilising our natural resources. We can and should reduce our reliance on UK energy. I fully support a policy that would drive down the costs of our energy bills and help the Isle of Man become a green nation. It is more advantageous and in the interests of the people that we have a national green energy market, with all profits remaining on the Island; ensuring costs are kept to a minimum. All surplus energy can then be sold to the UK.

### CREATE INNOVATIVE GROUPS & MENTORING FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Now more than ever we need to harness our creativity and innovation. Working with the private sector, I would like to encourage and develop an Academy for Entrepreneurs of all ages, providing individuals with valuable resources and insight, creating a dynamic environment for new ideas and business. This should feature as part of a long-term plan and strategy to develop our on-Island entrepreneurship.

### ENSURE EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN

According to UK statistics, women are paid on average up to 20% less than their male counterparts. This

figure, set against the Isle of Man's average wage of £35,000.00 per year, means that a large percentage of women could be losing as much as £4,000.00 per year in annual income. This equates to around £5 – 9 million pounds in potential taxes and national insurance. The new equal pay act needs to be enforced; companies must be transparent in disclosing their payment structures to ensure women are being paid the same rate as men for a like for like job. Our government should drive this campaign, it is not acceptable in a 2016, modern society, that a large percentage of women are still facing inequality when it comes to pay.

### FREE PRE-SCHOOL

I would fully support a policy that offers free pre-school places for children aged between 3 and 4 years old, in order to support women who wish to return to work. Under the present policy there is no incentive given the fact that child care costs are so high. We should also actively encourage more flexible working hours and further opportunities to work from home. This policy should be viewed as a long-term investment.

### DEVELOP THE TELEVISION AND FILM INDUSTRY

Midsummer Murders, Doc Martin and Heartbeat have all generated, on average, around £30-40 million pounds each year to the local economy where they were filmed with Game of Thrones contributing over £100 million pounds to the

Northern Ireland economy, each year. This is an area that, I believe, can help transform our failing film industry into one that not only creates jobs, but also boosts tourism and the local economy. Utilising our media development fund, I would suggest that we commission a BAFTA award-winning writer to write a television series which can be filmed solely on the Isle of Man. There is also potential to develop period dramas for the American and Canadian market.



### BOOST TOURISM & CORPORATISE THE STEAM PACKET

UK tourists can travel to Rome cheaper than the cost of travelling to the Isle of Man. As part of a long term plan, I would support the corporatisation of the Steam Packet in order to drive down travel costs, profits could be capped at 5% and reinvested in order to ensure cheaper travel: this would, in turn, help boost tourism to the Island. If corporatisation did not receive sufficient public support, then I believe we should open up the tender process to other ferry providers to ensure we negotiate the best deal for the Island, having cheaper travel costs as a priority. I would recommend that we look

in-depth at how the Isle of Man is marketed both domestically and internationally. Becoming an affiliate of websites such as 'Visit Britain' could help us to further promote the Island internationally creating packages and cheap travel to those who are already coming to Britain for a holiday. Other areas to help boost Island tourism are:

- Developing a long running television series (see economy)
- Investing in an entertainment complex (see infrastructure)
- Fitness and weight loss holiday packages
- Niche workshop-based holidays such as painting, arts & craft, cookery, writing
- Promoting adventure packages, including biking and sporting holidays
- Developing creative arts festivals

### HOUSING MARKET

I believe the government should make it more accessible for first-time buyers to enter the housing market. The current policy requires individuals and couples to pay a 5% deposit, around £7,500.00 a figure which is unattainable for many. I would support reducing this amount to £1,500.00, increasing government support. There should also be the option of rent-to-buy.



**“Delivering a first class health service.”**

## FORWORD

While we should acknowledge the positive contribution that nursing staff and doctors have in the lives of many people on the Island, we cannot ignore the major issues and concerns within our health service; these must be addressed in order to restore public confidence and staff morale.

## WEST MIDLAND REVIEW

An Independent review of Nobles Hospital was carried out in 2014, by the West Midland Quality Review Service. The report highlighted a number of failings in emergency theatre, bereavement support, staffing levels, staff training and mental health care provision.

- Emergency Department: 36% of standard requirements
- Theatres and Anaesthetics: 59% of standard requirements
- Critical Care: 49% of standard requirements

**“A culture of blame between managers, politicians and clinical staff has had a**

**detrimental effect on the morale of staff and public confidence.”**

West Midland Review

## CARE QUALITY COMMISSION AND TRUST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In order to rectify these issues and ensure standards are met, Nobles Hospital should be placed under the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA).

