

# Michael Josem

A strong voice for:

- ✓ Securing jobs
- ✓ Protecting health
- ✓ Easing the squeeze on household finances



# JOSEM

FOR DOUGLAS SOUTH

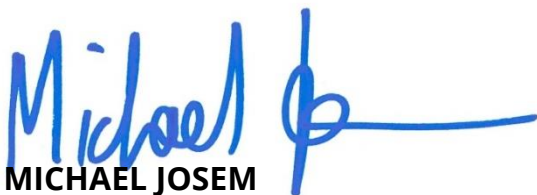
# **JOSEM** A strong voice for FOR DOUGLAS SOUTH **Douglas South**

The election on 27 August is about protecting local jobs, securing our national health service, and easing the squeeze on household finances.

Douglas South needs a strong voice. Someone who will be our community's representative to the Government, not the Government's representative to our community. Someone who will fight for local jobs, fight for local health services and be a strong voice for us.

This election is due to the sad circumstances of Bill Malarkey and Kate Costain being unable to complete their terms in Tynwald. These are big shoes to fill, and we pay tribute to their spirited service. This is a powerful reminder that we need a strong voice in Tynwald to fight for our nation's health service.

Together, we can build our island to be strong whichever way we are thrown.

  
**MICHAEL JOSEM**

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Published by Michael Josem,  
1 Hillary Wharf, Douglas

Printed by BHW Print Group Limited,  
Hills Meadow, Douglas,  
on 100% FSC Certified Paper



Protecting jobs is important for workers and so we can fund health and pension support for people in need. Our community plan for protecting jobs is based on three key principles:

## **1) Build local infrastructure**

Now is the time to invest in improving our roads, cycle tracks and broadband access. This will directly employ workers and create valuable assets for our community.

- Support resurfacing and repair of local roads;
- Ensure the Glencrutchery Road bus lane is temporary; and
- Build bike tracks: Build the connection between Springfield and Pulrose Roads; Connect the track from the NSC and Pulrose, through the Nunnery, all the way into central Douglas (including a bridge over Douglas River).

## **2) Reduce fees and charges: no new taxes**

Keeping more money in the pockets of Manx residents will allow us all to spend more money locally, leading to an economic multiplier for the benefit of everyone in our community.

- Support a new Manx Gas agreement for fairer gas prices;
- Support reduced taxes and rates for local retailers to have a fair footing against online competitors; and
- Oppose the introduction of any new coronavirus taxes on the people of the Isle of Man, because the finances of Manx households are already under pressure.

## 3) Support development of central Douglas

We need a dynamic and vibrant town centre. This will create valuable construction jobs, build housing for people wanting to get a foot on the property ladder and protect the environment.

- Lord Street needs to be developed as soon as possible using private investment. This includes a planned cinema, hotel, and multi-level car park.
- Support expedited development of Douglas Quay and the current ruins around Fort and Parade Streets in central Douglas. It is a tragedy that the centre of our nation's capital is dominated by sites that are literally laying in ruins.
- Support the development of brownfield sites in central Douglas, creating jobs and housing, without needing to push the urban sprawl of Douglas beyond Vicarage or Cooil Roads

## Securing air and sea links for our island

The best way to secure air and sea links for our island is by allowing a network of different companies and operators to serve our island. This gives us choice and resilience, while also driving down prices through competition.

The current Steam Packet service provides insufficient connections to Ireland, and an alternative provider should be allowed to operate if the Steam Packet fails to improve services.

# Protecting our community's health

Securing our community's health is essential to the people of Mann living happy, healthy and lengthy lives.

## Local

Our island will never be *fully* self-sufficient for health services. We need to make more services available locally, giving people the option to avoid travel off-island for diagnosis or treatment. This will avoid the stress of lengthy travel off-island for a short consultation with a doctor– stresses they are concerned about in normal times, let alone amidst a global pandemic!

We should invest in cutting-edge diagnostic tools and telehealth to improve the health of people in our community. However, when expert treatment is needed off-island, it should of course still be available to local residents.

## Universally accessible

Every person on the Isle of Man must have access to our nation's health service. Our national health service must **not** be privatised, and we must be very skeptical of the Government's plans to corporatise the health service. At times like these, we must not risk universal access to our health service.

## High quality

We recognised the efforts of key workers like nurses and doctors during the coronavirus pandemic. They made courageous and heroic sacrifices to protect our community.

# Protecting our community's health



Not only should key workers be recognised emotionally for their service, but they should be rewarded financially too. Paying doctors and nurses fairly isn't just the moral thing to do: it will help our health service attract and retain the best staff possible.

# Keeping our island safe from coronavirus



The Government's current plan is to impose a second lockdown if the coronavirus spreads widely on our island. However, the Government has refused to publish scientific evidence to justify such extreme measures, especially when they fail to implement less costly precautions.

We need to protect our island from a second-wave of the virus by:

- Publishing scientific advice openly and transparently;
- Testing arrivals on our island more proactively, especially since the Government is allowing returning residents to live at home with family who are not required to quarantine;
- Use currently-empty hotels to host people who test positive for coronavirus and who cannot self-isolate alone at home;
- If a few cases return to our island, we need to encourage people to wear masks before taking more extreme measures that put Manx jobs and businesses at risk without public scientific backing.

# Easing the squeeze on household finances

The cost of living is too high, and family budgets are under pressure. With many jobs lost, wages under pressure, and businesses at risk, household budget are very fragile. We need to ease the squeeze on the cost of living.

