

HOUSE OF KEYS - GENERAL ELECTION

MHK CANDIDATE FOR DOUGLAS SOUTH **DAVID FOWLER**

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CAN YOU HELP ON POLLING DAY?

WOULD YOU LIKE A POSTER?

DO YOU NEED TRANSPORT?

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS ANY PART OF MY MANIFESTO PLEASE CONTACT ME ON THE DETAILS ABOVE.

MANIFESTO



VOTE DAVID FOWLER

VOTE FOWLER FOR A BETTER FUTURE



THURSDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2016

VOTE FOWLER FOR A BETTER FUTURE



Dear Voters,

My name is David Fowler; I'm a self-employed businessman and have lived in the constituency of Douglas South for over 6 years. I am standing as your local independent candidate in the Douglas South general election on Thursday 22nd September 2016. I have tenacious grit, determination, passion and energy to get your voice heard from day one. My main objectives are to ensure our taxes are spent efficiently, maintaining budgets for vital services including health, education, police, fire and ambulance and maintaining sustainable growth. I will fight to maintain a low tax economy, a first class health service and reduce the budget deficit, whilst maintaining the Manx way of life against outside political pressures and interference.



Please vote for me and I will work very hard for the benefit of Douglas South and the Isle of Man.

Yours Sincerely

DAVID

Dear Voters

I am Bobby Sadler and I have been in business in Douglas for 29 years.

I support David Fowler who I have known for a few years now, he is Honest, Trustworthy and is totally dedicated to improving the economy and improving the lives of people on the Island, I highly recommend you to vote for David Fowler.

Mr Robert W Sadler
Director



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HORSE TRAMS I am totally against the ending of Douglas Horse Trams and I am pleased the government has stepped in and rescued them, as they are a vital part of our heritage and tourist industry. If elected I will ensure that the long term future for the Horse Trams is sustained.



LOCAL ISSUES Both Anagh Coar and Pulrose need a community Centre If elected I will press for this. Hill's Meadow needs a review of its flood defences sooner rather than later.

FARMHILL / SADDLESTONE The zebra crossing at the top bus stop in Stevenson Way is a disgrace! It needs repainting as do the slow signs outside Springfield Grange which have worn away and need to be repainted. The roads in general lack road markings in places and have damage that needs repairing. Road tax has gone up so the money needs to be allocated for proper road maintenance.



MY PRIORITIES FOR THE ISLE OF MAN

-  National wealth creation and full employment.
-  The vigorous defence of our national interests and the Manx way of life against unwelcome outside political interference.
-  Re-balance the public finances by creating meaningful efficiencies to reduce government waste as this should lead to more money being available to cover vital services like hospital care etc.
-  To promote inward investment from China and the rest of the world.
-  To promote our unique parliament, Tynwald, the institution which defines the Isle of Man, and whose legislative independence has made possible our unique fiscal, economic and social environment within the British isles.
-  Low internationally competitive rates of corporate and personal taxation.
-  A statutory budget surplus.
-  No external government borrowing.
-  The building up of reserve funds.
-  Sustain high quality public services.

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TAXATION AND WELFARE

It is paramount we maintain our zero-ten tax regime a zero rate of company taxation (with 10% for banks and local land transactions); this is what gives us the internationally approved taxation platform and the reason the financial services industry locates here in the first place.



- 🐷 Taxation and welfare system must be fully integrated.
- 🐷 A fair method of means testing benefits to ensure the most vulnerable in society are protected.
- 🐷 Investigate and prosecute benefit cheats.
- 🐷 It is vital that we must maintain a low tax economy.
- 🐷 We must spend our taxes more efficiently as raising tax will only encourage waste.

THE 2016 / 17 BUDGET

I do not like the 2016-17 budget as we are still spending more money than our income. If this carries on we are in danger of depleting our reserves too much. It's just not good enough; we can't keep plundering our reserve fund. It has already dropped from £1.4 billion 5 years ago to £690 million to date.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND ENERGY

Promote recycling household waste and commercial waste.

- 🐷 Manage the forests for biomass fuel and leisure. 🐷 Promote tree planting.
- 🐷 Clamp down on pollution and prosecute offenders.
- 🐷 Require Manx Utilities to pay a reasonable rate for micro generated electricity.
- 🐷 Promote high standards of animal welfare.
- 🐷 Push for a naturally grown certification for the Isle of Man, as an organic certification is too expensive for small producers.
- 🐷 Support for extra marketing of quality Manx produce e.g. meat, seafood, cheese etc.
- 🐷 Promote clean tech business; there are currently more than 100 new companies specializing in low carbon technology and renewable energy here.
- 🐷 Encourage projects in the Isle of Man's territorial waters to supply electricity to the UK market.
- 🐷 Leasing the off-shore seabed for development could generate significant long term revenue streams for us.
- 🐷 Note: any exploration of our sea beds must be done with great care.
- 🐷 Manx Utilities should hedge itself against future gas price rises by buying futures whilst the gas prices are low.
- 🐷 New energy projects should be non reliant on fossil fuels.

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PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS

Ensure that the basic pension is sufficient to give a fair standard of living; pensioners should be given assistance to remain in their own homes and maintain independent flexible personal care and support budget to enhance choices.

 They should be given a good system of support for family members who care for dependent relatives.

 We must tackle the public pension crisis.

DRINK DRIVING

I'm against reducing the drink drive limit as it could criminalize responsible people who enjoy the odd pint or glass of wine. A reduction of this would impact tourism, hotels, restaurants etc; the current law is quite sufficient to keep our roads safe.



TV COVERAGE The Isle of Man gets poor value for the TV licence fee; we must press for more refund of the fee to fund local media and better coverage. It is a shame that the over 75s have lost their right to a free TV licence, we must look to see if this could be reinstated



WHERE DO I STAND ON EUROPE?

