

Independent Candidate for Rushen

Dear Voter,

In this manifesto I have tried to address the main issues raised with me on the doorstep and have offered some solutions to the problems facing our Island.

Perhaps the greatest and most pressing issue for many people I've met is the need to **balance continued economic prosperity against protecting our quality of life.**

People are concerned that **poorly managed population growth is placing a strain on our communities and the Island's infrastructure.** This is clearly demonstrated by our currently unfair housing market.

If chosen to represent you I pledge to work tirelessly and diligently to solve our Island's problems and to represent your interests to the best of my ability.

I will hold regular political surgeries if elected and will always be available to represent your needs.

I have had the opportunity to speak to many of you already and I expect to have visited every home in the constituency by the 23rd November. If you were out when I called or if you wish to discuss anything you have read in my manifesto please call me on 834844 or 416221 or e-mail me at phil@mooinjerveggy.org.im



For open, effective, full-time representation

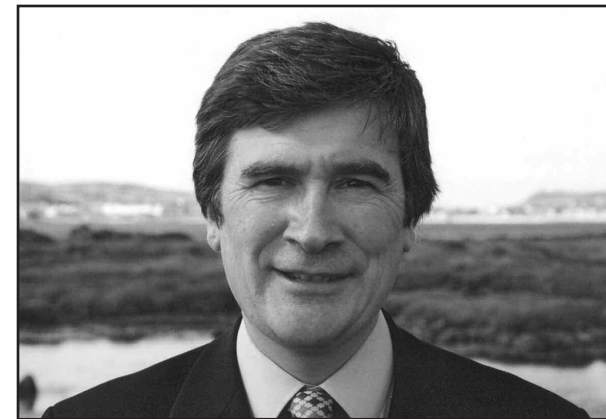
VOTE PHIL GAWNE X

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General Election to the House of Keys
Thursday 23rd November 2006

For a Better, Manx Future

VOTE PHIL GAWNE X



**Open and Effective Government
Strong and Diverse Economy
Affordable Housing
Environmental Sustainability
Robust Management of Population Growth
Fairer Society**

Manifesto

**If you require transport to the polling station
please contact me on 834844 or 416221
or e-mail phil@mooinjerveggy.org.im**

Open and Effective Government

Making Politics Work

As your MHK I have always tried to work with other politicians to make politics work for you but **never held back from tackling controversial issues for the sake of an easy time.**

As a Minister I have been in a **far stronger position to represent you** and influence debate in our political powerhouse, the Council of Ministers. **There is more to politics than making a lot of noise.**

Honest Communication, Open Government

I have been at the forefront of those working for a more open and accountable system of Government. I'm pleased that Tynwald backed my call for Freedom of Information legislation. The lack of openness and accountability in our current system is undermining public confidence in politics. **Working for a more open Government is a high priority for me.**

Legislative Council - I will continue to support any legislation which results in a directly elected Legislative Council.

Real Consultation

It is important for politicians to engage in a real and meaningful way with their people. **If elected I will continue to encourage Government to listen to, and take notice of what people say so that politics better delivers what people want.**

Value for Money

I will continue to support enhanced scrutiny of Government as **lack of effective scrutiny by Tynwald has allowed Government to squander your money!** As your MHK I have worked to bring a more realistic approach to Government spending and in my first year as **DAFF Minister I succeeded in cutting bureaucracy and increasing income.**

We must ensure that we are generating enough money to pay for our long-term spending commitments and turn back the smothering tide of excessive administration. Government can and must deliver services more efficiently and effectively.

Key Issues Raised on the Doorstep

Robust Management of Population Growth

Excessive, poorly planned population growth is contributing to many of our current problems in the Isle of Man. **The people of Rushen are delivering a clear message - Government must take control of this problem!**

As your MHK I have consistently called for and supported measures to limit population growth and, if elected, will continue to do so. I was pleased to support Government's recent economic strategy which has a clear aim of achieving **future economic growth without a significant increase in population.**

Our work permit system if tightened up and more robustly enforced, provides us with a **clear mechanism to manage immigration.** I am dismayed and angered by the complacency displayed by those charged with ensuring the system is effective and will do all I can to instil in them a more responsible approach.

Affordable Housing

Our young people need affordable housing. Government must continue to discourage large scale 'buy to rent' investment, **control the monopoly interests of developers and excesses of property speculators, and bring fairness to the housing market.**

I received support in the House of Keys for a **private member's bill to give Government more power to regulate housing development and control the use of development land** - if elected I will bring this bill forward early in the new session.

Quality and Fairness

If elected I will continue to promote and support appropriate measures to encourage higher standards from developers and delivery of more affordable, energy efficient housing of which our communities can be proud.

I fully support Government's first-time buyer and public sector house building programme. We must double our efforts to ensure the target of at least 120 new homes each year is met.

A Strong and Diverse Economy

It is vital that Government does not lose sight of the **importance of maintaining a strong, sustainable and diverse economy**. I support Government's innovative and dynamic response to adverse international interest in our finance sector and believe our recent companies legislation will keep us ahead of our competitors. **We must maintain this spirited and creative approach** while being careful not to negotiate away our competitive edge in a bid to satisfy international pressure.

Economic Diversity

The economic contribution of financial services still dwarfs all other economic sectors and I am committed to ensuring its continued success. **I also support efforts of the DTI to encourage economic diversification** and applaud moves to further develop manufacturing, ship and aircraft management, e-commerce and the film and media sectors.

