

TIM CROOKALL

House of Keys General Election

Thursday
29th September
2011



CROOKALL

FOR PEEL



Dear Voter

It has been an honour and privilege to have served Peel for the past five years as the Town's Member of the House of Keys and I am delighted to offer myself again as your Independent candidate.

The Island is heading for its toughest time for years. In my first term I have been able to gain valuable experience across six Government Departments and Authorities in order to be a key member of the team to help lead the Island forward. Experience is going to be essential as Tynwald grapples with its biggest challenges for a generation.

*Over the past 5 years I have been a Member of: the **Department of Transport** overseeing the Highways Division: The **Department of Local Government and Environment** dealing with housing: Vice Chairman of the **Office of Fair Trading**: the **Department of Home Affairs** overseeing the Prison and Probation service: the **Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture** working with the Forestry and property Division: the **Department of Infrastructure** in charge of Government Properties and I am the Chairman of the **Water and Sewerage Authority**. I have also been on numerous Standing and Select Committees of Tynwald and the House of Keys, reviewing procedures, Initiatives, Interests and Standards and also issues raised by MHK's on their or their constituent's behalf.*

I have been a member of Peel lifeboat crew since 1987. I am on the committees of the Peel Youth Project, Western Community Project, Peel Gardeners Association, Peel Heritage Trust, Peel Football Club and Ellan Vannin Arthritis Care.



This manifesto will set out some of my achievements and explain my vision for the future of Peel and our Island.

Tim Crookall

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The Economy and Employment

The Island's economy continues to grow, currently by 4% per annum. We need to ensure this trend continues while we deal with the latest attack on the Revenue Sharing Arrangement. By creating the right environment we are able to encourage businesses to set up and further diversify and strengthen our economy. I believe the new Isle of Man Finance Partnership, set up recently between the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Department, designed to bring financial and other business to the Island will only serve to strengthen our leading edge in this sectors.

Low income and corporate taxes have driven the Island's success. Higher taxes and the abolition of 0/10 are not the answer to our current problems as it will drive away existing companies.

Castle View, the new Nursing home not only provides another very much needed facility in Peel it has created new job opportunities. The fishing industry, with investment from DEFA and DED, has seen 11 new units and some old ones re-opening in Mill Road Yard and the number of employees rising by up to 20% in one case. As a member within DEFA, I have actively been involved in this process, bringing jobs and opportunity to Peel.

I will continue to explore opportunities to bring business to our Town, to ensure it remains a vibrant and prosperous place to live and work.

We need to make sure that the work permit legislation is still fit for purpose for the Island in controlling immigration in times of economic hardship.

Government

Government departments need to make sure that they provide the tax payer with value for money. I don't believe that the current spending of £1.8 million on the Queens Pier and then a further necessary spend of around £10million will be money well spent. I also reject the idea that spending over £270,000 on Ballakillowey roundabout was money well spent. I did not support either of these schemes.

The next Tynwald will have to revisit the 2006 report on 'The Scope and Structure of Government'. The restructuring of Government Departments in 2010 was ill considered, rushed and a deeply flawed move which I opposed in Tynwald. Government needs to look at what, how and why it does what it does and decide if it is necessary for them to provide that service.

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It is an expensive farce that every development by the Department of Infrastructure goes to an independent inspector. By making the Planning Division independent from the Department, it will reduce bureaucracy and save money.

It is not right that the subsidized MEA showrooms are allowed to continue running at a loss, last year well in excess of £400,000, when the private sector are there supply the goods.

The Reciprocal Health Agreement and the Revenue Sharing Agreement were badly handled. A closer relationship needs to be developed with the UK Government to prevent such shocks in future. If re-elected I hope to be part of a more open and communicative Government that does not make the same mistakes.

I will continue to support the Freedom of Information Bill being introduced as soon as possible and the Disability Discrimination Act.

I would be happy to see a reduction in the number of MHKs to 20, and fully support the idea of Members of Tynwald contributing to their Pension Scheme. I seconded a motion in Tynwald supporting pension contributions. I will continue to actively pursue this change.

With the loss of the £75 million pounds through the revision of the Revenue Sharing Agreement Tynwald has to be responsible and be willing to make the decisions to get us through this tough and testing time. Leading by example, making cuts in numbers where possible and also contributing to the pension scheme I believe is a must.

Education

I will continue to support necessary investment in our education system. It is imperative that students be afforded every opportunity to complete a full education culminating with the chance to attend College or University with the help of Government funding. We need to keep an open mind how to achieve this.

Pre-school facilities have become a necessity these days and I support their continuation. The start of this school year saw some children unable to attend pre-school at Peel Clothworkers because of the Department of Education's unworkable and unfair admissions policy. I asked the Minister for Education at the July Tynwald if the Department would undertake to review this before the start of the next school year. He said they would. Whilst this is of no consolation to those who have missed out this year, I will endeavour to make sure that next year the system is fairer and that the school can have its say on the allocation of places next year.

The QE2 and Peel Clothworkers have benefitted from extensions recently. I have been keen to support Government carrying out extensive investment in building new and extending existing school facilities. We are very fortunate to have two excellent schools that serve Peel.