Now the UK has voted to leave the EU we must ensure we get the best renegotiated deal for a new protocol 3 treaty for the Isle of Man and UK to ensure we still get free trade of Manx goods into Europe and the UK under the best terms possible.

INDEPENDENCE FROM THE UK?

We should only be independent from the UK when it is judged to be in the Isle of Man's best interest and that time is not now. Meanwhile we should have a debate on the consequences and options of being a fully independent sovereign state which is responsible for contingency planning.



OUR DEMOCRACY

I strongly believe that the Legislative Council should be publicly elected. If we can't reach an agreement I would favour introducing legislation to diminish the role of legislative council members instead.

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REVIEW LEGISLATION The health and safety act and the data protection act both need to be reviewed and cut down to size as I believe they are strangling business in their current form.

APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION It is too easy to allow UK and European legislation to wash over us, often unsuitably addressing problems that don't exist here. We need to draw up more of our own legislation that is tuned to our needs.

LAW AND ORDER The Isle of Man is still one of the safest places in Europe to live and we must ensure this continues by maintaining the budget for this vital service and make sure it runs efficiently. We must make sure home security is a priority to prevent burglaries and crime. Recent UK legislation has introduced ID control before you can leave the country, and yet we don't collect any data on people coming to the IOM. We need advanced passenger information (API) available to the police and law enforcement agencies to aid in the prevention and detection of crime.



HEALTH Health is a high priority as we must ensure that we have on-island health care and expertise wherever possible, reduce waiting lists and ensure sufficient provision of NHS dentistry as well as protecting the front line staff and services.

EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL We must remember them and seek to support their needs as we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have helped maintain our free country and democracy over the years.

GOVERNMENT WASTE I am not in favour of wholesale privatization but believe we should corporatise some public services which means the government working with specialists in the private sector to operate and manage public facilities. Public private partnerships are a proven way of providing better value for the tax payer.

 Significant savings and improved productivity can be delivered through simplifying the bureaucratic way in which government employs and manages staff.

 Also, expanding provision of online services can create savings.

 Reduce the vast cost of external consultants by empowering government managerial and technical staff to make decisions.

 I am also not in favour of a wholesale cull of civil servants as this would just translate employment to unemployment so this must be a gradual, well thought-out transition formed on proper business goals.

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Children are our future so we must sustain the high standard of education here, also protect front line teaching, encourage more apprenticeships, provide work experience for those out of work or training for more than 6 months, help the long – term unemployed back to work by introducing employers incentives and create a steady flow of sustainable jobs for the under 25's.

HOUSING

We must ensure enough public sector houses are built and that existing houses are maintained to high standards including insulation and other energy efficiency measures to give the tenant lower energy bills and reduce environmental co2 impact.

-  Provide grants for private households to insulate their homes.
-  We must give tenants of council houses the right to buy them at a fair price, money raised from this can be used to fund new housing projects.
-  Introduce a landlord accreditation scheme to ensure private housing for rent is up to a high standard.
-  Also ensure enough affordable housing is built especially for first time buyers including shared equity schemes.

WATER

I think we should introduce water meters to the Isle of Man to both private and council houses as an option to encourage water conservation; this would also lower water bills for low occupancy and low use households.



RATES REFORM

I would like to see an all Island rating system. This could lead to Douglas rate payers saving quite a lot of money off their bills. However, I do not agree with some MHK's views of having a banding system where people with medium and larger houses could end up paying a lot more council rates and water rates and sewerage charges which is an unfair burden as their bills are high enough already. The treasury minister has confirmed that he wants to push this reform through in the next term of government. If elected I will fight very hard to stop this as it would be a **VERY UNFAIR** burden on the rate payers. I would also like to see single occupancy households being granted a 25% discount off their council rates.

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BUSES I see too many large buses running near empty with just a few passengers on them. Surely we could have a lot more mini buses on low demand routes and off peak times to save money as the fuel costs alone are around £2 million. This sum could be brought down and also large buses do a lot of damage to our roads, the knock-on effect of having smaller buses would be reduced infrastructure costs of repairing the roads.



AIRPORT In 2010 the airport director and the Infrastructure minister said that if the airport was run on commercial lines it would have an annual cost saving of £2 million a year. If elected I will push this issue hard to try and get the savings in place.

FERRY SERVICES We need to put the Island ferry service out to tender. I am against the renewal of the user agreement in its current form.



CYCLING I'm a keen cyclist and will back Kate's law ensuring a safe gap away from a bicycle when a vehicle overtakes.

Also I contacted the Infrastructure Minister and suggested all cyclists must have the minimum of a high visibility vest in the darker half of the year, if not police will give a warning and a free hi-vis vest. For a second offence there would be a £20 fine. He thought this sounds like a good idea and may try to put it in to law. Also a lot of glens and beauty spots don't have facilities to lock your bicycle; this needs addressing.

 Introduce a cycle to work scheme.

TOURISM We must continue to support and promote the TT and other motor sport events as they are a vital part of the Manx economy and the Manx way of life, but also we must do more to promote Eco-tourism, landscape and wildlife of the island and promote our heritage. If elected I will push for a debate on whether we could attract a large theme park here as this could give a large boost to employment and tourism. Also if a large enough field site could be found, I would push for the company to pay for the planting of a number of acres of broadleaved trees next to the site as part of the planning deal. Also we need to look at whether we could have a sea life centre in Port Erin? Government intervention is needed to halt hotel decline and investment is needed for existing hotels but we need to attract hotel chains like Premier Inn, Travelodge and Centreparks to invest and locate here.