

# Positive Action Group

## Douglas North Byelection

Dear Elector

Positive Action Group (PAG) seeks to encourage active citizenship and none more so than informed voting. [Our charter explains this.](#)

We have compiled this candidate questionnaire as an aid for you to determine the candidate closest to your views. It should be read in conjunction with the candidates manifesto. Manifestos are notoriously difficult to compare given the variety of subjects and writing styles, we hope this will help you navigate them.

We are most grateful that all candidates took a little time out to complete this questionnaire.

Thank you David, Maire and Ralph.

Email: [info@positiveactiongroup.org](mailto:info@positiveactiongroup.org)

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The answers available for the following sections were:

**Strongly Agree - Agree - Neutral - Disagree - Strongly Disagree**

## REF STATEMENT

### 1 OVERALL IMPRESSIONS OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT

1.1 The current government are doing an excellent job in difficult circumstances

Ralph Peake	Strongly Disagree
Maire Booth	Strongly Disagree
David Ashford	Disagree

1.2 The current government are transparent in their dealings and fully engage with the public

Ralph Peake	Disagree
Maire Booth	Strongly Disagree
David Ashford	Strongly Disagree

### 2 STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

2.1 The Chief minister should be elected by the people

Ralph Peake	Disagree
Maire Booth	Disagree
David Ashford	Disagree

2.2 Ministers should only be appointed from directly elected members of Tynwald

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Agree
David Ashford	Strongly Agree

2.3 The number of departmental members ought to be reduced

Ralph Peake	Strongly Agree
Maire Booth	Strongly Agree
David Ashford	Strongly Agree

2.4 The soon to be enacted Freedom of Information Act will enable transparency I expect of Government.

Ralph Peake	Neutral
Maire Booth	Disagree
David Ashford	Disagree

### 3 GOVERNMENT FINANCES

3.1 Pinewood was a reasonable investment to make.

Ralph Peake	Disagree
Maire Booth	Strongly Disagree
David Ashford	Neutral

3.2 The government should continue with a final salary pension scheme.

Ralph Peake	Strongly Disagree
Maire Booth	Strongly Disagree
David Ashford	Strongly Disagree

3.3 The so called 'toilet tax' is fair and does not need reform or removal.

Ralph Peake	Disagree
Maire Booth	Strongly Disagree
David Ashford	Strongly Disagree

### 4 ECONOMY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4.1 The Island is well set to take part in the emerging economic/technological developments that will create sustainable, meaningful jobs and livelihoods.

Ralph Peake	Disagree
Maire Booth	Strongly Agree
David Ashford	Agree

4.2 The island should be self-sufficient in terms of food production.

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Neutral
David Ashford	Neutral

## 5 BENEFITS AND PENSIONS

### 5.1 Benefits are too generous

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Disagree
David Ashford	Neutral

### 5.2 We should introduce a benefit cap similar to that in the UK

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Disagree
David Ashford	Disagree

## 6 EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### 6.1 The government should tighten up on work permits

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Agree
David Ashford	Strongly Agree

### 6.2 The government should be more independent of the UK

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Neutral
David Ashford	Strongly Agree

## 7 HEALTH

7.1 The GP service is adequate

Ralph Peake	Disagree
Maire Booth	Disagree
David Ashford	Disagree

7.2 The IoM public dentist service is adequate

Ralph Peake	Disagree
Maire Booth	Strongly Disagree
David Ashford	Disagree

7.3 Nobles hospital performs as well as can be expected

Ralph Peake	Strongly disagree
Maire Booth	Neutral
David Ashford	Disagree

## 8 HOUSING

*We have adequate public housing stock for our needs*

8.1

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Disagree
David Ashford	Strongly Disagree

Public sector tenants should have a right to buy their rented property.

8.2

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Strongly Disagree
David Ashford	Strongly Disagree

8.3 Any Landlord and Tenant Act should apply equally to both private and public sector.

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Strongly Agree
David Ashford	Disagree

## 9 TRANSPORT

The current ferry service is on balance fair to Islanders.

