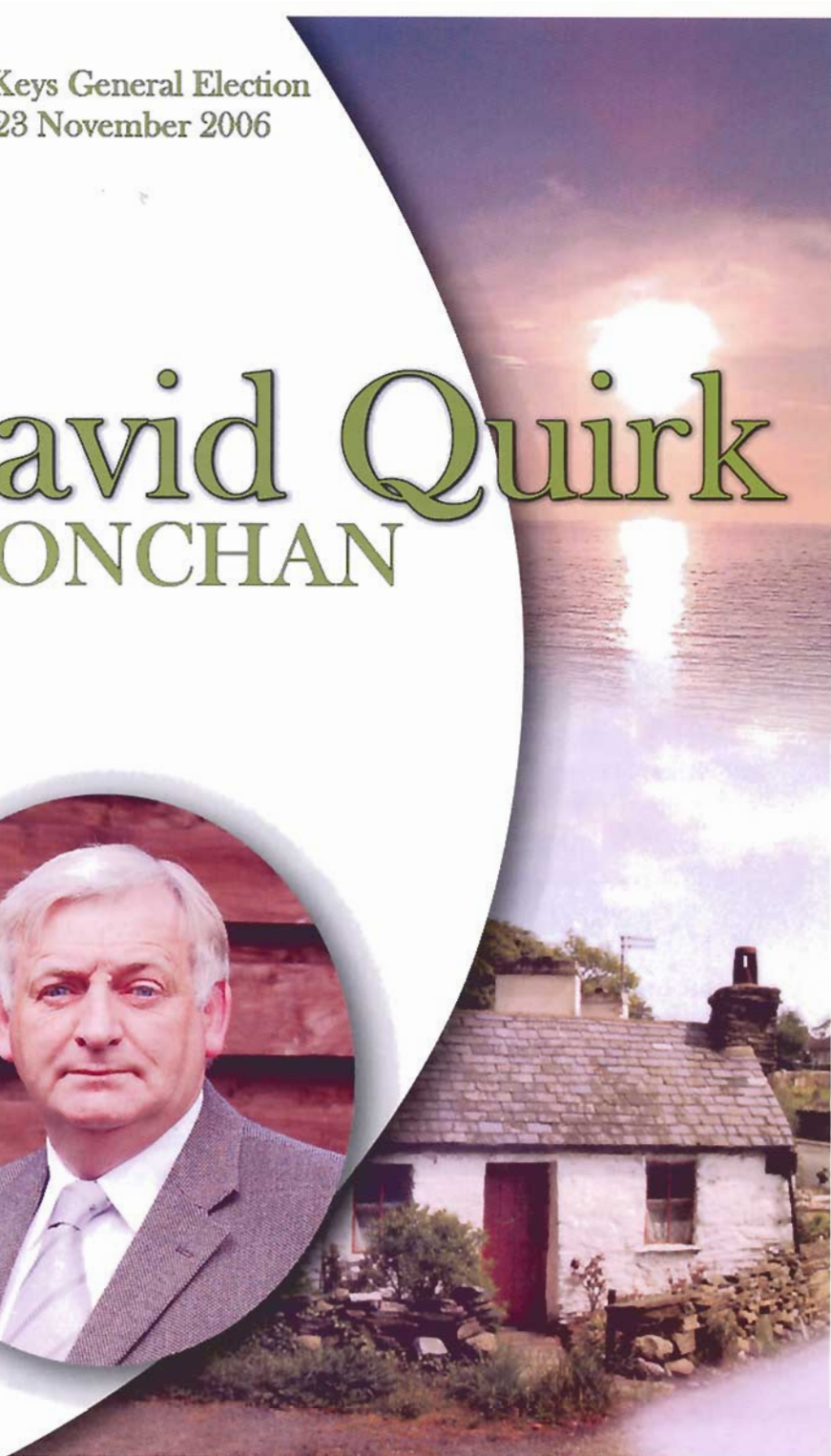


House of Keys General Election  
Thursday 23 November 2006

# David Quirk

for ONCHAN



## Dear Voter

After much consideration I have decided to put my name forward for the forthcoming election for the House of Keys on 23rd November 2006. I will endeavour to meet as many of the electorate as possible in order to discuss my policies, thoughts and ideas.

I would value your support on Election Day and in return I will approach the challenge of Government with enthusiasm and 100% commitment. I feel I am well known by a considerable number of residents in the area but for those who do not, allow me to tell you a little about myself...

I am 53 years old, born and brought up on the Island and have lived in Onchan since my marriage to Elizabeth. We have a daughter Rachel

My role in the local community: -

- Chairman Onchan Pensioners Social Club,
- Chairman of Onchan Silver Band,
- President of Onchan Football Club

Currently I am a member of Onchan District Commissioners, an Authority on which I have served for 16 years. I am an active member on all committees connected with the Authority, as part of my political career I have sat on numerous committees some of which are as follows:

- Richmond Hill Consultative Committee
- Isle of Man Whitley Council
- Joint Local Authority Civic Amenity Committee between Onchan, Braddan and Douglas

I have had the honour and been fortunate enough to have been your representative on a team that has seen Onchan develop over the past few years, being proud to have helped guide your Local Authority along the way.

