

House of Keys General Election

THURSDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2016

VOTE FOR
**GRAHAM
CREGEEN**



For Arbory, Castletown & Malew

“STRIVING TO DELIVER A SECURE FUTURE”



Dear Constituent

It has been a great honour to serve the people of Malew and Santon in Tynwald over the last two terms. At this election the boundaries have changed, this now means that Arbory, Castletown and Malew will be combined and I would ask for your support on the 22 September in striving to deliver a secure future for our Island.

I am 54 years old, married to Jacqui and have two sons - Andrew is 20, an apprentice joiner, and Ben is 17 and studying for his A levels. I have lived in the south of the Island all my life and was brought up in a family that proudly served the community, with my father, brother and myself having been members of the Port St Mary Lifeboat and Rushen Emergency Ambulance / St. John's Ambulance. I have also coached over many years at Malew Football Club and the Southern Amateur Swimming Club. Previously, I worked for and then ran the family business and also taught at the Isle of Man College before joining the Post Office. I was elected as Member of the House of Keys for Malew and Santon in 2006 and 2011.

The last administration faced a unique set of challenges and many difficult decisions needed to be made; as you will know I was involved in some of these. Some of these were very tough and uncomfortable decisions, but I sought resolutions where common sense prevailed, focusing on the long-term prosperity of the Isle of Man and greater efficiency in government. The next administration will face similar challenges which will require strong leadership and focus to ensure that the Isle of Man continues to diversify and adapt in an ever changing world.

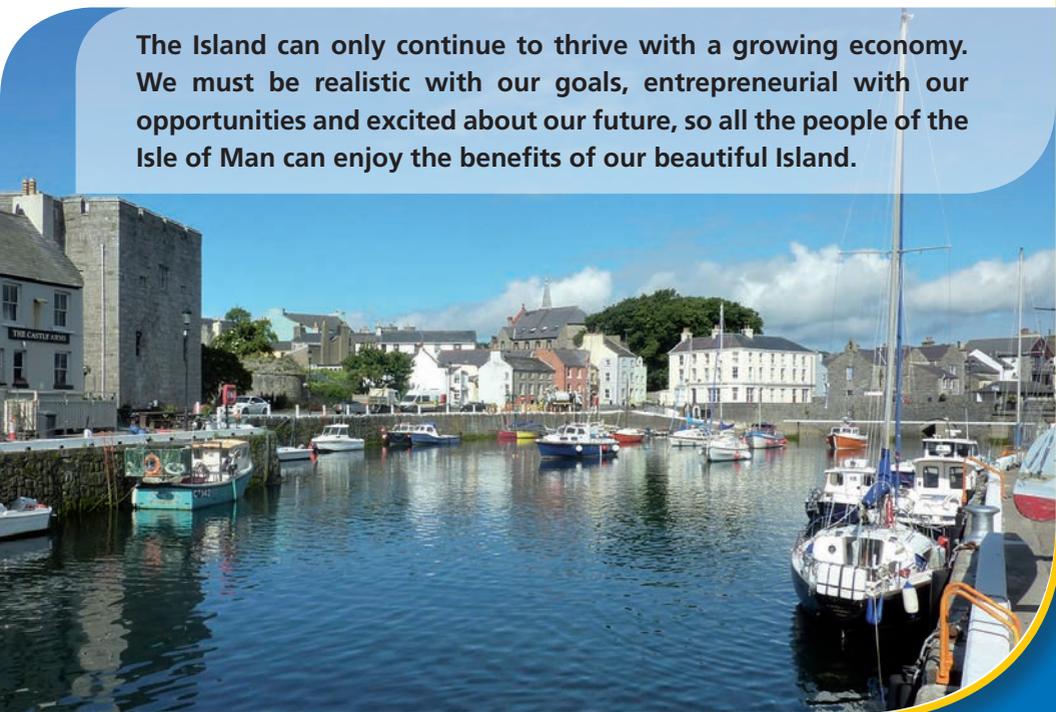
It has to be acknowledged that our valued public services have been squeezed over the last five years. We must ensure that going forward, further government efficiencies are achieved to try and avoid any more cuts to frontline services.

We must address the increasing number of charges being passed onto the public, such as the sewerage rate which I view as unfair and so do not support. There must be an urgent review of this rate to ensure fairness, as it seems unfair that it has a greater impact on medium and low earners, as well as pensioners who have a fixed income. These sections of our community cannot continue to face such pressures on their income.

If elected, it would be my privilege to serve the constituents of Arbory, Castletown and Malew and the people of the Isle of Man for the next five years with the determination, honesty and integrity I have shown over the last two terms.

