

Election Manifesto

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YOUR PRIORITIES ARE MY PRIORITIES

Are you frustrated by :

- *Too much legislation. No post legislation review.*
- *No real immigration policy.*
- *Lack of affordable housing.*
- *Ineffective policing and lack of discipline/increase in lawlessness.*
- *A lack of consultation on major legislation and regulation.*
- *Health and Safety legislation that seems to be out of control.*
- *Politicians who won't take responsibility when things go wrong.*
- *Farmers effectively being told they're on their own.*
- *The UK and EU constantly telling us what we should and shouldn't do.*
- *Members of Tynwald who appear at election time, then when elected vanish until they want your vote again.*
- *Politicians who ignore local issues and don't work with the local community.*
- *Concerns over our environment – waste management/recycling/renewable energy.*

Well, surprisingly enough, so am I! With so many issues let's be realistic about what can be done.



I promised you when I started this campaign my manifesto would represent your views. The Elector's Survey launched my "Your Views Count Campaign" in Spring. Since then I've had almost constant feedback from many of you. I hope you will see the result of that here on paper.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoffrey Boot".

Immigration - is a two-way thing and let's never forget that many Manx people live and work around the world, but you don't expect to waltz into New Zealand, Australia or Canada, or similar territories to the Isle of Man, without border control. *Let's get a grip and find out who's coming in, who's staying and who's going. With two Ports of entry this is not rocket science.*

Too much legislation - There are already 80+ pieces of legislation listed for the next Tynwald. I question the need for this. Do you see so much wrong on our Island? *I will fight unnecessary legislation and regulation at every opportunity. I would also like to see post regulation review — in other words, get rid of regulation that doesn't work!*

Affordable Housing - Locally and island-wide we must ensure a supply of affordable housing for young and old to ensure people are able to stay in their local communities where they have been brought up or lived all their lives. *I will work with our local Commissioners to locate suitable sites and drive the process for affordable housing. I will commission a full survey of households to determine need so we can address a real, known problem.*

Election 23 November 2006

Time for change

Policing – UK and European Human Rights Legislation has eroded the effectiveness of our Police Force, as has relaxed sentencing. *Perhaps it's time to employ a more zero tolerance attitude to policing.*



Lack of consultation – Hand in hand with too much legislation is a lack of consultation over major legislation and regulatory changes. I will endeavour through regular newsletters to enable feedback to consult and sample local opinion. I am not a great lover of referendums because the question you ask sometimes dictates the answer but, with our present system of Independent Members, sometimes the only way for people to have their say is to conduct an island-wide referendum. This might be the way forward and may well be necessary where MHKs do not consult with their Electors. I will consult with you, but I want to ensure that the Island as a whole gets the legislation it wants — *not what politicians think you should have.*

Health & Safety legislation – No one objects to sensible Health & Safety legislation but lately we seem to be importing the UK model that tries to protect

everyone from everything. *It is important that we address real problems in the Isle of Man, not perceived problems from the UK or EU.*



Farming – At present the Government seems determined on under-funding and allowing the full force of international competition in the guise of “we must do what the

UK and EU do”. This and loss of Red Meat Derogation in 2010 have the capacity to seriously damage our farming system. Not only does farming provide jobs and income, but our varied, unique and beautiful landscape depends on farmers’ husbandry. The present Interim 2010 Report doesn’t address the real issues. *If this means moving away from the UK/EU model and pressing to keep derogation, then so be it.*

The UK/EU

We have our own parliament and are not members of the EU yet we are bombarded with legislation and regulation that address problems from across. These are implemented without any regard to whether it is addressing a problem that we have. This has got to stop. We must become leaders rather than followers. We have one of the best regulated off-shore economies and financial sectors in the world. We are not a tax haven. We are a low tax economy. We must be more proactive in marketing our own identity. To become leaders requires quality leadership and expertise in business, something that we seem to have been lacking. *I hope I can bring some of these qualities to the table with my extensive business and political background.* We must stay ahead of the game and develop opportunities as and when they arise from an Isle of Man perspective.



