

House of Keys By-Election
Thursday 27th August 2020

DAVID FOWLER

DOUGLAS SOUTH



VOTE FOWLER 

VOTE FOWLER X

Dear Voters,

My name is David Fowler. I'm a self - employed businessman running my own landscape gardening business and I have lived in the constituency of Douglas South for over 10 years.

I am standing as your local independent MHK candidate in the Douglas South by-election on Thursday 27th August 2020.

First of all I'd like to thank all the hundreds of constituents that voted for me in the September 2016 general election. I have

tenacious grit, determination, passion and energy to get your voice heard from day one. My main objectives are to: protect the elderly vulnerable and disabled, make sure our taxes are

spent efficiently, maintain budgets for vital services including health, education, police, fire and ambulance and maintain sustainable growth. I will fight to maintain a low tax economy, Putting the island's economy back on track due to the Covid-19 crisis, now that the border restrictions have started to relax we need to ensure that we have strict monitoring system for those returning to the Isle of Man is absolutely essential, a high quality health service and reduce the budget deficit, whilst maintaining the Manx way of life against the outside political pressures and interference. Also if a lot of constituents have a view different to mine on any proposal then I will vote the way they want as a MHK should not necessarily dictate their own personal opinions but vote the way the public want me to, this will help to forge true fairness and democracy. Whilst canvassing I have spoken to many people but if I have missed anyone and you would like to talk, please give me a call and I can visit you at a convenient time, also if you need a lift to the polling station please call to arrange this. Or if you would like a poster? Can you help on polling day? Can you spare anytime to help with canvassing? Also I'd just like to say it's very sad to be having this by-election because of the passing away of the much liked and respected MHK BILL MALARKEY RIP.

Please vote for me and I will work very hard for the benefit of Douglas South and the Isle of Man.

Yours Sincerely

David

Contact: David at davidfowler@manx.net 07624 378923 or 01624 612919

<https://www.facebook.com/Vote-David-Fowler>



VOTE FOWLER X

VOTE FOWLER X

MY PRIORITIES FOR THE ISLE OF MAN

- ❖ Protecting the elderly, vulnerable and disabled, certain decisions are undermining the elderly, vulnerable and disabled, we need to look again to see if we can reinstate the meals on wheels subsidy and make nursing charges fairer. More crossings are needed for the blind, elderly and disabled. If elected, I will do all I can to promote this.
- ❖ The UK gets disabled student allowances but the IOM doesn't this is unfair and needs to change.
- ❖ National wealth creation and full employment.
- ❖ The vigorous defence of our national interests and the Manx way of life against unwelcome outside political interference.
- ❖ Re-balance the public finances by creating meaningful efficiencies to reduce government waste as this should lead to more money being put to one side to bolster the reserve funds.
- ❖ To promote global worldwide investment.
- ❖ To promote our unique parliament, Tynwald, the institution which defines the Isle of Man, and who's legislative independence has made possible our unique fiscal, economic and social environment within the British Isles.
- ❖ Low internationally competitive rates of corporate and personal taxation. A statutory budget surplus.
- ❖ No external government borrowing and the building up of reserve funds.
- ❖ Sustain high quality public services, and we must do more to encourage high networth individuals to live here.

TAXATION AND WELFARE

- ❖ It is paramount we maintain our zero-10 tax regime, this is what gives us the internationally approved taxation platform and the reason the financial services industry locates here in the first place.
- ❖ Taxation and welfare systems must be fully integrated.
- ❖ A fair method of means testing benefits to ensure the most vulnerable in society are protected.
- ❖ It is vital that we must maintain a low tax economy.
- ❖ We must spend our taxes more efficiently as raising taxes will only encourage waste.



VOTE FOWLER X

VOTE FOWLER X

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND AGENCY

- ❖ Promote farming and agriculture and make sure the needs of farmers are enthusiastically met. Promote high standards of animal welfare.
- ❖ Push for a naturally grown certification for the IOM, as organic certification is too expensive for small producers, Support for extra marketing of quality Manx produce e.g. meat, seafood, dairy etc.
- ❖ Manage the forests for biomass, fuel and leisure, Promote wide scale recycling.
- ❖ Promote island wide tree planting to help to soak up the island's co2 footprint.
- ❖ Promote cleantech businesses specialising in low carbon tech and renewable energy.
- ❖ New energy projects should be non-reliant on fossil fuels.
- ❖ We need to look at protecting the ground nesting birds such as the corncrakes and hen harriers in the Curraghs as the wallabies are preventing them from nesting, we need to give the MWT help and money in order to fix this problem as our rare corncrakes may die out without our help.



pixatock.com - 33780177

REAL EFFICIENCIES

- ❖ The current administration is still chipping at the edges too much, we need big ticket savings such as: corporatise the airport saving at least £2 million a year, also phase out the circa £1 million Manx Radio subsidy by either getting the BBC to pay for the subsidy and / or allowing large UK companies operating on the island to advertise to cover the cost. Efficiencies do not mean cutbacks, it just means running the same services better at a lower cost.

VOTE FOWLER X

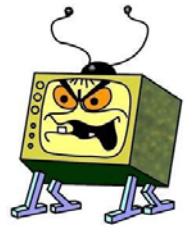
VOTE FOWLER

PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS

- ❖ Ensure that the basic pension is sufficient to give a fair standard of living; pensioners should be given assistance to remain in their own homes and maintain independent flexible, personal care and support budget to enhance choices. They should be given a good system of support for family members who care for dependent relatives.
- ❖ We must tackle the public pension crisis. There should be no fixed pension age, people should be given the choice to retire earlier if they want or to keep working as long as they want. The government should offer tailor made pension packages to reflect this

TV AND RADIO COVERAGE

- ❖ The Isle of Man gets poor value for the TV licence fee; we must press for more refund of the fee to fund more media and better coverage. Also we need to ensure that the over 75's continue to receive a free TV licence.

