

House of Keys Election,
September 23rd 2021

JON JOUGHIN

Independent candidate
for Douglas East



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for Douglas East

Proposer: Mayor & Freeman of the Borough Raina Chatel, Seconder: Councillor Ian Clague, M.B.E.



Dear Constituent

On September the 23rd the Isle of Man electorate have an opportunity to change the way our Island is governed.

The next five years I believe will be the most difficult and diverse in our Government's history. The previous Government has had massive International problems to deal with such as the VAT Agreement, Brexit and the Pandemic. This has meant our local issues have been neglected such as renewable energy, affordable housing for our young people, pension poverty and our general quality of life. I believe that this new Government will need to concentrate on our Islands welfare and wellbeing.

Politics needs to come back to the people. You need to have your say. You need to know your money is being spent wisely and not on mammoth, vanity projects with ever spiralling costs.

Each of us has a unique opportunity at this time to change the way we are governed and live. We are the only democracy in the world that allows 16-year-olds to vote. This may be your first opportunity to have your voice heard, make your vote count. Please talk to candidates when they are canvassing, question their policies and tell us what you would like to see happening,

this is your future.

In East Douglas you have the opportunity to cast two votes. Please use your vote wisely.



EXPENSES

All candidates are allowed expenses for posting manifestos, this is at a cost to you the tax payers.

When you look at all the candidates in Douglas East and then add the rest of Douglas and Island candidates you realise just

how much of the public money is spent unnecessarily.

With that in mind, my manifestos will be delivered by hand. However, if there is no letterbox access i.e. flats then I will pay the postage out of my own pocket to save costs.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

For far too long the constituents of East Douglas in particular have had to bear the brunt of the majority of the parking problems of Douglas with no clear sight, vision or plan to solve this horrendous problem that we all have to live with daily. This is a major problem particularly in Dukes Road, St Ninian's Road, Derby Square, the drives off the Promenade and Castle Mona Avenue.

It is high time that a proper traffic management plan was undertaken to solve some of these issues. We should consult with all parties; offices, shops and schools who currently provide no parking for their pupils.

We also have permits and time zones that make no sense, where you can park all day on the north side of the promenade but not the south side. Guess where people park? Then they walk to work. We want to encourage people to work in Douglas but we need to help them, to park responsibly.

Then we have the white van problem - they are parked all over the town. A firm may have multiple vehicles but never use them all at the same time or large vehicles that are not used as often, which their employers give to their staff to take home because the firm does not have adequate parking facilities.

And the biggest problem of all, certainly the one I get the most complaints about are mobile homes. These are parked

all over the town. In many cases this is because people cannot get them on their driveways.

We have 24 MHKs of which 8 represent Douglas. We are being governed by people that don't live in Douglas. Let's be clear we only have one Douglas Minister in this present Government and this is why I believe nothing is ever done or addressed with our parking issues.

Most of these problems I have highlighted can be managed by talking to schools and businesses and by finding secure parking for mobile homes and white vans. This I believe is what's needed. If this new Government has the will and if you successfully elect me to represent you as your Douglas East candidate I will ask the Minister of the DOI at every given opportunity what he or she is doing to solve traffic management in East Douglas. Until eventually something is done.

It is no longer acceptable to have our streets and work places governed in this manner. We need a proper bespoke traffic management system put into place for the whole of Douglas.

At this point I think it is worth mentioning that when I last represented you as your Douglas East MHK, I voted and successfully supported that all MHKs and MLCs and senior civil servants pay for their parking places in Government Office.

DOUGLAS PROMENADE

What can I say that has not already been said about Douglas promenade. It has been horrendous for all the businesses and people that have had to live through it. Hopefully by the time this election is over most of the promenade will be finished, so I don't want to dwell on it too much.

But what I would like to say is that I cannot believe that not a single Douglas MHK was involved in this project not only that but not even a single Douglas East MHK, this is the biggest thing to happen in Douglas East in over a hundred years - it beggars belief that no one from Douglas was representing you. They should have been involved from day one. You are their constituents and small businesses and they should have been working close with you, supporting you.

