

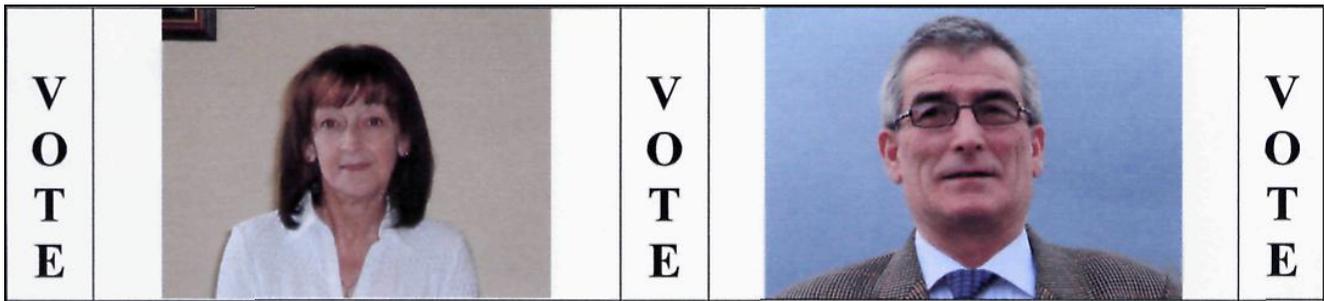
TOWN OF RAMSEY GENERAL ELECTION

Thursday 24th April 2008

*A general election for the election of six members of the Ramsey Town Commission for the north and six members for the south ward will be held on **Thursday 24th April 2008**. Poll cards will be provided to all registered voters.*

PROVEN SERVICE TO THE TOWN

YOUR CANDIDATES



MARY BRUCE

My name is Mary Bruce. I was born in Ramsey and have lived in the town all of my life. For the most part, my working life has been based in the town too and currently, at the moment, I am working part time so I can spend time with my family. I am a proud parent of five children and seven grandchildren and I would like nothing more than to see the town of Ramsey continue to prosper so my grandchildren can see what a wonderful town we live in.

*I was first elected to serve on the Commission back in 1987 and have continued to serve ever since. For the past 21 years, I have had the honour of representing the people of Ramsey and during that time, I have held numerous positions including **Lead Member of Works and Development, Chairperson of Ramsey and District Housing Committee, Lead Member of Housing and Properties and Chairperson of Housing Allocation. I have also served on Housing Advisory and Police Advisory committee.** It has been a major part of my life and, it is my intention, if re-elected, to continue to do so. I am currently Chairman of the Board and I am privileged to have been elected twice to undertake this important role.*

I have committed myself to the cause for the last 21 years and have shown the people of Ramsey that I am in it for the long run. You, the electorate, have trusted me to continue to represent you for those twenty one years and I would be proud to be elected to the Commission for another term.

KEVIN MAYNE

My name is Kevin Mayne and I have lived in the north of the Island for over 30 years. For the last 12 years, I have resided in Ramsey and appreciate what a wonderful place it is to live in. I run a local contract cleaning company. Family is a wonderful mainstay and I am privileged to have a wonderful wife, two daughters and three grandchildren, and am fully aware of the problems faced by the community.

*I first became a member of Ramsey Town Commissioners in 1997, and have had the positions including: **Lead Member of Housing, Deputy Lead Member for Works and Development, Representative on (the Society for the Manx Countryside, Deputy Lead Member for Finance, General Purposes and Establishment,** and also have the honour of being voted in by my colleagues to be Chairman of the Board.*

I feel that over the past 11 years, I have shown my commitment to the town has been unfailing.

In seeking your support to continue my service to the Town of Ramsey, I assure you that I will always act with the best interests of the town and the community which I have had the honour to represent for the last years.

TOWN OF RAMSEY GENERAL ELECTION

THE TOWN OF RAMSEY

The Commission is charged with the management of the assets that the town owns and the provision of services to the people. Some of the key facts relating to the town

The population of the town is 7,322 (2001 census)

The total turnover for the town is in excess of £7,500,000; of this £2,200,000 relates to rate-borne expenditure.

The administration and maintenance of the town's assets is effected through a multi-skilled staff of 50, led by Town Clerk and Chief Executive Peter Whiteway.

The Commissioners that are elected at this election will be effectively the board of directors of the town and responsible for the management of its affairs and finances for the next four years.

Much of the work of the commission is in the public domain. We are conscious that the media have limited space/time available to cover each town's, village's or parish's news.

To make information much more readily available, a web site is the course of being built and this will be available to view online during the current year.

HOUSING

Housing is the main responsibility of the commission.