Always visible – There’s nothing worse than the “here today vote for me then gone till the next election” syndrome. *I promise to keep in touch with regular newsletters, to hold regular constituency surgeries where people can come in to discuss issues face to face, to use modern technology and particularly email for those who have it, or to post regular updates and receive feedback. Hopefully you have had my first IN TOUCH.*

Working with local Government– An MHK must work with local Commissioners to obtain regular briefings on local matters of concern and secure adequate funding where necessary. Roads and speed of traffic are high priorities *I have already opened the communication door and will continue to do so.*



Accountability – Of late there have been some well-documented scandals. It seems that no one ever takes responsibility or resigns. This must not happen in the future. *Government and individual members must stand up to their responsibilities.*

The environment – We live on a small island and it may seem that environmental issues like global warming are a long way from us, but the truth is we are part of the global community and like everyone else we must do our bit. Renewable energy to reduce greenhouse gases and more recycling to reduce landfill must be Government priorities. At the same time we can all do our bit without compulsion and maybe save

ourselves money by doing simple things like installing double-glazing and proper insulation in our houses, cutting unnecessary electrical consumption by turning off lights and appliances, etc. *This can be achieved, I am sure, with persuasion and education rather than legislation although Government can do its bit by improving Building Regulation standards and introducing proper recycling options.*

Time for Better Government

Other Issues

A Fairer Society – We must never forget that not everyone in life is born equal or has equal opportunities. It is important, particularly on an island like the Isle of Man where there are some very rich individuals, that we ensure that the disadvantaged are not forgotten. *I am committed to a fair society for all, with proper funding for Social Services and all forms of medical care including long-term Nursing provision and a world-class Medical Service with proper access at NHS level to Dental Services.*



Communication – It seems strange to me that the Channel Isles have far better TV coverage than us. We barely get a mention on BBC or Border ITV. *It's time we took the BBC to task either to cut the licence fee or fund proper Island coverage. The future may be local coverage via Broadband, it's something I will work for.*

Freedom of Information — Most democratic countries have a Freedom of Information Act which enables us all to access information about ourselves and the way in which our Government/Country is run. *It is time that the Isle of Man had its own Freedom of Information Act.*

Human Rights — November sees the introduction of the Human Rights Act 2001. In some ways this is good news but it may be that the pendulum has swung too far. *Are there too many rights and not enough responsibilities? I will be monitoring this very carefully.*

Government Audit — We must have an independent audit of our Government finance — the debacles over the last five years confirm this. *I will press for the early introduction of an Auditor General as approved by Tynwald in July of this year.*

Archallagan — It beggars belief that this scheme to dump bottom ash from the incinerator on a hilltop is still progressing. *I am vehemently against it and will do everything I can to stop it!*

Constitutional Reform — There is something strange in a democratic country having unelected members on the Legislative Council. *It is time to overhaul this system so that the whole of Tynwald is elected.*

Fuel Costs – Why is it I can buy petrol cheaper in the remote areas of Scotland or Wales than we can in the Isle of Man! If this is a taxation issue then it needs looking at. Alternatively, are fuel importers simply milking us? *It's time we got value for money.*

Public Services — It is a concern that out of a total workforce of 40,000 approximately 9,000 (23%) of these are effectively employed by us in public services. The heavy hand of state controls nearly all of our public services and utilities on the Island. The government should guarantee public services, but not

necessarily run them. There should be more trust between private professionals and sharing of responsibility between the public and private sector. I'm not in favour of wholesale privatisation, just striking a balance. *We need to get best value from our taxes.*

Planning — The recent overhaul of our planning system has not gone far enough. People are now able to attend Planning Meetings but it is common practice in other countries for applicants and objectors to have the right to speak, particularly over controversial applications

This must change — applicants and opponents should have the right to be heard.