The Care Quality Commission monitors, inspects and regulates services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety. Their role is as follows:

- Protect you from harm and make sure you receive care that meets the standards you have a right to expect
- Make sure services improve if the standard of care they provide has fallen below acceptable levels
- Hold care providers and managers to account for failures in how care is provided
- Where problems persist the Trust Development Authority can take enforcement action if they consider it appropriate.

**“We cannot allow the cycle of blame and lack of accountability put lives at risk, we need a strong management system that is fully accountable and transparent.”**

By placing our health services under the CQC and TDA, all staff and management will be held accountable to independent regulation. This will end the cycle of blame and prevent politics from hindering progress, restoring public confidence and boosting staff morale.

Although Nobles hospital falls outside the jurisdiction of the Care Quality Commission, I have spoken to a representative who informed me that it would be a political matter for the Isle of Man to decide whether or not to place Nobles under the CQC.

As well as placing our health services under independent regulation, I would encourage our government to head hunt a Chief Executive with a proven track record in transforming failing hospitals in the UK to help transform Nobles, implementing a new, modern system of governance, working alongside the Care Quality Commission in order to bring our hospital up to the standard we deserve. I would also fully support the following:

- Invest in more nurses
- Invest in on-going training for staff
- Further investment for care at home
- Remove ineffective management
- Bring back Matrons to ensure due process is carried out
- Add more specialists to bring down waiting times

**“We need to invest in more specialist nurses to carry out**

**care at home for the elderly and vulnerable.”**

## INVEST IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

We need a full scale review of our mental health services and the on-going support offered to residents on the Isle of Man suffering with mental illness. I recommend the CQC be given powers to implement a full review of our services in order to develop a long-term strategy and to identify areas requiring further investment.

**“By 2025 1 in 3 people will suffer with mental illness.”**

## MEDICAL CANNABIS

Canada, USA, Israel, Australia, Chile, Uruguay, Holland, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy, Switzerland, Ukraine and many other nations around the world use medical cannabis to treat a range of illness and disease such as:

- Multiple Sclerosis
- Epilepsy
- Parkinson’s Disease
- Cancer
- Crohn’s Disease
- Alzheimers and Dementia
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Anxiety
- Chronic Pain
- Glaucoma
- Arthritis and Inflammation

# EDUCATION

***“Creating a unique and diverse education system, developing individual talents and encouraging innovation.”***

## TUITION FEES

Education is an investment not a cost. The former government made a mistake in passing a policy that requires students (and parents) to contribute £2,500.00 per year towards their chosen degree. I would call to have this policy reversed, recognising that all students should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

## APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION



I would fully support the return of apprenticeship schemes for all students across the Island. Working with the private sector, our economy would benefit greatly from establishing relationships between students and private sector companies, creating new

jobs and opportunities. This would also help students develop new skills and talents alongside the national curriculum. Schools should also introduce classes in entrepreneurship and innovation.

## PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIFE

A lot of effort and energy is placed on preparing students for standardised tests, with little emphasis on developing life-skills. I would like to encourage more interaction with the outside world and mentoring from outside sources: learning how to complete a tax return, how to register for a first-time buyers house, how to open a bank account, how to manage finances, how to set up a business and so forth.

## MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

We have physical education. I believe we also need mental health education. The increase in mental health problems among teenagers has risen dramatically. Throughout school life, most of our attention is placed on the outer condition with little or no attention given to the inner person. This has to change. We need to create an environment where children and teenagers feel safe to talk about mental health issues which they may be experiencing. We need to develop a mental health strategy that is compassionate, helping students to learn how their minds work, teaching meditation and relaxation techniques that can help release stress and anxiety.

## DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM

A report, written by Professor Graham Donaldson, described the expressive arts as providing “opportunities to explore thinking, refine, and communicate ideas, engaging thinking, imagination and senses creatively.” Confidence and self-esteem do not come from learning algebra behind a desk, but rather through physical, creative, imaginative forms of expression, harnessing both left and right brain activity. I believe every child should have the opportunity to:

- Learn a musical instrument
- Develop a speaking and singing voice
- Explore physical expression through dance
- Learn body language and communication skills through drama

Utilising the creative arts to develop well-rounded individuals, encouraging children to think and express ideas creatively but most importantly to instil a confidence and self-esteem that will have a positive impact on their personal, social and working life.

