



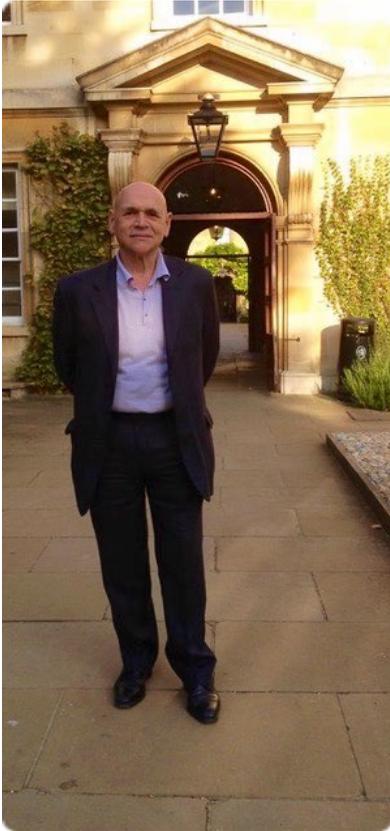
# **Peter Willers For Onchan**

**A vote for me is a vote for  
freedom, justice and  
fairness for all**

# Let me introduce myself

I grew up in a village near Cambridge in a family of builders. I went to the village school with my twin

brothers. I gained my A-levels by correspondence course, later studying law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge and qualified as a barrister. I moved to the Isle of Man in 1986 and live in Baldrine with my wife, Julie, who grew up in Douglas. My two daughters both live on the Island, as do four of my grandchildren and one great grandchild. My son is a barrister in London specialising in human rights and one of my grandsons is following the now family legal tradition and is a barrister in the North of England.



Having spent my working life in the legal, commercial and property business in England and the Isle of Man, I have gained extensive experience that I know will contribute to the benefit of all Island residents. I have worked through a number of economic cycles, am good at problem solving and and I am experienced and confident in dealing with very high value projects and handling all the legal and contract aspects involved.

I am standing on the premise of freedom and justice and fairness for all; I believe that the Government and Civil Service are currently not fit for purpose. The Government have a great sales line - *'Freedom to Flourish'* - but it does not exist in practice. It must be the job of the next Government to make that *'Freedom'* a reality and, with the Onchan voters' help, I intend to make that happen."

Throughout my working life on the Isle of Man, I read the Tynwald Parliamentary papers to ensure that I was current with Government and Tynwald policy. Weekly oral and written questions were a regular feature and over the years Peter Karran was the most prominent questioner, always aiming to holding the Government Departments to account for



their actions and open up disclosure of information. Since Peter Karran retired, this type of scrutiny has been continued by Liberal Vannin with current member, Lawrie Hooper. I intend to uphold the values of Liberal Vannin and ensure that transparency for the voter, for which he strived, is a starting point of all Government action.



Mr Karran has asked me to include a personal note from him as follows:

## A personal note from Peter Karran

*"I met Peter Willers two years ago and I have been impressed with how he has assisted in helping ordinary vulnerable people where the institutions of Government have been used against them, which offends my sense of justice. I know he has the integrity and ability to stand up to institutional corruption and he shares my values of fairness and justice.*

*Peter also thinks further than the next election. It is important to him to build a future for his grandchildren in a flourishing Island. I believe his experience with contract law will be a phenomenal asset against the people who use the public purse as their own piggy bank and I offer him my full support to become MHK for Onchan"*



## Key issues:

# Return Government Control to the Electorate



Tynwald must take control of the Civil Service and dictate policy.

Tynwald must stop the ever-increasing civil service control over Government policy, driven by vested interests in the top-heavy civil service tree which results in non-performing senior management with no incentive to make things work better.

Civil servants need to be accountable for their failures. The Civil Service is not a "job for life" any more than is that of being an MHK.

The lower echelons of the civil service need a fair and proper opportunity for growth and advancement but that cannot come about without a significant overall reduction in civil service numbers, which has to start at the top. Civil servants form far too high a proportion of the employed population.

## **Effects of lack of control**

Government capital projects run 65% over budget. Why? This needs bringing under control.

There is no transparency in how public money is spent, who makes the decisions of how much is paid, to whom it is paid and on what conditions it is paid. As a result Champagne prices are paid for brown stout products. This has to stop and again needs bringing under control.

Multi-million pound contracts are negotiated and signed without appropriate, experienced advice e.g. Promenade works, Steam Packet purchase, Liverpool Link-Span. With good business and contract experience, all of this would have been prevented.

Money is continually wasted so that the Island's scarce cash resources cannot be used more productively. This in turn delays implementation of other projects and also threatens the viability of getting services to people in need. It is important to match the right reserves to the right project.

I believe that private monopolies should be actively discouraged and individual businesses encouraged to thrive.