In my opinion you have been let down, it is too late attending the inquiry because the damage has already been done.

What needs to be done now is finish the promenade in full, so we have a proper gateway to our Island capital and the Government must continue to meaningfully work with and support our hoteliers, retailers and small businesses.



BLOTS ON THE LANDSCAPE

I wrote about these sites five years ago and they are still there the same four sites Summerland, Middlemarch (Walpole ave), Cambrian Place and the Bus Station.

On top of that we now have the Victoria Road Prison, Park Road School and the Villiers site? All of these sites are in East Douglas we deserve better, we need better planning control. These are all brownfield sites. We are in desperate need of sheltered accommodation, first time buyers housing and affordable housing for our young people. Yet this land stands empty, of which most of it is Government owned. Greenfield sites are being encouraged and developed because they are cheaper. But most of these owners work in Douglas and unfortunately add to our traffic management problems.

There has just been a brownfield site committee set up, it will be my job to see exactly what they are doing and to make sure it is not just another Government quango. These will be highly qualified people that are not cheap to employ. They need to deliver and not just add to the already spiralling costs.

These sites need to be addressed and developed during this new Parliamentary term. This will be my mission to achieve this.

HOUSING AND THE FUTURE FOR ALL

The Island has come to a impasse and we find ourselves in a housing crisis. Our young people have been taken out of the housing ladder for no good reason. Mortgages have never been so cheap in living memory. So why have we got this problem?

I believe it is because the banks want a 10% deposit, which for a first time buyer could be £20,000. Plus a survey, searches and legal fees which will be another £5,000. On top of that they need to secure a mortgage. They have to have steady jobs over a certain period of time and as we know very few people have jobs for life anymore and most of our young people are on short-term contracts. Even the Government have started to employ people on short-term and part-time contracts just to save costs. I believe we are condemning our young people to live in overinflated rented properties.

This in turn puts pressure on the Local Authority housing lists, when there is no need for it. You can buy a house for not much more than the rent of a normal Council house. Council housing average £500/£850 per month. A £200,000 mortgage for 40 years averages out at £900/£1,000 per month.

The Government need to work with the Banks and come up with a scheme that is fit for purpose and the needs of our young people. THEY ARE THE FUTURE.

The Government need to build more first time buyers housing and when granting builders land for development we need to insist that a minimum percentage is built for first time buyers.

We also have our people in their senior years who live in family homes that are too big for them, yet they may find it too daunting to downsize. There is nowhere for them to go for help to achieve this huge lifestyle change, so they often end up doing nothing about it. These are primarily family homes but the shortage of small properties and especially bungalows has made this transition almost impossible. What I believe is needed is a comprehensive housing agency to advise all.

So then we ask ourselves can they go into sheltered accommodation and have money in the bank? The answer is yes they can but at a cost to the family they will eventually leave behind. Our pensioners are basically being penalised for owning their own property.

When I go around canvassing people always ask me these questions and they need answers. We need to help our senior citizens as well because in the long run it will help the housing shortfall.

This new Government needs to address the housing requirements of the residents of East Douglas and the Island.

We need affordable housing for our young people to give them a good start in life and a foot on the housing ladder.

Government should build more first time buyers housing with a grant scheme. We need small units and more sheltered accommodation.

OUR ISLAND HEALTH SERVICE

Our Health Service has been through a lot over the past two years. It is important that we all recognise the pressure that all the staff has had to cope with over this long period of time. It must have been horrific.

What they have been through I personally think is life and career changing. Our health staff are used to being on high alert for the likes of TT week but to be on high alert for almost two years is a very different matter. Just imagine working under these very hard and stressful conditions then having to go home to your family and loved ones of all ages not knowing that you could be bringing this dreadful disease home with you.

I know people in the Health Service that have told me that their mental health has suffered. At times they felt it was too much

for them and they might be better off in an office or shop. We cannot afford to lose these very hard working and skilled members of our community.

That is why we all went to our doorsteps on a Thursday evening clapping and banging pots and pans to show our support for them. This was not just a small gesture this was a groundbreaking impromptu act showing our total support and gratitude to all our Health Service workers.

