

Election of 7 Members to Onchan District Commissioners
2008 to 2012



KEITH WATTERSON

Dear Voter,

My name is Keith Watterson and I have been pleased to serve the people of Onchan since 1991 as a Commissioner and I sincerely hope that once again you will favour me with a vote at the forthcoming Onchan District Commissioners election on **Thursday 24th April 2008 from 8:00am to 8:00pm at the Youth & Community Centre, School Road.**

I am 55 years of age and have been married to Marion for 27 years. My birthplace was the south of the Island at Colby and Marion was from Onchan and that is where we made our home, firstly at Second Avenue and then at Abbeylands.

We have two sons, Paul and Jamie who attended Onchan Primary School, St Ninians High School and are now working locally. Much of our youth was spent as members of the Young Farmers Clubs where Marion and I had a good grounding for the future, Paul & Jamie have also enjoyed the same culture and friendship.

I am Chairman of “The Friends of Onchan’s Heritage”, a group who promote our past memories of Onchan; Vice Chairman of “The Road Transport Licensing Committee”, a committee appointed by Tynwald to regulate public transport. My career for 28 years has been with Manx Telecom where I am a Health, Safety & Environmental Officer.

Marion has been a full time mother and housewife and is President of Onchan Jubilee WI, a Sunday School teacher and Steward at Abbeylands Methodist Chapel and assists me in looking after the Chapel and grounds.

The position of an Onchan Commissioner is a part-time unpaid function and can involve attendance at two to three meetings or events per week. At Onchan District Commissioners the majority of meetings are in the evening and you are most welcome to attend the public meetings of the Authority. Please telephone the office on 675564 or visit the website www.onchan.co.im for dates and much more information about Onchan.

Rates; The Commissioners have over the years provided buildings and facilities for present and future generations with the monies borrowed repaid over a period of time. Enhanced services now provided are additional costs on the rates; services such as litter control, dog warden, abandoned vehicles, (Community Warden), pavement sweeper, extended playgrounds & associated inspections, more open spaces, 'Kenyon's Café' drop-in centre and extra library facilities are some examples. From feedback I have received these services are very important. I will continue to strive and maintain a clean and tidy environment for Onchan, a local community that is a pleasure to work and live in. The Onchan rate is 262p in the pound, one of the cheaper Island rates for a fully functioning local authority when compared to others. It is also my view that as the village becomes busier we should provide better playgrounds and recreational facilities for all. Such facilities are not cheap, a playground roundabout costing £8,000 to install for example.

I would encourage the new Board to focus even more closely on costs and services, plan for the future and work together to sustain a healthy vibrant community. A commonsense approach is a must, coupled with good team work.

Staffing levels should be monitored and contractors engaged where applicable and economical, I shall be endeavouring to strike the right balance here.

Services provided by the Commissioners is sometimes confusing.

The following are funded by rates:- Public information & advice, Refuse collection, Street lighting, Public conveniences, Parks, Open spaces, Playgrounds, Leisure facilities, Car parks, Planning, Library, Litter, Abandoned vehicles.

However, the following are funded by Central Government but administered by the commissioners:- Environmental health, Public sector housing & sheltered housing, Sewerage, Street cleaning.

Recycling of waste is presently operated and funded by Government but this may change to a rate cost in the future, we must all try to play our part to Reduce, Re-use & Recycle before the charges escalate with the introduction of kerbside collections, or a reduced refuse collection service, i.e. fortnightly collection to off-set the costs could be a possibility!

Commissioners Housing, Onchan Park, Roads, Policing, Shops and Countryside are all areas that concern me, I will do my utmost to ensure that standards are maintained or improved.

It is difficult to visit nearly 4,000 homes before the election and there are many other issues I have not covered, please contact me on **661078** or email **keithw@manx.net** if you require more information or transport to vote. **Please use one of your votes for me**, a vote for a reasonable and commonsense approach for the future of Onchan, for its people of all ages and abilities. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Keith Watterson