



PAMELA BIRNIE-MALARKEY



Our community matters

Manifesto

*House of Keys: Douglas South By-Election
Thursday 27 August 2020*

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Dear Constituent

My name is Pamela Birnie-Malarkey and I am proud to be standing as an independent candidate for Douglas South.

Since first arriving on the Island over 20 years ago, I have dedicated my personal life to the community. My passion for the Isle of Man is clear. Professionally, I bring you more than 30 years accounting, project management and compliance experience. My proven 'trouble-shooting' skills in business and charities – on Island and further afield - will enable me to challenge, influence and achieve results in Tynwald.

It is obvious that we have local, national and international issues facing the Island. My close knowledge of how Government works means that your concerns over these issues can be addressed from the moment of being sworn in.

Recently, we have re-ignited our community spirit and this community spirit needs to be nurtured.

We need the future to be in the hands of those who have our best interests at their core, succeeding economically without sacrificing the qualities which make the Isle of Man such a special place to live and work.

I aim to represent you with focused determination, enthusiasm and integrity, along with a willingness to promote and embrace fresh approaches. My foremost priority is that I serve you and the people of our Nation.

With only a year to go until the General Election, your voice needs to be heard.

If you would like to discuss anything of concern to you, please contact me.

Gura mie ayd.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela".

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1 The Challenges

With COVID-19, we are going through a local, national and international crisis - physically, financially, socially/emotionally and mentally.

We must address all aspects of our future with strong and decisive leadership. You have told me your main concerns are:

- Economic growth
- Education
- Employment
- Environment
- Funding for nursing/residential care
- Mental health services
- Manx Gas
- The All Island Strategy for Affordable Housing

There will be many more challenges - we need knowledge and experience in Government to deal with them.

4

2 Our Economy

Recent times have been ones where there is significant financial uncertainty.

We must, now more than ever, be promoting the Island as a beacon of financial stability to investors, businesses and individuals. Finding new sources of revenue will reduce the financial burden on taxpayers.

As the global economy retracts, we must strengthen and protect our position with regard to our internationally endorsed tax regime (zero-ten).

Given the uncertainty over the effect of the UK's departure from the EU, we must continue to pursue every opportunity we can to boost our economy. More positive promotion of the Island via public relations and marketing is needed.

The next few years must focus on sustainable economic diversification.

Whilst our reserves are enviable, they are not a bottomless pit. I am a strong advocate of financial effectiveness and we must scrutinise all areas of Government to become more efficient. I would promote zero based budgeting in Government (where all expenses must be justified) and a culture of cost management being nurtured and expected.

The importance of working effectively at all scales to build long-term resilience, generate business opportunities and provide environmental and societal benefits must be considered.

A crucial step in aiding our economy in these difficult times is a determined effort to protect existing jobs. Many people have lost employment.

We must ensure that financial support is available, that is fair and reasonable for every resident of our Island.

We should support individuals in the public, private and third sector by offering further re-training opportunities. Entrepreneurs can be guided to the Department for Enterprise's Micro Business Grant Scheme.

Technology, science and research sectors are direct examples of where we could be promoting more. These jobs would encourage high quality, well paid employment and provide opportunities for university graduates to return to the Island.

I am supportive of industries that bring employment and revenue to our Island - this includes the growing of cannabis for medicinal purposes by the private sector. I look forward to the proposed regulations being tabled in the October sitting of Tynwald.

3 Tourism & Travel

Staycations are booming on Island.

We should further foster our community spirit and continue support for tourist accommodation providers during these unprecedented times. The Coronavirus Strategic Capacity Scheme (Tourist Accommodation) should be extended for as long as we remain at our current response level of *Stay Responsible*.

In the medium term, we must look to re-ignite our tourist industry as people make the choice to travel domestically. This can only be achieved with better, cheaper and more reliable sea/air travel.

Steam Packet

Now that the company has been nationalised, it is an appropriate time to raise the idea of partial privatisation.

