

*Please vote for*  
**Andrew Cowin**  
**DOUGLAS**

**FOR OUR FUTURE**

*My principles are  
clear – government  
should be  
efficient, open and  
compassionate  
towards those in need*

**MALEW  
&  
SANTON**

Representation of the People Act 1995

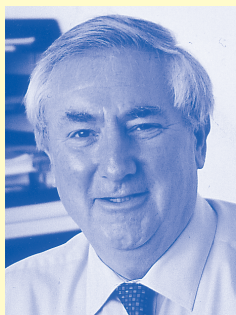
HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION

**Thursday 23rd November 2006**

## YOUR CANDIDATE

I was born in the Jane Crookall and educated at Murray's Road, Douglas High School, HMS "Conway" and Liverpool Polytechnic.

Happily married for 41 years, my wife Doreen and I live at "Abbey Ford" Ballasalla and have three children and six grandchildren.



I am a Master Mariner serving in all ranks up to Marine Superintendent and Managing Director.

My career has included managing my own company, author of a number of books on the Isle of Man, membership of the Chamber of Commerce Council for many years and various roles in marine management.

You elected me at a by-election on 14th November 2002. Since that time I have enjoyed representing you in Tynwald and have sought to achieve as many of my Manifesto commitments as possible. I have held roles in the Department of Transport, the Department of Education, the Public Accounts Committee and served on various Select Committees as well as Council of Ministers Committees. I believe that my main achievements since being elected include a good working relationship with Malew and Santon Parish Commissioners, which helped with the introduction of the Parish Partnership Scheme, designed specifically to get Government Departments and local Commissioners working together. I also worked in partnership with DOLGE and the Commissioners to improve housing and progress on the eagerly awaited First Time Buyers' Houses. I am proud that I raised awareness of road safety issues which are of concern to many in the constituency and the Island, and as sponsor of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2006 successfully took it through the House of Keys and Tynwald, without any amendments or new clauses, to become law. A law which supports the Road Safety Initiative started in 2004.

My previous governmental experience includes serving on or working with Tourism and Leisure committees, Marine Administration committees, Manx National Heritage and various other environmental and tourism related bodies.

My interests include working with young people, scouting, sport, our church, writing and walking in our beautiful environment.

I can be contacted on **823644** and will be pleased to answer any questions or help you get to the polling station on Election Day. My website is: [www.captainandrewdouglas.com](http://www.captainandrewdouglas.com)

*Committee Rooms:*

**1st Malew Scout Hall,  
Mill Road, Ballasalla**

**Ballagarey Sunday School, St Marks**

## THE SOCIETY WE LIVE IN

We have seen good progress in certain aspects of our society over the past 20 years, however, with this has come a negative aspect, including increasing crime and unavailability of housing for our young people. Recently the Government has been criticised, quite rightly at times, for mismanaging certain infrastructural projects leading to capital losses to our precious reserves that have led to utility price rises (e.g. gas and electricity) affecting those least able to cope with them. We need to learn from these mistakes and ensure that our reserves are protected and used wisely. Whilst we must not be complacent and must heed the lessons of the past, we should not be negative and unwilling to try fresh ideas. Our philosophy, enshrined in the Freedom to Flourish banner, must be one of informed economic viability.

## LOCAL ISSUES

Whilst there are many local issues in Malew and Santon, the principal ones relate to housing/planning, the Iris scheme, law and order, agriculture and tourism.

We need to ensure that housing and business development is encouraged in our constituency, not obstructed by bureaucratic red tape. In particular we need to ensure that our young people are able to purchase first time buyer homes here so that we do not lose them. I will be pressing for enhanced grants for first time buyers. Whilst development must be properly regulated, we must ensure that planning laws are fair and do not inhibit prosperity in our constituency. I will be campaigning for more dynamic planning, enhancement to the Department of Local Government and Environment (DOLGE) housing section and assistance for those in housing need.

Regarding Iris, I am disappointed that this project which, whilst well intentioned, has caused, and is continuing to cause, much inconvenience and distress to many residents of this constituency. If re-elected I shall continue to press for the problems with the Iris scheme in this constituency to be resolved once and for all.

In relation to law and order, we are relatively lucky in our constituency. I have put a great deal of time and effort into creating an excellent relationship with our local police team, which I believe has benefited the constituency, however we cannot be complacent. I will press for a visible police presence throughout our constituency both on foot and in patrol cars, particularly at weekends. Our police force does an excellent job with limited resources, we must ensure that those resources are allocated to reducing crime and not paperwork.

With imminent changes to our agriculture relationship with the EU, it is vital that we support our farmers. We can do this in many ways. Of course we can make sure that we buy local and that we know what we are buying is locally grown/bred. However, with a more dynamic planning regime, farmers will be able to harness their land more profitably and we could enhance the grants scheme to encourage more attractive green produce for export.

Our constituency boasts some of the most beautiful landscapes and coves on the Island. We also have Silverdale (which needs protection) and some of the Island's most fascinating and historical sites such as Rushen Abbey, Fort Island, Langness and South Barrule.

Furthermore we have some outstanding sporting facilities, two very fine golf courses, an all-weather sports pitch and a number of sports fields. There are many self-catering facilities and well sited and run hotels within the constituency, but it is my belief that the Department of Tourism and Leisure could do more to support such assets. I will campaign for the promotion of these if re-elected.

## **PEOPLE IN NEED**

Our young people are our future. As stated previously, one of my priorities is to make sure that our young people can afford to stay in our community and keep it vibrant. I will be proposing that the next Government introduce a mortgage assistance scheme to overcome this barrier for our young people and that the current grant scheme be modified to assist in dealing with purchase costs.