There has been a horrific cost to this pandemic on our Island but we need to remember what our Health Service workers have been through for our safety that is why the 1% derisory pay offer is unacceptable. It is time for us to deliver and not just clap our hands.



Photo by Andy Stephenson on Wikimedia Commons

ARMED FORCES

During my political career, I have had the pleasure of meeting many armed forces personnel on the Island and away. They need our support in many ways, which is why when asked I was delighted to witness and support the signing of the *Armed Forces Covenant*. This is a declaration of support for all Island residents that served in the British Armed Services. The goal of the covenant is to bring together charities, businesses and communities. During this year the Douglas Borough Council finally managed to secure preservation orders on all four Douglas war memorials.

I was also instrumental in the twinning of our Manx British Legion and the Ballymoney British Legion who are regular visitors to our Island.

Also while serving as your Mayor we helped raise £21,000 for some local Armed Forces Charities. These often forgotten people deserve our respect and support, these men and women gave us our freedom and democracy that we all take for granted so easily today.

Theirs is a debt that can never be repaid.



Photo by Gregory J. Kingsley on Wikipedia

EQUALITY

Whether you are rich or poor, young or old, you are entitled to be treated with the same dignity and respect as anyone else.

Equality is a must for me, there should be no favouritism or privilege for the chosen few but opportunity and equality for all.

There are many types of discrimination, but the one coming to the fore more increasingly these days is mental health issues. I have had to deal with it in my life and also as a representative for the Union. It has always been hidden and not talked about in the past. But now it is more openly talked about at all levels this a very good thing in my opinion.

During my time as Mayor of Douglas, I have had the pleasure to meet many organisations who work with mental health and physical disabilities and have seen first hand all the good work that they have done.

The most important stance on equality is inclusion and not the exclusion of minorities. Equality is like education it is a continuing learning process.

PENSION POVERTY - THE TICKING BOMB



Photo by Michael Longmire on Unsplash

Five years ago the State Pension was unified to a average of £180 a week for all workers and self-employed, this is when the poverty trap was set. The self-employed lost out by almost £100 per week.

Forty years ago after the Maxwells scandal new rules were set for pensions and FRX 17 was brought in. This basically means that there must be a provision made to have enough cash available for scheme members until they are 87 years of age. This is the calculated life span of a pension.

For example someone retiring on a £15,000 per year pension would need a pension pot of £330,000. This sent shock waves around the entire pension world. Especially for employers who had pension holidays on payments in the boom years then found they had to make up the shortfalls. Up until then it was compulsory for major full-time employers to supply a pension scheme for their workforce. This is sadly no longer the case as final salary pension schemes are closing.

The schemes that are replacing them are of a very poor standard. There is a whole new workforce generation with no pensions at all and will only have the state pension to rely on.

Ask yourself this, could you live on a £180 per week whilst paying rent, buying food, clothes and paying utility bills?
This is Pension Poverty.

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PENSION POVERTY - THE TICKING BOMB

Our children and grandchildren have been sold down the river with fewer full-time jobs, limited affordable housing, and more importantly no secure pensions or retirement future.

We are going backwards, people will have to work longer and harder. Our 67 year old people can't do the same work load as our 20/30 year old workers, especially if it is a physical or mentally stressful job. This will only make the gap between the rich and poor even bigger and Orwell's theory will ring true 'that some animals are more equal than others'.

Then we have the Government Workers Pension Scheme with no money in it. An unfunded pay as you go Ponzi scheme is the biggest liability the Government has on their books.

The fuse is set and the bomb is ticking. Unless we act now the future doesn't look good for our workers and especially our young people.

The Government have known about this for forty years since the Maxwells and done nothing. Almost every new MHK has put it in their manifesto but it still has not been resolved.

We need to have a structured Government sponsored private scheme for all Manx employees and employers. With minimum set contributions from both sides that can easily be managed and moved between Isle of Man employers large and small alike with minimal red tape. A simple one size fits all scheme.

