House of Keys General Election, Thursday 23rd September

DOUGLAS SOUTH

Vote

Sarah MALTBY

MANX LABOUR PARTY

FOR AN ISLAND STRONG & FAIR

Hello!

I have spent the last 9 months canvassing the constituency of Douglas South and experienced all types of weather. From skating around Vicarage Park back in January to fighting the heat wave during July in Anagh Coar! I think I must be at least 3 inches shorter from all of the walking around but it is so important to me to really canvass 'the old fashioned way'. I have completed close to two full laps of the constituency and I really do believe I have a very strong mandate from the people of Douglas South. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting all eligible voters and even people who choose not to be on the electoral register! This manifesto is a collection of all of those door step conversations, I can re-write this document over and over again but this 'snap shot' is what I believe to be the top talked about things.

You have all been a very kind to me and I thank you for the time you have given me already - please do consider now voting for me. The election is on Thursday 23rd September and you can vote from 8am-8pm.

I will be available, as always, all day on my mobile 491712. Please call me if you need a lift to the polling station or if you need any last minute questions answered!

Thank you again,

Sarah Maltby

X Please Vote

Sarah Maltby

A message from my election agent and proposer... David Cretney.

All her life Sarah has supported me when I was a Tynwald Member. She has a great deal of experience, holding a number of positions in support of her fellow workers and others including older people on a voluntary basis. She has had an ambition to stand for the House of Keys for a long time but has held off to ensure her Children were at an age that they were well settled at school. She of course has close family support in all she does.

She is a real 'people person' who can relate to your problems and offer sincere support. She will always revert to you if you contact her and will not be too busy or fail to return Emails,phone calls or letters and plans to keep in touch regularly and not just at election time. Just as you did for me I hope you will place your trust in her and give her your vote on September 23rd 2021. Thank you.

David.

A message from my seconder, Mrs Joyce Foster, Saddle Mews resident

When I first heard that Sarah was going to stand for Douglas South as an MHK, I never had a second thought about her ability to go for it. Sarah is the type of girl to stand up and be counted and fight to be heard in what she believes in. Having known her from a little girl watching her grow into a charming young lady I have no doubt she will do her best for her Constituents if elected. Sarah has become a wonderful Mother to Ivy and Stanley and I adore them both too. The children are taken to lots of community events and take part in all sorts of activities and when they were babies the toddler groups. Sarah has always got a big smile for you and a bounce in her step, I knew that girl will go places! First and foremost a Senior Education Support Officer at Ballakermeen and involved at Crossroads Carers among other things, She has grown up with a huge depth of understanding and taken on board about the way the system works in Government. She has listened and watched her Dad, David Cretney, over his many years being the MHK for Douglas South. I feel in my heart she would be a Strong voice, exactly what we need, now she just needs Our VOTE X

My Core values

- ‘Stronger together’ has become well used in recent times. Looking out for all in our community is second nature to me.
- All policies should be evidence based and built around global best practice. Sometimes we lag behind in social progress and this causes division.
- We are the caretakers of our special Island and it is our obligation to leave it as a better place for the next generations.
- Those who hold public office must ensure greater accountability and transparency to the electorate providing Government services in an efficient and fair manner to all.
- Our Islands economic success must be felt by all parts of our society.

Top Ten Doorstop Conversations

As I have made my way round the constituency, I have heard many of the same complaints and concerns. Here is a brief summary of the top ten topics which I will work on resolving for the next five years if elected.

1. The pandemic has worsened the position in a number of medical waiting lists. Health is a top priority and we must use every effort to ensure we reverse this situation. All our NHS staff have performed with distinction and it is important we retain and further recruit the skills needed.

2. We still have no clean air act on our Island and the treatment of sewerage is still unfinished. Both initiatives would enhance our Unesco biosphere status.

3. How can it be acceptable that on our Island there remains a need for food banks and we have a homeless persons situation? We still have no legislation to cover the latter and our objective must be to raise living standards to eliminate the need for the former.

4. Some people in Local Authority houses have highlighted ongoing problems which seem to go unheard. I have had a number of conversations about this. We need to improve communication in this area. I would suggest the re establishment of Tenants associations to facilitate this.

5. There is no question that the climate globally as well as on our Island is changing. We need to make the changes necessary to ensure we leave our World in better order and we have our part to play whilst ensuring we do not cause additional problems for those who can least afford it.

