

“For you, for Douglas East, for our Island”



VOTE BARBER



Douglas East – General Election – Thursday 23rd September 2021

My Background

It has been my privilege to represent our constituency in the House of Keys since 2016. I have sought to bring a fresh viewpoint to politics on the Isle of Man and have placed my commitment to represent you, the residents of Douglas East, at the heart of my decision-making.

I moved to the Island 14 years ago having spent all my childhood summers here; it is the place I have chosen to call home and a place about which I am as passionate now as I was as an excited 7-year-old exploring the glens, playing on the beaches and climbing the heather covered hills. The Island is my home and since moving to Douglas in 2007 to work as a Registered Nurse at Noble's Hospital, I have fully immersed myself in Manx life and culture.

Since the last election I have married my soulmate, Chris, and am a proud mummy to Oliver (9) and Benjamin (7) – I now spend time showing them the treasures of the Island I love so much and they allow me to appreciate fully the importance of leaving a lasting legacy where we focus on sustainability as well as economic and social progression.

I am looking forward to talking with as many people as possible in Douglas East during the campaign and discussing the issues that you believe are important. If you would like to contact me, please use the details below:

Email Address:

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5 Years Delivering for You

Over the past 5 years I have worked with other politicians to achieve the best outcomes for Douglas East, as I recognise that I cannot achieve things by working alone. A vibrant community is about lots of people working together for a common goal, and I have supported constituents with many issues to seek resolutions. Where there are issues that I haven't been able to resolve, I have always been honest with residents – and provided comprehensive reasoning.

The last 18 months have shown the need for fast-paced policy making and the importance of politicians being clear when they have got things wrong. I do not pretend to always have the right answers, but believe that by engaging with constituents, local businesses and organisations, charities and national agencies, I can represent you as effectively and efficiently as possible. I have sought to always focus my mind on those I represent and work with the best interests of our Island community at heart.

The role of an MHK is multifaceted; I have sought to balance my attention between many important areas including constituency work, Department work, policy development, scrutiny work, legislative review, and Committee work. I have focussed on legislation such as:

- ⌘ **the Sex Offences and Obscene Publication Act** creates new offences relating to digital technology that previously were not covered and increases maximum sentences for many offences;
- ⌘ **the Domestic Abuse Act** creates specific offences around Domestic Abuse and recognises the damage coercive and controlling behaviour can have on a victim;
- ⌘ **the Justice Reform Act** strengthens the Youth Justice Service, modernises a number of other pieces of legislation, and places victims' needs at the heart of the criminal justice process;
- ⌘ **the Abortion Reform Act** makes provision to enable choice for women in a number of circumstances to access abortion services.

5 Years Delivering for You

Through my scrutiny roles as Chair of the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee and member of the Public Accounts Committee, I have reported on:

- ❧ the failings related to Douglas Promenade regeneration scheme including **the need for a Central Projects Unit to deliver capital projects**, the impact on businesses and residents and the need for proper impact assessments, as well as the concerns around spiralling costs;
- ❧ **the need to separate promotion from regulation** as highlighted within DEFA's involvement with the Dairy Industry;
- ❧ **a call for an urgent review of the governance concerns relating to the meat plant**;
- ❧ **a call for a wider, independent inquiry into the handling of the pandemic** to ensure we learn from experience and develop robust frameworks for delivering policy;
- ❧ the harbours strategy and **the need to improve strategic thinking when designing facilities** that should serve us far into the future.

Through my role as a constituency MHK I have supported many constituents on topics such as:

- ❧ **improved resident parking in the final Promenade scheme** and interim measures such as temporary parking, drop off points and disabled spaces;
- ❧ **the opposition of detrimental planning applications** for the local area;
- ❧ **the return of residents to the Island, who were stranded abroad** as a result of the initial Covid-19 lockdown;
- ❧ **access to financial support and marketing for businesses on the Promenade** and increased parking throughout the disrupted period.

Through wider policy debates I have:

- ☪ amended the motion on the Area Plan for the East to **prioritise the creation of a development corporation to focus on brownfield site redevelopment**. Douglas East remains blighted by brownfield sites with extensive histories of failed plans for redevelopment – this will also assist with availability of affordable housing.
- ☪ **supported the recruitment of an Auditor General** to prioritise good governance and with the aim of saving more than the overall cost of the role as seen in other jurisdictions.
- ☪ **supported funding of the Mobile and Family Library**, as well as requesting a wider review of library provision and services across the Island.
- ☪ sat on the National Telecoms Committee and **recommended the rollout of fibre to all homes** ensuring internet connectivity suitable for homeworking and fit for the 21st century.

