

## Travel

The government made the right and important decision of purchasing the Steam Packet thus securing our ability to import the essential items we need to keep our island running.

With the troubles we have had retaining a reliable airline for our island I believe it is time for the government to create its own airline which would secure not only our air links with the U.K but also ensure our islands business connections, residents, and the patient transfer service can be maintained. I believe this would also save the government money and in fact produce a healthy profit to be reinvested back into our island's economy.

I can't talk about travel without of course mentioning the Douglas Promenade, this is an example of Government Departments being managed by people who are either not qualified to do so, or not experienced in taking on such complex projects.

I could write a few pages of material about this subject but to keep it short I'll just specify a few key important issues relating to this.

Firstly, the amount of our money that has been wasted on the promenade is an outrage, my heart breaks when I think of what else we as an island could have put that money to use in.

We are also now faced with a situation in which because it has taken so long to dig up and re-dig up again and again due to so many mistakes, which by the way we are paying for. They are now just rushing and throwing it together to get it open, so realistically we are going to end up having spent £25 Million + and still end up with a worse promenade then when they started.

Also, I've spoken to so many businesses along Douglas Promenade who are at breaking point, I am not at all surprised that many have closed and many more are planning to close this year due to either the financial loss or personal stress this situation has put them under.

Bad planning, Mismanagement of public funds, Incompetence, Poor communication, all pretty much sums it up.

Our job is to make sure nothing like this ever happens again in any government department.



## What I'm passionate about:

I will continue to campaign and lobby Government for certain issues. These include:

- Independent Telecommunications Regulator to ensure we are getting good value for money when it comes to mobile phone and broadband internet services on our island.
- The introduction and regulation of medical cannabis to be made available from approved doctors on our island for patients who are in need.
- Looking after those who look after us, COVID-19 has shown us how essentially important our front-line workers are. I would seek an immediate pay rise for our frontline health and nursing staff. The Government have taken these workers for granted for far too long. We need to ensure we can retain our fantastic nursing staff.
- More support for the vulnerable and elderly in our community, it is our duty to protect and support those members of our community who need it. The current support is not good enough, we deserve better.
- I am against the current MLC Elections in which current elected members vote their friends into power, I strongly believe that to maintain a democratic system MLC's should be elected by the public in which they serve.

Sadly, it is impossible to meet everyone during the election campaign, but it will be my honour to serve you and please get in touch if you have any questions or would just like a chat with me.

**Tel: 337794**

The election takes place on Thursday 23rd September 2021,  
Polling stations will be open between 8am to 8pm

If you require any assistance getting to the Polling Station  
on the day, please get in touch Tel: 337794.

**PLEASE VOTE KEVIN OLIPHANT-SMITH**

House of Keys General Election - Thursday 23rd September 2021

**DOUGLAS NORTH**

**Kevin Oliphant-Smith**

*Independently working with others for you,  
bringing fresh ideas for positive change.*

Dear Voter,

My name is Kevin Oliphant-Smith, I am 35 years old and live in Governors Hill with my wife Christy. I have one son of nine years of age, and we are expecting a baby this October, I was born on the Isle of Man and apart from a few years studying in the U.K, have lived here all my life.

I currently work in several Government departments, this includes Manx Care, Department of Education Sports and Culture, and The Covid Response Team, I am also a Trade Union Representative for Prospect Union.

I am standing for the House of Keys General Election for the constituency of Douglas North to be held on September 23rd, 2021.

My primary objective is to ensure you have true representation and that your voice will be heard within the chambers of Tynwald. For far too long we have placed our faith in candidates who have promised us action and then not been heard from until the next election.

Now is the time for change, we as residents can no longer accept empty promises and elected members who fail to represent you, the residents of our fantastic island.

I stand up for what I believe is right and fair and have always acted with honesty and integrity, never bowing down to political pressure.

I believe you deserve a candidate who can hit the ground running to influence our future, I have the passion, energy, and determination to make sure your voice is heard from day one.

With your support I look forward to working for the benefit of Douglas North and the Island that I hold so close to my heart.

Thank You

Kevin Oliphant-Smith

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**Kevin Oliphant-Smith supporting the Community**

## Health Services

My first-hand experience within our island's health service has given me a unique insight into the problems we face and ways in which things could be greatly improved to provide a first-class health service.

During the last 18 months in which our health service faced one of its most challenging times with the outbreak of Covid-19, We have proven how robust and fast acting our health services can be. With building our own oxygen generating plant at Nobles Hospital, to setting up our own covid lab testing facilities.