Support for Traditional Industries

It is essential that we retain a viable food production industry. If elected I will continue to help farmers and fishermen develop profitable, sustainable, environmentally-friendly businesses.

Dynamic International Profile

I support our evolving constitutional position where the Isle of Man is increasingly represented internationally by our own politicians and officials. Our relationship with the UK remains beneficial to us but politically we are at odds on many issues - tax, Sellafield, agriculture, etc. **We must continue to assess our external relationships** to see if better deals can be struck.

Positive National Identity

Many people have told me that despite their concerns, the Isle of Man remains a wonderful place to live. I will do all I can to promote the positive aspects of living in the Island and **protect and support all the things that make it good to be Manx**.

It is clearly desirable to maintain strong economic growth but we should not ignore the social, cultural and environmental costs of such growth. A better balance between these conflicting issues must be found so that the **Manx way of life is better protected**.

Environmental Sustainability

Climate Change

This is potentially the greatest threat to our Island and yet one to which we are only just waking up. **I will support legislation which sets targets for Island wide cuts in carbon emissions**. I will also actively promote measures to improve energy efficiency, promote renewable energy technology and develop strategies to minimise climate change.

Sustainable Development

Tynwald supported my call for Government to pursue **sustainable, environmentally-friendly policies**. I support cheaper, more frequent and comfortable bus and train services to encourage people to use public transport, easing congestion and **cutting the need for lavish road 'improvement' projects**.

Redefined Role for Local Authorities

I have supported moves to redefine the purpose and operation of local authorities. I feel we should strengthen their role in providing community facilities, particularly for young people and they should play a key role in overseeing delivery of local services by central Government. **Decision making, wherever possible, should be at a local level for local services**.

Support for Local Shops and Businesses

It is important that we retain a wide range of employment opportunities in Rushen to **keep our communities alive**. At present our small shops and businesses find it difficult to compete economically with larger enterprises based in Douglas.

If elected, I will try to establish a partnership between local community groups, businesses and politicians which would play a key role in drawing up and **implementing plans for the regeneration of our communities**. I have been, and will continue to work with the Council of Ministers on identifying how we can develop economically vibrant communities out of Douglas.

Ballabeg Needs its Shop Back

Free market economics rarely takes account of the social cost of undermining local communities and the environmental costs of pollution and congestion caused by car travel.

Important Local Issues

Southern Health Centre and Southlands

The new health centre, 24 hour ambulance service and Southlands provide excellent, high quality facilities for the south. Unfortunately, despite a waiting list for Southlands the facility is still only partially opened. **Your 3 MHKs have been working closely together to ensure that Southlands is fully opened as soon as possible.**

24 Hour Emergency Cover

The services offered by the Manx Emergency Doctor Service, 24 hour ambulance cover and the paramedic first responder service are welcome. However, **I am concerned that the new southern service may be reduced so that greater services can be offered in the north and will ensure we retain our fair share in the south.**

Marine Institute at Port Erin Marine Lab

I have been progressing plans for a new marine institute in Port Erin. Initially this would see fisheries officers moving from prime locations in the heart of Douglas to less expensive office space in Port Erin. **I will do all I can to ensure these plans are implemented creating an important new facility in Port Erin and increasing spending in the local economy.**

Proposed New Marina for Port St Mary

I am in favour of revitalising the Port in a way which is sensitive to the needs of the community. However, **DoT must provide more convincing arguments to the people on the economic, social and environmental impact of a marina before progress can be made.** A smaller, safer design may be more acceptable.

Recreational Facilities at Ballakilly

An ideal site for the development of sporting and recreational facilities has been identified at Ballakilly on the outskirts of Port Erin. Productive discussions have taken place between the land owner, Commissioners and MHKs, however, the planning status of the site must be resolved before further progress can be made. We must do better for our young people!

A Fairer and Safer Society

Support for the Elderly - I will support the introduction of winter heating payments for people on low and moderate incomes. I will work for a 1% point increase in NI contributions to pay for care for the elderly so that people won't be forced to sell their homes to pay for their care. I will pursue the introduction of a rate rebate system for single pensioners.

Responsible Pension Provision - People's life expectancy is higher each year so pensions are becoming increasingly difficult to fund. However, we owe a great deal to our senior citizens and they deserve a better deal and a fairer pension system. To achieve this, **bold action is needed by Government to increase the state pension age and contributions for new entrants and to reduce the civil service pension liability.**

Education - We have a high quality education system in the Island of which we can all be proud. **If elected I will press for more accessible, high-quality vocational training and retention of our generous grant system so that all in society can benefit from higher education.**

UN Target on Overseas Aid - I will continue to call for Government to show its maturity by meeting this international target.

Social Justice - I will continue to work for equality of opportunity for men and women, more support for people from disadvantaged backgrounds and a meaningful minimum wage.

Waste Disposal - I support the principles of recycling, reusing and reducing the amount of rubbish we produce. People and businesses should take responsibility for the rubbish they create and pay more if they produce more.

High Travel Costs - We must address the high cost of travelling to and from the Island if tourism is to remain viable.

Stronger Police Service for Safer Communities - One of the most reassuring aspects of living in the Isle of Man is the relative safety of our communities. **An improved allocation of police officers is needed**, however, if we are to control the growing level of anti-social behaviour and the ever-present threat of drugs.

Reducing Excessive Speed - I will work to ensure that **more pedestrian crossings, rumble strips and traffic-calming measures** are introduced to reduce speeding in our villages.