



Lynn Sirdefield
A MODERN, FRESH THINKING
CAMPAIGNER OF POSITIVE POLITICS
STANDING IN DOUGLAS NORTH FOR
THE HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL
ELECTION ON SEPTEMBER 22ND 2016

Housing

Through a lack of forward planning and underinvestment we are now faced with an increasing pool of poorly maintained and decaying social housing that now requires a large injection of cash to bring them back up to standard. These homes should not have been allowed to deteriorate to this condition in the first place, a proper maintenance regime in the past would have saved hundreds of thousands now! With your support I would ensure, as your representative, going forward that this is the case.

First time buyers are finding it extremely difficult to enter the housing market. Government should make it more accessible by reducing the 5% deposit which at the moment is around £7,500. A more realistic figure would be around £2,000 and I would support this move.



**IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES
PLEASE CONTACT ME ON:**

HOME: 01624 613315,

EMAIL: LYNN4DOUGLASNORTH@HOTMAIL.COM

FACEBOOK:

LYNN SIRDEFIELD FOR DOUGLAS NORTH.

**Mobile
350500**



**Lynn
SIRDEFIELD**

**House of Keys General Election
Thursday 22 September 2016
DOUGLAS NORTH**

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I am not an established politician from a rich background with years of political training but why should it matter where you come from, how much money you have, or what kind of house you live in. What should matter is the kind of society and community you believe in and how this objective is best achieved. Not everyone has money or influence but what you do have is a vote and you should give your vote to a candidate who is truly representative of your lives, we are stronger together.

As your MHK if you would support me with one of your two votes I promise to seek participation from the community. Your voice will be heard and will make a difference through closer interaction between politicians and the public. Your issues will be better understood through a wider range of the community being represented in the keys. Your opinions will be brought into the heart of Manx Politics to develop a Government truly representative of the people. Your vulnerable relatives will be helped through reductions in austerity rather than increasing costs and they will not be sacrificed for vague long-term goals. Your children will be protected through better care for the entire family and more support outside and inside the education system. Your services will be improved with better integration between departments to save taxpayer's money. That is what I am striving to do and that is why I am standing.

For me one of the most worrying things to come out of the last administration were the "big debates" instigated by Chris Robertshaw and Eddie Teare. In my opinion these were falsely named; a debate requires both sides of a topic to be equally represented. In these "big debates" loaded questions were asked designed to get the answers required by government but, most worrying to me is that the answers obtained in these "big debates" are now being used to form policies using the excuse that it is what the public wanted! This is symptomatic of how the public are treated with contempt, the attitude of government seems very often to be "like it or lump it".

The arrogance shown by some MHK's needs to change. They need to admit they don't have all the answers and be prepared to listen and work with others for the greater good. Bring people together with positive attitudes, stop shouting why things can't be done and

MANX LABOUR PARTY CANDIDATE

Lynn Sirdefield

start looking at how things can be done. People are sick of the old fashioned, underhanded, aggressive way politics are conducted.

The Labour Party was borne out of hope of ordinary people coming together and using their combined voice and commitment to demand a better, fairer society. Standing as a Manx Labour Party candidate alongside others, with Manx Labour Party members in Tynwald gives my constituents and those around the Island as a national politician, the best chance of me carrying out the pledges in my manifesto and those in our policy document which we all played a part in preparing. I will obviously have the freedom to do what is right for those I represent with the backing of the Manx Labour Party.

Whilst canvassing I have heard many of your concerns. The top six are the ones I have highlighted in the following pages, but further details are covered in the Manx Labour Party Policy Document. It can be found on my Facebook page or the Manx Radio website. However, I will be available at any time to discuss any issues you may have concerns over. My contact details are at the back of this manifesto.

Economy

In uncertain times like these, Government should not be spending extravagantly, but it still needs to invest in our infrastructure. An example is the Promenade; we could all see this extravagant proposal was unaffordable but it pressed ahead anyway. As a result the work is yet to start. They are now going back to the original plan, therefore needlessly wasting hundreds of thousands of pounds. Capital projects should be timely, appropriate and in keeping with the people's needs.

There is an over reliance on the Finance Sector, it is vulnerable to the whims of other jurisdictions. To counter this tourism could play a pivotal roll therefore needs further investment. We should re-energise the sports festivals, expand our niche markets by capitalising on our Viking and Celtic heritage for example; expand the Viking festival so it coincides with Tynwald and make July an annual month long Heritage Festival. Looking at the way other localities have expanded their events celebrating their heritage I believe we could be equally as successful.

Health & Social Care

Whilst acknowledging the wonderful work that our Nurses and Doctors do we must not ignore there are major concerns within our Health Service. It needs improved management with full accountability and transparency. It is also essential the NHS remains free at the point of delivery and further privatisations must be resisted unless it can benefit or speed up patient care for those who could not otherwise afford it.

Departments should be working together as best practice and treating the patient as a whole, each with their own personal care budget although this will require increased funding I believe its value to the Island makes it a worthy investment.

After a full-scale review of our Mental Health Services there are still major concerns which have not been adequately addressed. Early intervention regarding Mental Health issues is essential; without early intervention we are stacking up much bigger, costlier problems down the road.

There needs to be better long-term thinking across government.

Older People

The question we should all be asking is "what do we want for our elderly selves?" The key to living a good life in old age is our social relationships with family, friends and neighbours, these help provide a sense of being part of a community. Residential homes should be built with this in mind, not based on cost saving rather than quality of service.

Older people are given an increase with one hand and have it taken away with the other in rent increases, rising fuel costs, tv licenses, passport charges, bus and train fares, parking charges for disabled, service cuts, etc. We should be valuing the contribution older people have made and continue to make to our economy and society. I support the call by the U3A (University of the Third Age) for our government to follow those of Wales and Northern Island to appoint an Older Person's Commissioner who would be an independent voice and champion for older people throughout the Island, someone who would speak out on their behalf.

Pensions

Pensions must be a priority of the next administration as the uncertainty is adversely affecting recruitment and retention, Doctors, Nurses etc; people will not commit to relocating if they are uncertain of their future. The system proposed is not perfect but there is no perfect option that will suit everyone. We must involve people with the correct expertise in these matters and come to a fair arrangement for all.

Those facing retirement in the future will have their old age pension capped at a subsistence level of only £170 per week. Without putting in place an automatic enrolment workplace pension scheme we will end up with more and more pensioners living in poverty, the fact that this has not been included in the proposals is a disgrace.

It was unfair to increase the retirement age by a further 5 years for women born in the 1950s with such a short lead in time; I believe that we should phase in this introduction over a longer period whilst offering those who wish to retire earlier the opportunity to do so but with a reduced pension.

Air and Sea Routes

Living on an island makes the reliability and frequency of air and sea services critical. We need to ensure reliable services for our business community together with improved and better value services for our leisure markets. As we have seen this Summer the open sky's policy has not secured this therefore I believe it should be revisited.

Any future agreement with the Steam Packet must include a greater service including Belfast and Dublin which will help boost our economy re: tourism and could provide a route into the European union post-Brexit.