***“The fundamental principles of education should help support young people to become ambitious, innovative, creative, ethical, healthy and confident individuals.”***

Legalising and cultivating medical cannabis will enable the NHS to reduce its reliance on highly expensive man-made drugs, reducing costs. I would fully support a clinical trial using cannabis oil for the treatment of cancer, evidence shows that this form of treatment could potentially improve the longevity of cancer patients and in certain instances, as documented, cure cancer. The average cost of chemotherapy per patient is £30,000.00; using cannabis oil would cost no more than £500.00.

***“Medical cannabis will not only save our NHS millions of pounds in the long-term but also provide a valuable medicine for patients.”***

## NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION & HEALTHY EATING

As part of our overall healthcare strategy, I believe we must invest in preventative measures and look at the evidence concerning foods we eat. I would only support a sugar tax if the monies raised were used to drive down the cost of healthy foods, particularly organic produce making it easier and more financially viable for families to purchase a diverse range of fruits, vegetables and lean meats. Nutritional education in the community should form part of our overall strategy, offering specialist cookery classes to all ages. I would also support a ban on the sale of high energy drinks such as Monster to children under the age of 16.

## NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION & FITNESS



I believe children need to have an in-depth and informed nutritional education. We need to address the increase in cancer diagnosis, diabetes, heart disease, dementia and Alzheimer's. We should develop a long-term nutritional programme that teaches our children from an early age to understand the value of vitamins and minerals and the impact foods have on our body and health; children should be taught how to make nutritious meals that will benefit their long-term health. Schools should be encouraged to cultivate their own organic produce. I believe that investing in nutritional education will have a positive impact on both the health of our children and their overall well-being, while reducing our overall health bill.

- Students to walk/run 1 mile each morning before lessons
- Practise daily relaxation and breathing techniques
- Reduce the amount of refined foods available in schools
- Ban high energy drinks

## UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

In order for our economy to benefit we should do everything possible to incentivise graduates to live and work on the Isle of Man. A joint effort should be made between government and the private sector in order to establish on-going relationships between university students and work opportunities. Regular exhibitions and internships will help stimulate growth. University students should have access to first-time buyer properties, offering rent to buy housing and low deposit mortgages.

# PENSIONS

## FOREWORD

The public sector pension scheme has the potential to affect us all if we do not address the situation immediately, with a long-term economic strategy. It must be noted the reason that public sector pensions are in this current state is due to a complete lack of foresight and planning by government, failing to take action when action was urgently needed.

Angela Moffatt, negotiations officer for the Prospect Union, warned the government as far back as 2008, that immediate action was needed to address the pensions situation; she was ignored and no action or

planning was taken; subsequently the issue was passed on to the 2011 administration who have also failed to implement a clear long-term strategy.

The situation is made worse by the very nature of how public sector pensions are funded; those who currently work for government pay contributions which are then paid to those who are retired. The current pension bill is around £104 million pounds per annum, with around £74 million being transferred annually from our reserve fund.

## WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Denmark has the best pension scheme in the world as published by the International Mercer report. I believe we need to implement Denmark's public sector pensions strategy to form part of a long-term plan. This would see public sector pensions move to a public-private sector pensions scheme. The scheme would operate on the principle that both government and employee contributions are paid in to a private sector pensions fund. This would mean that the government would only be responsible for paying contributions, not the annual pension itself, which would be paid by a private sector company. This may take up to 30 – 40+ years to implement due to current liabilities and existing pensions being paid out, however, I believe it is vital that we have a long-term vision and strategy to ensure private sector workers are not punished financially through the

failings of previous governments.

## RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL OCED REPORT 2007

- Change the defined benefits pension scheme to a career average pension scheme
- Raise the minimum retirement age from 55 to 58 for public sector workers
- Increase contributions and reduce benefits
- Cap lump sums

We must ensure that our front line services have a Government Unified Scheme (GUS) that mirrors the UK Public Sector Pension Scheme. We have to remain competitive when it comes to job prospects, especially doctors.

## WOMEN BORN IN THE 1950S

I believe it is inequality for women born in the 1950s to bear unfairly the burden of the increase to the state pension age. The Isle of Man government should honour these women and reverse the decision to increase their retirement age by a further 5 years.

## INTRODUCE THE WORKS PLACE PENSION

It is the right time for the Isle of Man to introduce a works place pension. People aged between 22 and state pension age, earning over £10,000 per year can benefit from



an automatic works place pension (you can opt out of the scheme). Contributions will be made by the employer and employee and will vary based on the type of scheme taken out, payments can be as low as 1% per annum. This will help make saving easier and provide added financial security on top of the state pension.

