

BRIAN STOWELL



Dear Voter

I am Brian Stowell and I have lived with my wife Tina (a school teacher) in 25 King Edward Park for almost 30 years. Our 11-year-old son Luke attends Ashley Hill School and my eldest boy Aaron lives and works in London in the Banking Industry.

I have operated in the private sector throughout my working life, much of the time in self-employment. I have also held many responsible and challenging positions including: Managing Director of Tods Ltd, District Manager, Hire Shops IOM and Ireland, and Site Manager for the development of Mt Murray. Currently I own and operate the Glenville Farm and Livery Yard on Scollag Road in addition to my building and other activities.

I have held office as a Commissioner for the last four years, during which time I have served on the Rural Committee, the Housing Committee and the Policy and Finance Committee. I have been chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee and I am currently Chairman of the Works and Cleansing Committee. It has always been my aim to reduce waste and increase productivity for the benefit of the ratepayers.

9% Rate Rise

This rise was as obvious as it was inevitable. I had been pointing out the situation to my associates for some time and after I tabled a series of written questions I was invited to explain my concerns on air by Manx Radio. That

broadcast went out about a year ago and I am deeply disappointed that my warnings were not taken seriously. Even now, former and serving Commissioners alike, do not seem to have grasped the concept of what you buy must be paid for. The only way to reduce the Rate is to reduce spending, that is a basic fact that any sensible person will regard as a given. Also, it must be understood that capital projects have financial implications for many years, for example, a portion of the Rate levied this year is to pay for work done in Onchan Park in 1982.

My More Notable Achievements

In November 05 I tabled a Motion and convinced Board Members to vote for holding all planning debates and making all recommendations in public.

In April 06 I tabled a Motion and convinced my fellow Members to vote for reducing the Board to seven to enhance efficiency whilst preparing the path to Local Government Reform.

In April 06 I tabled a Motion and convinced Members to vote for merging the Rural and Urban wards to give the rural residents equal representation following the Rural Committee's decision to equalise the Rates.

My Less Successful Endeavours

I failed to convince my fellow Board Members to vote against spending over £100,000 on new toilets at Port Jack.

I failed to convince my fellow Board Members to vote against spending over £550,000 on the Pennington Hall workshop.

I failed to convince my fellow Board Members to vote against spending over £20,000 on the provision of laptop computers for members.

I failed to convince Board Members to vote against spending over £70,000 renovating Port Jack Glen.

I failed to convince my fellow Board Members to vote against employing a Community Warden who adds about 5p to the Rate every year.

And I failed to convince my fellow Board Members to vote against paying themselves expenses.

In March 07 my Motion to invite talks with Braddan Commissioners with a view to sharing resources failed to gain support, as did an earlier Motion to share the senior position of Clerk to the Authority with them.

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A Commissioner's term of Office is four years, however it is common practice to capitalise projects well beyond that period. Since I joined the Board in 2004 I have noticed a tendency to look at each years budget in isolation without considering the consequences of decisions into the future years. I have always and I will always advocate a plan that takes into account all our decisions and commitments and looks at the implications well into the future. You may have heard about the "four-year plan", but that is only the first step. We need to formulate a plan that is dynamic and adapts to external financial volatility if we are to stabilise the rate to inflation in the long term.

With regard to recycling, I fully support any initiative that will have a true benefit to the environment or saves any of the planet's finite resources. We have a duty to do our utmost in this area. Sadly, I have witnessed many well meaning but ill-conceived schemes that have been driven by populist politics and whilst they might appear beneficial, they have only squandered both money and resources. Recycling is a fashionable subject but we must evaluate ALL the implications. Whilst it is very nice to claim we have collected a ton for recycling, it is of little true benefit if we burned a ton of oil to collect it. All Politicians must follow a path that is better for the planet and not what is best for their re-election prospects.

Onchan has to look to a more radical approach to traffic management and plan for the time when the car is not the first means of transport. We must encourage Central Government to provide better and more frequent forms of public transport that tempt people to make use of them.

I have always been a hardliner regarding Law and Order. As I have stated before, "If we, an Island, can not tackle the issues then there is little hope for the big cities of the world, let us be an example to them".

Obviously I cannot outline all of my policies and views on one sheet of paper but if you would like to discuss any matters with me please feel free to email me at stowell@manx.net or phone me on 625276 or my mobile 451357.

HOW TO VOTE

In this election you can vote for a maximum of seven out of the twelve candidates, but you do not have to vote for seven. If you wish you may vote for as few as one Candidate. At the Community Centre, on polling day, you will be given a ballot paper that you can take into a private booth. On that paper there will be twelve names with a box alongside each of them. You put an X in the box or boxes next to the candidates that you want to vote for and then you place your paper into the Ballot Box. Nobody will ever know whom you voted for unless you tell them.



Please Vote For

**BRIAN
STOWELL**

The Sensible Choice