*Over the past 21 years, the Commission has been active in refurbishing and replacing the town's housing stock. We have been instrumental in the replacement of the Lezayre Housing Estate which is by far the most ambitious scheme to be undertaken by the Commission. The timescale for the work on the estate itself was shortened from ten years to five due to the commissioners being able to secure the co-operation of DOLGE and the Treasury. **This is just one example of how the Commissioners have over the years, through face to face meetings, been able to affect a positive result for the town. The project has involved the building of transit units. Close ny Chibbyr Ghlass was the first such scheme and since then, Faaie Wyllin has been completed. Furthermore, the Yew Tree Apartments development at Walpole Drive is almost at completion.***

Having put much time and effort into the project, it is our wish to remain on the board to see the redevelopment of Lezayre Housing Estate through to its conclusion. In addition to the new development of public sector housing, we have seen the completion of a new sheltered housing development at Cooyrt Balleigh for our senior residents and a further development will commence shortly at Kerroo Glass.

The scheme was highlighted by DOLGE at a recent seminar as an example of how a

scheme should be managed with tenants kept fully informed of what was happening and being given the opportunity to have their ideas incorporated into it where possible.

*The commission has been successful in obtaining approval for some smaller capital schemes that have enabled it to install central heating, new doors and windows and better insulation at a large number of properties. **Schemes are already in progress whereby superior loft and cavity insulation are being installed which, in turn, helps to reduce the carbon footprint***

FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE TOWN

*The cost of providing services has risen sharply in recent years; refuse collection, energy and building material cost inflation has been markedly above the headline rate of consumer price inflation. The transfer of costs from central to local government has also had to be absorbed. The provision of new facilities inevitably involves extra ongoing maintenance costs. Due to a lack of increase in the rateable value of the town, these increases in costs have resulted in the commission having to defer projects that it would have liked to have progressed for the benefit of ratepayers. **The need to contain rate increases to the minimum is accepted by all in the current environment of rising food and energy costs.** If elected, we shall continue to ensure that the town's finances are managed correctly.*

*The West Ramsey Plan has finally been completed. The time taken to bring this to fruition by the planners was excessive. It is our opinion that the planners' time should be spent on the drafting of area strategic plans. **We believe that the consideration of local developments, other than those developments of a large scale, would be better dealt with by the local authority that would be aware of any impact that it might have on the area.***

As part of the plan, business park use has been granted approval on part of Ballachrink and it is hoped that such development would bring much needed employment opportunities to the town. We shall continue to work with our MHK's and lobby Government towards this end.

We support the development of the area covered by the plan provided that surface water drainage and flood defences that cover every foreseeable eventuality are put into place first. It is disappointing that the requirement for Pooildhooie Road to be extended to service this area during its development and afterwards will then be removed. We believe that it would be advantageous to leave the service road in place so that Greenlands Avenue and the new Lezayre development would not then be the sole access to the area during the motorcycle race periods. The development of West Ramsey will ultimately provide much needed first-time buyer houses and other family homes that are necessary, if the demographic profile of the town is to become more balanced.

THE QUEEN'SPIER

*Our opinion regarding the pier remains exactly as it was when fellow long serving Commissioner, Richard Radcliffe, wrote the petition that led to the founding of the Friends of the Queen's Pier. The latest survey reinforced the view given by that petition, namely, that the pier is an important part of the history of both the town and the island and should be refurbished. **The survey results found that an amazing 87% of the electorate surveyed was in favour of saving the pier, even if meant using modern materials. Government policy is to save the heritage of the island and we believe that the pier should not be looked upon as a financially viable operation, rather, as an important part of the Island's Heritage and to enjoyed by young and old alike. It is a registered building but no enforcement action has been taken and it is a major concern that one government department will apparently not take enforcement action against another.***

THE IRIS PROJECT

The commission has been involved in discussions with the political members of the Department of Transport. It is known that IRIS as originally envisaged will not progress. New technology means that regional schemes are now a viable option. A scheme for the north of the island has been designed and will be progressed subject to land purchase for the treatment works being agreed. The depositing of raw sewage in Ramsey Bay will become a thing of the past making the beaches of the northern coast a safer place to enjoy.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The commissioners successfully opposed plans to house a waste transfer station on land adjacent to Gardeners Lane. We support the proposal to site the transfer station on land adjacent to Crosby Farm Lane.

CAR PARKING

It is recognised generally that Ramsey has a parking problem. The business case for the provision of a multi-storey car park and combined bus and tram station has been finalised and approved. Work on the scheme is ongoing and approval has been received for the design work to begin, it is expected that this will take approximately one year to complete. We look forward to the fruition of this project and believe that it will help towards the regeneration of the town.

STREET LIGHTING AND CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

There is an ongoing programme for the improvement of the street lighting in the town. Parliament Street has been improved in terms of street lighting and decorative lighting for the Christmas period. Some small areas require attention to complete the programme. In addition to improving street lighting, closed circuit television coverage is to be expanded and improved, and, in particular, it will aid the police in the identification of miscreants. It has so far proved to be a wise investment acting as a deterrent to bad behaviour. To this end, monthly meetings take place with the Constabulary to discuss all relevant anti-social behaviour issues and various other problems that may occur in the town. The commission work closely with the police and we are in favour of this continuing.