## GOVERNMENT

***“Creating a democracy that is representative of a 2016, modern society.”***

### FOREWORD

I believe it is imperative for the next government to restore public confidence; we need an administration that puts accountability and transparency at its very heart. In order to make constitutional change happen, we must first acknowledge that our current political system is both out of date and out of touch.

One of the main issues surrounding the current system is one of pay and position. An MHK earns a further £12,000.00 per annum for being a member of a government department. Collective responsibility and the block vote requires an MHK to support and vote in favour of Council of Ministers policies. If they don't, MHKs are sacked to the back-bench and lose their annual increase

of £12,000.00. This incentive is wrong and creates an environment for compromise rather than debate and holding government to account.

I believe Sweden and Switzerland offer a model of democracy that would ensure the Isle of Man government is both accountable and transparent, creating a more progressive form of politics.

### GOVERNMENT REFORM

- I support moving to a unicameral parliament (single chamber) consisting of publicly elected members only
- Review the role of the Legislative Council
- To ensure accountability and transparency, an Independent Regulatory Authority should be appointed to monitor all business carried out by government
- Appoint an Independent Auditor General and Ombudsman
- Reduce the number of members per department
- Combine the role of president and speaker
- Ensure back benchers are able to speak freely and engage in active debate, holding government to account
- Implement a digital democracy
- Review the number MHKs needed in government

### DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

We live in a digital age where communication is instant with over 85% of the voting population having access to a smart-phone. I believe the government needs to learn how to communicate with the general public using digital media.

Thousands of pounds could be saved if we harness social media and modern platforms of communication; using digital media, the government would be able to target potential policies at those most likely to be affected in order to engage public feedback.

One example is the Douglas promenade rejuvenation scheme; if the architectural designs were uploaded and promoted via social media channels, the department of infrastructure would have found quite quickly, and for a fraction of the cost, what the public consensus was. Another simple example of direct democracy: 'should we keep the horse trams, yes or no?' Once general consensus was given, policy could then be further developed. This is not to disregard voters who do not use social media; direct mail can still be used as a prerequisite for those not online.

### MHK SALARY AND REMUNERATION

- Remove the annual fixed sum of £6,415.00 paid tax-free for on-Island expenses
- Remove the 30% pay increase to

- work in a government department
- Increase pension contributions
- Lead by example and accept the proposed pay cut in salary

### LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Combine local authorities within constituencies
- Streamline administration duties between local authorities and cut out duplication; insurance, accounting and simple purchasing.
- Instigate greater collaboration between authorities particularly on housing
- Reduce the overall number of commissioners
- Modernise procedures utilising digital technology

## IMMIGRATION

### FOREWORD

We know that immigration can support economic growth and help to create a diverse and multi-cultural society.

The previous government has embarked on a policy that will see up to 15,000 economic migrants, plus partners and children, take up residence on the Isle of Man over the next 10 – 15 years (figures based on the Chamber of Commerce),

increasing our current population by as many as 30,000 by 2030.

***“I fully support immigration; however, we need to have a clear vision for the future of the Isle of Man.”***

The projected population increase has been motivated by our current economic crisis, the loss of VAT receipts and a ballooning public sector pensions scheme. The government needs to bring in as much revenue as possible in order to meet current demands, but has this policy been thought out?

### WHY WE NEED A CLEAR LONG TERM PLAN

- What are the minimum qualifications and skills migrants will need to have?
- How would the population increase affect our hospital and health services?
- What measures will be put in place to ensure staffing levels are met?
- How many more schools and teachers would we require?
- How many more police officers would be needed?
- Will the increase in population affect job opportunities for Manx workers?
- How many extra houses would need to be built and where?
- Would the increase affect Manx people trying to get on the property ladder?

- Will the increase in tax revenue generated by immigration offset the cost of additional public sector workers?
- What investment will be made available for our infrastructure?
- In 2030 will we find we need a further population increase?

We need a defined, long-term plan that will address the above questions and ensure Manx people are at the forefront of any immigration policy.

### POINTS SYSTEM

I would support a points-based system that looks at attracting migrants with the specific skills that our Island needs, to form part of our immigration policy.

