

Derek Crellin



ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ELECTION
Thursday 24 April 2008
8am - 8pm
 Onchan Youth and Community Centre

Dear Elector

Having served for eight years as one of your Commissioners, a period I have enjoyed very much, I wish to offer myself as a candidate for the forthcoming election to be held on Thursday 24th April.

I was raised in Sea View Road and have been married for 32 years to my Manx born wife, Barbara. We have lived throughout our married life on the Ballachurry Estate where we brought up our, now adult children, Alyson and Ean. My Onchan family history goes back over 100 years to my grandparents who resided in Queens Road. I was educated at Onchan Primary and Douglas High Schools. My leisure interests consist of gardening, cycling, walking and collecting memorabilia. I retired from the Isle of Man Constabulary after completing over 30 years Police service. During my career I served as both Constable and Sergeant in Onchan. Law and Order is an aspect of community life which is important to all of us and a little more on this subject appears later.

My experience with Onchan Commissioners is extensive and culminated in my appointment as Chairman of the Board in the year 2006/07.

As my working life and experience suggests, I have been part of a team working and serving the public in roles I have enjoyed. I believe Onchan is a good place to live and with your support I would like to continue as one of your Commissioners

Yours Sincerely

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REMEMBER A VOTE FOR
DEREK CRELLIN
 IS A VOTE FOR
**COMMITMENT AND
 COMMON SENSE**

At this election you can vote to elect up to seven candidates and your support in placing an X against my name will be greatly appreciated.
Before the election I shall be out and about canvassing. If I do not make contact with you, please feel free to stop me in the street or call me on 432523 to discuss matters of concern, or to arrange transport on polling day.
If you require an absent vote please ring on: 432523 or 626890

Environment and Cleansing
 Onchan has an excellent weekly household refuse collection service. This is shortly to be complemented with a fortnightly kerbside recycle collection service for a trial period of three years. The initial costs will be met by the Department of Local Government and Environment.
 This initiative will operate in conjunction with neighbouring Local Authorities and Onchan will not be responsible for the kerbside collection service or administration of the scheme. The recycling "Bring Bank" sites in Onchan continue to be successful without any financial cost to the rate payer. Pavement cleaning is carried out by the Commission as agents on behalf of Department of Transport, who provide a mechanical sweeper to carry out this function. Onchan is a partner with other Local Authorities at the Middle River Civic Amenity Site.

Election Issues

Rates

Onchan has historically maintained low rate increases and I am disappointed therefore that this tradition has this year been broken. I am opposed to any further excessive rate increases. I have always advocated rate payers money should be wisely spent without unnecessary cost cutting and I will continue to work towards achieving this if I am elected.

Targets and objectives need to be set in order to achieve prudent spending which those elected to the next board will need to prioritise.

Commissioners

The election in Onchan this time will see a reduction in the number of Commissioners by three members from ten to seven.

The Rural Commissioner and Urban Commissioners for the first time will be elected by the whole of the Onchan electorate. Every Commissioner under the reorganisation will now, I am pleased to say, attend every meeting which has not been the case under the past committee system. Elected members should always exercise their vote.

Law and Order

The Commissioners have appointed a Community Warden who works well with the police in addition to carrying out duties in the District on behalf of the Authority.

Onchan has a new Police Inspector who has a different approach, which I am sure will benefit the Community in every aspect of policing. Regular meetings are essential to share information and address problems. Good policing is an important part of community life to eradicate crime and public order offences. Police foot patrols, now reintroduced, will reassure the public who can communicate with their local officers on an informal basis. I support the retention of a manned Police Station in Onchan and the increase in Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Street Lighting and affordable CCTV initiatives, where necessary, are good crime prevention measures. Provision has been made for extra street lights along with enhanced lighting at some existing locations.

The Commissioners have provided recreational facilities and a drop in centre for the youngsters of the village. Organised sporting activities should be encouraged. *"Sport keeps kids out of court"*.

Housing

I recognise the need for all aspects of housing and have been mindful of the needs of others throughout my time with the Commissioners.

Building land is in short supply in Onchan and thoughtful consideration has to be given to the type of properties which can be constructed and which complement existing dwellings. The Commissioners have opposed housing developments on the Birch Hill farm land which has been rejected at a planning inquiry, a measure I support. Local Authority housing maintenance needs to be kept in line with rent increases in order to provide modern standards of living.

Education

I believe building work on the proposed new secondary school for Onchan will commence early in 2009 which will complement our two excellent primary schools.

Roads and Pavements

Onchan has the second largest community population. Roads, pavements and street furniture need to be well maintained.

Traffic

The whole of the Isle of Man experiences traffic and congestion problems at peak times of the day. The road improvement scheme at Governors Bridge should help to relieve congestion and make traffic flow easier. The "Smiley Face" speed reduction traffic signs need to be used more often. I support improved legislation to address inconsiderate parking of large vehicles and trailers in the District along with greater enforcement of the present laws.

Amenities

We have an excellent Doctors Surgery in the Village Walk. A petition has been presented for the removal of the radio masts from the surgery roof, which I support. A new Dentist Surgery is soon to be opened in the Village Walk. The Library is a credit to Onchan and is regularly used by adults and children of all ages.

Recreational play areas in the District have been up-graded with new equipment. A Nature trail is under consideration at Groudle View. The Village Green is an excellent venue for social events. Port Jack Glen has been enhanced.

Onchan Park

Onchan Park is our main asset and a feasibility study is planned to see if facilities can be improved, although major changes should not be made simply for the sake of change. Leisure activities are enjoyed by people of all ages in Onchan Park. I have to say I was disappointed at the lost opportunity for the provision of a Velodrome Cycle track when Nivision Stadium was put out to tender last year. Financial support would have been provided from outside organisations. I believe the facility would have been an important asset to the Village and the Island as it would have provided various sport and training facilities for youngsters together with health promotion programmes for adults.