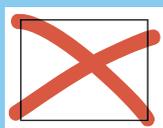


# Candidate for Middle House of Keys General Election 23rd September 2021



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## **VOTE HANNIFIN**

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## INTRODUCTION:

On the 23rd September 2021 you may be casting the most important vote of your life. The next administration will determine how our Island will move forward in a post Brexit world, whilst facing the continuing challenges presented by Covid-19. With the world changing at such a rapid pace, we need a Government that is prepared to operate at the same pace, if not ahead of it.

The fact is, the Isle of Man was already in serious trouble before the arrival of Covid. In the year ending 31st March 2020, the Government reported a loss of over £231m, of which only two weeks were affected by the pandemic. With this figure in mind, it is unacceptable that there are so many earning below living wage and suitable housing becomes further out of reach each year. Not only are there fewer opportunities for our young people but we also have an increase in Alzheimer related deaths and an aging population who are not being treated with dignity. If we want to see our Island change for the better, we have to learn from our mistakes. We must be prepared to reform our Government to incite effective change that makes a tangible difference to the lives of all in our community. Much like the Ben-My-Chree, we must accept that there comes a time when patching problems is not only ineffective but also costly and the whole ship

must be replaced. That time is now.

The Isle of Man is self-governing and reasonably affluent; these two factors put us in a perfect position to perform large-scale reforms for the betterment of all who call it home. We need progressive minds with ambitious plans, we need people who want the Isle of Man to be creative and successful, even world leading.

The Isle of Man has one of the best community spirits in the world. This has become even more noticeable in recent times. Sports teams and families are providing and delivering meals to the vulnerable, charities are setting up rehabilitation and help for those suffering physical and mental illnesses. Food Banks are keeping people alive. Whilst these are all wonderful examples of our Island's community spirit, these measures should not be necessary. This has caused me to question the effectiveness of our Government, who are supposed to be responsible for the welfare of our community. I want to feel as proud of our Government as I do of our community. I want to be proud of the way that we treat the least fortunate in our society. I want people to be able to have opportunities to succeed. I want you to feel that this is your Island, your home and your Government.

## ABOUT ME:

I am 31, recently married, raised and educated on the Island and proud to have called the Isle of Man my home for 30 years. I have worked in many different industries over the years; from various financial roles, to agriculture, cleaning and construction. As a result, I have gained a breadth of knowledge and experience and have some understanding of the various challenges these industries and the people who work in them face.

I currently run my own international design

company, designing for brands such as IKEA and working with clients all over the world, as well as helping many businesses and charities on the Island. I also work part time for a small cleaning business.

I have spent much of my adult life living off grid; during this time, I have studied our ecosystem in depth and have learned a lot about renewable energy. My entire campaign so far (except for printing) has been completely solar powered.

## MY PLEDGE:

No one candidate can change laws on the Island without majority support of the House of Keys, the Council of Ministers and the people. The aim of my manifesto is to outline what I aim to try and

achieve, but I will not be a person who promises things that I cannot guarantee that I can deliver. However, I can guarantee this:

## I WILL REPRESENT YOU:

I have chosen to run as an independent candidate because I believe my sole responsibility should be to the people; I do not want to work for a Government, a business, or a party. I want to work for the betterment of your lives and the lives of your families. I believe that party politics contributes to division and the creation of an "us and them" mentality. I do not want that. Middle is a wonderfully diverse area to represent as we have agriculture, industry, and a population consisting of those from every walk of life imaginable; I aim to

represent you all.

I will respond to all correspondence with answers where I can provide them but if I cannot, then I will be honest and tell you so. I will always endeavour to find the answer but if I cannot, I will explain why and keep trying. I will not hide from social media or bad press, instead I will work toward earning the respect of you and the other people I represent. I will dedicate the next 5 years of my life, 7 days a week.

## I WILL LEAD BY EXAMPLE:

I believe in practicing what you preach, so if elected I will:

Donate 24.1% of my salary to charities, individuals, or organisations that better the Island. This is the same percentage difference from living wage to minimum. The current administration has allowed themselves a pay rise, whilst so many are living in poverty.

As I am striving for a more transparent Government, I myself will aim to be as transparent as possible.

I will keep people informed about my movements, my approach in Tynwald, my goals and what I am doing and why. I will also do regular surgery Q&A sessions for constituents to ensure I stay up to date with your issues, wants and needs.

I will apologise if I am wrong. No one gets everything right all the time. If I make an error, I will be the first person to admit it publicly and rectify the problem, learn from it and ensure that the same mistake will not be made again.

