

House of Keys Election 2021

Rushen



Vote Michelle Haywood

Allow me to introduce myself...

I have lived in the beautiful south for over 15 years and raised my family in Port St Mary, where I co-own and run Discover Diving. I am Chair of Port St Mary Business Association and help local businesses to network and support each other. In 2016 I was elected to Port St Mary Commissioners and I became the Chair of the Board in 2018. I have been a Governor at Scoill Phurt le Moirrey since 2015.

I originally trained as a research scientist so I have an analytical, evidence-based approach to problem solving. I am firmly of the belief that very few problems are unsurmountable, with flexible thinking and goodwill to achieve an acceptable outcome. In my role as a Commissioner I have helped a number of local residents to solve their particular issue. I have worked with a number of Government departments as a Commissioner, consultant and volunteer so I have an excellent understanding about how Government works.

I believe that government should aim to support a society that is fair, inclusive, responsible and sustainable and I'm a firm believer in getting stuck in and bringing about the changes that you want to see.

You may have seen me volunteering with Mount Tabor lunches (especially the washing up), Rushen Heritage Trust, at the Festival of the Sea or out scuba diving or snorkelling. I have also addressed the Mona's Queen Service and led Remembrance Services and Celebration of Christmas on behalf of Port St Mary Commissioners.

I would very much welcome your support to elect me to the House of Keys where I would love the opportunity to continue serving our community at a higher level.

