

TIM CROOKALL

**House
of Keys
General
Election**

Thursday 23rd
November 2006



Manifesto

CROOKALL X

for PEEL

**Telephone 842686 or 497782
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PEEL

'The place to be'

Make sure you have your say.

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME
TO USE YOUR VOTE . . .**

VOTE

CROOKALL 

for PEEL

Dear Voter

I have put my name forward for the forth coming election on the 23rd of November and I shall be standing as an Independent candidate.

I have been married to Carol for twenty years and we have four children, Ben, Joe, Max and Breeshey. I am a postman in the town and Carol and I also run self-catering apartments.

For the past sixteen years it has been my honour to serve you on the Board of Peel Town Commissioners. During that time I have served on all the associated Committees. I have twice had the privilege of being Chairman of the Board. I have been on the Western Swimming Pool Committee for twelve years and the chairman for the past two. I have become a trustee on the newly formed Peel Youth Project which is intended to provide a new facility for the older youths of the Town. Peel Heritage Trust asked me to stay on that Committee after I was due to stand down because I take a keen interest in local heritage. I am a member of the Peel Lifeboat Crew and have been since 1987.

During the past sixteen years I have taken a great interest in what has been going on in Peel and around the Island and it is because of this that I have decided to stand at the election. We all deserve to be treated fairly, equally and justly and this is not always happening. Whether it is as individuals or as a Town we are all entitled to equal treatment.

During the course of the Election I will be trying to call round to see as many of you as possible. Due to time restraints it will not be possible to see you all so please accept my apologies if I do miss you. If you would like me to call round please contact me as soon as possible on the numbers above so I can arrange to see you.

It has been said that 'the west is always the last place to be considered', this should not be the case. If it is, then it is time someone tried to do something about it. **Peel is a great place to be and live. Those that are voted in to represent Peel should work together for the good and betterment of the Town.**

Housing

This has become a very emotive subject lately.

Peel has had about four hundred new properties over the past few years and we are likely to get about another seven hundred units. Whilst I accept that we must have our 'fair' share of housing and that the Town will grow it is how this is allowed to happen that worries me and a lot of other people. I did object to the planning application for the 455 units opposite the Ballawattleworth Estate. I think this is over intensive use of the land and it will be the first and last impression people will get on entering and leaving Peel. There are also many 'side effects' due to the amount of properties, extra pressure on the Doctors Surgery, schools, the roads, the Police and the sewerage system to name just a few.

Extra Local Authority housing is always in demand and never more so than now.

With prices still far too high for a lot of first time buyers in the market and renting private accommodation also expensive many people are struggling. Over the past few years some of Peel Town Commissioners housing stock has been refurbished or renewed but we have only seen two new houses. I think this totally inadequate and will push for some one and two bedroomed units as soon as possible.

Employment and Business

Ten years ago I said that Peel was desperate for public and private investment to bring employment into the town.

There has been very little change since that time! The Commissioners have been trying for the past three years to remedy this but keep coming up against obstacles. What happened to the 'Can Do' attitude? **We need to be able to offer some of the new residents work in Peel so not everyone has to leave the town everyday.** If people are working in the town they will spend in the town. I find it absolutely outrageous that an industrial site such as the old Barfords warehouse and the building opposite on the Ramsey Road can be left empty for so long. If the owners will not use or sell the property then Government should compulsory purchase it. Why do we have to put up with using green field sites when there are other options available?

Fishing

Fishing still plays a very important part in the daily life of Peel and hopefully will keep doing so for a long time to come.

I will fight to make sure that the fishing industry is protected as best as possible ensuring jobs for the future both on the sea and on the land.

Unfortunately the days of 'If fishing thrives, Peel thrives' has long gone!!

I.R.I.S.

We have now been told that there will be a review of the Master plan concerning Peel and the North.

It now looks as if we might end up with our own treatment plant. If common-sense had prevailed at the outset of the scheme we would no longer be pumping raw sewage out behind our breakwater. But now we are destined to keep doing that for the foreseeable future. This is totally unacceptable and should be remedied as soon as possible. Just take a walk along Peel foreshore after an inshore wind and see what you find!

Transport and Highways

Peel is long overdue for a review of the traffic routes through the town. I have continually asked the Department of Transport to sort out the area around Douglas Street and West View. It is totally irresponsible to keep putting articulated wagons down a road where they will not fit when cars are parked legally on both sides of the road. Why should anybody have to put up with these conditions? There are far too many H.G.V.'s going through the busy streets of Peel. The Commissioners have been and still are in discussion with the Dept. of Transport to try and resolve this problem. We have been told for years that there will be a road connecting the Ramsey Road to at least Poortown Road and maybe the Douglas Road. In view of the continued expansion of the estates in the area the sooner this is done the better.

It would not be feasible to put the railway back as it used to be from Peel to Douglas to help ease the traffic congestion and parking problems. But it might be possible to build a modern mono-rail like the one designed by a Peel resident. When he wrote to the sitting members of Tynwald at the beginning of the year informing them of his design, only one, from Onchan, replied to him. How are we ever going to solve our problems if people won't communicate with each other. **The answers to all our problems don't have to come from away! We have some very clever residents here on the Island.**

If Peel is to progress and we want to sort out our problems we need to work together as a team, communicate more and act on decisions.