Delivered ✓

Provision of comprehensive lifelong education is a key tenet of society. We are privileged to have many exceptional schools and teaching staff on our Island but we must equip them with the tools they need to deliver an education that is fit for the 21st century.

- ☪ We should prepare young people for adulthood by **embedding key life skills within the Curriculum** – this should include physical first aid and CPR, mental health first aid, pension planning and saving schemes.
- ☪ We need to **review the provision of secondary education** within Douglas, ensuring that schools are operating within their capacity and facilities are fit for the future.
- ☪ We must **embed the Additional Educational Needs Code of Practice into the Education Bill**, ensuring no child is left behind.

Education

Capital Projects

The failure to recognise the impact to businesses and residents prior to the commencement of the Promenade scheme was unforgivable and many businesses are continuing to feel the impact as people avoid the area. **We cannot abandon these businesses now.**

We have seen elements of the project descope, tarmac laid and dug up within 48 hours, walls built and knocked down, new footpaths laid that are due to be lifted again in less than a year.

Expansion of the Department of Infrastructure is not the answer.

The failings within the Promenade scheme have been explored in depth within the reports of the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee. We have further explored failures in Project Management relating to the Liverpool landing stage and the NSC flumes. **It is imperative that the work to establish a Capital Projects Unit is progressed quickly and I would advocate for the scheme to cover all Capital Projects, not just those over £3 million.**

Voting

It was unacceptable that there was no satisfactory provision for ensuring those in isolation at the time of the Local Elections could exercise their democratic right to vote. I raised this in Tynwald and remain disappointed that this was not adequately resolved.

The right to vote is sacrosanct.

For this General Election the right to vote by post is available to everyone, and the ability to access a proxy vote is available up until the day before the election for those who are unable to vote in person.

Application forms can be found at www.gov.im/election



The challenges we have faced as a nation in tackling Covid-19 have rightly required support schemes being made available to those unable to work. We will need to focus our attention over the next 5 years on prioritising policies that will **retain current employment opportunities** as well as attracting new employment opportunities. This must include areas such as access to affordable housing, retaining a competitive tax and NI regime, and providing access to workplace pensions.

Affordable Housing – if we are to retain our skilled workforce and encourage new business to our Island, we must ensure that affordable housing is available in both the sales and rental markets.

- ⌘ **House purchase should be legally binding from agreement of an offer** – where gazumping occurs, the vendor should be compelled to pay the legitimate costs of the purchaser.
- ⌘ **The First-time Buyer’s Scheme should be reinvigorated** to include rent-to-buy schemes and compelling developers to increase affordable first-time housing stock as part of their Section 13 obligations.
- ⌘ **The functions of the Landlord and Tenant (Registration) Act should be extended** to include Public Sector housing stock.

Tax and NI – we must recognise that our status as a low taxation jurisdiction is appealing to those seeking to set up, or move their business here.

- ⌘ Retain our low tax jurisdiction status, while seeking to **increase the personal allowance to match the living wage level.**
- ⌘ **Review the NI system** to ensure a fairer system for all.
- ⌘ Ensure we are well-prepared to **comply with OECD taxation changes.**

Workplace pensions – everybody deserves the ability to prepare for their future.

- ⌘ Introduce a statutory requirement for all employers to provide, and contribute to, a **workplace pension scheme.**

Home Affairs

Within my role in the Department of Home Affairs we have focused on restoring community policing to ensure a **visible police presence** on the streets. Our police force has adapted its focus to cover increased incidences of fraud, economic crime, and drug crime and we have **supported human and technological resources** to assist them in tackling these areas. We have seen the **implementation of border controls** with seizures and arrests on the first day of implementation.

These changes are not designed to impede the progress of law-abiding citizens, rather to protect us and our families from organised crime networks.

- ☞ We need **comprehensive reform of our fire safety legislation.**
- ☞ We need to **introduce a Sentencing Bill** to support the vital work of our prison and judiciary in **keeping our Island safe.**

Healthcare

My experience as a nurse allows me an unique insight into the dedication and commitment of our frontline staff. This has never been more apparent than during a pandemic where selflessness and personal sacrifice were visible within all keyworker groups. We have also seen significant structural change within our health services with the evolution of Manx Care. The separation of strategy and operation should be routine across Government and the relationship between DHSC and Manx Care has the opportunity to provide a blueprint for this. There remain areas of prioritisation within our health services:

- ☞ **I support a move to fund all NICE TA approved drugs**, recognising that healthcare must be accessible to all.
- ☞ **I support increased investment in Mental Health services** with a focus on prioritising mental wellbeing and comprehensive support for those who are experiencing mental ill-health.
- ☞ **We need to reform the Regulation of Care Act** to ensure we are able to effectively inspect and regulate all health and social care services.