I would continue to serve and represent the people of the Isle of Man, and focus on the ever changing issues that affect people's everyday life, encouraging new growth that will sustain a future for our children and grandchildren.

The Island can only continue to thrive with a growing economy. We must be realistic with our goals, entrepreneurial with our opportunities and excited about our future, so all the people of the Isle of Man can enjoy the benefits of our beautiful Island.



OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

I fully understand that the next government will face many financial challenges. We need to be realistic about our current financial situation, as I feel it would not be responsible or honourable to promise additional expenditure until the next government sets out its priorities, and are fully aware of the financial situation.

Over the last two terms I have been a member of a number of Government Departments and scrutiny committees. I also chaired the Public Accounts Committee. Whilst a member of these committees I was involved in reviewing and investigating many areas of Government expenditure. This included: IRIS; Government IT; Government owned properties (which led to the introduction of shared services); the resurfacing of Peel Road; removal of silt from Peel harbour; the £3.2 million Airport radar (which has still not been certified after four years); and fuel poverty. **These reviews have led to a number of significant efficiencies and millions of pounds in savings; and exposed poor performance in government schemes.**

I believe the next administration should set clear priorities for the next five years and publish them publicly. We need to ensure greater communication and engagement between the Government and the people it serves.



HOUSING/FLOODING

There are differing housing needs across the constituency, and I am a firm believer in allowing the public a greater say in designing housing and development policies in their area. I secured House of Keys support to introduce a bill to enable this, which is currently out for consultation. It is clear that flooding and traffic management has to be addressed throughout Arbory, Castletown and Malew.

We should be mindful that proper infrastructure should be in place before further large-scale development goes ahead.

I believe that a buy-to-build scheme on Government owned land should be investigated to assist first and second-time buyers. This would provide an opportunity for residents to own their own homes with an option to purchase the freehold at a later date, making home ownership more affordable.

There is also a need for more sheltered accommodation for the ageing population in the constituency to enable them to continue to live in their community.



EDUCATION

I am very proud of the prospects that we have for our young people, but we need to ensure that their employment expectations are met by their educational opportunities. As part of my departmental responsibilities, I have been involved with Career Ready as well as introduction apprenticeships schemes, as I believe that industry and education should work closely together to ensure education skills meet the requirements of industry.

I have worked in partnership with Castle Rushen High School which has seen significant investment into the school building in the last few years. I have also been pressing for the progression of a new high school in Castletown. I would hope the plans will be complete in the next few years, with work starting on construction soon after.



The introduction of pre-school vouchers has had mixed results. I would investigate if the provision would produce better results if pre-school worked with, or alongside the education provision within our primary schools.

I am very proud that our education system has given many of our young people the opportunity to go to university. However, **I feel we need to incentivise those that wish to come back to the Island to use their new found skills.** I believe this could be done through giving tax benefits to those who return to work here by helping to repay tuition fees through the tax system. **With the introduction of a minimum contribution toward university tuition fees we must find a way to help those who cannot afford the level of contribution expected.**

THE ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE

We need to recognise the importance of the strategic part this constituency plays in the day-to-day life of the Isle of Man, with the airport and the Island's biggest industrial area in our community. Whilst we recognise that Douglas is the financial centre of the Isle of Man, Arbory, Castletown and Malew is the home to the industrial centre and airport gateway.

We need to create an innovative environment, which encourages new businesses that further strengthens our economy and generates job opportunities.

I would like to see parking on the Castletown Fire Station site which would encourage more people to visit the Town.

In the last two years I instigated and chaired regular meetings with Balthane business owners, the Commissioners and government bodies. This has brought about a great improvement and increased security in the area. Further development of the Airport Gateway Project should bring benefit across the constituency, and I am pleased to have been the only political member to attend the three days of the inaugural meeting, and proud to have played a part of this proposal.

The Island must look to maintain economic growth in order that we can sustain the level of our social welfare for the vulnerable members of our society. It is vital that we continue to look at ways to diversify our economy. I would like to see the development of a working group including business leaders, government and entrepreneurs to identify new business opportunities for the Island.

Agriculture is a key part of our economy which over the last ten years has struggled to get a clear direction. I believe that this is partly due to the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture failing to agree a clear direction for the industry; proper dialogue should be agreed between the parties to ensure the growth of the sector. The UK's exit from Europe may open opportunities that had previously been closed or ruled out.

A review of the tax cap and taxation policy should be undertaken with a view to reducing the general taxation rate which would benefit the local population and attract more economically active people to the Island; this would stimulate the economy and help to support social welfare provision.

