



I've talked mostly here about a change in attitude because that's what I strongly believe is needed. We need pro-active commissioners, closer working with our national parliament and more public involvement in local decisions. There will be a lot of changes over the next four years, its only right that you have committed and enthusiastic people representing you in local government.

Ramsey is a great place to live and has the potential to be an amazing town. It's time our local authority started thinking and planning ahead. Make sure you use your vote on the 26th of April.

Thank you for taking the time to read this manifesto and if you have any questions, comments or ideas please get in touch

Lawrie Hooper



Peter Karran MHK, Party Leader and Minister for Education and Children said, "I was very impressed with Lawrie's performance in the general election last year as he obviously shares the same core values as Liberal Vannin. He is a talented and enthusiastic young man who will serve Ramsey North with ability and integrity."

Published by: Lawrie Hooper, The Rigs, Mount Auldyn, Ramsey.

Printed by: Copycat, 26 Parliament Street, Ramsey



Lawrie Hooper



Your Liberal Vannin candidate
Ramsey North Ward

Twitter - @lawriehooper

e-mail - lawrie.hooper@liberalvannin.org

Telephone - 473478

The Liberal Vannin Party
Bringing Politics Back To The People

The Liberal Vannin Party
Bringing Politics Back To The People

About me

My name is Lawrie Hooper and I am standing for commissioner in Ramsey North Ward in the upcoming local authority election on the 26th of April.

You might remember that I stood as a candidate for Ramsey in the House of Keys election in September 2011. During my campaign I promised that whatever the outcome I would be moving back to Ramsey and I'm very happy to say that my wife and I moved back to Ramsey just before Christmas.

In September I stood as an independent but since then I have found that I agree with the values of the Liberal Vannin Party and have joined them. I believe that party politics is the right way forward for the Island and that the party's core principles of openness, transparency and good governance are extremely important.

You might think that at I am quite young to be standing, I would say that it is better to have people from all walks of life involved in the process of local government and that it is time for new enthusiasm, a new attitude and new ideas to be brought to the table. I am committed to making sure Ramsey fulfils its potential and will work hard on behalf of the town.

Improving Ramsey

I grew up in Ramsey and have seen the town change over the past 12 years. It makes me sad to see Ramsey town centre being neglected at a time when we need more investment in our town. The regeneration scheme is a good place to start but local government should be doing more improve the look of the town and doing more to attract visitors. The commissioners should be exploring the use of social media as a tool for attracting more visitors to the town and for sharing more information with the public.

Why don't we fully utilise our central website, to make it a place where people can see all the attractions Ramsey has to offer, including events, heritage, leisure facilities and local businesses? The commissioners should be actively seeking new opportunities to help support our town and this is something I am fully committed to doing.

The town commissioners have an important part to play in attracting new business to Ramsey but should also be careful not to encourage anything which could damage our existing businesses. We should be more pro-active in seeking out investment and new ideas which will benefit the town and not just sit by and hope everything works itself out. What are the plans for the Albert Road school site? How are the commissioners supporting the chamber of trade and local businesses in tidying up Parliament street? These are issues that the commissioners should be dealing with but I feel are being left unattended.

More Public Involvement

Why are so many decisions made behind closed doors? The public should be much more involved in local government than at present. If elected I would work to make sure that there is more information made publicly available and to ensure that people can be more involved with the decisions that affect their lives and the town we live in. You have a right to have your say on issues that are important to you and there should be more consultation when important issues are being considered. I would hope to introduce a section of commissioners meetings where the public can have their say on matters such as planning and rates. These are all things I believe are vital to ensure honest, open and transparent local government.

In engaging with national government I really believe our commissioners could do more. I fully support closer working with our two MHK's to make sure that local issues are receiving the attention they deserve and to make sure they are doing the job we elected them to do! Being a member of the Liberal Vannin Party, I have the added advantage of having a close relationship with our three party MHK's which will give extra voice to Ramsey constituents and their concerns.

A closer relationship will work both ways. A good local authority gets involved with national issues that affect their area and tries to find solutions by working with national government. We know that our national government is making cutbacks, why have our commissioners not come forward with any statement on how they are involved making sure that Ramsey constituents are being properly represented? A more pro-active approach is needed, thought should have been put into dealing with this important issue at a local level and making sure that the people of Ramsey are not neglected.

Finances

In these tough financial times it is important that the commissioners do their utmost to make sure that the services they provide are giving us value for money. Ramsey town commissioners provide a multitude of services and we need to make sure that these services are delivered effectively and efficiently. This means any and all decisions that involve rates should be debated and scrutinised and the public should be allowed to have their say before any final decision is made. If elected I, along with my colleagues in the Liberal Vannin Party, will seek to set up a regular surgery where you can come and talk to the commissioners to voice your opinions and get answers on issues that are important to you.