

House of Keys General Election
Thursday 22 September 2016

David QUIRK for ONCHAN



Economy
Health and Social Care
Education
Infrastructure
Law and Order
Environment, Food and Agriculture
Onchan Community

Dear Voter

Since being elected as a Member of the House of Keys in 2006, it has been a privilege and an honour to represent the people of the Isle of Man. I believe passionately in protecting our Island and Manx way of life, focussing on both local constituency and wider Government responsibilities across the Island, working conscientiously for the benefit of all.

I am seeking your support for re-election, so that I can continue representing Onchan using the considerable experience that I have gained as a member of Government. I believe an MHK has to be approachable and available to assist and advise constituents, which is a duty that I have always taken seriously.

As an independent candidate, I believe the best way to help the people of the Isle of Man is to fully participate in Government, working together and making an effective contribution to the Island. It is very easy to get publicity by constantly criticising government policy, but I believe it is more constructive to work pro-actively with others in Government and make a positive influence from within.

The way you vote on 22nd September 2016 will affect us all. I pledge to you that I will always give you 100% commitment, be your full time MHK and have the best interests of both Onchan and our Island at heart.

I hope you take the opportunity to cast your vote. Your support in placing an X against my name would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



- Born in the Isle of Man – I've lived in Onchan for 40 years
- Married to Liz with a daughter Rachel
- Onchan District Commissioners, 1990-2006
- Chairman of Onchan District Commissioners, 1996-1997 and 2001-2002
- Member of the House of Keys, 2006 - to date
- Community, Culture and Leisure, 2013-2014
- Department of Health and Social Care, 2014- to date
- House of Keys Standing Orders Committee, 2011- to date
- Environment & Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, 2015- to date
- Tynwald Standards & Members' Interests Committee, 2015- to date
- House of Keys Management and Members' Standards Committee, 2015- to date

Government Posts

- Department of Transport, 2006-2010
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and forestry, 2007-2009
- Department of Trade and Industry, 2009-2010
- Department of Education and Children, 2010-2011
- Department of Infrastructure, 2010-2011
- Chairman, Office of Fair Trading, 2010-to date
- Home Affairs, Prison and Probation Service, and Fire and Rescue Service, 2011-2014

Local Community Clubs and Charities

- Chairman of Onchan Pensioners Social Club
- President of Onchan AFC
- Chairman of Onchan Silver Band
- Vice President of Onchan Horticultural Society

ECONOMY

We don't know exactly what the full impact of the UK exit from the EU will be on the Isle of Man. We need to take action now, to protect and prepare for all eventualities, strengthening our relationship with both the UK and with other countries around the world.

There will be both opportunities and risks for the Island with the withdrawing process with the new relationship, we must set out and achieve the best deal for the Isle of Man.

Securing a Strong Future

- Build on our strengths and achievements
- Support, invest and grow our economy
- Set in place foundations for a sustainable future

Over the past five years we have seen e-business, specialist financial services, manufacturing and tourism all grow, but we still need to be energetic and vigorous in our approach for further growth. Ensuring we remain focused, and keep encouraging innovative thinking and business collaboration will further grow our economy and continue to make it easier to do business here.

The new Financial Services Authority has shown we must continue to meet our international obligations and also keep innovating and evolving to create more economic opportunities for business to flourish.

Further investment in education and vocational training is essential, ensuring local employees reach their potential. We must invest in our construction industry, not only to preserve jobs. It plays such a critical role in the development and employment of local trainees and apprentices, but also ensure that we can continue to enjoy a high standard of living.

Economic Focus

- Be highly pro-active in promoting the Isle of Man, to attract and retain domestic and international businesses.
- Reduce bureaucracy and barriers to trade, making it easier to do business on the Island.
- Work with the private sector to encourage development opportunities.
- Support and encourage new and existing local businesses in our communities.
- Maintenance and growth of the local employment market.

