

23RD SEPTEMBER 2021

# VOTE PHIL CORKILL

FOR AYRE AND MICHAEL

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 Phil Corkill for Ayre and Michael

## INTRODUCTION

My name is Phil Corkill and I'm a local self-employed builder and I grew up in Jurby. I moved to Ramsey in my teens and I've spent most of my life living and working in the north of the Island. I'm now living back in Jurby with my partner and two children.

I've decided to stand for MHK in the upcoming general election for many reasons, the main being that we need change; we need to change how the government do things, how the government thinks about things and we need to change how the government works. We live on an amazing Island with some truly amazing people and our government is letting them down.

We need to empower local authorities/communities and give them a budget as I believe they will be key in solving the problems the Island faces and will offer solutions that are specific and most effective to the area.

If elected I would do my best to represent and connect the people, not only to central government but connect local businesses, people and authorities to each other and fight for the things that are important to the people of Ayre and Michael. I would like to see the following things implemented;

- More power and a budget for our local authorities, we need to use local expert knowledge as it's more efficient and cost effective
- Connecting timetabled bus service for the areas without. The connect village service they have implemented was meant to be more cost efficient provide a better more useable service. It was also meant to be reviewed. It's time it was!
- Better use made of the Jurby Community Health Centre, another good idea badly implemented by our government, build a new medical center at great cost and then staff it part time. This building has great potential and I would like to see it realised. I would like to see a full time doctor's surgery, NHS dentist and pharmacy
- Our roads and pavements are a disgrace and have been neglected for too long. Some pavements look they have been abandoned to nature and force people to walk in the road instead. This has to be one of the first things fixed. If government are serious about active travel let's start with decent roads and pavements people can walk, rather than focusing on bike lanes to nowhere and badly thought out schemes

It's a sad state of affairs the fact these things are in my manifesto in the first place.

## **PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL**

The government has to get to this right if it is going to play a vital part of fighting climate change and helping shape how our Island looks in the future. It has to have the right people, budget and clear policies in place to allow it function properly for the benefit of everyone. I would like the remit of permitted development widened, I would also like a community planning council formed to help with larger developments.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Affordable housing is almost non-existent and government schemes to help first time buyers is flawed. The quick fix - government facilitate building more social and first time buyer homes in the areas they already have land and adequate infrastructure in place to accommodate them, coupled with multiple financial schemes that actually help people get on the property ladder. The longer term solutions are more complex with the various different options needing to be looked at, but the government need to be smarter when it comes to housing developments and we need to stop letting larger developers dictate the terms. We are always going to need to build projects both large and small but what, why and where has always got to be scrutinised.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

When it comes to our environment, we need to be efficient and pragmatic in making changes but most of all we need to get started. We have to use the expert knowledge we have on the Island whilst looking outwards for solutions that could be used or adapted to suit our needs. We have a lot of big decisions to make regarding energy supply, this needs meticulous planning and costing. Everything else we do should involve marginal gains, we need to continually implement and review then improve. We have to reduce the things we easily can and be as efficient as we can in everything else. Protecting the natural habitat we already have is just as important as restoring what we have lost. We need to find balance in everything we do.

## **GOVERNMENT REFORMS**

I would push for the following reforms:

- Single entity house of keys (MHKs should decide equally)
- Change the role/title of Chief Minister (they should speak for the team, not pick it)
- End of Council of Ministers. We don't need ministers (they only act as a buffer and hinder transparency and accountability) and have a three person committee head Departments

- End the role of MLCs (it's undemocratic)
- Give local authority constituency representatives a seat in Tynwald (this will give more meaning to local elections and give the people they represent a different voice)
- Restructure government departments. We have tried large all encompassing departments and they have failed. We need to get back to a smaller more efficient units
- All we really need is to have a smaller more efficient government that works for the benefit of the people of the Island rather than themselves and that stops doing repeating the same mistakes and wasting loads of money and time. This also stops the need for the government to come up with excuses for why they've repeated the same in the first place

When coming up with policy or strategy, the government need to ask the people it involves; ask the teachers, farmers, etc: does this help achieve this/help you? I would guarantee the people doing the job know more than government as to what works best and if consulted properly and listened to, it would allow a more smooth transition and save lot of time on government back peddling. We need policies to help people - not the few but the many.

We have had many different politicians over the years and yet the same problems remain: overly large civil service, no accountability, no transparency and the method in which the Chief Minister is elected/Comin works means that we end up with no real democracy, or scrutiny, or opposition. We can change it, we just have to vote in enough MHKs that want to change things.

If I didn't get chance to speak to you, please feel free to contact me using the details below:

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