6. The population on our island has over time stagnated. We must increase the number of the economically active population to reverse this trend. A most concerning trend is that of young people leaving the island or not returning after further education.

7. There has been ongoing discussion about the need for an all island housing policy over the past 5 Years at least. It is essential we translate talk into action. If we do not then the skills shortage and situation of young people leaving our Island will continue to cause real detriment.

8. We need to see a more 'joined up' Government. We should demonstrate a 'can do' mentality working with business and employee organisations.

9. The relationship between Councillors and MHKS has been highlighted to me as a concern- one doesn't seem to know what the other is doing! This leads to delays in responses which is very frustrating. I have already got quite a good relationships with many of the representatives and I fully intend to build on these positive relationships.

10. Poor or mixed communication from the Government has been raised on a number of occasions. It was also mentioned that a regular newsletter and 'drop in' sessions with your MHK representatives would be welcomed.

Affordable and appropriate housing.

The situation for families starting off is a difficult as in any time in recent history. **The need for a National housing strategy has never been more important and the situation has deteriorated during the lifetime of this Government**. First and second time buyers face real challenges when set against artificially increased prices due to investment into multiple properties to rent because of low bank interest rates. Government has allowed developers to call all the shots over an extended period even though it is a significant landowner itself. Our young people and people around my age of 36, many of whom have left the Island or not returned with their skills after further education, should be given a fair chance of moving back home. After further training and life experiences have been gained we as an Island nation should be doing all we can to release barriers to entering our housing market or at least being able to afford to pay rent and still enjoy life. At the moment it feels that the balance is most definitely tipped unfavourably. More Local Authority housing to meet the actual needs of the population should be provided. Those who have brought up families and no longer need a large house could be assisted into smaller more appropriate bungalows, flats or sheltered accommodation. A 'not for profit' housing association could cooperate with Local Authorities to ensure such provision. Government involvement in the provision of land or property is not only important for our nation but a more socially sound and sustainable investment ultimately for the taxpayer.

Education

I have worked in education for over 14 years- when I became a Mum to Ivy in 2013 my outlook once again changed. Now a Mum of two and married to a Teacher I have found that I have a developed a fairly informed 'areas of need' checklist. I have over the years treated students and parents the way that I hoped my own children were being treated. **With respect, dignity and compassion**.

Policies from government departments often promise a lot but deliver little to the end user- our young people! This isn't for want of trying, I believe there are some excellent people trying to do the best job they can with a depleting workforce. Sadly, the end user is not always feeling the benefit of the many consultations or new directives. I would like to see a more holistic approach to education where the measure of success is not always academically driven. Vocational studies, work and skills placements, a more comprehensive transition between key stages would all help to ensure some students are not left behind. **If we don't get education right from early years through to the crucial 14-16 years ages we, as a society, will continue to pick up the tab for future failings**. Education and lifelong learning are vital and should always be a priority of Government.

A special place to live and work

We are fortunate to live in such a special place however not all people respect our environment. We need to improve our commitment to eliminating litter, fly tipping and other anti social behaviour. Local Authorities have principle responsibility for these issues in law and I would wish to open dialogue with them in relation to improving existing legislation to facilitate a more successful outcome. As a National Government we also have an obligation to lead the way in reducing, reusing and recycling. I would also propose a trial scheme of free public transport over a number of weekends for example which would have financial benefits for the local economy as well as the environment and could lead to further initiatives. **Presently residents effected by changes to bus routes for example all too often hear about them after they have been put in place**. I would call for much improved consultation with the public in advance to ensure they are not detrimentally effected and having to seek changes after the event.

Ongoing maintenance a priority.

Often in times of financial pressure maintenance schemes can be neglected and result in higher costs ultimately as a result. With so many major road schemes being undertaken presently this seems a case in point. Pothole and drainage maintenance has been detrimentally effected and when highlighted ill conceived schemes with money thrown at them have on occasion made the situation worse. The same situation and increased cost occurs in relation to building maintenance. I advocate much better forward planning and ongoing care of our Infrastructure. Whilst talking to residents in advance of the election examples of poor maintenance in important areas in Local Authority housing have been pointed out to me. Again I would engage in a dialogue with Douglas Corporation to find the reasons for this and to try to improve the situation as earlier intervention would save costs in the longer term.