I will continue to give my support to economic policies and real actions that will maintain and protect both our current and future economy for the long term.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

We need to provide a genuine 'health service' in the Isle of Man, not a service that simply treats illness when it becomes apparent. That is why I firmly believe in people to taking more responsibility for their own health.

The Isle of Man has seen significant improvements in life expectancy over recent decades, but despite living longer, it's inevitable that some will spend their latter years in poor health.

The effects are not only on the wellbeing and quality of life for individuals, but also their families, carers and on health and social care costs. We can't solve these problems alone by increasing spending on health and social care. We need a fresh approach, securing good quality and long lasting physical and mental health for everyone, across all stages of life and in all our communities.

I believe this partly involves doing more to enable people to look after themselves better and partly requires us to make healthier decisions as a Community. As our health is shaped by a so many factors, the challenge is finding a way to influence these wider environmental and social issues, which are at least partially overseen by other government departments.

I've actively contributed to and remain supportive of the strategic goals for healthcare on the Island over the next five years;

People taking greater responsibility for their own health

Helping people to make good lifestyle choices favours them and society, as preventing illness is much cheaper than treating it. Good health also depends on good housing, employment and environmental conditions all influenced by government and I want to support partnerships that develop active ageing and volunteering opportunities.

Help people stay well in their own homes and communities

To achieve this, closer integration of services working with each other in the community is needed, avoiding hospital or residential care whenever possible. We need primary healthcare, mental health and social care services working cohesively together, treating people as a complete case, instead of different areas dealing with different aspects of care in a silo way.

Improve services for people who really do need care in hospital

Modernising procedures in Noble's Hospital and switching more routine work into the community, closer to people's homes, will improve performance. This should free up hospital specialists to do the specialist work that only they can do. Advances in technology must be encouraged, which helps to deliver higher standards of local care and ensure pathways are in place, enabling patients to get easy access to specialised care from UK centres, when it's not available on Island.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Provide enhanced safeguards for people who cannot protect themselves

I want to see more reliable services, ensuring children and adults are safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential. The aim should be to increase foster care to the level that residential care is used only when it can provide the optimum benefit for the individual child. There's a small minority of adults who need safeguarding, but we must take supportive action in keeping them safe and able to live their lives in the residence of their choosing.

Ensure people receive good value health and social care

The projected Government expenditure on these services in 2014/15 was £234 million. We need to generate significant efficiency and productivity savings on a sustainable basis, through better use of people resource, innovation and technology. Budget controls must become much more efficient and accountable, ensuring transparency for the Community to understand the value for money and providing explanations on how it's being spent.

Almost half of the people who receive social care support make a financial contribution towards it. So continuing to develop the relationship between Social Security and Treasury teams is essential to ensure this remains the best value for money for everyone.

With the ageing population challenge, I believe it's now essential for government to provide nursing care homes, as it has not provided this service since 2003. Relying on the private market to respond to all our needs is no longer adequate and the demand for capacity has and will rise significantly. Private care providers can choose to focus on care for those who pay higher fees, resulting in those who are reliant on benefit support, finding it increasingly unable to find nursing care places.

There is a new privately funded care home which is now completed, built by Salisbury Care Limited and is located at Salisbury Street in Douglas. Government purchase of this will allow the Island more nursing care options, ensuring care is available to those who need it, without damaging the existing private nursing home market.

The former Glenside residential care home was not fit for purpose under the Regulation of Care Act standards. But now the site is ready for redevelopment, I support the next Department of Health and Social Care plan to replace the existing 45 bed unit at Reayrt ny Baie, with a 60 bed unit on this location.

Public Sector Pensions

Some pensions have been amalgamated which has kept the cost of administration down, but there is a concern about the legacy issue. The next administration needs to examine in more detail the issue of defined benefits, but we must also encourage new staff coming in to the service to make pension provision for their future. We also have to honour the commitments that were given years ago.

