



Tim Baker



Putting **the Island** First



Manifesto

Ayre &
Michael
Independent
Candidate

House of Keys
General Election

Thursday

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timbaker.online

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My message to you



I'm an independent candidate and have served as your MHK for Ayre and Michael since 2016; this year I'm standing for re-election. There is so much more that needs to be done to get the Isle of Man to where it can and should be.

Five years ago I brought substantial leadership & management experience from my 25+ year business career. I brought a fresh perspective. After 5 years in the Keys I am also experienced in the political arena and have a practical understanding of how to get things done.

A "new boy" at the last election, you now have a 5-year track record to judge me against. I have worked diligently, taken on some of the most controversial and challenging roles in government and have stepped up to the plate when others may have shied away. I've tackled stuff that could have been kicked into the long grass and I've worked at pace to drive improvements and deliver clarity of purpose.

Fifteen months ago I was asked to pick up Ministerial responsibility; this included some high-profile infrastructure projects which were struggling to progress. I stepped forward and have worked tirelessly with the DoI teams to drive and deliver progress on these complex projects. I've resolved some of the sticking points and cut through inherited problems; the multiple issues of red tarmac, hidden pipework and contract clauses became mine, and I have fully owned them.

Over the last 5 years I've worked long, hard hours to serve my constituents and the people of the Island with honesty and integrity. I've learned a lot, built up strong relationships and gained invaluable experience within the Keys.

The world around us has changed. We must adapt. It will not be easy. And we need proven and experienced MHKs to face into the future as we recover and rebuild.

If re-elected I will continue to serve the people of Ayre and Michael – and the Island - to the absolute best of my ability. I'll speak up, I'll tackle the challenges and will give every ounce of energy that I have to deliver positive action on both local and national issues.

What makes me different is that I want to make a difference, by representing the people of Ayre and Michael as your MHK. I've learned the ropes within Keys, tackled some of the thorny challenges, and I want to do more.

If you put a cross in the box next to MY name, you'll be choosing someone who listens to your issues and follows through, who tackles things head on, and who gets stuff done.

I will continue **Putting the Island First**. I will not let you down.

Tim
Tim Baker 

*Read on to learn more about me, what I stand for
and my plans to Put the Island First.*

About me

I have served full-time as your MHK for Ayre and Michael since 2016. I am also currently the Minister for Infrastructure (DOI) and a member of the Council of Ministers and chair both Manx Utilities and Isle of Man Meats. Previously I chaired the Planning Committee, was the Children's Champion and served as a member in both DEFA and DOI.



Now 55 years old, I was educated at Ballasalla Primary and Castle Rushen High School, and graduated from Cambridge University with a Master's degree in economics. I have lived, with my wife Viv and 2 daughters, in the constituency at Glen Auldyn since 2010.

Prior to being elected I had a successful career as a Commercial Finance Director, qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with global accounting firm Arthur Andersen in Manchester, and then taking on a range of finance leadership roles in businesses in the north of England. I returned to the Island in 2009 to join DLP Limited as Group Financial Director.



Active in the community

I'm passionate about sport - particularly table tennis – and about making it accessible within the community. I've competed in league table tennis for over 40 years and have used this experience to found Ramsey Table Tennis Club which is now the Island's largest club, providing opportunities for people of all ages to develop their skills.

On top of my day job, I continue to run the Ramsey club throughout the school year, and coach children from across the North to compete in the Manx Youth Games. Their passion and energy never ceases to inspire me. My community involvement with sport extends to ten pin bowling – 10 years ago I assisted the team setting up the tenpin bowling alley in Ramsey, now known as the Pepsi Max Bowl.

I could see that we lacked all-weather leisure facilities, particularly those which appealed to young people and families. After a substantial investment of time and money, we created a social enterprise whose purpose is to provide an excellent and well-used facility to benefit the community.

My wife Viv has run it since 2012, and I am still its principal financial backer and chairman. The Pepsi Max Bowl sustains 6 full-time jobs and provides high quality part-time work for around 20 young people from the North. It also directly attracts visitors from other parts of the Island and further afield, bringing wider benefits to the area.



Community matters

I believe that a vibrant community life is at the heart of the Island; we saw the very best of Manx community throughout the pandemic – individuals coming together to support neighbours, friends and those who were in need. It's part of what makes this Island special.

Whilst my five years as an MHK have been busy and extremely demanding I actively champion, promote and participate in a range of sporting and social activities to support this crucial element of Island life.

I've completed the Parish Walk and the End-to-End Mountain Bike challenge and walked both the Raad-ny-Foillan and Millennium Way. I am also an active member of Ramsey Elim Community Church, a Trustee of Ramsey Town Band and actively support other community groups and events on a regular basis.