I have always been outspoken over issues that I have thought threatened the independence of our village and I am sure that the experience I have gained in Local Government will prove invaluable if elected, to the House of Keys.

*David Quirk*

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# Management and Population Growth

**Recent statistics show that the population of the Isle of Man is now nearly 80,000 and increasing.**

The Government's population policy includes a commitment to ensure that the population will not, by virtue of its structure, size and rate of growth, prejudice the quality of life on the Island. This commitment requires a facility which Government can use to limit excessive immigration and the powers to this end have been provided in the Residence Act to which royal assent was granted in 1996. I find it somewhat strange that the act has still not been brought into effect on the Island; I believe that the time is right to enact this legislation.

The Island international identity is continuing to have a high profile largely derived from its continuing economic success and prominence as an international business centre. Immigration should be effected through a residency permit system with eligibility based on -

- FAMILY CONNECTIONS
- HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS
- SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION

The work permit system should remain in being for the purpose of regulating short-term employment that cannot be met locally. The special relationship, which the Isle of Man and other crown dependencies have with the European Union, is to be found in Protocol 3 to the United Kingdoms Act of Accession to the European Community. The Protocol provides for free trade in manufactured goods and agricultural products between the Islands. It continues to be the case that the Council of Ministers regards the terms of Protocol 3 as constituting the most appropriate relationship between the Isle of Man and the EU. I would support this statement.



# Housing

**The Department of Local Government and Environment has a statutory responsibility for the formulation of the housing policy on behalf of the Isle of Man Government.**

The principal objective of the current policy is to ensure that sufficient housing, to the appropriate standards, is made available to meet demand created by the growth in population. The Department is also a functioning housing authority and seeks, along with Local Authorities and other public sector housing providers, to ensure that affordable housing is made available for rent to those in most need on the Island. I support the current policy and objectives.

With reference to Local Authority housing, we should continue with a programme to refurbish our older housing stock to acceptable standards and there should also be funding to adapt housing to facilitate the disabled, with an increased emphasis on assistance to the elderly, infirm and the sick to enable them where possible, to live in the community.

There is growing concern over the shortage of reasonably priced houses and accommodation for many of our young people. A way forward is for Government to acquire land in Onchan. At the moment there are three parcels of land available in Onchan of which the Department is aware. The Department should hand over the land to the Local Authority for the Commissioners to plan a mix of real first time buyers and Local Authority homes.

I am of the opinion that DOLGE should now take the opportunity to release its own housing stock to all Local Authorities throughout the Island and for Local Authorities to take control and respond to their housing needs.

There is a need for more sheltered housing in Onchan this could release both private and Local Authority housing and in turn would increase the number of housing for rent and for sale.

13.5 million pounds was spent refurbishing the House of Keys if this money had been spent on first time buyer homes and sheltered accommodation.

*This would have been value for money!*

## **Industry - a more pro-active approach**

**An increasingly positive and pro-active approach should be adopted in seeking to attract new businesses to the Island.**

Established companies must be assisted to adjust to changes in market forces conditions and the use of modern technology, we should also create support to industry and business because of the higher fuel charges, we can help them to look at ways to bring down costs by using solar heating, Photovoltaic panels for power and possible use of wind turbines and any surplus could then be added to the Island power network. Other areas in which I have concern are;

- Disadvantages, such as transportation costs and the scarcity of skilled labour, must be swiftly addressed.
- An Industrial Development Agency should be established working to a Department of Economic Development, tasked with the attraction of new undertakings and the expansion of existing businesses. Fully qualified persons with a commercial background should staff the Agency.
- An early study should be made of the means to expand smaller enterprises.
- Regional dispersal of industrial and business activity must be an objective. I believe that a major government department should be re-located on part of the old Summerland site with good parking; this would relieve some of the traffic congestion in and around Douglas. This site could also include an ice sports centre and a possible Transport and Motorcycling Visitor Centre.
- The essential link between Education and Vocational Training, with particular reference to the needs of commerce and industry, should be provided through a Vocational Training Council.

It is long over due that other industries should be targeted for the Island's benefit. We cannot, under any circumstances, remain so heavily dependant upon the Financial Sector in future years. This is one sector that could quite easily disappear overnight.

Your Government should be vigilant and vigorously striving to attract new and innovative industries to our shores.

# Environment

**We need to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to seek to secure sustainable development where possible, to dispose of the Island's waste in a safe, environmentally acceptable way.**

We also need to encourage by appropriate means, the minimisation in terms of quantities. Part of this is to encourage and promote the re-use of recyclable materials for example, glass, aluminium, paper, clothes, shoes, construction and demolition waste.

There are over 300 recycling bins already placed on the Island but more would be useful. I hope that this system will regularly be reviewed and where necessary expanded and supplemented to provide an even better system.