EDUCATION

In my 2011 manifesto commitment, I supported the re-use of the old water treatment works in Greenfield Road. This is now the successfully re-developed William Kinnish Engineering Centre and is a modern engineering and construction workshop facility and provides valuable training and development courses, enhancing job opportunities on Island.

I also supported the successful initiative at Hills Meadow to upgrade the old engineering block, which has given valuable support to the engineering cluster on Island. As a Government, we have to continue investing in this engineering training facility so we can continue to fulfill job opportunities and add to a sustainable local future, which will benefit us all.

I encourage closer future links between the University College Isle of Man (College of Further and Higher Education) and the Business School at the Nunnery, to enable students to have the option to continue studying their degrees without having to leave the Island.

Schools

St Ninians Lower School at Bemahague is a great facility for Onchan since opening in 2012. This is an excellent modern facility providing both quality academic learning and gives students and the wider community with the benefit of access to an excellent range of sporting facilities.

The continuing modernisation of our Schools is essential and with the Henry Bloom Noble Primary school opening this September, I believe a responsible Government must consider further developments for other schools with outdated facilities. As one of the largest Primary Schools on Island, Ashley Hill's facilities are also now stretched, especially during inclement weather where there are inadequate indoor facilities for the number of children.

I was also recently invited to visit St Thomas' School in Douglas and find it unacceptable that they do not have adequate modern facilities for their children and also no more land to expand their intake.



INFRASTRUCTURE

The Isle of Man is completely reliant on good sea and air links for the movement of people, goods and services and the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company has been established for many years, providing valuable services and local employment.



Sea

In 1970, Tynwald supported the funding of the existing Liverpool landing stage and as it's now approaching the end of its safe life, our Government need to ensure a new secure landing stage for the future or we run the risk of losing this valuable sea route.

In my opinion, obtaining the correct landing at Liverpool docks and retaining ownership of any new facilities is essential to give us long term commitment and sustained access to the North West.

It is vital as part of the new user agreement that it contains some assurances to protect the interests of the Isle of Man;

- Investment in new vessels
- A cap on fare increases
- Regular reviews on services
- Introduce a new 'Fit and Proper' operator test to ensure The Steam Packet Company can't be sold to any company that doesn't pass this test.
- Government having access to their audited accounts, on a confidential basis

Roads

We need a simple formula for road maintenance and reconstruction within the Department of Infrastructure to categorise roads by safety and condition. This should give a realistic programme of works that require addressing.

One of my big concerns last year was the Douglas promenade scheme and the plans to include the horse trams onto the promenade walkway. The Department was naïve at best and the plans were ill thought out. It was a total waste of valuable public funding to have a public enquiry to demonstrate the findings did not support the Departments application. We just need the Douglas promenade to be reconstructed with value for money, without any fancy embellishments.

LAW AND ORDER

Although crime on the Isle of Man is relatively low in comparison with our neighbours, society is changing and so have the demands on the Constabulary. I want to ensure that effective policing and law enforcement remains a key feature throughout our Island communities.

I believe it's important to tackle crime at all levels, including those involving drug and alcohol abuse; with offenders being properly held to account, so public confidence in the law can be secured.

Drugs and Alcohol

Early intervention is needed when dealing with children and young adults. My belief is that if not properly supported and dealt with at an early stage, these people will end up spiralling down into a life with major welfare and social problems which only too often can result in a criminal record and long term problems which follow them throughout life.

Cyber Crime

I fully support the Chief Constable with his initiatives' on cyber-crime as too many local people and organisations have been targeted in this last year and defrauded of money by overseas criminals. The Constabulary will have growing demands on their resources in the future in this area and an Island wide approach to cyber security should be a focus in the coming year.

Community Policing

Over the last five years, we have lost our community Police Officers, but I still see the important value in our Police being funded to afford and maintain a visible presence back in communities. We need to ensure they are known to residents and are able to identify what matters to local people and tailor their service to meet those needs.

