

TIM CROOKALL

House of Keys General Election

Thursday 23rd September 2021



CROOKALL
for GLENFABA & PEEL



Dear Voter

It was a great honour and privilege to serve Peel and the Isle of Man in Tynwald as an MHK and an MLC from 2006 – 2020. I had intended to let my name go forward for re-election in March 2020 but I had become disillusioned with the present Government. I decided I wanted to put some distance between myself and this administration while contemplating my future. So I didn't seek re-election. I have a lot of experience, energy and enthusiasm to offer the people of Glenfaba and Peel, as well as the rest of the Island, and that is why I have put my name forward as a candidate for the General Election.

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Government

This Government has been guilty of bad management, vastly over spending and delivering projects late. It has failed miserably with the core business of maintaining Government property and infrastructure and has failed to plan ahead when it comes to critical issues like the storage/disposing of toxic and inert waste.

Good communications between Government and the people of the Isle of Man is essential and pivotal. If you want to gain and keep the trust and support of the Island's residents, Government needs to be open, honest and upfront. Sometimes it is the communication, or lack of it, that is the answer to the problem.



Tynwald

If the next Government is going to lead by example, it must in my view, firstly look at itself and decide whether Tynwald really needs thirty-three members. If Tynwald reduced their numbers by four, a saving of well over a million pounds could be achieved on salary alone over five years plus the ongoing pension liability. There seemed to be a will by the last Government to change the role of the Legislative Council. I believe it is time that changes were made to have the Legislative Council publicly elected so they can take up positions within Government knowing they have a public mandate. I have said at least twice before in Tynwald that I think the number of Tynwald members should be reduced.

Infrastructure

The Douglas promenade renovation project has been a nightmare from day one. Promises keep being broken over deadlines, there has been failed communications from the start with stakeholders, causing the loss of jobs and business to the hospitality industry. I don't believe anyone yet knows what the final cost of this scheme will be or when it will finally finish.

The new Steam Packet Ferry Terminal is much needed, but not at any cost. This has now turned into an open cheque book scheme which has surpassed £50 million with no final figure established. If Tynwald members had known the true figure at the beginning, I'm not convinced this scheme would have gone ahead. When Tynwald is asked for further finance for this scheme after the General Election, some very probing questions need asking and answering before anymore funding is given. The Government need to seriously think about value for money for the tax payer more than ever with this amount of money.