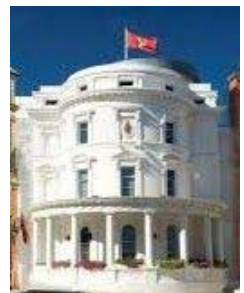


WHERE DO I STAND ON EUROPE?

- ❖ I'm pleased the UK has left the EU, I look forward to the many free trade deals with the whole of the world that will strengthen the economies of both the IOM and the UK.

OUR DEMOCRACY

- ❖ I strongly believe that members of the Legislative Council should be elected by the public in a national poll. The poll would also give a clear indication to the House of Keys as to who the public want for the Chief Minister.



MHK AND LEG CO SALARIES, PENSIONS AND HOLIDAYS

- ❖ If we are going to get anywhere near justifying what MHK and LegCo members are paid, we need to look at reducing the very long holidays they are given which run into many months of the year!

VOTE FOWLER

VOTE FOWLER

LAW AND ORDER

- ❖ The Isle of Man is still one of the safest places to live and we must ensure this continues by maintaining the budget for this vital service and make sure it runs efficiently. We must make sure home security is a priority to prevent burglaries and crime. The UK has introduced ID control before you can leave the country, and we don't collect any data on people coming to the IOM. We need Advanced Passenger Information (API) available to the police and law enforcement agencies to aid in the prevention and detection of crime.



HEALTH

- ❖ Health is a high priority as we must ensure that we have on-island health care and expertise whenever possible, reduce waiting lists and ensure sufficient provision of NHS dentistry as well as protecting the frontline staff and services. We need to reduce the dependence of expensive locums and bring in specialists over to the island to reduce the number of elderly patient transfers. We need to look to see if the nurses overtime cap could be relaxed to give local nurses more pay and ease the budgetary constraints caused by hiring too many agency nurses which are costing up to £75 per hour. So nurses can choose the hours they want to work. Also encourage more training and apprenticeships to help boost nursing staff.



EX - SERVICE PERSONNEL

- ❖ We must remember them and seek to support their needs as we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have helped maintain our free country and democracy over the years.

WATER

- ❖ I think we should introduce water metres to the Isle of Man for both private and council houses as an option to encourage water conservation; this would also lower water bills for low occupancy and low use households



VOTE FOWLER

VOTE FOWLER

GOVERNMENT WASTE

- ❖ I am not in favour of wholesale privatisation but believe we should corporatise some public services which means the government working with specialists in the private sector to operate and manage public facilities. Public private partnerships are a proven way of providing better value for the taxpayer.
- ❖ Significant savings and improved productivity can be delivered through simplifying the bureaucratic way in which the government employs and manages staff.
- ❖ Also, expanding provision of online services can create savings.
- ❖ Reduce the vast cost of external consultants by empowering government managerial and technical staff to make decisions.
- ❖ I am also not in favour of a wholesale cull of civil servants as this would just translate employment to unemployment so this must be a gradual, well thought-out transition formed on proper business goals.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- ❖ Children are our future so we must sustain the high standard of education here, also protect frontline teaching, encourage more apprenticeships, help the long-term unemployed back to work by introducing employers incentives and create a steady flow of jobs. Also look to see if we could give graduates tax breaks to encourage them to come back to work on the Island.

HOUSING

- ❖ We must ensure enough public sector houses are built and that existing houses are maintained to high standards including insulation and other energy efficiency measures.
- ❖ Provide grants for private households to insulate their homes.
- ❖ Also ensure enough affordable housing is built especially for first time buyers including shared equity schemes.
- ❖ Having said that, it is said that there are thousands of empty houses on the island so great caution should be exercised before considering any new projects, also green-field sites should not be built on, instead aim to use only brown-field sites.

VOTE FOWLER

VOTE FOWLER X

RATES REFORM

- ❖ I would like to see an all island rating system. This could lead to Douglas ratepayers saving quite a lot of money off their bills. However, I don't agree with some MHK's views of having a banding system where people with medium and larger houses could end up paying a lot more council rates, water rates and sewerage charges which is an unfair burden as their bills are high enough already. If elected I will fight very hard to stop this as it would be a **VERY UNFAIR** burden on the rate payers. I would also like to see single occupancy households being granted a 25% discount off their rates. It has also come to light that the government plans to spend £2 million on a rates review, what a waste of money! Surely the MHK's should decide what to do. Surely that's what we voted them in for isn't it?, the new government hasn't learned any lessons, they are still spending unnecessary millions, they must cut back on such waste.

BUSES

- ❖ I see too many large buses running near empty with just a few passengers on them surely we could have a lot more minibuses on low demand routes and off peak times to save money and reduce co2 emissions. Also we should look at getting in hybrid and electric buses.



AIRPORT

- ❖ In 2010 the airport director and the Infrastructure minister said that if it was run on commercial lines it would have a cost saving of at least £2million per year. If elected I will push this issue hard to get the savings in place.



CYCLING

- ❖ I am a keen cyclist and will back Kate's law ensuring a safe gap away from a bicycle when a vehicle overtakes. Also all cyclists should have the minimum of a high-viz vest in the darker half of the year. Also a lot of glens don't have facilities to lock your bike; this needs addressing.

TOURISM

- ❖ We must continue to support and promote the TT and other motorsport events as they are a vital part of the Manx economy and the Manx way of life, but also we must do more to promote eco-tourism, landscape and wildlife of the island and promote our heritage. If elected I will push for a debate on whether we could attract a large theme park here as this could give a large boost to tourism. Also we need to look at whether we could have a SeaLife centre somewhere on the island which would also boost tourism.