Health and Pensions

A new Health Centre, adequately staffed in the near future must be one of the priorities for Peel. With an increasing population, surgery

appointments must not be allowed to get any longer. I will fight to make sure that there are funds available to make sure staffing requirements are met. We are all entitled to a certain standard when it comes to 'Quality of Life'. The rest of the Island has had investment to give better health services facilities why haven't we? The new dental practice is very welcome to the Town to save people having to travel all over the Island for treatment.

I firmly believe and will support the proposal that all nursing home and residential care should be paid for through the DHSS.

I want to see an end to having to sell your house to pay for your own care when there are others who would be cared for by the State. There is a planning application in at the moment for a new fifty bedroom nursing home in Peel and I am supporting this.

Pensions always seem to come to the surface at this time of the political calendar and quite rightly so. Whilst I believe that pensioners are generally well looked after I think that the Manx Pension Supplement should be payable to anyone who has attained the age and been resident on the Island for ten years. After ten years why should people still be disadvantaged with our higher cost of living? And let's face it; most pensioners are an asset to society one way or another.

Law and Order

The recent revelation of a 20% rise in crime figures just goes to show that we are still a long way from getting on top in the fight against crime. Government must make sure that the Police have adequate funding to make sure they can do the job that we expect of them and to make the Island a safer place to live. If we need more specialist Police Officers to deal with the increasing drink/drug problems then the finance must be found to pay for this. The Island needs to tackle these problems head on and offenders need to know the courts are going to issue severe penalties that fit the crime and that will act as a deterrent. Prevention is always better than detection.

Education

Peel is very fortunate to be served by some excellent pre-school facilities. The investment in Peel Clothworkers and the QE II High School is very welcome and will enhance the amenities for the staff and pupils. We should be very proud that year after year our schools Island wide, turn out excellent exam results. **It is important that all pupils are given the opportunity to further their education, whether it is at the college in Douglas, university or to do tradesman's apprenticeship.** The closure of the Manx Multi Media Centre in Peel was a great loss to those wanting to work in the filming industry.

Governmental Reform

Local Authority reformation has been talked about and looked at for well over fifty years.

I agree that there are too many Local Authorities and something needs to be done. It's time Tynwald members had the courage of their conviction and acted. Stop wasting the people's time and money. During the last five years Government looked at reform again and tried to come up with new ideas. They spent a lot of time and money to no avail. I firmly believe that the whole of Tynwald Court should be answerable to the people of the Island; therefore all members, **M.H.K.'s and members of the Legislative Council should be voted in at General Election time.** Then we would not have the situation where Ministers of Tynwald have never been elected by the people or are not answerable at the next election.

The recent Independent Committee set up to look into Government and its public services is to be welcomed and examined as soon as possible when the new House of Keys begins. As the Government is the Island's largest employer, we need to make sure that we are getting proper value for money from our services. That said, it does not mean that we have to privatise our services to make them better. **Indeed it should be remembered that the Isle of Man Government is a service provider first and foremost.**

Economy and Finance

Whilst the Islands economy is good we must not get complacent or forget that there is a lot that goes on beside the finance sector that needs attention.

Other businesses should be benefiting as a result of our prosperity. We need to make sure that we have a large diversification for the future generations and not just the next one! **To make sure that the good reputation of the finance sector continues we must make sure that regulations are adhered to and enforced.**

CROOKALLX

for PEEL

Summary

Yes we might have had twenty two years successive growth in our economy but we are still making fundamental mistakes and no one is ever to blame. Mount Murray, the MEA, Crime is up by 20%, but there is a reason for that! We nearly had to close wards at the Hospital due to lack of funding. Whose fault was that? There is always an excuse but no one is to blame!

I, like every other candidate standing Island wide, want to see honesty, accountability, transparency, responsibility and making sure we get value for money for the people of the Isle of Man and I would do my best to attain these things.

Why does it take so long to get things done? Why do we have so many obstacles put in the way before we can get a decision made? The present Treasury Minister commented recently about the 'slowness in which Government wheels turn' and that 'Government is getting so choked up with red tape that it is affecting our efficiency in most things that we are doing'. Time is money and the cost is usually down to you and me! Sometimes the answer to the problem is easier than it seems, but we can't have that! Sometimes we should let commonsense prevail. Proper communication and education would go a long way to sorting out some of our problems. People need to know what is going on.

We need to make sure that we keep our individuality and Manxness. We used to be a very caring and thoughtful Island, but it seems to be changing. I want to try to help provide a quality of life that we should all be able to expect and enjoy.

If elected, the promise that I make, is to give you, Peel and the Isle of Man 100% dedication and effort as I have done in the Commissioners for the past 16 years. Peel is a great place to live and if it is to progress and flourish in the future, our M.H.K. and the Commissioners have got to work together for the good and betterment of the Town. Peel is more important than any one of us.

If you have any questions for me you can contact me on the phone numbers stated on the front of this manifesto. If you require a lift to the polling station on Election Day or would like to arrange absent, sick or proxy votes then please contact me as soon as possible so I can arrange it for you. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Take care.

Yours sincerely,



I will be holding a Public Meeting on Tuesday 21st November at 7.00 p.m. at the Philip Christian Centre.