My track record as an MHK

Stepping forward : As your MHK I've accepted whatever I have been asked to do; I believe that the best way to have a positive influence over government is to be fully involved in the decision-making process. To be on the inside shaping policy. Not to sit on the outside criticising.



I have taken on an extensive portfolio of responsibilities, in addition to the core role of representing the people of Ayre and Michael. My intention has been to make as big a contribution as I could for the good of the Island.

Over the five-year term this has included taking political responsibility within several parts of government. These culminated in being appointed as Chair of Manx Utilities and then Minister for Infrastructure in June 2020. Since then, I have played a full part in shaping government policy as one of the 9 members of the Council of Ministers.

Agile and responsive: I have responded to concerns I have personally identified, including initiating the investigation into the Knottfield Children's Home and the review of the provision of Accommodation for Vulnerable Young People. I'm proud to have shone a light into dark corners and spoken up for these causes.

Some key highlights of the past 5 years in which I've been involved include:

Nationally

- ☑ Nationalising the Steam Packet Company – protecting our supply lines
- ☑ Driving the Douglas Promenade scheme towards completion
- ☑ Progressing construction of the Liverpool Ferry Terminal
- ☑ Improving rural broadband to ensure high-speed services Island-wide
- ☑ Ensuring a sustainable future for the Meat Plant and on-Island livestock processing
- ☑ Resolving the silt dredging issues in Peel Marina
- ☑ Initiating the Knottfield Investigation
- ☑ Reviewing the provision of Accommodation for Vulnerable Young People.

Locally

- ☑ Developing better community facilities in Jurby
- ☑ Getting Kirk Michael prioritised for coastal protection - and detailed design underway
- ☑ Supporting Bride residents in response to the Glen Truan proposals
- ☑ Refurbishing the Heritage Trail (old railway line) from St Johns to Kirk Michael
- ☑ Improving roads in various parts of the constituency.



Acting on behalf of my constituents

Notwithstanding these highlights, the core element of any MHK's role is to represent their constituents, using the influence of office to highlight concerns and act upon them.

Whilst much of my publicised work focuses on wider national issues, I ensure that I am available and accessible to the people that I serve – the constituents of Ayre and Michael.

Out of the public spotlight, I support individual constituents to address specific concerns or personal challenges, and to highlight issues which may have wider implications across Island. I am available to serve the people of Ayre and Michael - literally just a phone call away.

For more detail of my achievements and contributions over the last 5 years, please visit [timbaker.online/track record](https://www.timbaker.online/track-record)



How I work

Whilst manifesto pledges are important, you need to be sure that your MHK is equipped to take action on your behalf, that your representative at Keys is actually representing the local community, and not taking your vote for granted.

My approach to **Putting the Island First** can be summed up as:

1. Giving people a voice - listening and acting swiftly on constituent concerns to give everyone an equal voice
2. **Doing the right thing** – even when it is not easy or popular
3. Facing up to the difficult situations – stepping up and cutting through
4. **Being positive & constructive** – very little is achieved with a negative outlook
5. Making decisions in the best interests of the Isle of Man & its people
6. **Acknowledging our responsibilities** as custodians for the Island & its future generations – not shying away from tough decisions
7. Thinking & investing long term – financially and ecologically
8. **Understanding the value of things**, not just their cost

Feedback from constituents during my term has included:

“Tim was down to earth, and really listened to my concerns. He took up my cause and was able to get the issue resolved. Thank you.”

“Thanks Tim. Your conversations with “whoever” have made a difference; I've had notification that my situation is now a priority.”

“It was great meeting you yesterday. You clearly care about the local community, and – with your support - I'm confident we can move this initiative forward. Thank you.”



Your vote is **valuable** and your vote **counts**



There is a huge amount to be done over the next 5 years. It is important that we make the right choices and go down the paths which will achieve the best long-term future for our Island.

I have a proven track record of “getting stuff done”; I have developed credibility and key relationships which help to cut through barriers and deliver practical solutions.

Yes, I'm currently a politician and have been an elected MHK for the past 5 years; but I'm also an Islander, I understand the cost and impact of decisions on people's lives. I experience the challenges in the same way that you do.

I want to continue making a difference, by representing the people of Ayre & Michael as your MHK. I know the role and am confident that I can continue to address the things that matter and to get results.

On the following pages I have outlined my key agenda items – these are the things that I will champion and drive forward if I'm elected.

I'd be delighted to discuss these - or other key issues - either at the requisition meetings or face to face.

Alternatively, feel free to email timbaker@manx.net or call me on 817968 or 324945



Vote for Tim Baker
Thursday 23rd September

What I stand for and will actively champion as your MHK

Our National Priorities

The Island is at a crossroads. As we emerge from the Covid Pandemic and adjust to a new international climate we are faced with major Opportunities and significant Threats.