Isle of Man residents should be given the option to purchase and own shares. Ownership would allow shareholders to balance the risks and rewards on the following:

- fare prices
- social benefit over profit
- securing the workforce and ensuring that Isle of Man income tax and national insurance is paid

The intention would be to offer shares at an affordable price, limited to a set number of shares and with the condition that shares have to be owned by private individuals. We should be allowed the choice to personally invest, persuade and gain from our sea services life-line.



4 Health

I believe that a proactive approach to health is better than a reactive approach to ill health.

We have long standing challenges regarding waiting times, low staff morale and lack of access to specialists.

We must find funds for our health service through effective management, not a cut to frontline services. The independent review of our health service, by Sir Jonathan Michael, stated that “people on the Island say they need... • High quality, efficient services • Best value • Delivered as locally as appropriate • Timely provision of services, which are both accessible and integrated with other aspects of the system • Sustainable, both financially and clinically”. These are points we all, I am sure, agree with. The implementation of recommendations must now be completed with the core focus of responsibility and care for all members of our community.

From my business experience, I am in general agreement to the separation of policy making from the delivery of day-to-day services as mentioned in the Manx Care proposals. Policies must, however, be led and written with the views, recommendations and feedback of our frontline workers. Our commendable frontline workers in all areas of our health service must be allowed to deliver for us.

Mental health services are undergoing a long-term process of change. Their aim to prevent mental ill health, promote mental well being and treat mental illness must be given emphasis and more funding/support.

Having been an active campaigner for the rights of diabetics (former Treasurer of the Manx Diabetic Group, who led the formation to a charitable company), I will press the Government to fulfil the promise made, by successive years of lobbying by Diabetes Isle of Man, to provide continuous glucose monitoring systems to all those with Type 1 diabetes.

5 Education

Education is a life-long process.

Prior to formally starting school, we must look to allow our young children the opportunity to form friendships and allow teachers the opportunity to make an assessment of the needs of their pupils. Pre-school at school should be re-introduced in Douglas South, whenever it can be. Parents should have a choice if/where they send their child to pre-school.

The value of the pre-school credit award requires further review. The current value of £3,420 per annum (£285 per month) does not cover the cost to families.

My solution to the current dispute between teachers and the Department of Education, Sport and Culture would be to encourage realistic conversation around what is best for our childrens' education. A cross body secondment/job shadowing would help both teachers and politicians understand the difficulties faced.

At the moment, we are importing skilled labour in some areas that I consider could be carried out by Manx residents. In the last three years, we have spent over £111,261 on relocation grants for nurses. Whilst these funds were necessary to fulfil demand, we must look to promote training for more than the fourteen adult pathway and six mental health student nurses. Detailed consideration should be given to a five-year plan to shift from relocation grants to training grants.

We have gaps in 'trade' education: electricians, joiners, painters/decorators and plumbers. Local business should be encouraged to employ apprentices to train for the future. Given our current physical and economic situation, we must focus on promoting education for current and future industries - trade education, as well as a purposeful attention to students in IT and renewable energy skills. This will help potential students consider their education options, help our local businesses to succeed and assist our environment. It will give a steady stream of new recruits with the skills demanded by a progressive economy.

Education does not, however, have to be focused on the requirement for jobs. Education helps personal development, self-worth, mental health and increases the ability to deal with life. The University College Isle of Man has partnered with the Open University to offer free training tools designed to encourage learning and to support local people in the development of skills in a range of areas. Financial 'life skills' should be incorporated to the curriculum of all secondary school students. I consider that these initiatives should be pursued and developed.

6 Pensioners

Health care is a universal service, free for all at the point of need. Social care is not. During the independent review of our healthcare system, Island residents voiced real concern over the options for future funding of our nursing and residential care. There is a strong view that there is a lack of fairness in the use of a person's capital and assets to pay for care in later life.

This matter will be a key campaign issue for the General Election. I would encourage that it is debated further before then. We must, without hesitation, introduce a review of a person's capital and assets on an ongoing basis. Pensioners have spent their lives contributing to our economy and are being stripped of their assets to pay for care. Recognising their contribution must be made with respect.

