

I'm Alex Allinson and I've put my name in the hat to become a Commissioner for North Ramsey.

I've been called a "come-over" in the past and actually quite like the label! My wife, two kids and I moved over from London six years ago, and have never looked back. We love the Island, and still feel Ramsey is one of the friendliest places we've ever lived. Our kids are thriving here, and we've made it our home.

Through my work as a local GP, and my wife's involvement with the schools and Young Peoples Project we've met some great people here and made some great friends.

You get out of a home what you put into it. I'm involved with the Albert Road School Association, the Ramsey Rowing Club and when the sea is calm, am Medical Officer for the local Life Boat. For the last three years I have also represented the GPs on the Island and have regular meetings with the DHSS to sort out how we can have a world-class health service for the people of Mann.

Local elections normally get a poor turnout, and in many areas this time they haven't even had enough candidates coming forward. Unlike Bride, Peel, Port Erin and Port St Mary it seems that people in Ramsey are passionate about their town and want to get involved in making it better.

So what do I stand for and why should I be worthy of your vote?

I believe we should have sensible rates and realistic rents so that everyone can contribute to the running of the town.

I'd like the Commissioners to consult with local people more about what they need and want for the town.

A classic example is the new swimming pool. We have a brilliant swimming club with Olympic class swimmers, but nobody bothered to ask them what they needed. The new pool may look nice, but doesn't have starting blocks or a diving board. We could have had an Olympic sized pool, invited other clubs to compete in the North and really cherished our young sporting talent. Instead we'll have an oversized paddling pool, and just because some unelected quango couldn't be bothered to talk to the people who matter...the people of Ramsey.

I'd like a modern Marina, but lets ask the Yacht Club, fishermen and Boat owners where the best place for the entrance is. Lets get the pier reopened so that people can walk along it and fish from the end, but I'd never let Ramsey residents get into debt over something that should have been paid for by Central Government years ago. Lets talk to the football, badminton, tennis and squash clubs and build a proper sports centre on the old swimming pool site. Lets offer derelict land for the development of a cinema so the youth of Ramsey have somewhere to go at the weekend. Lets not ruin the town centre with an ugly concrete multi-storey car park. We need more disabled spaces along Parliament street for the elderly, and more clearly marked spaces along the quayside so that the rest can park their cars and walk.

We're lucky to have some great commissioners and wonderful MHKs like Anne Craine and Allan Bell who try to put Ramsey first. Lets shop local and

reduce business rates for the first year so that new shops can open along our main streets. Lets recognise that we have schools, hospital and a youth that we should be proud of.

I'm incredibly optimistic about Ramsey's future, and want to be your representative in shaping it. I'd like your vote, but whoever you want to vote for please use your ballot on April 24th and show you care too.