Choices will need to be made. These will not be easy or simple. Indeed, many of the issues are inter-related and will require deep consideration. The decisions that are required will also not be universally popular. But they cannot be ducked if we are to ensure the long-term success of our Island.

The principal strategic issues facing us are:

Economy & Taxation – a new, sustainable, economic future is needed. We cannot rely on Finance and e-Gaming to create the income and employment opportunities we need. We must develop new sectors, which build on our Island's strengths. Reform of our tax system is also essential.

Environment – we must act rapidly to address the climate and biodiversity crisis, whilst ensuring we maintain our social and economic wellbeing.

Education, Health & Housing – are each essential to individuals' life chances and must be of a high standard and accessible to all.

This must all be achieved whilst retaining a **Fair and Inclusive Society** in which all generations can thrive.

The right leadership team is required to make the right choices for the Island's future. It needs to be brave and to be bold – and prepared to be unpopular where necessary!

Government must learn the lessons from the past 5 years and build on the positive learning from the Coronavirus pandemic. The community united through this period and Government was much more agile in getting things done in the face of adversity. However, it spotlighted issues in society which have not yet been addressed and opportunities to do some things much better.

There is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build on the agility, pace and new ways of working that we learned during the pandemic; I want to ensure that we leverage the positives, and proactively seize the opportunity to make lasting improvements to the way we interact and deliver public services to our Island community.



My Key Policy Initiatives include the following:

1. Implementing a **New Economic and Taxation** strategy to provide a sustainable financial future for the Island
2. Making **Environmental Improvements** to address our climate change and biodiversity crisis and set a path as a global leader on climate change
3. Building **Better Transport Infrastructure** to meet our travel requirements on and off-island
4. Ensuring **Sufficient and Affordable Housing** to provide suitable homes for all residents
5. **Improving Healthcare** to achieve healthier, longer lives
6. **Supporting Elderly Living** so that people can remain in their own homes
7. **Developing Children and Young People** to maximise everyone's personal potential
8. **Protecting the Island** from the threats to our community
9. **Increasing our Workforce** to ensure we have sustainable services and businesses
10. **Improving Government** to deliver better outcomes for the people of Mann.

Further details on how I propose to champion and drive each of these key policy initiatives are contained in the Appendix at the end of this booklet.

My Constituency Priorities



Ayre & Michael will only prosper if the Island is successful. However, there are a range of issues specific to the constituency, which must also be addressed through the next five years. I will actively champion the following:

1. **Sustaining** all 5 of our primary schools which are at the heart of our village communities, yet are threatened due to their lower pupil numbers
2. **Retaining** the post offices, pubs, shops, mobile library and buses which provide essential services to our community
3. **Supporting** Manx Agriculture by ensuring the Meat Plant, Creamery and Laxey Glen Mills are sustainable and provide an attractive route for farmers to sell their produce
4. **Completing** the roll-out of high-speed Fibre broadband and improving mobile phone coverage
5. **Ensuring** the Area Plans for the North and West reflect the needs of the whole community and follow a sustainable approach to residential and industrial development
6. **Protecting** the interests of Lezayre parishioners from the proposed Ramsey “land grab”
7. **Improving** local roads and transport, infrastructure and services
8. **Bringing** new homes, jobs & community facilities to Jurby

9. **Protecting** homes at risk from coastal erosion in Kirk Michael and on the Bride coast
10. **Closing** Wrights Pit North and restoring it as part of the Point of Ayre National Reserve
11. **Developing** the old railway route for walking, cycling & horse riding through to Ballaugh, Sulby and ultimately on to Ramsey
12. **Expanding** the provision of health care services locally through both Ramsey and Jurby GP surgeries and Ramsey Cottage Hospital.

Getting these things right will ensure that **Ayre & Michael becomes an even better and more attractive place to live** and work.

These local issues are important to you – and to me. They need a collaborative approach with the area's local authorities and residents, supported by drive and influence at national level.

If you put a cross in the box next to **MY** name, you'll be choosing someone who will champion these initiatives, will use the MHK platform and established networks and influence to cut through and get things done.

I now have an in-depth working knowledge of Government, experience across a range of functions and committees and I can get stuff done.

Vote for me and these priorities will be actively driven forward.

They will not be ignored.

I will continue Putting the Island First.

I will not let you down.





Key Policy Initiatives

1. Implementing a New Economic & Taxation strategy

We must complete the KPMG review currently underway and act on its findings to ensure that we have a sustainable economic strategy that plays to the Island's strength. Financial assistance schemes will need reshaping to ensure they are coherent with this.