Culture & Identity – We live on a beautiful island with a unique identity and culture, let's preserve this. If this means saying **No** to further integration into Europe so be it. It seems that we are in Europe when it suits them and not when it doesn't. *For instance, we don't even have reciprocal health benefits for travel in the EU. This is ludicrous and must be addressed.*



Better Public Transport – to and from our constituency, especially at night.

Don't waste your vote! Every Vote counts!

Time for a new member for Glenfaba

About Me and My Experience

The experience level and ability of many of our present MHKs has come in for much criticism, which means you may want to know more about me. I am married to Suzie (see her message below). We have four children, all of whom have now left home. We have lived in St Johns at the heart of Glenfaba for 20 years.

My original career path included Biochemistry and Physics but a serious motorcycle accident left me unable to walk for three months and led to a complete career change. This was a very humbling experience and taught me a lot. I started working for the Midland Bank, which provided a solid base in financial management. I then transferred to Estate Agency, Auctioneering and Surveying, where I became a partner in a large firm in the UK. The family background of farming and the sale of this business enabled me to diversify into Farming and development of a large-scale Horticultural unit, with later diversification into Leisure Facilities with accommodation and Golf Course with a subsidiary Publishing business. Parallel to this I trained to be a Commercial Pilot and became involved in a number of Aviation-related businesses.

I have always been interested in Politics and, with regulation and legislation issues in most of my businesses, I inevitably ended up making many contacts at Local Authority, Government, EU and International level. Prior to moving to the Island and in an overlap period I served for 12 years at Parish and District Council level in the UK,

chairing a number of committees.

During this time I developed many high-level contacts formulating Local Government policy and scrutinising regulation. I learnt a lot about planning and developing businesses, working as an Entrepreneur but also applying sound Accounting principles, paying attention to Detail, Communication skills and, most importantly, delivering what the Customer wanted. In Politics this translates to what you the Electorate want.

I still occupy Board positions in a number of voluntary organisations, including the Civil Aviation Authority's General Aviation Accident Review Board. I am Regional Chairman of the Isle of Man AOPA (Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association) which I was instrumental in forming and Vice Chairman of the UK Organisation. I am very proud that we are shortly going to have our own Manx Aircraft Registry.

With all our children grown up, whilst I retain a Chief Executive position in our Manx-based investment company with UK subsidiary, I now have far more time to devote to Politics. **I believe the experience and contacts I have made can be put to good use in Tynwald and if elected I will, with proper secretarial backing, give 100% to my new position. I also commit to better consultation locally with you the Electorate, regular Newsletters, face to face constituency surgeries, proper local consultation and close liaison with our Commissioners.**

Message from my Wife

Elect Geoffrey and by default you get me as part of the package, so let me assure you that I'm not only happy to declare full support for Geoffrey but I am used to working with him. I won't shrink from the part. Who knows, if you phone or email I may be your initial point of contact. I would further endorse Geoffrey as a person I know to be good at getting to the core of issues and making things happen. I genuinely believe this is what Tynwald and the Isle of Man needs — industrious, capable Politicians with knowledge, contacts and experience to provide proper leadership.



Public Meetings — I will be holding a number of Public Meetings. These are listed elsewhere as the dates are to be confirmed. I hope to see you there — check my website www.geoffreyboot4mhk.org or www.iomelections.com.



Working together in air racing makes us a winning team and working together with you will ensure Glenfaba's success.
www.airraceuk.org

Finally, in the next few weeks before the election I hope to meet as many of you as possible as I work my way round the constituency. If I miss you or you have an issue that you wish to raise please telephone or email me. For further information about me or my vision take a look at my website www.geoffreyboot4mhk.org or contact me at Ballagarraghyn, St Johns, IM4 3LH (Telephone 801027) or to raise issues issueslog@geoffrey4mhk.org.



Manx solutions for Manx problems