Animal welfare legislation

A committee comprising vets, charities, police and other parties came up with proposals for much needed legislation for the Isle of Man. Sadly brexit diverted Legislative drafters away from this important work. **An unsatisfactory compromise was rejected and I will raise the importance of putting in place a specific Isle of Man Animal Welfare act for the new administration as a top priority**. I also believe the cruelty to animals legislation should be strengthened.

Safe communities

I applaud the work of 'Isle of Play' and others for providing adventures and activities for our families in Douglas South. I would seek to prioritise safety within our estates with improved community policing, ensuring sensible traffic speed limits are adhered to, also on occasions shutting off areas in order for safe play for families. **We have award winning sporting facilities on our doorstep and can come together as a community to enhance our quality of life**.

The Isle of Man plays host to world class sporting and leisure events and, along with 'Active travel', I will continue to support and examine future schemes to ensure all road users are being treated fairly and that safety and practicalities are paramount over the aesthetics.

My best friend Sammy Bowden completing the Parish Walk this year as the First Lady Finisher. I am a 'team player'.

Inclusive society

Despite the introduction of welcome equality legislation on our Island there is no doubt that a number of people in our society face everyday challenges. Wherever this is caused by Government action, or inaction, it would be my intention to seek to make real progress towards making our lovely Island a more equal place to live and work. Particular examples drawn to my attention relate to people with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community and by far the most problematic is the fall out of the covid 19 lockdowns. **I'm sure there are a number of other areas for improvement and I will continue to listen to the electorate and take action where I can**.

Mental health and Social Care

At long last now it seems Government are taking this subject more seriously after it being raised in the past by lone voices. **I would make it my mission with my professional training to continue to support families in need of help and do everything within my power to ensure the system is properly resourced and that waiting times are significantly reduced as a result**. There will be an ongoing need post covid pandemic to support those detrimentally affected. The real problem to mental health support is often over shadowed with talk of waiting lists- we all know the problem! We cannot retain the appropriately qualified specialists. The Isle of

Mental health and Social Care

Man needs to be more desirable- I am Manx and very proud to be but it is not enough for everyone. The price of houses, the lack of a decent maternity and paternity scheme, the unsatisfactory pre-school vouchers, the inconsistent before and after school provisions across the island all mean that more and more barriers are placed in the way of the young professionals we need to attract back home or to set up home here. Without a family friendly government many of the areas of need across our health services will continue to struggle. If elected it will be my duty to push for a fairer, workable deal.

Social care has always been treated as the 'poorer sister' of Health and in my opinion Social care should always take centre stage. Social care, social responsibility and social justices are integral to a well rounded caring society. **I have been an advocate for the vulnerable, the disabled and the people with complex medical history**. I will always want to be from an Island that takes care of all its residents, that all have a fair chance and opportunity to find their pathway in life without discrimination or prejudice.

Community hubs and social spaces for young families, older people and educational workshops must be supported as part of our social responsibilities. Areas such as the Douglas Family Library shouldn't heavily rely on the change accumulated from the 'back of the sofa'. We must value our community support workers and the invaluable work they do to ensure life is a little easier for us or our loved ones.

Recovery after the pandemic

The vast majority of local businesses are small to medium and have had a challenging time over the pandemic. Support has been made available for some but others have felt overlooked. Those who work in various sectors in the front line have gone over and beyond for our community with sometimes conflicting advice given. I have spoken to many small business owners who felt that the burden of responsibility was laid at their hands and this made for difficult working relationships. This is not ideal when businesses are already at straining point.

It remains very important in the time ahead that we continue to seek ways to diversify our economy, looking at opportunities in the field of climate change adaption for example. Tourism is another area where there is great potential given apprehension by some people of overseas travel but it must be prioritised. **Those workers who have supported our Island if suffering the longer term emotional effects of the pandemic equally need our support**.

The majority of our Key workers are people who earn minimum wage or there about. These people kept our Island moving during the unsure times. Clapping our nurses and doctors although 'heart-warming' is not going to pay the bills.

We must all pull together and lobby for what is fair.

Planning review

Planning decisions are for the long term. Applications need to be more clearly advertised and public participation improved. Local Authorities have a right to party status on your behalf although this is inconsistently applied and I would propose your MHK being in a position to support residents again. **Some recent decisions seem perverse when considering our Unesco Biosphere status**. The recent Eastern area plan once again provides for further incursion into the adjacent countryside. Developers obviously prefer this but I feel much more emphasis should be given to ' brown field sites' in areas neglected for a long time with buildings no longer used for their original purpose.