Our tax system needs reforming to ensure that it is appropriate to the new international tax environment which threatens our established Zero-Ten approach. Tax and National Insurance contributions must be borne fairly across the community. This also includes resolving the long-running concerns over the funding of care for the elderly and of local authority services.

2. Making Environmental Improvements

We must be good custodians of our environment. It is our legacy for future generations. We must de-carbonise our economy, adopting climate-friendly approaches to the way which we generate power, travel and heat our homes. We also need to act to reverse the rapid decline in bio-diversity.

This will require changes to our land and seas use, our farming and fishing practices and the associated financial support. We must ensure that we can adapt without excluding any sections of our society. Dumping raw sewage at sea must cease and we must stop littering our beaches and countryside.

3. Building Better Transport Infrastructure

It is essential that the Island has good travel connections, both within and outside the Island. We must invest more in our public

bus service. This is important in reducing social isolation, particularly amongst the young and the elderly and is part of our Climate Change response. The historic under-funding of road maintenance must be addressed in order to improve the condition of our highway network, whilst we should continue to promote Active Travel for shorter journeys.

Finally, our lifeline sea and air services must be sustained to ensure we have good, frequent and reliable connections to our neighbours, supporting tourism and our own travel requirements.

4. Ensuring Sufficient and Affordable Housing

We need to enhance and expand support for first time buyers, young families and key workers so they can rent or buy suitable homes to live in. Policy initiatives will need to include expanding First Time Buyer and Shared Equity schemes, developing Rent-to-Buy schemes and introducing government-assisted mortgages. Also, developing serviced plots on long-term ground leases to create self-build opportunities for those who wish to do so.

We must also ensure there is suitable housing and associated services for people whose requirements change as they get older, needing less space but more care support. This includes more retirement village-type or extra-care housing provision.

This will require an approach to planning which ensures that suitable land is made available whilst development takes place in a sustainable manner. It must fit with our infrastructure and need to ensure that our town and village communities remain vibrant.

5. Improving Healthcare

Our health services are going through a transformation process but remain under pressure with a shortage of GP's, Dentists and hospital staff. The transition towards more community-based healthcare must continue, making maximum use of regional

facilities including Ramsey Cottage Hospital. The shortage of residential care facilities in the community must be addressed to avoid scarce hospital beds being occupied by patients who have nowhere else suitable to go.

We need to better use remote diagnostics and work collaboratively with UK hospitals to enable our patients to access quality expertise without needing to travel off-Island. Specific action is required to reduce long waiting lists, to improve Mental Health provision and increase the numbers of Social Workers.

6. Supporting Elderly Living

The best policy approach is to enable the elderly to stay in their own homes wherever possible, rather than going into residential care. This requires improved support services to be available for them and for assistance to make modifications to their properties to ensure they are suitable to live in.

7. Developing Children and Young People

Education is fundamental to an individual's life chances. We need to expand nursery and pre-school provision which is in short-supply and expensive. Our schools need to build back from the issues and disputes which have recently been evident. The children must be put first. Teachers and educational professionals need to be listened to and empowered.

We must invest in leisure, arts and sports facilities to give our youth positive alternatives to the harms arising from drugs and alcohol.

8. Protecting the Island

It is essential that we are aware of, and respond to, the increasing and changing threats facing the Island. This particularly includes that arising from the trade in drugs and organised crime. Our Police must have the right resources and appropriate tools to

enable them to maintain law and order and protect the Manx public.

9. Increasing our Workforce

The Island must be able to recruit and retain staff in its key sectors, particularly those which are reliant on off-island specialist skills. We need to be better at attracting working families to choose to relocate to the Isle of Man. We also need to create more opportunities for our young people to train locally for the roles which we need on-Island.

Policy initiatives include expanding apprenticeships schemes and making better use of University College Mann. A strategic partnership with a UK university to deliver specialist courses should be explored to attract off-Island students here to study and potentially live after graduation – as worked successfully with the Liverpool University Marine Biological Station.

10. Improving Government

Government's approach to budgeting and procurement needs modernising to ensure better outcomes, improved value-for-money and reduced bureaucracy. Its decision-making must also reflect full consideration of the related social costs and benefits and ensure the right balance is struck between short and long-term considerations.

More integrated delivery of public services is required, building on what worked successfully during the Covid response. The services that government provides need assessing to determine whether they can be streamlined or delivered in a different manner.



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Constituency Requisition Meetings

Wednesday 1 September - Andreas Primary School
Tuesday 7 September - Jurby Primary School
Thursday 9 September - Ballaugh Parish Hall
Monday 13 September - Sulby Primary School
Thursday 16 September - Michael Primary School
Monday 20 September - Bride Methodist Church Hall
The meetings will take place from 7pm to 9pm, with doors opening at 6:30pm and seats allocated on a first-come first-served basis.



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