## **Build more affordable housing**

For many Manx families, their biggest cost is housing: rent and mortgages. In the 2010s, a median house cost 9 times the median Manx earnings, up from 5 times median Manx earnings in the 1990s. Homes are out-of-reach from many people, discouraging our children from building a future on our island.

The best way to make more affordable housing is to build more housing. We need more **private and public housing** so that owning your own home is not an unaffordable fantasy for many Manx families. This will create jobs and environmental benefits.

## **Monthly payments for vehicle duty**

Your mortgage, your rent, your phone bill, and your electricity bill can be paid automatically on a monthly basis. It is time to allow monthly payments for vehicle duty.

## **Allow non-safety parking tickets to be paid with IOM Foodbank donations**

We should allow people to resolve non-safety parking tickets by donating non-perishable food items of equal or greater value to their fine. In an ideal world, a Foodbank wouldn't be required, but since it is, we should support our neighbours in need.

# **Easing the squeeze on household finances**

## **Faster payments for Small Business**

Cash flow for small businesses is tight. These are businesses who face tough battles to make payroll every month. The Government should pay pre-registered small businesses within 5 business days. Alternatively, bills valued under £10,000, can be paid instantly by credit card if Manx businesses prefer.

## **Revise the Governments cuts to COVID benefits**

The Government's cuts to coronavirus support for people in need was sudden and harmful. Instead of harsh cuts, we should scale the MERA based on individual earnings of Manx workers.

This rewards Manx people who want to work. This rewards Manx companies who wants to hire a part-time worker. This rewards taxpayers by saving money.

## **Allow Manx businesses to easily hire local workers**

During the height of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government employed Manx medical students to assist in appropriate roles by using them on the Manx Coronavirus helpline.

The Government must allow workers to adapt for the future, and trust Manx employers to hire the best local people for the job, granting exemptions for pre-existing certification. This will help businesses to serve customers and allow staff to work.



# Building a stronger education system

Our schools need to provide a foundation for lifelong learning and be responsive to the different needs of different students.

- Support the Government's current review of the governance arrangements of our school system, and fight for any education reforms to include the results of the review;
- Empower families and schools to have more local control over their local school;
- Pay teachers and other essential workers well so that we can attract and retain the very best staff for our students;
- Support the continued presumption that if schools can welcome additional students, they must do so.

# Protecting our natural environment

We can do better than the Government's target of reaching Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2050 by investing in clean energy solutions and green infrastructure to reduce pollution.

- Prohibit all mining, drilling and fracking for fossil fuels in the Isle of Man and our territorial waters, including banning drilling for gas off the coast of Laxey;
- Empower Manx households to have the right to obtain zero-carbon emission electricity as part of their supply;
- Support and expand 'permitted development' changes to allow people to upgrade their home's energy efficiency;
- Support low-carbon retrofits and building upgrades;

# Protecting our natural environment



- Allow anyone, anywhere, to re-vegetate their land;
- Regulate electric scooters like electric bicycles;
- Allow the purchase of no-emission vehicles (like electric bicycles and cars) to be partly income tax deductible;
- End Government purchases of carbon-emitting vehicles.

# Protecting community safety from crime



Our justice system must distinguish evil crimes (eg, indecently assaulting children) from stupid crimes (eg, a returned resident having a garage sale during isolation). It is nuts to jail the garage sale man, but not the man who indecently assaulted a child.

## **Tougher sentences for evil crime**

Support reforms to the sentencing guidelines so that heinous acts are dealt with strongly. Sexual predators who are convicted of indecently assaulting children must go to jail.

## **Redirect people who commit trivial offences to community service orders by default**

We must still deter good people from doing stupid things. By default, trivial crimes should be dealt with by community service, not imprisonment and fines. Many people who are punished for trivial rules breaches are suffering from other disadvantage, and we need to break their cycle of despair.

# Protecting community safety from crime



## Support survivors

We should support community organisations like Victim Support IOM to do great work to support victims of crime. We should appropriately monitor offenders to prevent repeat offences.

## Cut wastage on trivial drug possession charges

Taxpayer resources should not be wasted prosecuting people for trivial amounts of cannabis possession. It is bad for the offenders, it is bad for their family, and it is bad for our society.

Cannabis is already, under some medical circumstances, legal here. We should expand control and regulation of cannabis, very carefully putting interests of local people first, and managing local production for the benefit of society.

# Improving accountability and public governance



Most Tynwald members take a taxpayer-funded payrise to be a political member of a department. Michael Josem will not.

- We should end collective responsibility for supposedly “independent” politicians. All politicians should state their views honestly in public – not just in private.
- We must end commercial confidence agreements between the Government and corporations to hide from freedom of information requests.
- We need to establish a permanent Manx Independent Commission Against Corruption to fully and independently investigate allegations of corrupt misbehaviour.

# How to vote for a strong voice for Douglas South



## Election Date:

Thursday, 27 August, 8am to 8pm  
(Day before the 'Supermanx' Long Bank Holiday Weekend)

## Polling Stations:

**Pulrose Methodist Church:** Pulrose Road, Pulrose

**Scoil Vallajeelt:** Meadow Crescent, Braddan

**Anagh Coar Primary School:** Darragh Way, Anagh Coar

**To vote for Michael Josem on 27 August, simply put a single cross in the box next to Josem:**

7	<b>JOSEM</b> <b>MICHAEL DEREK</b> (1 Hillary Wharf, Douglas)	 <b>LibVan</b>	
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Need transport on polling day or have any questions?  
Please phone Michael Josem on 07624 **488557** anytime