HEALTH

Our health professionals have been put under a lot of pressure in providing quality services to a small population, and their hard work and commitment must be acknowledged. However, it must be recognised that morale is low amongst many frontline staff and we must address this by ensuring proper support, training and guidance.

The Department of Health and Social Care continues to come under financial pressures and I have heard many stories that concern me regarding medical records and tests not being available at off-Island appointments; this wastes both time and money. **An IT system that is fit for purpose would avoid the unnecessary stress and waste of money these appointments can create; it would also shorten waiting lists.**

I think the introduction of regional healthcare hubs would benefit many patients in the south of the Island; they would bring shorter waiting times for routine procedures and create greater efficiencies. With the continued pressure on budgets, if inefficiencies are not addressed further cuts and a reduction in services will follow.



PUBLIC SECTOR PENSIONS

There is rightly great concern regarding the funding of public sector pensions. Tynwald recently approved proposals on a way forward on these pensions and there will be a review of this in 3 years. I believe this gives the next administration time to work up proposals for the sustainability of this scheme and to address the issues of the unfunded liabilities.

COMMUNITY AND TOURISM

I have always been a strong believer in supporting the community. As Chairman of Ballasalla Community Enterprise we raised £60,000 for a community centre which has been open for a number of years. It is available to the community and is currently used for coffee mornings and as a youth club; it is encouraging to see the community spirit still doing well across all the constituency.

I instigated the direct bus to the hospital, which has been of great benefit to those people needing to access the hospital from the south.

With the ever increasing dangers around the world the Island is still a very safe place to live; this will provide attractive opportunities for tourism and encourage 'staycations'.

I was pleased to be able to help in progressing plans for a visitor centre at St Marks, and on completion this will be a great asset to the south of the Island.

Travel to and from our Island must be affordable and reliable, which has not been the case at all times. I would press for a cross-sector group to be set up to investigate and oversee both air and sea services and make them more accountable for timetable, cost and reliability.



INFRASTRUCTURE/FLOODING

If we are to increase tourism and bring new business to our Island, we must ensure that when they come here they see the pride we have in where we live. It is disappointing that our infrastructure has not been maintained over the last few years; the gullies and pavements are full of weeds and hedges overgrown. By taking simple measures we can vastly improve the appearance of our Island.

The dredging of our rivers and harbours has been neglected over the years which has contributed to flooding across the constituency. I would press for this to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Douglas promenade needs to be resurfaced but we do not need grandiose schemes which has seen over £1 million pounds wasted on failed designs, which so far has offered no benefit to our Island.



POLICING

I am proud that our policing policy and police officers have brought a reduction in crime. We can also recognise the good work carried out by the fire and ambulance services with the reduction they have seen in their budgets.

The imminent opening of the new Police Station in Castletown, combined with the use of the Police Office in Ballasalla, will directly benefit the constituency. As the pressure on the reduced number of officers is starting to show, we need to ensure adequate staffing. If this staffing issue can be addressed, **I would support moves to ensure there is a permanent police presence at all arrivals at both sea and air ports.**

ELDERLY POPULATION

The income of our elderly population has come under further pressure over the last five years with low interest rates and additional charges. We must ensure that this does not continue, and the issue of charging the over 75s for a TV licence is just one point. I chaired a committee looking into the TV licence and the findings showed that the BBC underfunds the Island in the region of £1 million a year. The next Government must insist that the BBC funds the licence for the over 75s out of this money.

THE 2016 ELECTION

Arbory, Castletown and Malew is a new constituency and you are being asked to vote for two candidates on 22 September. This constituency sees the second highest number of candidates put forward for election. This choice of candidates provides you with a wide range of choice given the differing backgrounds and varying ranges of experience. I hope that I have clearly demonstrated that my goals are realistic and achievable. My dedication and determination for the future of the Isle of Man has always been a priority, giving you the confidence to vote for me.

At this election we will see a significant number of our more experienced politicians having chosen not to seek re-election. I have a record which includes membership of various Government Departments, statutory boards and the Council of Ministers. I believe the skills and experience I have gained during my time in the House of Keys makes me uniquely placed to ensure that parliament and our Government both work to serve you and the people of the Isle of Man.

In return for your vote I pledge to work hard for you and your family, without fear or favour, and with the same honesty, commitment and integrity I have shown over the last two terms.

Thank you.

Graham

Please remember on
Thursday 22nd September 2016

VOTE GRAHAM CREGEEN



If you require transport to the Polling Station
or wish to contact me please call: **823370**
or email: graham.cregeen@manx.net
www.grahamcregeen.im

YOUR FULL TIME MHK
“STRIVING TO DELIVER
A SECURE FUTURE”