We have too many 'education advisers'; I believe that by cutting these middle management jobs, we can protect our excellent front line teaching staff.

Housing

Providing essential and adequate Local Authority housing is a must and I am delighted to have played my part in Government's ongoing commitment to refurbish properties and build new bungalows for our elderly like those at Bluebell Close. Over the past 5 years Peel has seen a considerable amount of investment and it is to be welcomed.

In July, Tynwald raised the eligible income for those applying for the House Purchase Assistance Scheme from £25,000 to £35,000 and increased the maximum grant to £25,000. As a member for housing this is just one of the positive steps I have been keen to advance for those trying to get onto the property ladder and buy their own home.

By continuing the provision of new and refurbished housing this also creates much needed spending in the building and supplies trade, protecting jobs in a struggling sector of the economy.



Health and Social Care

In my manifesto 5 years ago I said "a new health, adequately staffed in the future must be a priority". I have worked tirelessly to pursue this, and I am delighted to say that we now have the new surgery in the grounds of the Corrin Home. Thanks must go to the Corrin Home Trustees and the Department of Health to make this happen. This will be a huge asset to the Town for years to come.

The priority for health service spending needs to be bringing down waiting lists considerably. It is not acceptable to be waiting for two years between referral and treatment.

Government need to make sure that benefits are supporting those that genuinely need them. There is a responsibility on all those claiming job seekers allowance to actively engage with the employment market. Government should not be shy in providing mandatory work experience for job seekers.



Policing

The reduction in crime figures over the past few years has helped to add to the prosperity of the Island. With the lower crime figures per capita than the UK and a high detection rate we should be justly proud of our Police Force. It doesn't mean we should be complacent as we still have serious issues with alcohol and drugs. During my regular meetings with the local police I have been happy to offer them my support alongside the multi agency teams set up to try and deal with these problems. Peel and the West have the lowest crime rate on the Island, which makes us, probably the safest place to live in Europe!

Overseas Aid and the Third sector

The budget made available to the Overseas Aid Committee for this year is £2.4 million pounds. Whilst it is very commendable to help those in great need around the world I believe that we should be spending some of the £2.4 million looking after people in need on the Island. A £400,000 reallocation from the Overseas Aid would go a long way to help support a lot of very needy causes through local charities here at home.

I believe that the Public, Private and Third Sectors will all need to work much closer together in the future. There are services provided by Charity and volunteer organisations that sometimes overlap and should perhaps be working more closely together. By working together, scarce money will often go further.

Government Investment

Over the past 5 years Peel has continued to see Government investment and support in and around the Town. We have seen the Marina, the new boat park and washing/showering facilities completed at a total cost of over £6 million. The creation of the small car park on the West Quay developed.

As the Chairman of the Peel Town Regeneration Committee I am delighted to say that funds were made available to help with the restoring of the building in Market Place, which is now the new Headquarters of the Manx Wildlife Trust having moved from Tynwald Mills to Peel.

I support the relocation of Government offices to Peel and the West.



IRIS - Regional Sewerage Treatment Works

In 2007 I was part of the DOT review of the IRIS Strategy and decided the best policy going forward was to have Regional Sewerage Treatment Works (RSTW) – a strategy supported by Tynwald. This will lead to substantial savings not only on the capital costs but also on the day to day running of the works.

In 2009 Peel Town Commissioners (PTC's) decided not to work with the Department of Transport or support an Environmental Impact Assessment taking place on the preferred site. Due to this decision, the Minister of Transport decided to stop any more work on the Peel RSTW. That decision meant that the way forward for Peel will not be reviewed until 2014.

I am absolutely appalled that as the rest of the Island moves on in the treatment of its sewage we have been made to put up with raw sewage being pumped into the Bay for the foreseeable future. This didn't need to happen. I know many of you are as frustrated about this as I am, and if re-elected I will continue to push for this to be resolved quickly.

Traffic Issues

The recent changes on Derby Road, Christian Street and Church Street have made traffic movements through the Town easier. There are issues with speeding, which are being looked at by the Highways Division.

The recycling at Lhergydhoo Sand Pit Quarry has to halt by July 2012 and the quarry closed by 2014. This will bring to an end wagons having to come through the Town to access the Quarry, and I will continue to work with JCK for an earlier closure if possible.

Many people have raised the issue of the number of vehicles travelling through the town. I believe that when Oak Road is completed it will help alleviate this, and improve access to the Ramsey Road for many in the local area. However, I am keen to see steps taken to ensure the disruption to locals is minimized by the imposition of traffic calming, enforcement of speed limits and weight restrictions.

Summary

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto.

I am endeavouring to call on as many of you as possible before the election. If successful on September 29th, I promise to devote my energy to your issues. I have been an enthusiastic, energetic and dedicated advocate for Peel over the last five years, completely involved in the life of the Town. It has been a pleasure to serve you and I hope you will support my re-election

For environmental reasons I have only sent one manifesto to each household and it has been addressed to the first named on the electoral register in that house.

If there is anything you would like to discuss or if you require a lift to the polling station please contact me on 842686 or 497782 or by e-mail to timcrookall@manx.net



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