

Representation of the People Act 1995 Local Elections Act 1986  
Douglas Borough Council Bye-Election  
Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012  
ATHOL WARD

*Vote for Kevin  
Oliphant-Smith*



*Independently working with others for you, bringing fresh ideas for positive change*

A poll for the election of one Member in Athol Ward will take place on 21st June.

Councillors are sent to the Council to ensure that it is run for your benefit, as residents and ratepayers, and to make sure that its benefit and financing is shared fairly. If elected, I promise to work to get value for money and suitable provision and investment for you and your community. It would be my honour to be your Councillor.

*Who I am*

I have lived most of my life in Douglas and am twenty six. My wife Claire and I recently became parents of our son, Kyle. I work in care, trying to build my own business.

*The role of a Councillor*

The new Council 'Constitution' transformed the traditional committees and strengthened the executive. I prefer democracy to autocracy, and will work to make sure that:

- Council staff, & when necessary government, carry out their duties and provide fairly;
- Intended actions are debated openly by all Councillors with equal voting power; and
- Policies, budgets and decisions are scrutinised.

*My manifesto*

**Fair rates**

We need All-Island rates and to review how local services and utilities are financed generally. Douglas rates are five times those in some rural areas, but people from outside Douglas use it. If Douglas is to take on provision as Government reduces its scope, then this needs to be financed fairly – Douglas ratepayers should not finance national provision.

## **Housing**

The Council should:

- Set fair rents for its tenants, rents which now need to be increased because of expensive building in recent years;
- Devise mechanisms to make affordable housing available for all with mortgages that suit the borrower and not just the bank; and
- Reduce any waste in housing management.

## **Safer and cleaner communities**

- Enhanced Partnership for community policing; and
- Effective bye-law enforcement and encouragement of responsible dog ownership.

## **Regeneration through borrowing**

Regeneration is important. We need vision. But I am sceptical of the cost of the 'regeneration' pavements and lights around the Council buildings & wonder whether the ratepayers can afford to take on loans for the £12.7 million-budget Cambrian Place car-park. Most of Douglas Council's £60 million plus borrowing to date has been for houses, but it was caught out this year by an interest-rate increase & could be caught out in the future as the Council, not the Government, has borrowed all this money.

## **Leisure**

The Council decided to demolish the historic Noble's Park Bowling-Green Clubhouse stating it would cost £250,000 to refurbish. Nobody questioned this huge estimate, nor were the club members involved. This shows what needs to change with the way the Council is run. Now:

- The Bowling Clubhouse – indeed all the buildings & facilities the Council has - should have been maintained and the Council should now repair it;
- The Council should work with this club, and other clubs and groups, going forward; and
- Community activity for younger & older locals should be encouraged.

## **Joined up waste management**

- Reduce the cost by integrating waste management & recycling; and
- More street cleaning outside the town centre.

**Willaston Methodist Church Hall is the only polling station for this election wherever you live in the ward.**

**Voting is between 8.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m.**

**The deadline for absent vote applications was Monday 11th June.**

**No requisition meeting has yet been called and if one was it would be advertised.**

**If you require transport to the poll or any other assistance please ask (phone 303355).**

**Sadly it is impossible to meet everyone during the election campaign, but it will be my honour to serve and please get in touch if you can.**

**Please vote Kevin Oliphant-Smith.**

Published by Kevin Oliphant-Smith, 12 Koinney Avenue, Douglas  
Manifesto will be printed by the Copy Shop, Douglas