

HOUSE OF KEYS ELECTION  
THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2006

PLEASE VOTE FOR

**ADRIAN  
EARNSHAW** **X**



*"Your Independent Candidate"*

**Polling Station: please refer to your Polling Card**

**Stations open 8 am until 8 pm**

***Dear Elector,***

It is with pleasure I again offer myself to serve as one of your Members of the House of Keys for the next five years.

Since being elected in 2001, I have endeavoured to ensure Onchan has responsible **Independent** representation in Tynwald and have had the privilege of assisting many constituents with their concerns. In seeking your support I would pledge, on your behalf, to continue to uphold the best interests of Onchan and the Isle of Man for the future.

***The Candidate.*** I consider myself a straightforward person with time-honoured values. I welcome competition and fair play and support the principle of "freedom of the individual," provided it does not spoil things for others.

I dislike inconsiderate behaviour, excessive "red tape" and wasting resources. I like to keep things simple; I want teachers to teach, nurses to nurse and police officers to police.

I recognise the Island faces competitive challenges and to progress in today's world, change, though sometimes unwelcome, is essential.

This requires accepting responsibilities, making decisions and taking action. It is not in the public interest to constantly oppose and provided I am comfortable with policies and value for money, I support Government.

Further information regarding my political career and background appears on the final page.

***The Economic Scene.*** The Island's economy is strong. Income and reserves are at an all time high and unemployment low, with leading industries, particularly finance, continuing to underpin the services and standard of living we enjoy.

Economic diversification is happening with as many people employed in manufacturing as banking. Good progress is being made in the space industry and film production is a winner, returning significant benefits to the economy.

My first term in Government has seen major successes and improvements of which we can be proud and although some serious problems have arisen, these are being addressed.

The challenge is to take advantage of opportunities and build on achievements whilst carefully ensuring budgets are respected. We must live within our means and guard against the dangers of complacency and runaway expenditure.

**Finance.** The finance industry is our main earner and its contribution to our economy cannot be over-emphasised. It is well regulated and vibrant with our AAA credit rating making us a leading choice for quality business.

A key element has been our taxation strategy that has undergone radical changes in recent years and is now bearing fruit.

Bank deposits that stood at £28bn three years ago have risen to £40bn and continue to grow. Funds under management have increased to £15bn and 7.7m tonnes of shipping are registered on the Isle of Man.

As a member of Treasury, if re-elected, I shall play my part in ensuring the Finance Industry's on-going success.

**Education.** I support the Bemahague Secondary School and am hopeful the building delays are over with the Department likely to seek Tynwald approval to commence work next Spring. The planned opening is 2010 and when complete, the school and its sports facilities will be a fine asset for our community.

Education of our younger children at Ashley Hill and Onchan Primary Schools continues to be delivered to a high standard and I welcome the new pre-school class at Onchan.

I enjoy a good relationship and meet regularly with the Head Teachers. Together we share concerns that both schools, due to their size, age and layout now require major investment and I am working with the Department to address this issue.

Nationally, education is financially well supported and I welcome initiatives to encourage Manx graduates to return to employment in the Isle of Man.

**Health.** In most respects healthcare provision is first class. We have the new hospital at Braddan and its teething problems are being addressed.

Good progress is being achieved with acute illnesses, particularly cancer strategies and I have been pleased to assist the Women's Institute and the Island Cancer Charities in establishing the Call/Recall arrangements for breast cancer.

Significant improvements have also been made in Primary Health, with Onchan residents, among others, now having a fine new GP surgery.

Challenges ahead are to urgently improve unacceptable waiting list times and expand the provision of NHS dental care. This has been a thorny problem and I support the Departments commitment to employ more dentists.

**Law and Order.** I firmly support the Police but have been dismayed by suspensions, inquiries and allegations over the last five years. These have caused considerable reputational damage and robust efforts are needed to restore public confidence.

The fundamental task of the police is to enforce the law and keep good order and whilst we regularly hear crime on the Island is minimal, it remains too high with many incidents unreported.

The Courts and Police, in my opinion, are simply not getting to grips with vandalism and street crime and if laws need strengthening, the enforcement agencies must work with Government to achieve this. A small Island like ours should be virtually crime free; an aim I believe is realistic and achievable.

Locally, I welcome the re-establishment of Onchan Police Station providing an Inspector, a Sergeant and fourteen Constables to police Onchan and surrounding areas.

Since the decision was announced, I meet the Senior Officers bi-monthly to discuss policing matters and am pleased with the way the relationship is developing.

**Residency Control.** The speed of change of our population and pressures on our social infrastructure (health/education/housing etc.) has created a strong public wish to address this issue.

Loopholes in our work permit system are too easy to find and ways must be devised to ensure those who come to work or live here make a positive contribution to the economy.

To achieve this, "point based systems," already operated in some Commonwealth countries can be adopted and linked to our existing legislation.

The opportunity should also be taken to review state benefits for new residents and the re-establishment of police monitoring procedures at our ports of entry.

