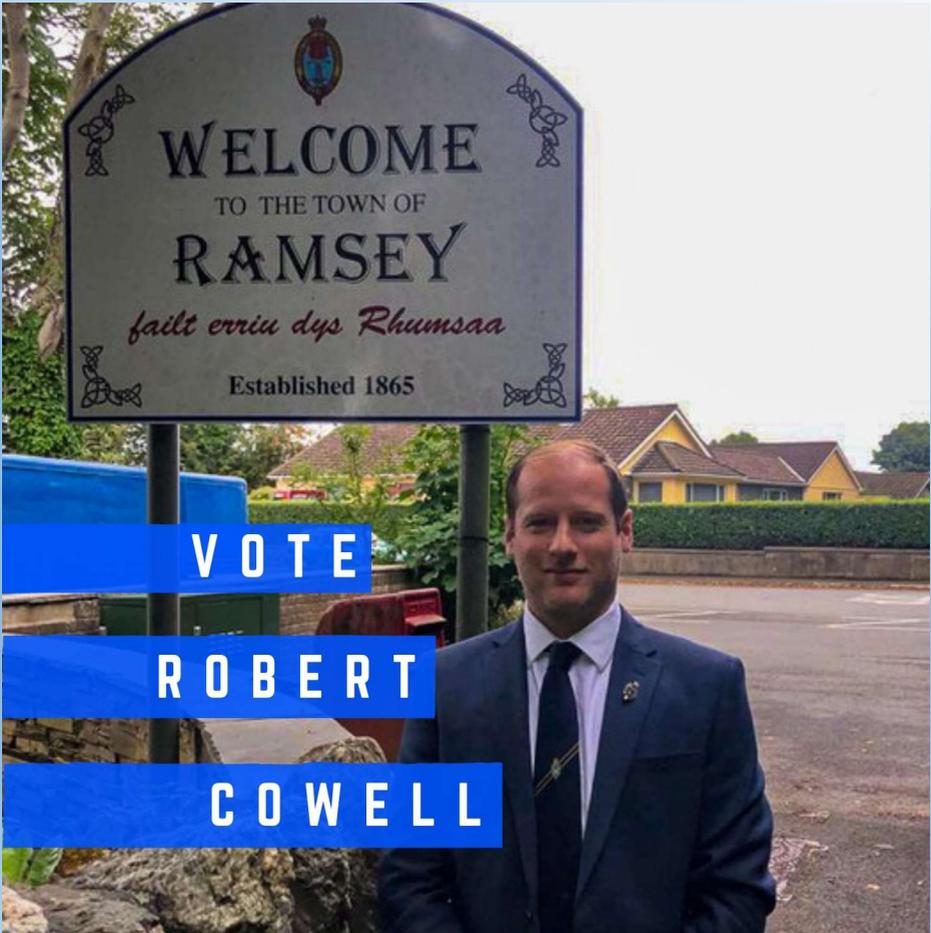


HOUSE OF KEYS ELECTION 2021



**ROBERT COWELL
RAMSEY'S FUTURE NOW**

Dear Voters,

Profile

I am 34 years old and I have been living in Ramsey for 20 years. I have spent the last 9 years working in Ramsey and believe that we are lucky to live in the best town on the Island. I was educated at Ramsey Grammar School before attending university in the UK to study Maritime Business and Law. I returned post-graduation to work on the Island. A decade later I am entering a new phase of my life and looking to take public office. I have a business in the town (Bourne Plaice) which owns its commercial building as well as being a home owner in the town. I am passionate about Ramsey; I feel that post Covid-19 there will be new opportunities for growth in the town that we must capitalise on.

Climate Change:

This is the biggest challenge facing our world. We live in a natural biosphere and we are very good at protecting our Island. We need to do more to keep our Island in the race with the rest of world in the global battle against climate change. I fully support the roll out of electric/hybrid cars. The Zero TT shows us how far ahead of the game we can be. We are good at seeing the future potential but why do we let it go? Why aren't we all green by now? I would be very excited about exploring tidal and wind energies. Sustainability must be at the forefront of everything we do. I would also like to see solar panels and air source heat pump technology becoming mandatory on new build developments.

Rate Reform:

The rates in our town are too high. We do have the best town in the Island for our rates payable but I fully support the rate reform within central government and I will lobby where possible to push the Government to sort out the unfairness in the system. Ramsey is used by the entire North, not just the population of Ramsey. We need to spread the costs into the wider community to reduce costs to residents and business operators.

Capital Investment in Brownfield sites:

Capital Investment is crucial. We have to attract business and individuals who are willing to invest in our town. Opportunities for investment are there to be explored and the Government should back any capital investment that is going to bring benefit to our town. Brownfield sites give the opportunity for exclusive development of affordable housing. Please develop what we have before greenfield alternatives.

Business in the Town:

I am passionate about the excellent selection of independent retailers in our town. You can buy anything and everything within a 500 metre walk of our high street. Crucial to this is free parking. The Town Hall must keep parking free and must improve our street to give the town its unique sparkle that attracts shoppers to our town. We should be aiming to have the nicest high street in the British Isles. We have the businesses to do it!

Economic Recovery:

Helping businesses recover from the pandemic through support of the Government is something I feel is crucial. Small businesses should be supported in any way that the Government can do, not hindered. A lot of businesses now have debt levels that they simply would never have had before. We need to make sure that good businesses don't become insolvent as a result of trying to survive the pandemic. If a business is solid and sound the government should hear its case and help if the situation merits. Without the businesses we have in Ramsey the town would not prosper as it does.



Marina Development

I appreciate the public appetite for a marina on the south bay has diminished and the Save the Bay campaign has been well managed and successful in its objectives. I feel that the whole marina project is based on a hypothetical case and that without the proper environmental studies and ground surveys plus a detailed planning application the development is not currently viable.

Road Conditions and Safety:

Road conditions off the main routes are very poor especially in housing estates and back roads. We need to invest in the whole road network of the town, not just the arterial routes. Road Safety is an area I would like to look into improving in Ramsey. For example, reversing the diagonal parking on the quayside. Widening the 20mph zone to the town centre.

Footpaths, vital for Island tourism and walking holidays, need to be maintained to an acceptable standard and hedgerows need to be cut for road safety.

Thank you and I look forward to meeting you all.

Robert Cowell



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