However, the day-to-day procedures and consultations have severely slowed down, this has added to what was already huge, long unacceptable waiting lists.

There is no reason why our island should not be leading the way in healthcare, I am the third generation of my family to have worked at nobles hospital and during those times I have watched it slowly decline over the years. We should be the envy of the U.K, showing that we as an island can do things better. This is something I want to see within our future health services, we as residents deserve better.

We need further investment in our NHS Dental & GP Services, this is very important especially if our population is to grow, we need the infrastructure to support our islands residents.

## Housing

This is a huge issue and has been left by previous governments for far too long, this is the main cause of poverty on our island, with huge private rents as well as the idea of purchasing a property to many being a dream.

My priorities will be:

Prioritising homes for families over investors, Legislation needs introducing to limit those buying up properties just to rent out for sky high rents.

More investment in Social Housing, making sure the work carried out is of quality standard and that we get the right contractors to do the job properly the first time.

More opportunities for first time buyers, such as rent to buy schemes which are currently lacking, the current schemes are outdated and unsupportive to those wishing to get on the property ladder.

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## Neighbourhood Policing

A more visible community policing of the residential areas, not just focussing on Douglas town centre. Over the last several months I have had numerous complaints from residents regarding petty crime such as bicycle thefts, I am also greatly concerned about the speed at which many vehicles drive through some of the estates, even with the current speed bumps.

This needs to be addressed for the safety of our children who play in such areas and other pedestrians.



## Education

We need to ensure our residents of all ages are supported in gaining the skills and qualifications they need to start the career of their choice.

We need to have a future focussed approach; seeing what skills we are lacking on the island and investing in such facilities to deliver that training on island.

One sector which I'm already in discussions with is Teacher Training on island, this is something I've investigated and spoke with teaching staff as well as the UCM. The answer I was given was that people would need to go off island to study this and then come back once qualified to a certain level, such as degree level. This is not an acceptable answer, and it is not surprising that we are struggling to recruit and retain teachers.

## Youth Engagement & Participation

In 2006 Tynwald voted for the voting age to be lowered to 16, this was a huge step in democracy and enabling our younger members of our community to shape our islands future.

What disappoints me is since this change came into effect there has been little to no steps made to involve the younger members of our community in any decision making or political policy's which affect them and their future. I would be in favour of a youth committee being established, to which younger members would be able to feed their ideas and opinions directly into Tynwald.

It is very important that we listen to our future generations to enable our island to retain its home-grown talent.

## Planning Committee

The current planning committee needs to be completely overhauled, we need much better communication with our islands residents about any proposed planning applications and a clear pathway in accessing and opposing any such applications.

We only have a small island to enjoy with only a certain amount of countryside, farmland, and areas of natural beauty. Yet we see so much approval from the current planning committee to keep building more and more, destroying the very sights that our island is famous for.

## Employment

I do not believe that employees on our island are currently being supported by the existing employee legislation. Far too many people are only being offered casual or temporary contracts, this does not give an employee any certainty of hours, income, or job security.

The cost of living on the isle of man is also a lot higher than the U.K and as such our islands minimum wage should reflect this. Currently the minimum wage on the Isle of Man is £8.25 per hour this is not a liveable wage.

Our island does have a voluntary living wage which employers can choose to opt into, this is currently calculated to be £10.87 per hour as from May 2021. I understand some smaller businesses would struggle to pay this living wage; however, I believe Government should support businesses where possible to make a salary contribution, this will then be reinvested back into our local economy as well as ensuring the unemployment figures stay low, thus reducing the need to pay out higher amounts in social security benefits.

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## MHK'S Salaries

In 2020 Tynwald voted to change the pay structure for Tynwald members, this will come into effect for those who are elected this September. The current basic salary for an MHK is £43,479 plus £7,403.60 expenses, those who are elected in September 2021 will receive a salary of £65,000 without being on any committees, departments or being appointed a Minister.

I am very much against this change especially when so many in our community are struggling economically due to the hardship covid has caused. One of my priorities if elected will be to put forward a motion to reduce the salary for MHK's, we have all been told by Government that we are all in this together, however this change would suggest otherwise.

I have already publicly declared on Manx Radio that if successfully elected I will personally be donating half of my salary for the first twelve months of office, to charities and needy causes around our island.

I also believe we are completely over governed and have far too many elected members for such a small island, these need reducing.