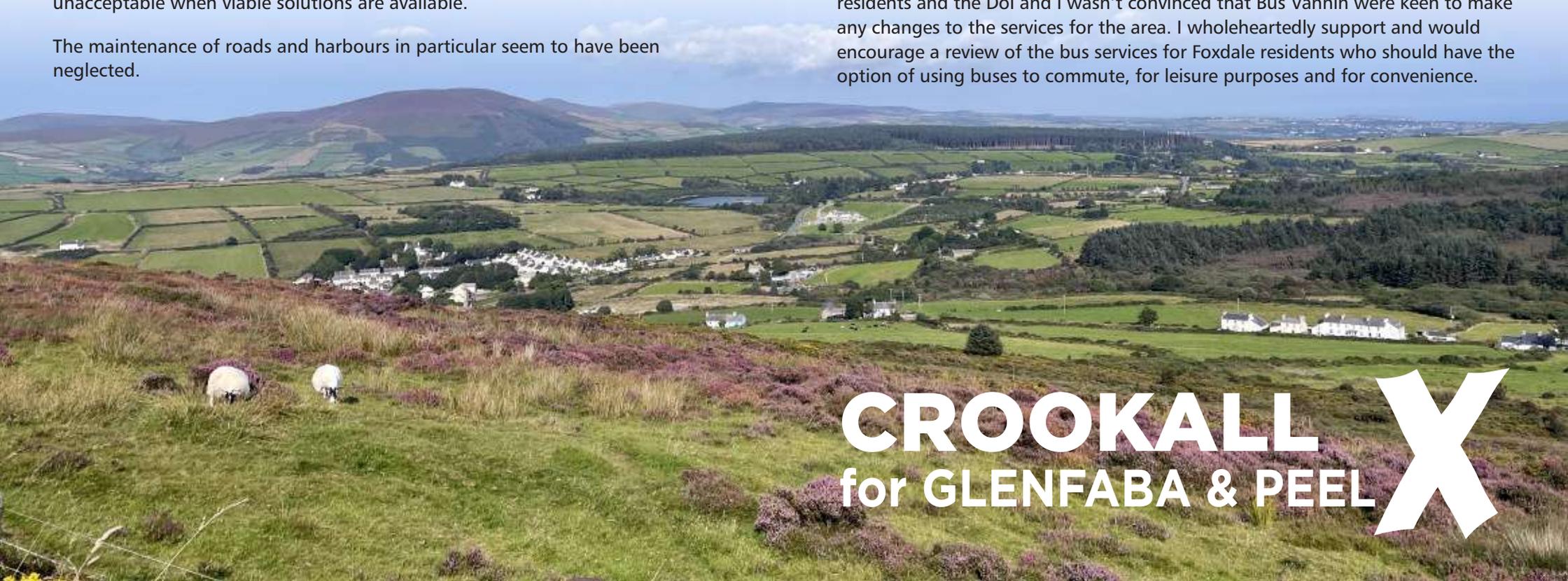
The continuing pumping of raw sewage at Peel (see Local Issues), Laxey and Baldrine has to be stopped as soon as possible. This practice is totally unacceptable when viable solutions are available.

The maintenance of roads and harbours in particular seem to have been neglected.

Since 2017, the Minister of the Department of Infrastructure said he would introduce the paying of Vehicle Duty (road tax) by instalments. Four years later, much to the shame of the department and the continued hardship of others, this still has not happened.

Traffic management locally needs to be addressed. I have spent a lot of time looking at and discussing with concerned constituents about the traffic issues in their areas. Speeding vehicles and the large volumes of traffic in built up residential areas, on narrow roads is not safe and is certainly not conducive to helping peoples quality of life. Action needs to be taken to resolve these issues before any more serious accidents occur. The use of pavements and other facilities by people with disabilities needs more consideration, better design and regular maintenance. What looks and seems okay for some users is definitely not okay for others.

While some parts of the constituency have a good bus service, there are other areas that are almost cut off. I attended the meeting in Foxdale recently with residents and the DoI and I wasn't convinced that Bus Vannin were keen to make any changes to the services for the area. I wholeheartedly support and would encourage a review of the bus services for Foxdale residents who should have the option of using buses to commute, for leisure purposes and for convenience.



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Health & Social Care

I am very concerned that waiting lists have continued to grow, irrespective of promises made to reduce them. Two private off island companies have now been engaged at a cost of just under £2 million to help reduce the lists over the next six months. While this may help to shorten some waiting lists, private companies need to make a profit and all this money is likely to go off island and in the pockets of company owners. I would hate to think that this may be the start of privatising the Health Service.

I believe we need to find a much fairer way of paying for care in later life. Possibly by putting a limit as to how much someone should contribute to their care from their private funds. Why should someone use all their savings when some others will pay nothing?

The closure of The Corrin Memorial Home was a tragedy. For the twenty-one residents whose home it was and the staff who worked there it should never have ended like it did. This was a facility that was very much needed in the West. I sincerely hope that something can be done in the very near future to secure a similar facility on the same site.



Health Care would benefit from a more intuitive computing system whereby all services within the Health Care setting are seamlessly connected, providing a more effective and efficient service. The whole system from the doctors, to the paramedics in their vehicles, to the hospital should all be linked, which is currently not the case.