Due to international factors and Government problems, energy costs are rising at an alarming rate. This affects those least able to afford them. Together with pressing for better regulation, I will be campaigning for enhanced subsidies for those in our community least able to pay for their basic household energy needs.

## **MANX GOVERNMENT**

I believe that our structure of Government is good and does not need changing. It is the people in Government who make a good Government, not the structure itself. I believe that the absence of party politics is good for the Island since it avoids ideologies barring the members from taking a pragmatic view of what is best for our Island. I will therefore not be seeking fundamental changes to our system of Government, save to the way in which capital projects are managed.

## **THE ENVIRONMENT**

I believe that we all appreciate the vital importance of our beautiful environment. This Government has demonstrated this in its investment in the IRIS scheme and the Incinerator. Whilst they may have been beset with technical problems and overspends, they were well intended. However, we can do more. Re-cycling is an inexpensive way of reducing landfill use and environmental damage. We have heavy seas and strong winds, which make appropriate the deployment of renewable energy facilities, which are becoming more and more efficient. I will be pressing for these issues to be given priority if re-elected. Some 25 years ago I suggested this to the MEA!

## **THE ECONOMY**

Our economy has enjoyed twenty years of substantial economic growth, however, we should not be self satisfied and assume that without good management, this will continue indefinitely. Our economy now operates in a globally regulated world, where offshore jurisdictions are increasingly subjected to scrutiny by various regulatory bodies. Whilst we must ensure that our business community is well regulated and robust to such scrutiny, we must enable our business and entrepreneurs to flourish without unnecessary bureaucratic red tape.

We must engage with the business community to ensure

that our legislation is progressive and enables rather than inhibits economic progress.

Sound financial management depends on quality civil servants and managers ensuring that the correct contractors are engaged on appropriate contractual terms. Our next Government must learn from the mistakes of the past five years that have led to massive problems on some capital projects. The government must improve public relations and learn to promote itself in a much more positive way. These will be main planks of my ambitions if elected.

We must also monitor the effects of the new tax regime to ensure that it achieves its purpose without damaging our revenue stream to fund our public services and infrastructure.

## **PRIVATISATION AND OUR PUBLIC SERVICES**

If re-elected I will be against any move to privatise our public services. This includes our excellent Health Service, bus service and post office service. We should not simply follow recent developments in the United Kingdom in relation to these services. I will oppose any subservient copying of UK precedents in these areas.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY**

We must continue to invest in our young people. We have excellent schools and good recreational facilities such as the NSC, however, we must realise that with technological advances and a more aware and demanding youth, we will have to do more. In our constituency we must enhance the recreational facilities available so that they are not drawn to the problem areas in Douglas. Locally and nationally I will be pushing for the better provision of recreational facilities for our young people.

## **IMMIGRATION**

With the expansion of the EU, immigration has become an increasing problem. We are not immune to it. Whilst we are a very tolerant and welcoming Island, we have finite resources and must ensure that they are used appropriately. Unfortunately, the integrity of our borders is largely in the hands of the UK and Irish Governments, and the UK has adopted a very lax approach to immigration in recent years. We need to ensure that our reciprocal free movement and healthcare rights with the UK and elsewhere are preserved, accordingly the sledgehammer approach of the Residency Control Act 2001 (not yet in force) is totally inappropriate. What the next Government must do is make the work permits system more robust and enforce it properly, together with the minimum wage legislation. Penalties for breaches of these regimes must be harsher. Border controls at the airport and the sea terminal must be visible with random checks. The social services regime must be reviewed to eliminate any possible abuses. These are not issues of racism but are aimed at that minority of potential immigrants who wish to exploit our Island. People who come to our shores legally and with a bona fide intention to contribute are and have always been welcome.

## LAW AND ORDER

We are lucky that the Isle of Man, compared to the adjacent Isles, by reference to reported crime statistics, is a relatively safe place to live. However, this should not lead us to conclude that we do not have problems in our community. Recorded crime is on the increase, particularly drug related crime and an increase of 19% in drug related crime in the last 12 month recorded period is alarming. Our police force must be equipped with the resources and tools to detect serious crime and our Courts must continue to punish serious crime severely. However, with resources come responsibilities. Our police officers must not be burdened with the pursuit of trivial misdemeanors and excessive administration at the expense of tracking down professional criminals. Likewise, our approach to sentencing and imprisonment should focus as much on re-habilitation as punishment. The extent of re-offending is alarming and an investment in re-habilitation will save future damage to our economy. Again, I will press for these policies to be adopted.

## HEALTHCARE

We have excellent healthcare services. The new Nobles is an example of what our Government can create; it is an asset to our people. The massive overspend with the DHSS needs to be addressed yet we must ensure that we have care in the community. This includes access to well

trained doctors, consultants and dentists. We must reverse the trend of dentistry privatisation by our Government making the rules rather than being victims of back door privatisation. I will press for a more positive approach towards encouraging good accessible NHS dental care. Tax allowances should be available for those paying for private health and dental care.

## THE FUTURE OF OUR ISLAND

This Government, and those which preceeded it, have achieved much. It made mistakes, as we all do, but it has created a foundation on which we can build. This election is about who are best able to build on that foundation. We need, in Government, a mix of people who are aware of local and national issues. MHK's who can distinguish between local and state priorities will contribute to the best interests of all our people. If I am re-elected, I will not pursue my personal wishes, but those of my constituents and the Isle of Man.

## WHY VOTE FOR ANDREW DOUGLAS

On any material issue relating to our community and well being I will continue to canvass your opinions before finalising my vote on the issue. I am grateful to all those who have assisted and advised me during the last four years and with your support I hope to continue to represent Malew and Santon for the next five years.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE ON ELECTION DAY**

# Vote for

# DOUGLAS

Andrew Cowin

# X

# MALEW & SANTON