"A code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable"

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

The latest IPCC report reaffirms the need for urgent and comprehensive action to combat climate change. We must seek to achieve net zero carbon emissions expediently with a focus on a date in the 2030s – the date within the Climate Change Bill is largely irrelevant, we will be judged by our actions.

- ❧ Government **capital projects must move away from using fossil fuels.**
- ❧ Government must provide **grant and loan schemes** to enable private houses to be effectively insulated and heated.
- ❧ Waste management must focus on the strongly held principle of **reduce, reuse, recycle** allowing us to truly understand our waste disposal needs prior to replacing the incinerator.
- ❧ **Single use plastics should continue to be reduced** in line with the Single Use Plastic Reduction Plan 2019.
- ❧ We must focus on increasing **renewable energy sources** on the Island, focussing on wind, tidal and solar power.
- ❧ All **Government vehicles should be powered by renewable energy** when they are due for replacement.
- ❧ Focus on **Expansion of Active Travel areas** to make the option to walk or cycle easier.
- ❧ Build on our **Biosphere status**, creating new core terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems.
- ❧ Pursue **sustainable fishing** to protect our sea stocks.
- ❧ We must ensure the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** are at the heart of Government policies.
- ❧ **Installation of Electric Vehicle charging points** across the Island.
- ❧ We should encourage **local sourcing of food** and seasonal eating to reduce 'food miles'.

Other Priorities

- ☪ We must recognise the need for choice for individuals at their end of life starting with **a full consultation into Assisted Dying** for those with a terminal diagnosis with less than 6 months to live.
- ☪ While the Bishop and the Archdeacon have served conscientiously in their roles within the House of Keys and Tynwald, **I believe we should move away from the role of Bishop sitting in Tynwald** and move to a system where those of all faiths or none are represented through a reflective moment at the start of each sitting.
- ☪ We must **bring comprehensive Animal Welfare legislation onto the statute books** that is specific to Manx needs.
- ☪ We should aim for **0.7% GDP delivered as part of our International Aid budget.**
- ☪ **I support the regeneration of the Summerland site and the presence of a memorial** to the 50 lives lost within the footprint of the original site.

Equality

We must ensure that our Island is a place where the principle of equality is embedded within our policy decisions. It was a privilege to chair the Committee that brought Pride to our Island, but there is more to do:

- ☪ **We need comprehensive hate crime legislation.**
- ☪ **We should grant legal status to Humanist weddings.**
- ☪ **We need to ensure access to transgender health services.**
- ☪ **We need LGBT+ inclusive sex and relationship education in schools.**
- ☪ **We need to ensure Additional Educational Needs are appropriately catered for in all education and workplace settings.**

My priorities for Douglas East

- ❧ *Focus* on appropriate development and **reduced carbon emissions** to ensure a sustainable Island that is protected for future generations.
- ❧ *Create* a housing strategy that promotes **affordable housing** and increases availability of properties for first-time buyers and residents of Douglas East.
- ❧ *Build* on the **economic recovery** work commenced by the Economic Recovery Group.
- ❧ *Progress* the secondary legislation necessary for the Domestic Abuse Bill, Sex Offences and Obscene Publications Bill and Justice Reform Bill to achieve comprehensive **criminal justice reform**.
- ❧ *Maintain* positive dialogue with the local **Police** to protect our young people and divert them away from criminal behaviours.
- ❧ *Continue* the evolution of Manx Care and DHSC to deliver sustainable **healthcare** for future generations, placing the patient at the heart of the system.
- ❧ *Promote* the use of the Manx Development Corporation to **redevelop** key brownfield sites in Douglas East.
- ❧ *Explore* the options for **Local Authority Reform** seeking to ensure efficiently delivered services for all.



The election takes place on **Thursday 23rd September 2021**
Polling stations will be open between **8am and 8pm**

If you wish to apply for a postal vote, please contact me (clarebarber2021@outlook.com or 257947) and I can assist you with this. Application forms must be submitted by Tuesday 31st August for overseas applications, Thursday 9th September for UK applications, or Wednesday 15th September for applications within the Isle of Man.

If you require a lift to the polling station, please get in touch.

Ward	Polling Station Location
CDGE1 (formerly STRAND)	Loch Prom Methodist Church, Loch Promenade
CDGE2 (formerly WINDSOR)	iMuseum, Kingswood Grove
CDGE3 (formerly DERBY)	Manx Youth Band Room, Derby Road
CDGE4 (formerly ST NINIAN'S)	Spiritualist Church, Lower Dukes Road
CDGE5 (formerly TYNWALD)	Loch Prom Methodist Church, Loch Promenade

BARBER