## LAW & ORDER

***“We need a budget that prioritises our police force.”***

### FOREWORD

In 2014, the police budget was cut by a further £900,000.00 resulting in the loss of 26 police officers and the closure of Port Erin and Lord Street police stations; yet in the same budget Queen Elizabeth High School had £758,000.00 spent on new dining facilities. Would it not have been sensible to have postponed the dining facility in favour of making funding for our police force a priority?

As a matter of principle, I am against any budget cuts to our front line services. I must stress again that this is a prime example why the next government needs to work on a priority budget not a departmental budget, where cuts are made across the board having a negative impact on public services. We need to have a greater police presence in problematic areas, particularly on the weekends in order to help reduce alcohol related crimes.

***“The unprecedented spate of burglaries exposed just how vulnerable the Isle of Man can be to organised crime.”***

### TREATING ADDICTION

I believe it is time for the Isle of Man to review its drug and alcohol strategy, providing more investment to help treat addiction. According to the World Drugs Report, published in 2012, the number of heroin addicts on the Isle of Man is an estimated 480 which equates to 0.8% of the population aged between 15 and over. I would propose a treatment strategy based on a highly successful policy carried out by Ipswich council, UK, where heroin addicts are provided with the opportunity to treat their addiction:

- Invest in a drug rehabilitation centre
- Heroin users are prescribed free pharmaceutical morphine which they take daily at the treatment centre on the proviso that they complete a treatment programme

- and attend the centre daily
- Addicts are given psychological therapy and counselling, including hypnotherapy to uncover the root cause of addiction
- Help transform mind sets and aid recovery
- This form of treatment would see a dramatic fall in heroin use by as much as 50% within 10 years of its launch and a reduction in deaths caused by overdose by as much as 80%.

***“We need a drug and alcohol strategy that treats addiction and reduces drug dependency.”***

### DRUG AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Drug related crime has risen over the last year by 30% with over 40% of teenagers having used illegal drugs. We must be open and honest about the scale of the drugs problem and how we best tackle it. An important question to ask ourselves in terms of developing our drug policy is the following:

***“If you were to come home and find your son or daughter, brother or sister, mother or father taking illegal drugs, would you take them to the police station and have them arrested and criminalised or would you rather they seek professional help to treat their addiction?”***



If like the majority of people you answered 'seek professional help' then you will agree that our current policy needs reform.

- Drug users caught with small quantities should be given a caution.
- If arrested a 2nd time they should be given the option to undergo drug rehabilitation and treatment.
- Drug dealers caught dealing to minors should face lengthier prison sentences

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### FUEL POVERTY

Over 3500 homes are in the grip of fuel poverty; Manx residents pay double the cost for gas compared with the UK. Unauthorised loans of £120 million pounds paid to the Manx Electricity Authority have meant ever increasing electricity prices in order to pay back the loan. It is through a lack of accountability and poor governance that this situation has been allowed to manifest. In order to address fuel poverty and drive down the long term costs of energy, we need to have a clear and effective energy policy:

- Offer a government assisted scheme to install loft and wall insulation, including draft proofing

for houses to those facing fuel poverty

- Invite UK gas suppliers to provide an alternative service for the Island
- Ensure all new builds are energy efficient
- Invest in green energy using the Islands resources; drive down energy costs, create new business, selling surplus energy generated to the UK.

### INVEST IN AN ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX

Over the years many facilities have closed with little or no investment given for further development; the Isle of Man needs a modern, futuristic entertainments complex that offers multiple facilities for families and tourists; comprising of an inside Water Park with a multi-cinema complex, virtual reality games, dedicated amenities for toddlers, an arcade with modern gaming, a sports area, alongside a choice of bars and restaurants. I propose the Summerland site would be an ideal setting for such a complex:

- Corporatise the complex
- Staff contracts would be under private sector pay and benefits
- This would not be an extension of government as with the Villa Marina and Gaiety

### DEVELOP YOUTH FACILITIES

As well as investing in an entertainments complex, the government should set aside funds to help develop youth and community facilities across the Island; modernising parks:

- Seize opportunities to develop bike tracks and other sports
- Ensure parks are modernised and fit for purpose

### MEA - REDUCING ELECTRICITY COSTS

The MEA has the capability to provide broadband, up to 10 times faster than any local provider, to Island homes and businesses, using its fibre optic system. A licence was previously refused by the Communications Commission who cited that "the government should not compete with a private company". I disagree. If the MEA were to be granted a licence to provide broadband, revenue would be generated to pay off the £120 million loan and subsequently electricity prices could be reduced, which is something I believe to be in our best interest.