If re-elected, I shall support appropriate action.

**Housing.** House costs have risen due to increased plot prices and ways need to be found to prevent major developers "drip-feeding" supplies in order to control prices.

Although very little land is available in Onchan, a robust house-building programme has been undertaken elsewhere in the last five years.

Social changes are leading to increased demand for apartments and small homes in town centres located closer to work places and amenities. This has an environmental and social benefit and I support the development of more "brown-field" sites in urban areas to reduce pressures on the countryside.

**MEA and Energy Costs.** Much has been said about the previous MEA regime. At present however, due to potential legal proceedings, further comment is not appropriate, save to say I support the need to fully and impartially investigate the matter.

Since the re-structuring of 2005, major progress has been achieved, helped by staff working in difficult circumstances. During the last financial year the business traded ahead of budget by £4.2M. This is money saved. Headway continues to be made with a realistic expectation that a reduction in prices will be achieved shortly.

We compete in a world market to secure our energy supplies to heat homes and generate electricity. Since 1st January 2000 the price of electricity has risen by 25%, gas by 88% and heating oil 133%. Additional resources have been made available by Government to assist the lower income groups in our society, a policy I support.

**Tourism and Leisure.** Although tourism benefits greatly from the Islands' natural attributes, heritage sites and sports facilities, more needs to be done for visitors **and** residents seeking alternative leisure activities. The Villa Marina and Gaiety are triumphs but greater use must be made of them and serious thought given to the opportunities presented by the Summerland site.

Our main annual event, the TT races, is in good health and we are all filled with pride by the outstanding sporting achievements of our young people on the National and International stage.

**Environment.** Our anthem uses the words "O Gem of God's Earth" which aptly describes the Isle of Man and provides a standard we must keep for future generations. Our next and immediate challenge is playing our part to address "climate change," the consequences of which cannot be ignored.

I support environmental initiatives and believe the much maligned Energy from Waste Plant and Iris **have** helped our environment considerably. We now have 7% of our energy provided free, together with cleaner beaches, coastline and seawater.

**Roads.** Many roads are in a dreadful state with huge sums now needed to bring them up to an acceptable standard.

The Department, in my opinion, struggles to prioritise “bread and butter” maintenance work and wastes resources.

I have opposed several projects and considered the scheme at Windy Corner unnecessary and Brandish Corner excessive. Money saved would have been much better employed elsewhere and I shall continue to press, on your behalf, for better value.

**Agriculture.** The anticipated withdrawal of derogation rights is causing considerable uncertainty and an answer surely lies in greater efforts to encourage “on-island” consumption of local produce. This will bring us environmental benefits and help protect the countryside we enjoy. Local dairy products, bread and root crops are top class and recent changes at the abattoir should improve marketing and help meat sales.

I believe we can do a great deal ourselves to ensure the industry’s future well-being and I support the “buy local” campaign.

**Onchan Issues.** The “Bounty House site” in the centre of our village has been an eye-sore for nearly twenty years and residents have been extremely patient awaiting its re-development. In my opinion their tolerance has been abused and should the owners be unwilling to act, I shall, if re-elected, seek compulsory purchase powers, or re-zoning of the land for open space.

In 2001 the message to me was Onchan had experienced enough **mass development**, a view I shared. I subsequently assisted residents of Birch Hill who, on two separate occasions, in huge numbers, successfully objected to the planning application by Heritage Homes for 135 and then 127 houses at Ballachrink Farm.

The message has not changed and I am comfortable re-stating my position of five years ago.

Locally I enjoy good working relationships with Onchan Commissioners, our Head teachers and the Police. The re-establishment of our Police Station is something I have pressed for and the Senior Officers have helped me achieve pedestrian safety improvements in the Village. I look forward to continuing this relationship as much still needs to be done.

**Finally.** My career in banking has stood me in good stead. Problem solving, decision-making and working with the public have always been part of my adult life.

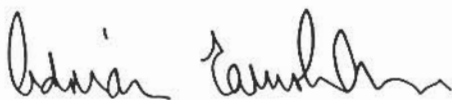
During the last three months I have tried to visit as many of you as possible, an activity I intend to continue until the election. If we have been unable to make contact, or you require transport on Polling Day please telephone me on 628973.

For residents new to Onchan, or those eligible to vote for the first time, my message is **please use your vote**. It is important and a high poll is a positive reflection of the interest residents take in their district.

In this election you can vote for up to three candidates. Your support in placing an **X** against my name will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

*Yours sincerely,*



Some further information regarding my background and political career:- Married to Norma with two daughters. Lived in Onchan all my life. Thirty-three year career in banking with the Isle of Man Bank.

Elected Onchan District Commissioners 1996. Chairman of the Board 2000.

Elected to House of Keys November 2001

2001-2003 Appointed Member of Dept. Health and Social Security.

2001-2003 Appointed Member of Dept. Local Govt. & Environment.

2003— — Appointed Member of Treasury and Deputise for Minister.

Have served on wide range of Tynwald Committees.