Housing

Public opinion would suggest that we have an island wide housing crisis and the next Government is going to have to do something very quickly to help solve the problems. There are several issues here that are all linked. Prices have soared to where it is now very difficult for first time buyers to afford what is being described as a 'First Time Buyers property'. Trying to save for a deposit is very difficult due to the amount required. If this

Economy & Employment

Government needs to continue to work with all industries, trades and course providers to ensure that the necessary courses are available and funded appropriately. This is vital for the future qualified work forces to be available to fill the positions needed to continue the Island's economic growth. Whilst unemployment is quite low at the moment, the ability to train and re-train if needed is vital too. We need to make sure that every opportunity is afforded to keep the unemployment numbers down. The continued growth of the Island's economy is essential to maintain the quality of life we would all like. The next Government will also need to keep a very close eye on any external forces wanting to make changes that effect Island businesses.

Having an excellent health and education system, as well as low crime rate, are absolutely essential in looking after the Island's residents and helping to encourage growth in our working population. A sustainable growth will help the Island to succeed and prosper into the future. These are areas I believe the Island is going to have to invest in more in the future and I would support this.



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continues, the waiting list for Social Housing will grow even longer than it is presently. Government financial help has to increase to assist with purchase schemes for Manx residents. Further to these issues, due to the lack of residential sheltered accommodation, such as Magher Vay in St. Johns and Mylchreest Court in Peel, there is nowhere for the older generation to move into and release their properties back into the market.

Local Issues

The failure to still secure and develop a new local Regional Sewage Treatment Works for Peel is very disappointing. Twelve years on from when the department were preparing to do the necessary Environmental Impact Assessments for a treatment works and were stopped, we are now no further on.

Unfortunately, with a new call for sites, it is very much back to square one. This is not just in Peel's interest; it is an Island issue. I believe that the next Tynwald need to prioritise a solution to stop the pumping of raw sewage and leachate into Peel Bay as soon as possible. This practice is totally unacceptable.



The consultation for the draft Western Area Plan, which closed in June, showed a lot of areas that could potentially be zoned for housing. Whilst some new housing is needed, we need to make sure any future plans are fit for purpose for the West. The infrastructure must be able to manage any increases and we also need to encourage more businesses to start up to increase employment and opportunities. I have had discussions with interested parties about the matter.

The handling of the dredging of Peel Marina by this Government has been nothing short of a disgrace. Promises were given when the first 10,000t of silt were removed and stored at 'Rockmount' on the Poortown Road that it would be removed within five years and that is what the licence from DEFA stated. Six

Environment/Climate Change

We are very fortunate to live on such a beautiful island. One that has been given Unesco 'Biosphere Status' and it is down to us to make sure we do what we can to protect it. We need to prevent further damage to it and do what is necessary to help with recovery processes. Looking after the environment and facing up to the climate change challenges are issues the Island has to face. I believe the Island has its part to play and we should be doing so. It's a journey along a road that we should endeavour to take together. Through education and taking opportunities when they arise, I believe we can and must be lowering our carbon emissions.

years on and it's still there with nowhere to move it to due to a lack of planning and forward thinking by the Government.

Another 40,000t is now stored in the field behind Peel Power Station and there is absolutely no sign of where any of the silt is likely to end up. It doesn't end there though, because 4,000t of silt a year is still coming down the River Neb back into the marina meaning since the dredging project started, another 8,000t has gone into the harbour. Plan A was to dredge the silt and Plan B was to stop the silt from entering the harbour in the future. There is no sign of any Plan B yet to stop the silt. In the meantime, about 20% of what has been taken out has now been replaced and at what cost? If you have a leaking pipe, you turn it off before fixing the problem.

I have had meetings with local traders to discuss how to increase footfall in Peel, parking issues and the upcoming DoI schemes for East Quay and Michael Street. Hopefully the two newly elected MHKs, traders and Commissioners will work together to find the necessary and appropriate solutions for these.