Infrastructure improvement & management

There was formally a Capital projects team in Treasury with very experienced officials to manage this important work. As taxpayers we cannot fail to be shocked at recent overspending on a number of schemes including Douglas Promenade and the Liverpool ferry terminal to name just two. I would propose the reintroduction of this overseeing body for important and necessary capital project schemes. **Much better coordination of major road schemes and improved ongoing communication with those potentially affected would be my priority**. I can see the problems faced by residents when multiple road work schemes are taking place at the same time and would raise this with the Minister. A Tynwald Auditor General, just as in other administrations would also be in a position to oversee financial costs in all areas of Government expenditure and potentially be self financing as a result.

Fairer rating system & Local Authority reform

Despite promises at Ministerial level by the outgoing administration we are still no nearer to a fairer rating system. It is right that island wide facilities such as the Villa Marina are funded on an all island basis. After years of neglect we now have a much improved National venue. The recent lack of elections and poor turnouts at those contested at a Local Authority level again confirms the need to reform the structure through amalgamation. **Substantial savings could be achieved by more moves towards shared services**. Government has backed off from this over successive administrations and it is time to revisit with devolving real powers at a local level leaving Tynwald to tackle the big issues facing our Island in the years ahead.

Policies for older and vulnerable people.

Despite promises by the outgoing Government the unfairness in the system of care and nursing home provision have still not been alleviated. This must be a top priority for the incoming administration. Having volunteered during the pandemic for crossroads care I witnessed first hand the difficulties people face on a daily basis in their homes. I am also acutely aware of the dedication of so many who care for loved ones. Sadly the commitment can have a detrimental effect on the carer as well. **Carers need better recognition for this selfless dedication which if undertaken by Government could overwhelm services and would cost a great deal**. I know only too clearly that carers do this out of love but we must ensure their health is not detrimentally affected. I am very supportive of older people remaining in their own homes with assistance where required to facilitate this but again such provision needs adequate funding and I would be a supporter of its roll out.

Island footpath network maintenance

Having made enquiries at Tynwald no existing member had indicated they wished to pick up the petition of David Buttery which also reflects a piece my Dad wrote for the newspaper calling for a single Government agency to be responsible for our public rights of way. They are, together with our glens, precious assets and are presently poorly maintained, badly signposted and in many places dangerous and impassable. **They are an important and well used asset, contributing to the health, fitness and general wellbeing of the population and our visitors who provide much needed revenue**. Having spoken to David it is my intention if elected to ' pick up ' this petition in Tynwald and to seek to make progress on this important issue.

Douglas South

Douglas South is incredibly important to me. Douglas South has been my play area, area of work and home for 36 years. My grandparents, Eric Sayle and June Ball were part of the original Pulrose community and along with my Mum Deirdrie Cretney has instilled into me what it means to take care of your family. My children Ivy and Stan attend Scoill Vallajeelt like I did and with my husband Richard we work hard to balance work life with home life and the pressures young families face. **We can relate to you and I hope you can relate to me too!** I am not just a 'passer by' I am a user of the lanes, the pavements and roads, the facilities and the wooded and open play areas. I am active in the community and will continue to be long after the election. **If you vote for me you can be assured of a caring, compassionate and understanding MHK**.

Independent regulation

Recently regulation of Manx Gas was taken under the wing of the communications commission, renamed the communications and regulatory authority. This after failures by the Office of Fair trading in other areas of regulation. Also the gambling supervision commission has been given responsibility to manage regulation of the production,export and export of cannabis products from our Island, again I question the two tasks fitting together in the longer term. **My preference would be for any necessary regulation to be Independent of any direct or indirect influence, perceived or otherwise, by Government**. An Office of Fair Trading with enhanced authority and with an independent chair rather than a Government appointed Tynwald member would provide more confidence in the process for consumers. I also believe that the police complaints system should revert to being undertaken by an independent person rather than being resolved internally.

Thursday 23rd September:
Voting from 8am to 8pm: House of Keys Election.
Please vote Sarah Maltby for Douglas South!

At this election voters can vote in any of the Polling Stations convenient to you!

ANAGH COAR SCHOOL : SCOILL VALLAJEELT : PULROSE HALL

If you require transport to the Polling station please telephone **491712** or **333974**
Why not telephone in advance for a time that best suits you?

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