*Lesh yee arreeyn
share
Best wishes
Michelle*

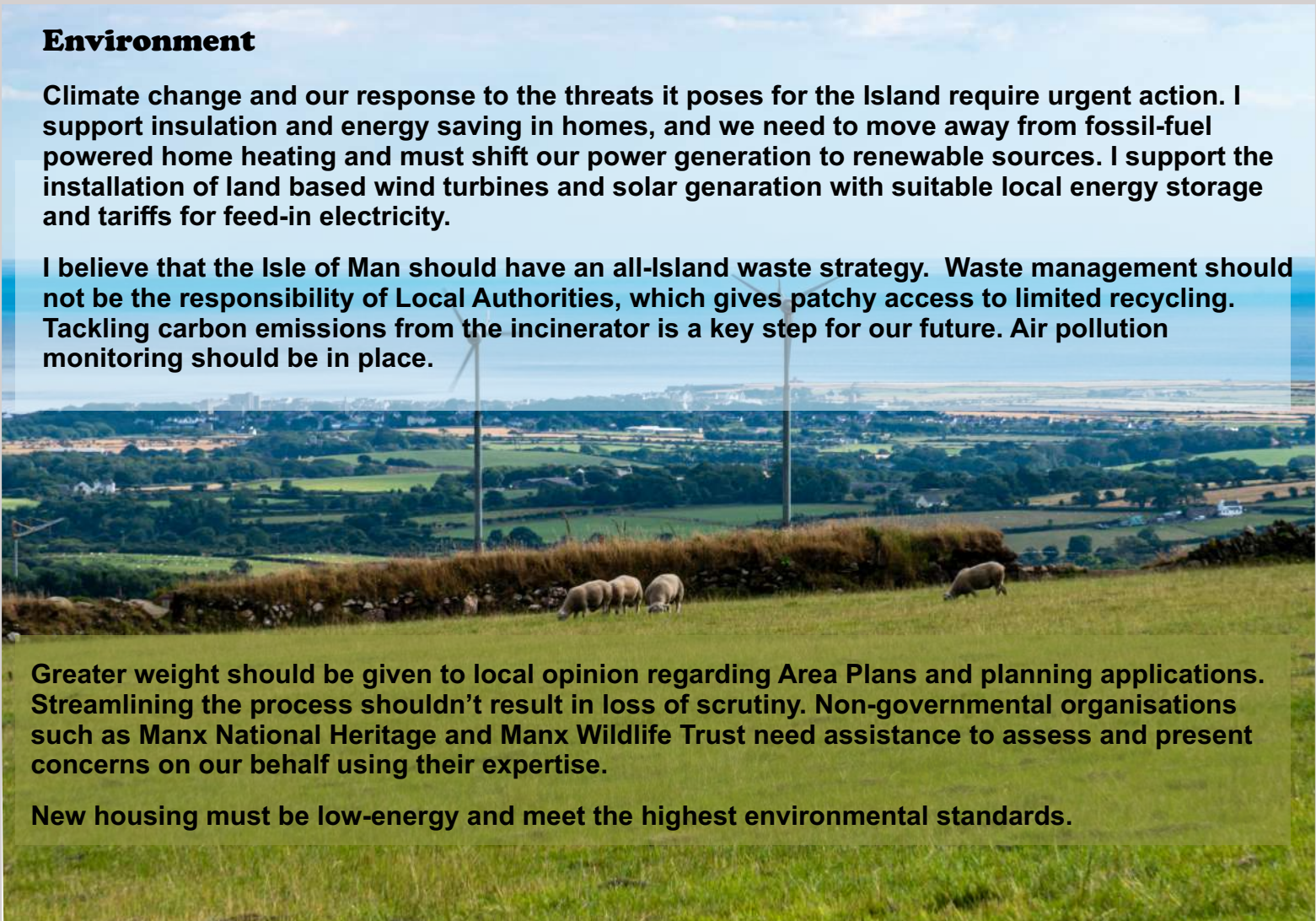
Environment

Climate change and our response to the threats it poses for the Island require urgent action. I support insulation and energy saving in homes, and we need to move away from fossil-fuel powered home heating and must shift our power generation to renewable sources. I support the installation of land based wind turbines and solar generation with suitable local energy storage and tariffs for feed-in electricity.

I believe that the Isle of Man should have an all-Island waste strategy. Waste management should not be the responsibility of Local Authorities, which gives patchy access to limited recycling. Tackling carbon emissions from the incinerator is a key step for our future. Air pollution monitoring should be in place.

Greater weight should be given to local opinion regarding Area Plans and planning applications. Streamlining the process shouldn't result in loss of scrutiny. Non-governmental organisations such as Manx National Heritage and Manx Wildlife Trust need assistance to assess and present concerns on our behalf using their expertise.

New housing must be low-energy and meet the highest environmental standards.



Finance

The Isle of Man has felt the impact of Brexit, Covid and changes to international taxation. I support continued support for affected sectors, whilst recognising the need to diversify the economy. There will be pressure on our taxation system in the coming years. Public Sector pensions continue to be a problematic area.

All Government projects should be subject to strict financial controls; too many large projects run way over budget. This wouldn't happen in a commercial business. In Port St Mary, I helped introduce strict budget controls and zero budgeting to keep spending under control. Any project should be carefully costed and fully justified.

Government needs to recognise the importance of small businesses and provide the necessary support.

Government should lead the way and adopt the National Living Wage. The benefits system should not be used as prop for employers who do not pay their staff decent wages.

Gibraltar has a Government Bank. The Isle of Man could go down this route and provide support for key sectors including local charities, student loans and first time buyer support.



Legal

I believe that people accused of crimes should normally retain their anonymity until conviction.

Right to Roam legislation should be introduced, with safeguards for land and livestock.

Legislation to deal with online offences should be as strong as possible. In this connected world, it's too easy for grooming, sharing of images and criminal activity to happen without penalty.

I support the decriminalisation of possession of cannabis for recreational use.



Political

Freedom of Information should be enshrined in how Government departments operate.

Government needs to move away from the 'silo mentality' so that departments can share information and duplication of effort is reduced.

Local authority governance should be moved to the Cabinet Office.

The Rates reform must happen to introduce a fairer all-Island rating system.

Health

Develop post-Covid support services for those suffering from long-Covid.

Improve mental health support and embed this in education and the workplace.

Establish better biosecurity measures to respond to future threats.

Target the Isle of Man's poor health indicators (tooth decay, heart disease, alcohol and drug abuse, obesity).

I wholly support an effective, independent complaints and resolution services for both health and social service users.

Access to abortion services needs improving and contraception should be more freely available.

Housing

We need to build low-energy affordable housing for rental and sale to residents, with eligibility criteria for first time buyers and those on low incomes.

Local Authority housing and private rental property needs to be managed to the highest standards, including energy use assessments.

All new builds should include an environmental assessment and an energy rating.

Rates should be payable for empty properties to encourage owners to bring buildings back into use.

Empty commercial buildings should be repurposed into living spaces.



Education

I previously taught at Imperial College, then Castle Rushen High School and University College Isle of Man. I passionately believe in a good quality education system that supports life opportunities for young people and provides a route to career development for adults. The structural changes at the Department of Education, Sports and Culture provides the opportunity for critical changes.

I would like to set the challenge that every school leaver has a minimum level of qualifications, not necessarily GCSEs if they aren't the right thing for the child. Financial education should be available to all students. Technical levels aimed at supporting recruitment into Island based businesses should be a key part of our post-16. Financial support for University and further education courses must be maintained and access to loans improved.



Local issues

Speeding and parking are concerns that need addressing in many areas.

The well overdue replacement of Castle Rushen High School and the Southern Swimming Pool needs progressing.

Legislation dealing with dog fouling needs strengthening to allow more effective action to be taken.

The Cosy Nook should be renovated with improved flood defences.



Dr Michelle Haywood for Rushen in the General Election

23rd September 2021



This manifesto has been produced to be sent without an envelope to reduce waste. Peel or cut sticker at side to open.

If you'd like to arrange an appointment to have a chat about any issue please get in touch:

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