### MANX GAS REGULATION

The people of the Isle of Man currently pay twice as much for gas compared to the UK. I believe the Isle of Man needs to establish an Independent National Regulatory Authority, having a Gas and Electricity Markets Authority to ensure value

for money and strict regulation, independent of the government.

## WELFARE

### MEANS TESTING VS UNIVERSALISM

I would like to investigate a method of dealing with welfare according to a person's needs, ensuring that those most vulnerable in our society receive extra provision. This policy would naturally need to have a general consensus; part of the argument against means testing is middle income earners and those in higher bands would receive less, while paying the same amount of national insurance and tax. I believe in principle that those less fortunate in our society should receive further help and support, without affecting the well-being and overall quality of life for middle-to-high income earners.

### SOCIAL HOUSING

I believe that social housing would be best served by means testing. At present, social housing rents have increased by around 30-35% in the past 5 years. In order to ensure equality in social housing, government should look to balance rents based on overall household income. This would allow for those who are in poverty to pay a lower rent, while households with an income of £60,000+ pay

a slightly higher rent. In order to support those earning an above average income in social housing, I believe the government should further develop and expand its first-time buyer scheme, in order to help those households earning a higher income move in to the private sector. The government should also look to increase its housing stock across the Island to address waiting lists.

## FITNESS FOR WORK ASSESSMENTS

While I agree with the vast majority that we do not want people abusing our welfare system and fraudulently making claims, I cannot agree with a policy that targets the most vulnerable in society, those suffering with terminal illness, mental illness and other debilitating ailments. We should trust our GPs' professional judgement whether someone is fit for work or not, without the need to pay vast sums of money to a company that lacks healthcare professionals. We can save close to £1 million pounds within 5 years if we cut on-Island expenses for politicians. Money would be better spent investing in the Disability Employment service, helping to create further job opportunities within the private sector.

## CARE FOR CARERS

Carers are often the unsung heroes in our society, their contribution to the lives of family members living with terminal illness, disabilities and

mental health problems should be acknowledged and given our full support and appreciation. Working with the private sector retailers, restaurants, gymnasiums, health and beauty salons and entertainment facilities, I would like to promote a Care for Carers card, whereby carers would receive discounts and special offers from participating businesses around the Island.

## ELDERLY & LONELINESS

Loneliness in old age should be taken seriously by government; it not only effects mental well-being but can have a detrimental effect on overall health. I would like to encourage more social interaction with the elderly such was the incentive of Kewaigue school who took pupils on a day out with residents of Reayrt Ny Baie residential home. This should be actively encouraged across the Island all year round. I would fully support establishing an 'Older Peoples Commissioner' to act independently on behalf of the elderly, ensuring their interests are promoted and issues effecting them are given prominence.

# LOCAL ISSUES

## FOREWORD

Over the coming weeks I will be speaking to as many people as possible in Arbory, Castletown and Malew, in order to hear feedback on local issues that you would like to see addressed in the next administration. Further policies regarding local issues will be published shortly.

## THE SOUTHERN AREA PLAN

One of the primary concerns that has been highlighted to me is the Southern Area plan and the proposed sites for development in Castletown. While I believe Castletown does need more affordable housing and development, any such proposals need to be discussed in detail. I would encourage the use of digital media in order to engage the wider community, providing 3D CAD drawings with before and after images in order to add a visual aid. I do believe that Castle Rushen should be replaced with a modern, state-of-the-art school; however, surrounding land should not be used as a means to raise capital for the project but rather the new school should be funded by central government.

## CREATING A VIBRANT TOWN

Castletown has faced a number

of challenges over recent years in terms of attracting new business and footfall to the town. I do believe we can develop a dynamic and innovative town that is vibrant. It is worth noting that the old, traditional high street model is dead. We have to be creative and add value to the town through the use of public space in order to enhance the overall experience for the visitor and tourist alike, providing a diverse range of entertainment throughout the year, for example: street performers and entertainment, pop-up library, open air cinema nights in Poulson Park, entertainment in the Castle grounds, activities for children and families.

- Provide further parking in Castletown
- Re-establish weekly/fortnightly markets
- Provide a modern park for families in Colby and Ballabeg
- Establish flood defences in Colby and Castletown



"Poulson Park, outdoor cinema, family nights!"

*“If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss any issues or concerns that you may have, please do not hesitate to contact me.”*



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**ISLE OF MAN GENERAL ELECTION  
22ND SEPTEMBER, 2016**

**CARL PARKER**