This will save money in the long-term, because as it stands Government will have to pay benefits to many of our new pensioners to make up the shortfall.

Anyone who works full-time, part-time or contracted should qualify for this scheme. It is essential that all workers have a state pension and a work place pension. If not Pension Poverty will sadly become a reality for the next generation.

Then we need to look at our state pension. Why have we got the lowest state pension in Europe. Yet we live in one of the top economies in the world, the EU average state pension is £260.84 per week for a single person. Why can't we have a bigger pension. Would you mind paying a slightly bigger stamp for a bigger state pension, or pay less into something else. This question certainly merits debate. This new Government with new members need to act now, this cannot be swept under the carpet again.

Currently the minimum wage for our workforce is £305.25 for a 37 hour week and the living wage is £377.03. Why should our pensioners live on less! These are minimum wage numbers for people to live on.

We need a long term strategy to increase our state pension to a level that our pensioners can live in comfort and dignity in their twilight years.

EDUCATION

What is the catch-up plan?

I don't pretend to be an expert in teaching or education but I know that our children from nursery to higher education have missed out on over a year's learning and development.

By the 23rd of September all children will be back at school so it is crucial that there is a well thought out plan of catch-up.

There has even been talk about pupils committing to an extra hour a day. Education and our children are our future we will have a new Government and new Chief Minister and possibly a new Minister for Education. It is imperative that we give our children the education they deserve and are entitled to. Whoever takes on this task has to get the head teachers, teachers and management on board from day one. The old administration had a very poor track record working with the teachers unions and headmasters. The new administration has to get both sides to have a look at the bigger picture because that's our children's future.

Now is not the time for political handbags or posturing. If we work together now as a team and successfully achieve our shared goals, then hopefully we can look at the long term game once we have achieved our catch-up plan.

After what we have all been through I would be very surprised

if treasury has any spare money in the pot for any department.

As a former Union Officer, I think some negotiated consensus now could yield some success in the future, for this often unappreciated and hard working workforce.

It would be easy for me to say that all front line and key workers should have 5,7,10% pay rise but that's not realistically going to happen. I have to say I have always been a pragmatic person and would advise whatever happens now within the pay talks and because of the financial restrictions we will find ourselves under, it may be more advisable to accept a short term solution and use this as a negotiation tool for the future.

We must be mindful of what has happened over the past eighteen months. Some of our workforce have had to endure real hardship in regards to job losses and reduction in pay for a long period of time. Whilst most people in the finance sector and Government were paid in full over this very challenging time. That is why we need to focus on retail, hospitality and tourism, this is mainly where people lost their jobs and need our help and support NOW.

The most important thing is to achieve a strong recovery and bounce back as quickly as possible.

ELECTED MEMBERS

I don't agree with the present system of appointments of our MLCs. All members of Tynwald should be elected by the public.

What highlights this to me is when we have serving MLCs standing in this election proclaiming that they can do a better job than the Keys, forgetting that it was the Keys Members that elected them in the first place. This makes a total mockery of the system and democracy. This is a smack in the face for the members that supported them and for the system in general.

Breaking the cardinal rule you never forget the people that voted for YOU ?



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I have always been a supporter of a smaller, smarter Government and I have helped to address this as a Councillor for Douglas Corporation by reducing the Council members from 18 to 12. Saving rate payers a small cost, this however will not address the higher than average Douglas Island rate.

As for the Commissioners there are far too many with a population of 85,000 we do not need 21 local authorities it is totally ludicrous. This is simply ineffective and a total waste of public money. I have always been a supporter of 4/5 local authorities plus Douglas Borough Council. People are standing for office and walking into uncontested seats, this is not democracy it is farcical. Once again we have seen this happen in the recent local elections.

The last administration preferred a softer approach and to let Commissioners sort it out themselves. This has not happened. So I believe the new administration will have to be more directive.

Once this has been achieved, then we need to review and amend the all-Island rate and rectify the enormous imbalance in the rates system on the Island.