I would still like to see a bigger push to see offenders fulfil their community service orders properly and in useful ways, such as community tasks in areas where Government funding is being reduced. Larger work projects could also be identified to add value, reduce costs and assist in the rehabilitation of selected offenders already detained in prison.

Continuous improvement in policing must be an inevitable key part of maintaining the Island's safety.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Government must continue to support our local farmers, growers and food production such meat, dairy, vegetables and fish. We need to ensure they supply not only the Island community, but wherever possible increase business opportunities through plans for diversification and exports of Manx produce.

In common with other food production industries, modern fishing is an increasingly challenging business and we need to continue to safeguard the long-term viability of the Manx sea fisheries industry and develop sustainable business to ensure reliable seafood production.

Regeneration

The Town and Village regeneration schemes that have been completed around the Island have improved our environment.

There are a number of major schemes in Douglas that need a government kick start, such as the Summerland site, bus station, Castle Mona Hotel area and the regeneration of the redundant school sites in central Douglas.

Invest to Save Fund

As part of the 2016 budget, Tynwald gave approval of a local 'Invest to save' fund to assist with some specific funding for key infrastructure assets. This must be targeted at our local savings market and provide a secure and market competitive investment for local savers.

Examples of revenue generating areas, where government bond finance could be utilised are in the local housing market and conservation or energy efficient work on homes:

- House purchase scheme, to assist buyers outside of the existing first time buyers scheme;
- Finance for mid rent property purchases to ensure enough properties for a growing workforce;
- Equity release scheme for those people who are asset rich but cash poor.

A local bond will ensure both savers and borrowers are retaining and investing cash in the local market economy.



ONCHAN COMMUNITY

Planning

Since the transfer of planning from the Department of Infrastructure, to the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture and the Cabinet Office. My concern is that there's more frustration over planning issues than ever before, due to the non-advertising of planning in the newspaper and local authorities not informing residents of pending applications.

I welcome the permitted development orders initiative, but I'm seriously concerned about the inability of planning to control retrospective applications and the enforcement of planning breaches. This has all amounted to at least 200+ planning enforcement cases not being resolved, with some going back three years. There needs to be a policy where the planning Chairperson and/or Committee are empowered to enforce and draw these to a final decision.



I'm disappointed that the Eastern Development Plan has only just started to be developed, as I've been asking for this plan to commence and come to life since 2012. We have now been given only until September 2016 to comment on potential use of land under this plan. This is a major development area which includes; Onchan, Douglas, Braddan, Laxey, Lonan, Marown and Santon. I am actively encouraging people to engage in this consultation, as the plan will set up the controlled land use for the foreseeable future.

ONCHAN COMMUNITY

Local Authority Housing

In 2011, I asked that the Local Authority should refurbish its older housing stock to an acceptable standard. After 5 years some of this has still not been completed and it should still remain a priority.