It is intimated that, in the future, there will be an increase in national insurance contributions to address the funding issue. With our ageing population expected to increase by 30% by 2036, we must bring about change to ensure that we have fair and equitable solutions.

We must continue to put pressure on the BBC regarding its intention to remove free TV licences to the majority of over 75's. Whilst the BBC have an open consultation in progress, we must continue to fight our position for the services we receive.



7 Environment

Climate action is the biggest inter-generational demand that we face. We must take action now. The Climate Change Bill consultation is underway and I encourage everyone to submit a response by 1 September 2020. We must investigate renewable energy sources. We are the only entire nation UNESCO Biosphere and each one of us has a responsibility to seek and make changes to help save our planet.

8 Law & Order



We have welcomed the increase in police officers. Community patrols are essential for our sense of well being and safety. Ongoing threats continue to exist - financial crime and illegal drugs are just two. Ensuring we have adequate resources in our Constabulary is critical.

Advanced Passenger Information (API) for all entering and leaving the Island is a matter of urgency. We have been able to undertake this during the pandemic, we should continue this to help protect and preserve the security of our Island.

9 Central Government Reform

Respecting our traditions and pride is important. I believe that a smaller, more effective Government would serve us better. I would suggest that each constituency has 1 MHK only with a salary commensurate with the skills and abilities required. We must seek to attract candidates who have the knowledge, passion and experience to serve their constituents, and our Island, best. With note to the Council of Ministers, I would welcome appointment by MHK vote, rather than being picked by the Chief Minister.

MLC's should be limited to legislative scrutiny only. Wider reform of the structure of Tynwald is long overdue and will continue to be a highly discussed matter. One thing I am certain of is that the voices of our Nation are represented by the publicly elected MHK's.

At the time of a General Election, candidates who have the desire to become Chief Minister should declare this and make a statement to such affect, outlining what they would like to address and achieve being Chief Minister. This will enable voters to endorse candidates for the position and guide their elected MHK's to elect based on public opinion.

10 Other Matters

Isle of Man Information Commissioner

Information (data) is now one of the most valuable commodities in the world - higher than the price of gold.

We need to ensure that people are aware of their data protection rights and that organisations are aware of their legal responsibilities.

I would welcome further resources to the Information Commissioner to build an independent educational and advisory service for small businesses and charities.

The All Island Strategy for Affordable Housing is being laid before Tynwald later this year. To enable proper debate, this will require knowledge of the existing and proposed first time buyers schemes, awareness of the pointing system/financial conditions. Fixed Term Tenancies are a key matter for many Douglas South residents. I favour the formation of a Housing Association to build and make affordable housing more available. I have already discussed this with many of you and I will make your voice heard on this.

Manx Gas

The Heads of Terms will be placed before Tynwald in October. In order to get what is right for customers, this requires detailed understanding and scrutiny. In a market driven by monopoly, we need regulations to ensure authoritative powers exist to challenge prices and delivery. We have been advised that Government (through the OFT) are able to resource this. I would strongly advocate regulations to continually assess the approved agreement.

Local Government and Rates

With a population of our size, we need further reform. The merger of local authorities is welcome and should be actively encouraged more to achieve wider economies of scale. We are, years down the line, still waiting for the implementation of a rating system for domestic properties. After so many years of 'talk', this needs to be made a priority.

Royal Assent for the Domestic Abuse Bill and the Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Bill will be well received.

**Your interests are best served by a candidate who will listen, act
and make fair, ethical and transparent decisions for you.**

If you believe:

- ✓ **We deserve a well-funded, effective health service**
- ✓ **We must diversify our economy to increase revenue**
- ✓ **We need to proactively promote life-long learning to address employment challenges**
- ✓ **We should look after our pensioners and prepare for our own future**
- ✓ **We need to make Central Government more effective**
- ✓ **We deserve the option to buy shares in the Steam Packet**

then, please

Vote

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Representation of the People Act 1995

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