I welcome the go ahead for the new Civic Amenity sites around the Island but there is a concern that the Department of Local Government have decided to try and run the Islands waste sites themselves.

The running of these sites should be handled by Local Authorities; the Department of Local Government should act as a regulator and work with Local Authority and Waste Contractors.

**I will not support the introduction of domestic waste charges for our Island's population; there is an extremely high cost for the introduction of this stealth tax.**

Composting material can amount to 1/3 of the main waste; the ideal solution would be separation at source. Construction and demolition waste should be taken to a recycling facility, not to the landfill and allied to this; we should seek to support and encourage pre-segregated recyclable collections by the Local Authorities.

The Island's energy policy should be based on effective conservation including periodical energy audits in main government buildings; this should also be extended into the private sector and the utilisation of the most environmentally friendly energy source capable within an acceptable level of production cost.

I would support the development of a wind turbine farm by the M.E.A. and a start would be their facility designed to produce an output of approximately 10 MW.

This would provide compliance to the Rio and Kyoto conventions to replace energy from fossil fuels with a renewable source. I would also support the introduction of a Clean Air Act - legislation has been approved for this but not introduced.



The people of our Island expect and deserve the same environmental standards as others in Western Europe. An affordable and acceptable standard as defined in European and UK legislation and guidelines. This should include international obligations; a Manx waste strategy should be based on a number of well-founded principles.

- Best available technology...
- Deal with problems close to where they arise...
- Value for money...
- Encouragement of public participation...

The Government has a waste management plan but it is now falling short on its commitment to the people of the Island.

What has happened to the fibre optic link to and from the Island? There is an opportunity to use the power distribution network which runs to every home and business on the Island this could provide a golden opportunity to give the Islands population a second method of communication. These links and fibre cables would be an opportunity to off set the 14% hike in electricity charges to the Islands consumer. Let's use the resources that we have!

## **The Community**

**Members of the Onchan community, along with Onchan AFC and myself, have recently introduced junior football to Onchan. This has allowed a large number of children both boys and girls to participate in an outdoor activity.**

This has come about by working with the community, one would hope that this particular format could be extended to other community based activities we have a perfectly good Youth and Community Centre which in my opinion is under utilised.

We should now take this golden opportunity to take a serious look at what could be achieved at Nivison Stadium and its surrounding areas; in fact we could become the big sister to the NSC.

Working with our communities on the Island means we must regularly consult with them to identify what is important to local people and to provide the kind of services each community needs. We will then be better able to identify offenders and ensure that they are promptly held to account in a way which reduces crime and secures public confidence in the rule of law.

Most importantly, communities should be encouraged to liaise with police and work towards a partnership and for their part; they should provide visible policing with local officers who are known.

## **The Health of our Nation**

The number of elderly persons on the Island has shown a steady increase and adequate facilities must be made available. Many anticipate the prospect of retirement with the fear of family homes being sold to pay for high priced accommodation in private sector nursing homes. Increasing provision should be made for the elderly, including community-based services to enable them to remain in their home environment.

I also feel that the time has come that a nursing home facility should be placed within the area of Onchan. Development of these services should have particular regard to 24 hour nursing care.

I am delighted that the new hospice care unit is finally to be constructed, when finished this will improve the quality of life of people living with life limiting illness and provide support to families and carers.

I also support the general statement for the establishment of comprehensive programmes of health promotion, treatment and care designed to secure improvement in the physical and mental health of the people of the Island. I believe we should promote the provision of a comprehensive programme of benefits to supplement the financial resources of individuals or families where their own circumstances, efforts, or ability to make provision are insufficient to achieve an acceptable standard of living. It is essential to promote, by needs assessment, arrangements for the provision of specialist advice, guidance, assistance and service on such a scale as may be appropriate to the social welfare needs of persons who, by reason of disability, age or other causes, are unable to sustain a reasonable quality of life.

## **Education and Training**

Good education is founded on well-trained teachers and adequately staffed and equipped facilities. This provision must be a priority in the expenditure of public funds. The teaching curriculum has set objectives and provides guidance in the attainment of those standards and must not place a restraint on teacher's individual initiative and flair.

To ensure that the establishment of pre-school education is provided at the Onchan schools and to identify and meet the special educational needs of all school children in mainstream situations wherever possible it was planned by the Department of Education that the new secondary school on the Bemahague site will commence in the year 2005.

It is of great concern that this project has been delayed. This facility needs to be put back on track for the children of Onchan

Encouragement should be given to further links between the College of Further Education and the International Business School to enable students to study for degrees without leaving the Island.

The Isle of Man College should be encouraged to continue as a centre where skills can continue to develop for both industry and construction. Employers in the construction industry receive financial assistance towards the employment of trainees and apprentices; I am concerned to hear that there is a move to withdraw this financial support. If this happens our young people will find it difficult to seek employment.

Retraining must be encouraged and where necessary, funds should be readily available to meet any requirement. A Vocational Training Council should be created to provide a greater interface between education and training and to provide for stronger input from employers.