LEISURE FACILITIES

*The town's facilities for the young are now the envy of the rest of the island. The skate park and new water feature in the Mooragh Park have proved to be very popular drawing in large numbers of visitors from outside of the town. **The ideas of the young people of the town were incorporated into the skate park where possible,** taking into account advice received from operators and professional skaters from the UK. **We support the proposal to incorporate a young persons facility (The Shed), into any multi-storey carpark/transport hub development. It is now time for some attention to be paid the needs of the older generation and the leisure survey will give a good indication of their leisure priorities.** The provision and management of such facilities may be best provided by way of a joint venture with departments of Government which have a responsibility in this regard. The most cost effective route should be pursued to ensure best use of public money, whether raised by way or rates or taxation.*

MEDICAL SERVICES

*We are very pleased to note that greater specialist use is being made of the Cottage Hospital for ophthalmic operations and endoscopy. **We would hope to see the provision of a diabetic clinic and the reintroduction of the antenatal clinic to alleviate the need for residents of the North to travel to Douglas.** We continue to believe that Ramsey Cottage Hospital could come under the wing of Nobles and have its own house doctors. In this way it could be used to widen the experience of hospital doctors. This would free the doctors of the Ramsey Group Practice from their responsibilities at the Cottage Hospital, thus allowing them to provide what their patients want-increased availability to their patients.*

PEVERIL PLOT- SWIMMING POOLS

*The Peveril Plot was chosen as the site for the new swimming pool. Under the terms of the agreement that allowed the new swimming pool to be sited there, the town will have the existing swimming pool transferred into its ownership. A Leisure Survey is being conducted by the commission, in conjunction with Manx Sport and Recreation and the Arts Council, to ascertain exactly what facilities are identified as being needed for sporting and leisure activities. This will give valuable information when it comes to deciding the future use or uses of the existing swimming pool site and the vacant areas on the Peveril Plot. We think that it is essential that public money is not wasted on duplicating facilities already in existence or those that are to be provided by other agencies. **We also believe that it is essential that the town extracts the best value from its assets - this does not mean simply monetary value, it must take into account social value also.** The town has no further use for its yard on Old River Road and we continue to be in favour of this being sold for development. This would raise capital to repay outstanding borrowing and provide much needed rate income for the town. It is an ideal site for a corporate headquarters and we hope that it can be used for that purpose, ideally to bring new employment into Ramsey.*

HARBOUR

We continue to support the provision of a water retention scheme / marina within Ramsey harbour.** The failure of the Dean & Dyball scheme appears to have sent out the message that Ramsey did not want investment, something that affects us to this day. **For the avoidance of doubt, the commissioners voted by 8 votes to 4 to continue with this scheme but the vote was lost in Tynwald.** The schemes in Douglas and Peel have both been catalysts for investment in the areas adjacent to the harbours. Since the completion of the scheme in Peel, visits of the sailing fraternity has nearly trebled. Our favoured scheme would involve that part of the harbour basin alongside Old River Road, as envisaged in proposals from the 1970s and 1980s. **However, all option will be subject to public consultation before any decision is made.

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT

We have always tried to work with government departments to effect change, preferring negotiation to confrontation. This can be a very frustrating enterprise with the proposed multi-storey carpark and combined bus and tram station a case in point. Recently meetings between members of the Commission, the Minister for Tourism and Transport and the Chamber of Trade have taken place to map out a way to help to reduce any negative effects of the temporary closure of the M.E.R. northern line, the jewel in its crown.

*We are always willing to lobby Ministers and Department members to effect change when we are not happy with policy. One example was in the sighting of the new schools which will create a campus environment at the start of the next school year, rather than the two separate locations originally envisaged by the Department of Education. **The***

Commission was instrumental in making land available for the siting of the second school - without this land, the area needed for the site would not have been large enough. The campus arrangement will make it much easier for parents to bring children to school and collect them from school. In addition, it will considerably reduce the stress of a child when he is undertaking the transition from junior to senior school. The arrangement means that certain school facilities do not need to be duplicated, thus saving public money.

TOWN CENTRE

*The commission has two representatives on the Ramsey Chamber of Trade. Relations between the two bodies are good and we have worked to try to encourage inward investment. The recent planning approvals given for the East Street /Parliament Street area and on the Mooragh Estate are a breath of fresh air. However, we are extremely disappointed that Douglas has been given priority for monies from the new Regional Development Fund. Ramsey has a much greater need of government investment in its town centre than Douglas and the lack of investment from government in the town needs to be redressed before more businesses are lost to it. **It is essential that we now produce a strategy to revitalise the town centre taking full advantage of any Government initiatives available.** This matter was taken up with the town's MHKs at one of our regular meetings with them*

IN CONCLUSION

*The past twenty one years have seen many challenges and changes. Undoubtedly many more lie ahead and we hope to be able to play a small part in facing them. **Ramsey is an exceptional place to live and whilst we wish for the town to grow and prosper, we intend to work to keep it unique.** We want Ramsey to be a thriving and attractive environment for people to live work and visit. **Standing still is not an option, we can only go forwards or backwards and our enthusiasm for progress remains undiminished.***

We thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet. Please use your votes on April 24th regardless of whether you wish to vote for us or not.

If you require transport to the polling station please callS 15075/496015 or 815768/431256.

Voting Station Ramsey Town Hall

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