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Fishing and Farming

Both fishing and farming are going through a turbulent time at the moment due to forces from on and off the Island. The pandemic and Brexit have meant a significant cut in demand for both industries. Whilst here on Island, issues relating to the meat plant and the Creamery and their relationship with DEFA haven't helped them. Hopefully the right way forward will be found very soon and bring increased trading for all. I have spent quite a bit of time talking with representatives from fishing and farming, gaining a better understanding of the challenges they will undoubtedly face in the coming months and years. One thing is very certain, Government and all of us need to try and support local as often as we can do. It does help more than we sometimes ever know.

Policing

I am delighted to see the return of 'Neighbourhood Policing'. It was very disappointing to read in the Chief Constable's annual report that crime over the past year has risen, especially as the Island has been in lockdown for part of that time. Drug and alcohol related crimes account for a large percentage of crimes and every assistance should be given to the Police to deal with these issues. Whilst previously mental health issues may not have come under the 'Policing' heading, I'm delighted that the cohesion between the Police and social workers to deal with cases together is working extremely well. I have met with the Chief Constable and other senior officers to discuss local and national issues and I would welcome the opportunity to support them into the future for the good of the West and the Island.

Recreation

Good quality recreational time and experiences are an important part of the quality of life we all aspire to have. I believe it is fundamental for Government to support this ethos and also actively encourage and support private investment in it. If Government is



responsible for recreational pastimes, they need to make sure they maintain them to the appropriate standards. Footpaths are an example of this. Many tracks and pathways have been left unmaintained and we now have to rely on the goodwill of private individuals and charities to clear some of them. Their work is much appreciated by many, but it shouldn't be that way. Planned maintenance or contracted work is the way to deal with it.

It was also very disappointing that the 'Cross Vein' area was closed off to users with immediate effect in March 2020. There was very little effort made to help find another suitable area for the users and nothing has happened since.

History

I have been married to Carol for thirty-five years and we have four children - Ben, Joe, Max and Breeshey. All four are presently working and living on the Island. During my working career, I have been in the Police, the Forces, worked at leisure centres off island and here at The Aquadrome. I worked for IoM Social Services at Ballamona Hospital and in their Community Homes. I also spent some years in the construction industry and as a Postman.

During my time in the House of Keys, I was Minister for Education and Children (2012/16) and Community, Culture and Leisure (2011/12). I served in various departments over the years including: Environment, Food and Agriculture; Infrastructure/Transport; Local Government and Environment; and Home Affairs. I also served as Vice Chairman of the Office of Fair Trading, Chairman of the Water & Sewerage Authority and other Select and Standing Committees. During my time in the Legislative Council, I served in the Department of Enterprise and was Vice chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and Vice Chairman of the MUA. I also served on other committees of Tynwald.

I served on Peel Town Commissioners from 1991 – 2006 and I had the honour of being Chairman twice (1996 & 2004).

In my spare time I enjoy walking our two dogs, DIY work around the house and garden and going out socialising. I'm involved with various clubs and committees: Peel Football Club, Peel Heritage Trust, Peel Gardeners Association and I am the Chairman of Special Olympics Isle of Man. I also spent over twenty-five years as a crewman on the Peel Lifeboat.





Summary

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto. If successful on September 23rd, I can assure you that the whole constituency will have my full dedication and commitment.

I am endeavouring to call on as many of you as I can before the election. I apologise in advanced should I not get the chance to meet you. However, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is something you would like to discuss. Some people have raised the issue that if two MHKs from Peel are elected that the Glenfaba community would be neglected. I can assure you, as a candidate from Peel, I would not let that happen. I spend a lot of time in Glenfaba with family and friends and a lot of time walking there too. I also know all of the members of all the Local Authorities and would welcome any opportunity to meet and work with them for the good of the constituency.

Phone: 497782

Email: timcrookall@manx.net

Facebook: 'Tim Crookall for Glenfaba & Peel'

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