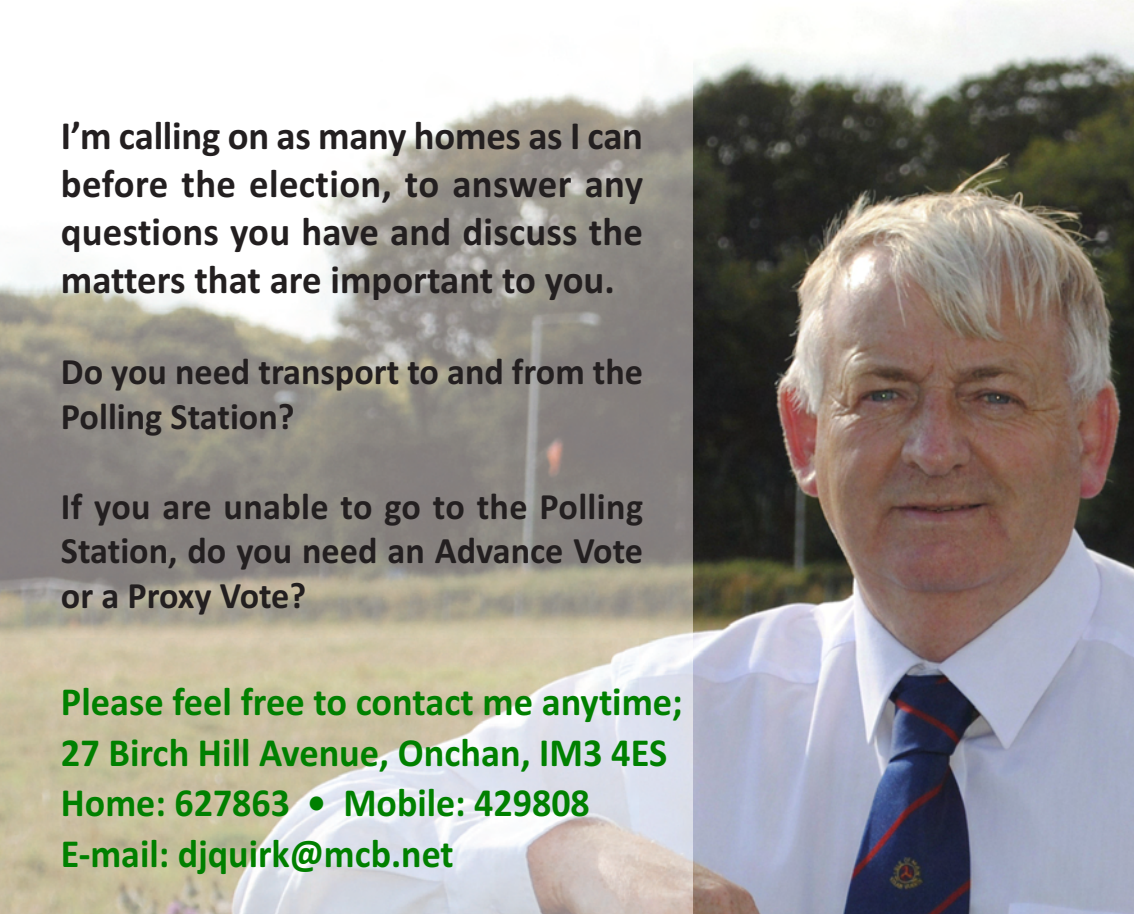
I'm also very concerned about the number of properties lying empty in Onchan; some of these properties have been vacant for months. Local rate payers are concerned and people are asking why these properties not been re-allocated. So far, I've come across nineteen empty properties and one of which has been empty for over a year. As an Onchan rate payer myself, I find this unacceptable and will endeavour to try and work collaboratively with Onchan Commissioners to ensure empty housing stock is minimal.

I'm an active supporter of the two sheltered housing complexes in Onchan, which have proved to be invaluable to the community. I would support further development for sheltered housing in Onchan to plan for the future.

Abandoned and Large Vehicles

Although the law has now changed for abandoned and large vehicles parking overnight in residential areas, we still have a number of vehicles flouting the law. This is an area where a local community police presence could be pro-active and I support the re-introduction of our community police back into Onchan.



A portrait of David Quirk X, a man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a white dress shirt and a blue tie with a red and white pattern. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

I'm calling on as many homes as I can before the election, to answer any questions you have and discuss the matters that are important to you.

Do you need transport to and from the Polling Station?

If you are unable to go to the Polling Station, do you need an Advance Vote or a Proxy Vote?

Please feel free to contact me anytime;
27 Birch Hill Avenue, Onchan, IM3 4ES
Home: 627863 • Mobile: 429808
E-mail: djquirk@mcb.net

DAVID QUIRK X

The Candidate who works for your Community

POLLING STATIONS

Please ensure you check your polling card, as it tells you which of the Polling Stations to attend:

Onchan Community Centre, School Road, Onchan
Manx Blind Welfare Centre, Corrin Court, Heywood Avenue, Onchan
Views Cafe, Onchan Park