

2021 HOUSE OF KEYS
GENERAL ELECTION
RAMSEY



**LUKE
PARKER**
2021

**BUSINESS SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORTING RAMSEY
FAMILY, LIFESTYLE & LEISURE**

Hello and thank you for taking the time to check out my Manifesto. I am Luke Parker, Manx born and have lived in Ramsey for over 33years. I have 2 beautiful daughters, been married for over 10 years and have been running a business within Town for over a decade. For the last 5 years, I have served on the board of Commissioners for Ramsey as Deputy Chairman, Deputy Lead Member for Finance, General Purpose and Establishment and as part of the Housing committee. It has been an honour to serve the town and as a Ramsey resident I would like nothing more than to see the place I love flourish and thrive. I hope I can do this more effectively if appointed as your representative in the up and coming election.

BUSINESS SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT

Enabling stability, profitability and growth within business is not easy, especially given our current climate where businesses are facing a reduction in the use of the traditional high street, disruption from surrounding developments, struggles with supply chains not to mention the impact of COVID19.

Supporting our current businesses who have already established themselves here on our Island and in Ramsey is crucial. There are many ways, other than direct funding, in which this can be done, such as; internship programs, online business training, structural improvement grants, payment breaks, shipping support and assistance with business promotions. Some of these methods are already up and running but perhaps overly complex to gain access to, they are either under-utilised or have room to be expanded upon; I believe the continuation and improvement of these assets is very important in order to see our businesses succeed and thrive on Island.

Having run a business in Ramsey for over a decade I have experienced these issues first hand, have utilised some of the support schemes which are currently available and worked with the Chamber of Commerce to bring additional support to the town. I believe there needs to be much more awareness of the struggles faced by local businesses and a broader range of support schemes available.

The encouragement and engagement of new business startups and offshore relocations are also important; any type of support the Isle of man Government can give to help grow and/or relocate these businesses should be thoughtfully considered while giving consideration to local and established businesses here on Island first.

A diverse business economy will be imperative to making the Island more robust and securing our future for years to come.

RAMSEY

Ramsey certainly is a great place to be with its independent shopping, free parking and its stunning Park and facilities. It has played host to many events in recent years such as; the Ramsey Motorcycle Show, Ramsey Car Show, SprintFest, RamseyRocks, CycleFest and many more. I have had the privilege to be involved with many of these events and will continue to do so in order to help promote Ramsey as being a vibrant and exciting place to live and visit.

Over the next few years Ramsey will be undergoing some big developments which will have both positive and negative effects on the town during its development stages.

Examples of these include; Ramsey Quayside Regeneration, New In town speed calming measures and various building projects such as the former Barry Currans Site, Albert Road Car Park and Auldyn House. There are also many other sites, such as the old boxing club, Crystals Auction site & Britannia Pub, which are areas that are still up for discussions and redevelopment which will also have an impact on the town.

With all these potential developments lined up it will be crucial that these are managed and planned well before any work commences to help ease the disruption on the residents & businesses in and around the town.

The biggest development over the next couple of years will be the Ramsey Quayside flood defence and regeneration. Discussions are still continuing however before any work commences I would like to ensure that there is sufficient support and information provided to all residents and businesses that it will have a direct impact upon. While the final product should be of great benefit to the town I want to ensure that we still have a town left.

With all these exciting projects on the horizon it is likely to add to one of the biggest issues for the town which is parking and what the future of parking looks like for Ramsey. Having challenged planning applications with inadequate parking and requested the Department of Infrastructures Parking Strategy for Ramsey, I believe parking, especially turnover parking, is essential to keep the Town flourishing. One of the biggest assets to the town of Ramsey is the offering of free parking which I would love to see continue in the future. It would be also great to plan ahead by offering other ways and means to get people to and from the town such as bus/cycle routes and offering facilities such as cycle parking.

FAMILY, LIFESTYLE & LEISURE

One of the islands biggest assets is the variety of indoor/outdoor activities which are on offer to all ages. With the increase of the islands activities over the past few years makes it a more enjoyable place to live and a more attractive place to visit and I would like to be part of the development within this sector and also look into the options of offering more free recreational activities to ensure there is an opportunity for all to benefit.

I would like to see a work-life balance being encouraged and promoted to all families and business sectors on the Island which in-turn should create a more healthy, engaging and proactive population.

With families in mind there are some areas which I feel, if addressed well, could make a great difference in terms of the choices we have available for new and young families starting out on the Island from early-years childcare, financial support and housing.

The dynamics of family life are changing and by exploring the possibility of shared parental leave this could enable families more choice and flexibility when balancing their family and career goals, allowing both parents the opportunity to care for their children while being supported, which in turn should benefit all those involved.

Increased support and provision of early-years childcare would enable parents more options when making the decision if they wish to go back to work. There is an apparent shortage of care provision for under 2s, which is understandably more expensive due to care requirements, however when statutory maternity pay ends after 9months it can unfortunately be deemed 'not worth' returning to work when costs are weighed up, despite parent's often wanting to return to work or continue on their chosen career path.

The Government 'Preschool credits' scheme is a fantastic support available to all children, however I would like to see this type of support needs to be implemented much sooner.

There is no doubt that affordable housing needs to be addressed and alternative Government support schemes need to be implemented if our younger generation are to stand a chance of getting on the property ladder here on the Island.

Supporting our new and young families will enable them to have the best start they can and if there are means in which this can be done then I would certainly like to explore them.

Whilst I have outlined my main focus areas above; I appreciate there are many more hot topics or points of concern that may affect you and our community. I am more than happy to discuss these with you so please feel free to contact me directly.

THURSDAY

23RD

SEPTEMBER 2021

VOTE X



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