## MY TOP 3 PRIORITIES

### THE ECONOMY:

I believe that the root of most of the Island's problems is that the cost of living is not reflected in the average person's ability to earn. The Isle of Man Government's web page reads:

*"The Living Wage is distinct from the Minimum Wage, as it is a voluntary rate of pay that is calculated with reference to the broader cost of living for different household types. It is intended to represent the minimum level of pay necessary to allow people the basic opportunities and choices necessary for them to participate in society".*

Minimum wage is currently £8.25, whereas living wage is £10.87. If you work for minimum wage, 35 hours a week for a year, the salary is £15,015. If you work the same hours for a living wage, the salary is £19,783.40. Why have we allowed a system that can tell thousands of our Island's workforce that they deserve 24.1% less pay than they need to participate in society? Not enough to participate, let alone thrive, or compete.

The Isle of Man Government, alongside the businesses that profit the most from the labour of low-income workers share a moral obligation to provide people with the same "Freedom to Flourish" that they themselves have enjoyed and profess to want for the whole community.

A system must be put in place where hours of employee labour are valued for what they are, a taxable asset. There should be a cap on how much a business may spend on the payment of wages that are below the living wage. Any persons who are hired at a rate below living wage should have their wages subsidised in a benefit from the Government. If a business wishes an employee to work extra hours beyond this cap, then they must be paid Living Wage or above. This reform would be a first step to help to fix a plethora of issues such as:

- **Easing the strain on the benefit system.**

It is unsurprisingly difficult to incentivise people to work for minimum wage. Expecting people to give up their time and work for such little compensation is unfair and degrading.

- **Encourage Business/Entrepreneurs.** A living wage would not only enable people to afford to start up a business, but new businesses themselves would be able to pay their staff fairly. Additionally, more of the island's residents would have disposable income and would therefore support and boost existing businesses, as more people would be able to afford the services they provide. New businesses are needed, but we also need to protect existing Manx businesses, especially after these last few difficult years.

- **Affordable housing.** Affordable housing cannot be achieved by a person relying on a food bank, no matter how cheap it is. There is no such thing as an affordable house if you are being paid £8.25 an hour.

- **Healthcare.** Some people may not notice the difference in their wages, because instead they could choose to work less hours. This would allow people more freedom to look after their mental and physical health or give them time to raise their children or care for elderly parents. The social implications of this are huge. Studies from Princeton and Harvard Universities researching the effects of poverty have proven that living in poverty can reduce an adult's IQ between 13 and 15 points and studies published by the US National Library of Medicine show that living in poverty can reduce the IQ in children between 4 and 7 points. This does not only negatively affect our island today but will do so for generations to come.

These reforms and the advantageous effect they would have are just the tip of the iceberg. Additionally, it could be argued that our Island is an economic microcosm of many parts of the wider world. The changes we can make and the macroeconomic effects they would have could provide highly valuable data that could be utilized on a global scale. Although these reforms may seem like a drastic and costly change, it is a much-needed investment for the Island and is necessary to improve the quality of life for our community and the health of our economy.

### HEALTHCARE:

There are many people on this Island who are on hospital waiting lists for years, sometimes decades who are passed from pillar to post, locum to locum before they even receive the relief of a formal diagnosis. These unacceptable delays contribute to our high drug and suicide death rate and cause a massive drain on our benefit system. It is nonsensical and completely unethical to live on an Island that is so wealthy, where so many people are unwell.

I would like to see a multitude of changes, from receiving a simple receipt when you leave your Doctor's appointment to increasing the number of medical specialists available on the island.

Many people find Doctors and hospitals uncomfortable and are, by the nature of the visit, not in a good state. Retaining complex medical information is often difficult for the most composed of people. If we expect a receipt for our weekly shop or car service, we should expect one from our health care provider. This way the patient can see a path for their care and what

to expect going forward. Minimising stress is one of the best things for convalescence. This would also provide continuity and transparency for the patient, as well as a future health care provider when it comes to reviewing medical notes and help to reduce errors.

At a time where the UK is stripping it's NHS, we should be strengthening our health service by attracting and recruiting more medical specialists. As a result, we would build a world class health service and our population would be able to receive adequate healthcare. Furthermore, as the world opens again post-Covid, we should position ourselves as a place for advancing medical training. By bringing specialist doctors over on a limited term basis to train new and existing medical professionals, we could eventually enable the Isle of Man to become a site of medical tourism. This may also lead to the Isle of Man being a place where we conduct useful medical research that benefits the rest of the world. I would like to see fertility clinics and some research into assisted death as the first steps towards this.

### ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND REFORM OF GOVERNMENT:

Being able to openly assess and admit that an error has been made is the foundation of any successful Government. Making mistakes is human, is to be expected and is understandable. A lack of direct accountability for mistakes, or diluting it between departments, or "arm's length institutions" not only slows down our ability to learn from mistakes, but also causes unrest and distrust between the Government and the community that it serves.

As a society, we have become so focused on liability, that we are terrified to admit mistakes and therefore become stuck with them.

We need to clearly identify where different responsibilities lie, in order to ensure that our Government is accountable for its actions and is fulfilling its obligations. The current administration is falling short in this respect. For example, the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs, are

legally obligated to report annually. This has not been completed once in the current administration (last completed 2013/2014).

The Council of Ministers operate as a collective with a collective responsibility. This seems to act as a guard against individual accountability. There have been instances where principled politicians have been dismissed for standing up for what they think is right. If individuals cannot stand publicly by their own ethics without fear of losing their position, then how can the general public be expected to believe anything that is said?

We can rectify this problem by making individuals and departments clearly accountable and responsible for their actions and we will have a far stronger Government for it. Accountability does not have to mean punishment; it can mean innovation. It can mean progression.

*continued...*

The next administration should be focused on engaging with the community and become “their” Government instead of “the” Government. Many of our population do not know how our political system works, or what advantages and/or disadvantages it has.

Information on what is legal, what incentives or rights you are entitled to, who is responsible for what, legislation, consultations, acts, policies and procedures should not be a mammoth task that may take months of cutting through unnecessary jargon. We should be making certain that all information is accessible to everyone. Information is the first step to opportunity.

I recognise that there is reason and requirement for correct legal language but that is no reason to make this information inaccessible. A working mother likely does not have the time to comb through hundreds of pages of paperwork, written in a format that is difficult to understand. A hard-working farmer or small landowner should not have to pay a lawyer to tell them what rights they

have and what benefits they have access to if they produce or develop their area. An elderly couple should not be drowned in complex language when trying to figure out healthcare and accommodation. You should not have to scroll through over 100 pages of budget documentation, to figure out where the money is being generated and spent on the Isle of Man, when a few simple charts and graphs can make the information digestible. We need all our important information accessible to all, especially for those who could benefit the most from it.

Our current system of voting, alongside the appointment of certain political roles, falls short of what is considered democratic. Our voting system should be replaced with a method whereby every voter may place one vote for a candidate in their constituency, and one vote for any candidate in any constituency, enabling a fairer result for the entire Island. Furthermore, the Chief Minister should be appointed via an island wide vote. The people of the Isle of Man should be able to choose who stands at the head of the Government that serves them.

## OTHER PRIORITIES AND PROBLEMS THE ISLAND IS FACING

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONTROL:

The entire planet is starting to adapt to remove and reduce carbon emissions and focus on other issues surrounding the irreversible damage human beings are having on the environment. The Isle of Man’s response to this over the next 5 years will directly affect our economy, our quality of life and our standing in the eyes of the rest of the world. It is widely considered the biggest issue that the next generation will face, and we should be doing everything in our power now to ease this stress for future administrations and residents of our Island. As an Island so reliant on fossil fuels and importation, we face the risk of heavy penalties in coming years through carbon and trade taxes.

Planting trees is good, but it is simply not good enough. It is estimated that one mature tree can absorb 21Kg of Co2 per year. The last available data, taken from the Isle of Man’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory report advises that the Isle of Man produces 840,000 tons of greenhouse emissions

annually. With these figures in mind, it is easy to see that more must be done than simply planting trees.

The current administration’s response to the climate crisis has been disappointing; rather than stepping up to the plate, they have refused to bring forward targets of net zero carbon emissions, labelling it an unattainable goal.

This goal is far from unobtainable, there are many things that we can do to combat this issue, however we need a dynamic, multi-faceted approach; from making recycling a national issue and finding a way to make our waste work for us to rewilding green areas, gaining access to the UK Contracts for Difference whilst allowing people on the grid to feed into it with renewable energy sources and much more. If we want to fix these issues, we need to stop setting unambitious targets for future administrations and start acting today.