ENVIRONMENT AND THE FUTURE

The Island is almost totally reliant on imported gas for our power and no new sources of energy have been found since the energy from waste plant built in 2004, which supplies 10% and also the Sulby Dam, built in 1982, contributing 1% of our total energy needs. We have had no new investment in any new major projects for 17 years this is totally unacceptable.

This has to change we need to start a investment strategy in renewable energy now. Wind power, solar and tidal are the most obvious. They have been looked at in the past, but without subsidies from the UK or Europe they have always been ruled out as too expensive. But the longer we wait the more it will cost, we have to act now and in this new Parliament.

Funding of renewables

In the past I have seen many presentations with great prospects. Only to find out that the UK and the Manx Utilities will not let anyone plug into the National Grid. This is the first of the many obstacles that we will have to overcome.

There is also the elephant in the room. We have our own gas supply the P50 gas field just off Ramsey Bay. Do we use the money raised from this to fund a renewable energy program and not use our dwindling reserves, which have already been heavily depleted with the Covid-19 grants or do we increase Taxes or do we bury our heads again and just use someone else's expensive gas? These are important policy considerations which require meaningful debate and action..

The Island has been granted UNESCO Biosphere status. This is a very special and unique honour, we need to build on this for our own well-being and for tourism. I believe the greener we go the greater our marketing potential.

Electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles are the future and are here to stay. We urgently need to invest in the infrastructure to accommodate them. Sadly, this has not been the case on the new promenade development.

When we see many huge projects in redevelopment and demolition. We need to manage what has been happening to all the material. Has it been recycled such as glass, bricks and steel etc.

Landfill should not be a option. When planning is granted for such projects, details should be given as to where and what will happen to all materials.

Then there are new builds. We need a grant system for solar power not outdated loft insulation. Also grants for triple glazing, new efficient boilers and draught-free housing.

Douglas Council were the first to implement and support kerbside recycling, this has to be a must for this future Government. We cannot allow different parts of the Island to do as they please just because of the cost. We need a national strategy for all recycling and take responsibility for all our Island waste

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ENVIRONMENT AND THE FUTURE

Even the Minister of DOI described the Island recycling as fragmented. Douglas East is the most densely populated part of the Isle of Man, we have to think when we go to the bin what can be recycled and act responsibly.

We also need to adopt a education culture and work with the Schools, Businesses, Beach Buddies and all the third sector. We need to make Douglas East the number one constituency for recycling and lead the way for the rest of the Island.

There are companies and organisations that are happy to sponsor tree planting and green issues. We need to identify them and work with them.