9.1	Ralph Peake	Disagree
	Maire Booth	Neutral
	David Ashford	Disagree

Isle of Man Bus and Rail perform well.

9.2	Ralph Peake	Disagree
	Maire Booth	Neutral
	David Ashford	Neutral

## 10 SOCIAL CARE

10.1 Social care is adequate and fit for purpose.

Ralph Peake	Disagree
Maire Booth	Strongly Disagree
David Ashford	Agree

## 11 WELLBEING AND SOCIAL

11.1 The "wellbeing" of the people of the Isle of Man - a balance of happiness, health, financial security, social connectedness and purposeful living - is currently the best it's ever been.

Ralph Peake	Strongly Disagree
Maire Booth	Strongly Disagree
David Ashford	Disagree

11.2 With the last 2 years I have responded to more than one government public consultation

Ralph Peake	Agree
Maire Booth	Strongly Agree
David Ashford	Strongly Agree

## 12 WHAT WILL YOU DO IN YOUR FIRST SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE TO REALISE YOUR MANIFESTO PLEDGES?

### **Ralph Peake**

By listening to the Government workforce, plan and agree a path of efficiencies, which with their buy-in will deliver large saving and help improve morale, which in turn will raise productivity.

The building of trust is a cornerstone of an effective economy and that has to begin with the MHK's by leading by example.

We can start this with little investment and demonstrate some short term progress.

### **Maire Booth**

*I will work with the current party members to bring in as much of our manifesto as possible.*

*People are not just voting for me they are voting for LibVan who already have a strong voice in Tynwald, more LibVan MHKs will make our voice stronger when we are representing you.*

### **David Ashford**

To put the DoED in touch with contacts in research and development businesses within the UK who may be interested in relocating some or all services to the island.

To bring forward a motion for Tynwald support to switch new entrants to a defined contribution based pension scheme.

To bring forward a motion to Tynwald to rescind the decision on the over 75's TV license and to question the changes in the bus charges for pensioners.

To vote against the Douglas Promenade Scheme in its current format. It's a waste of money and the shared space idea will not work. Instead of yet another grand scheme the Department should be simply fixing what is the problem, the road itself!

Bring forward a motion to Tynwald for Tynwald support for the development of a 30 year long term plan and vision for the island.

## 13 WHAT HAVEN'T WE COVERED?

### **Ralph Peake**

Education (Retraining) and Continual Personal Development.

I believe these are the foundations of a successful future.

### **Maire Booth**

When it comes to the current administration - goodness where do I start? There have been so many Rolls Royce projects and wasted money over the years it would bring tears to your eyes. The MDF for example, is nothing more than a scam and I cannot believe that they have gotten away with it. That money could be used in more useful areas such as bringing in all the recommendations from the West Midlands Review. The Sefton debacle - what can we say to this really!!! We want to get rid of the mates helping mates attitude that we currently have - we need to ensure that the same rules apply to everyone.

We can save money in so many areas - for example the Civil Service is just too big. We would take a review into all departments and see where savings can be made. Voluntary redundancies would be encouraged. Also office based CS pensions can be reviewed and changes made for new staff that would be on a par with private company pension schemes.

Streamlining of services will also save money - for example within social care why do you need to fill in so many forms time and time again - just one form should suffice (actually your tax return will have the details needed for most things). It shouldn't be so hard to get help from the government when needed, yet we also need to ensure that it is those who do need help that is getting it and that those who do not need help do not take advantage of the system.

We also want to bring in proper means testing, this will help to make the Island fairer.

Social care is woefully inadequate, we need more front line staff and less management - it is indicative of this government as a whole - too top heavy.

**David Ashford**

In relation to the question of should the Chief Minister be elected by the public the reason I disagree is I fear we would be creating even more of a Presidential style system. If a Chief Minister is elected island wide it could further give them dominance over their colleagues who have only been returned by a set constituency. What we should be doing is returning more powers to our Parliament, Tynwald.

Also in relation to the Freedom of Information Act the reason I have answered as I have is that I do not believe it goes far enough. There are still, under the soon to be introduced arrangements, too many exemptions that can be made.

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