### TAXES:

We are currently facing huge questions surrounding taxes on the Isle of Man. Corporation Taxes have become a global conversation, as have various emission performance taxes. Our tax system is largely based on a time where the Isle of Man had lost huge amounts of tourism and we have not re-adjusted since. We are overly focussed on a struggling finance industry and attempting to attract wealthy overseas investors. We need to prioritise making the residents of the Island more prosperous, rather than trying to bring wealthy people here. We need to switch our focus to businesses that actually operate on the island

rather than those simply registered here. Fair taxation not only gives us more clout when it comes to negotiating our standing in the world, but also allows us the freedom to explore new ways of encouraging people and businesses here to prosper; there should be benefits to choosing the Isle of Man. There is nothing wrong with tax breaks as long as they are fair. Now would be a great time to adjust taxes for those who are an asset to the Island and incentivise better business practices such as fair pay, producing goods and exporting, or producing less emissions.

### GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE:

Large scale spending needs more public review, and a full report of expenses should be made public for all projects.

The cost of and the huge losses made by projects such as the NSC, the promenade, the ferry terminal in Liverpool and many others have been catastrophic for the debt which the Isle of Man is building at an

alarming rate. People must have more of a choice in how the Island’s money is spent and what is prioritised. I have no doubt that fair pay for labour, public community spaces, dignity for our elderly and an increase in budget for our national health service would be prioritised above horse trams or roundels if people had more say.

### CANNABIS:

On the 20th of March 2019, a public consultation was concluded on the medicinal use of Cannabis on the Isle of Man. 3,285 people completed the consultation and 99.2% were in favour of Cannabis to be used medicinally on the Isle of Man. Whilst not a legally binding vote, the consultation cost the taxpayer to produce, yet the results have been ignored. Medicinal Cannabis was confirmed as already being legal by the Attorney General at Tynwald in December 2018. However, it is currently illegal to produce, import or cultivate. Whilst we claim to be in line with the UK, patients in the UK do have access to medicinal cannabis, where our people do not. The reasons for this as explained by the Health Minister are that GPs have advised that they would refuse to prescribe it. However, only 19 GPs responded to the consultation, which is less than half of the total number of GPs on our Island. If we really were in line with the UK we would be following NICE guidelines which would not allow standard GPs to prescribe cannabis anyway. We have also been advised that if we were

to reclassify cannabis, we might risk our customs and VAT agreement with the UK, however no one has attempted to negotiate this. In short, the Isle of Man Government’s approach to medicinal cannabis has been inconsistent and contradictory.

We need our doctors and pharmacists to be properly trained and educated and we need to allow people to access medication if they need it. People suffering with MS and epilepsy should not be dragged through court, after being forced to source their life changing medicine through a black market. Our system is ruining lives with criminal records, whilst leaving patients sick. We must expunge the criminal records of sick patients from December 2018 onwards, as to have faith in a justice system, the system must be just.

Once these issues have been addressed, we should have another public consultation for recreational use of cannabis and then act on the wishes of the people of the Isle of Man.

## MY MANIFESTO IN SHORT:

The world is changing fast and we need to be able to adapt quicker. We need innovation and progression to get us into a better standing economically. I believe I am a good candidate for that.

## MY MAIN PRIORITIES:

### ECONOMY:

- A subsidy and capping system needs to be implemented to ensure all working people are paid a living wage and given the ability to thrive.
- We need to fairly incentivise existing businesses and new businesses.

### HEALTH CARE:

- We need a faster system for diagnosis and treatment.
- We should build the infrastructure for world class medical tourism.

### ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT:

- Everyone deserves the right and ease of access to information.
- Direct responsibility for downfalls need to be easily identifiable to ensure we don't keep making mistakes.
- The Isle of Man deserves a more fair voting system.

## OTHER PRIORITIES:

### CLIMATE ACTION

### TAXES

### MORE PUBLIC CHOICE IN LARGE SPENDING

### CANNABIS

Please review inside for more detail, or get in touch to discuss further. If you would like to know more, or would like to ask any questions, or share any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in contact:

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The Polling Stations are open from 8am to 8pm at the following:

Marown; Crosby Methodist Church Hall, Old Church Road, Crosby  
Santon; Santon Old School, School Lane, Castletown Road  
North Braddan; Commissioner's Office, Snugborough Avenue  
South Braddan; Port Soderick Recreational Hall, Quines Hill

If you require an Absent Voter's Form because you are unable to attend the Polling Station due to incapacity or absence from the Island, please contact me on the details above. Alternatively, a Proxy Form may be completed should be absent from the Island and wish to appoint another person to vote on your behalf. If you would need transport on election day, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you would like this manifesto translated, or to be provided in audio or large print format, please get in touch and I will arrange.