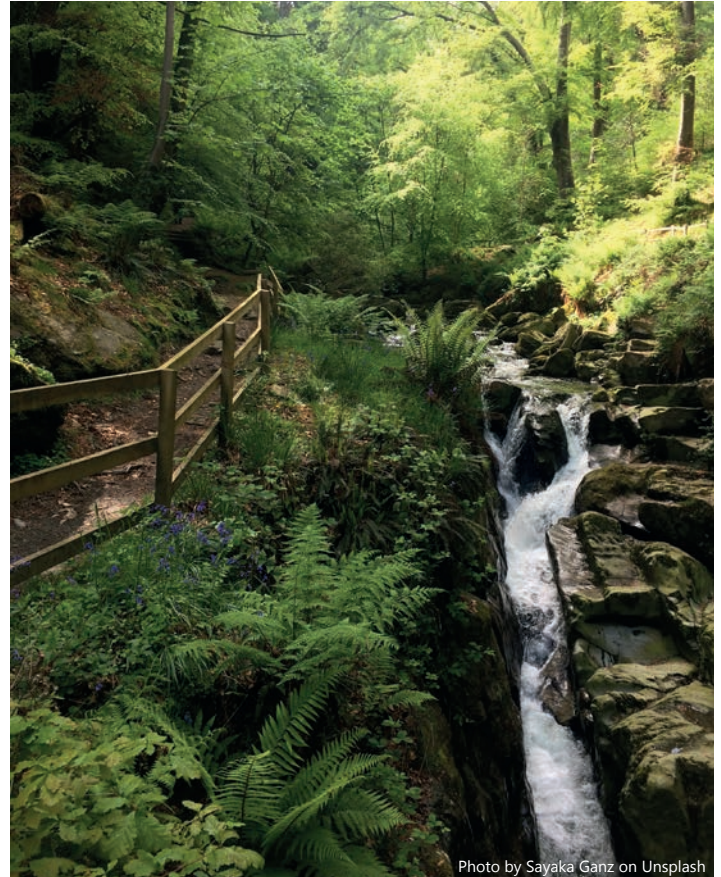


Photo by Sayaka Ganz on Unsplash

THE FUTURE AFTER COVID

It has been a very uncertain time for most people. Especially for our retired folk who have had to isolate from their loved ones.

Our children have lost nearly a year's education. This is time they will never get back, we need to help the schools with a catch-up plan.

Then we have all the small businesses such as hospitality, bars and hotels which suffered so badly.

But we need to look to the future and use some of that camaraderie that appeared over the three lockdowns and use it to our advantage.

I think it is fair to say that staycations are here to stay. This is certainly a way of supporting our tourism industry in the future. I don't think people on the Island realised we had such high quality accommodation. We now need to raise the profile and market this island better both locally and especially nationally.

Many of our restaurants found an unexpected income by setting up an excellent takeaway service. These initiatives proved in some cases to be so successful that they continue today.

Most of the above may never have happened if it wasn't for the pandemic. Some are success stories but many are still



struggling. But the Island will and has to come back fighting. The Island's legendary fighting spirit and tenacity has always been 'Whichever way you throw us, we will stand'.

Then we have the financial cost to the taxpayers and Government as a whole, this new government has a lot to do in a very short period of time. We need to be prepared for next summer the TT, Manx Grand Prix, Southern 100 and other innovative events we can fit in and as quickly as possible. This will be a very tough ask indeed for the next Enterprise Minister. We have very talented and successful people here on this Island in the private sector who have ran events all over the world. All I ask is please ask them. Civil Servants are not entrepreneurs.

ABOUT JON

- Mayor of Douglas for 3 consecutive years
- MHK Douglas East 2015. I served as a political member for the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Infrastructure
- Independent Employment Tribunal member
- Branch Secretary of the Communications Workers Union
- Retired business owner
- Retired postman
- Trustee of the Isle of Man Post Office Pension Scheme
- Douglas Borough Councillor 8 years
- Deputy Mayor 2014/2015
- Chairman of the Isle of Man Local Government Pension Scheme
- Vice Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee
- Member of the Housing Committee



Your interests are best served by an experienced political candidate who can make your voice heard.

MY KEY PRIORITIES AND PROMISES TO YOU ARE:

Growing the economy and increasing our profile on the global stage

Protecting front line services

Affordable housing

Local Government streamlining with a fairer rating system

Investment in our tourist and hospitality industry

Promoting Douglas East as the gateway to our beautiful island.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE A PROXY VOTE OR NEED A POSTAL VOTING FORM.

IN EAST DOUGLAS YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CAST TWO VOTES AS THERE ARE TWO SEATS TO FILL. BUT IF YOU HAVE A PREFERRED CANDIDATE YOU MAY VOTE ONCE. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

I ASK YOU TO CONSIDER CASTING YOUR VOTE FOR ME AND YOU WILL GET IN RETURN 100% COMMITMENT.



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POLLING STATIONS

DOUGLAS EAST POLLING DISTRICT POLLING STATION BUILDING

DOUGLAS EAST	POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING STATION BUILDING
Douglas East	CDGE1	Promenade Methodist Church Hall Loch Promenade, Douglas
Douglas East	CDGE2	iMuseum Kingswood Grove, Douglas (opposite The Ellan Vannin Home)
Douglas East	CDGE3	Manx Youth Band Room, Derby Road, Douglas
Douglas East	CDGE4	Spiritualist Church Lower Dukes Road, Douglas
Douglas East	CDGE5	Promenade Methodist Church Hall Loch Promenade, Douglas

If you require transport on polling day please ring **463202** or **413546**