## The Economy

Regarding the most important priority for the Island's Government in the coming years, I would



say, in the words of Bill Clinton's Presidential campaign, "The economy, stupid!" Because, as we all know, being an Island community, 'A rising tide

floats all boats'. The resolution of virtually every other issue flows from this premise.

# Remove the bars and brakes on economic growth

I would immediately suspend the work permit legislation provisions as they serve no purpose. They have been a major inhibition on economic growth on the Island.

The Island population is growing old; we need more people to increase economic growth to manage and support this aging population so it is vital to expand the working population and encourage family growth.

The Island must also actively encourage immigration to increase the population more quickly and create 21<sup>st</sup> century diversity. The Island is in great need of doctors and other professionals along with workers in many other disciplines. Population must be managed suitably so our infrastructure can adapt accordingly.

Overregulation concerns me greatly and we should suspend and review the increased civil service bureaucratic regulations which stop people, such as plant



operators or farmers, who have been doing their job perfectly well for many years, unless they comply with these additional unnecessary restrictions.

Similarly, farmers and farming productivity has been the victim of unnecessary Government control protecting their own monopolies (dairy and meat), making it very difficult for local farmers to compete with produce brought over by supermarket operators and sold to the Manx public as being from independent named suppliers. Furthermore, if the median line is adopted, the Isle of Man fishing facilities will be returned to their former state of productivity.

I believe that we should release all graduates who return and work on the Island for a specific period from repaying university fees.

All Government construction work should be required to include provision for employing apprentices and to reimburse those additional costs for local companies.



# Ideas for economic growth

We need vision to build new economic engines and make sure that we use the flexibility of Government to work quickly and effectively to see where there are opportunities and to stop short-term vested interest preventing long-term opportunity.

Many more and better ideas are welcome. There are great economic opportunities to be developed, such as:

- 1) a Patents Office structured to defend patents in return for a shared percentage of interest in the patent ownership;
- 2) create an environment to attract international organisations to relocate their headquarters to the Isle of Man. This will help occupy our vacant modern office space and create other services;
- 3) the creation of a bloodless diamond exchange or other facilities where we can enter a niche market would create economic stimulus;
- 4) because of the low tax, no capital gains tax, no death duty tax benefits of the Island, there are opportunities for the development and relocation of hedge fund operators, bringing with them high-paid individuals to contribute to the overall expansion of the economy;
- 5) the growth and production

of medical cannabis is an economic opportunity for this Island and needs progressing rapidly.

It is clear the Isle of Man is legally entitled to control of the sea in accordance with the Exclusive Economic Zone. This would mean that between the Isle of Man and the UK, the Island is entitled to control from the sea bed to the sky, everything within its half of the median line. Similarly between the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland/Ireland the same applies. This includes both fishing rights and mineral rights.

## **National Bank of the Isle of Man**

A new national bank needs to be created and owned by the Isle of Man Government for all Government finance. No major banks make any decisions on the Island. A national bank would make all decisions here. It needs to be managed by professional, experienced bankers, not civil servants. It would be open to the public to provide them with full banking services. The aim would be to secure the Island's financial resources under its own control. Established and new businesses would be encouraged to place their business banking with the National Bank of the Isle of Man.



# Housing

The Government, in one form or another is the largest house owner on the Isle of Man. All legislation applying to letting homes must also apply to the Government.

The Isle of Man should be a home-owning democracy as far as possible and we need to put the rungs in the ladder for this to take place. This should include an initiative to reflect the social needs of our society, such as divorced or older couples. Part equity mortgage schemes should be available from the Government to encourage the accessibility of people who find themselves in financially changed circumstance but don't have the years left to put a standard mortgage in place. This will particularly assist those in social housing who wish to purchase their own home. Government housing needs to be built to replace the private sector accommodation paid for by Social Security.

# Development and Planning

One of the major economic drivers is property development. We must make sure that this is done for the common good of all. Planning needs to take into account the problem of landowners drip-feeding land into the market. Land banking for future use and drip-feeding the market is unacceptable. Accordingly, planning laws need to be radically updated to prevent this in the future, for example by abandoning Area Plans and creating a commercial and housing friendly environment for all Island land. A percentage of housing permission after this policy change will require a covenant in the conveyance stating that the houses can only be owner occupied. This will also give small builders and self builders the ability to flourish. I would add that 12 months after outline or detailed planning permission is granted, land should become rateable at the full developed value.

There should be no planning control over green upgrades to existing homes, such as solar panels - only building regulation.



# Welfare

I support the principal of a welfare provision but welfare is not a lifestyle choice. It is there to look after the vulnerable and there needs to be a progressive policy to help people achieve a quality of life acceptable to all. A Welfare Rights Service is required to ensure that people receive what they are justly entitled to, rather than having to fight their way through the current system.



Charitable food banks should never be a necessity on the Isle of Man – the Government must look after its residents without them having to resort to the charity of the general public to be able to eat.

Welfare provision is not only for people. We must not ignore animal welfare and must ensure that we have modern and improved animal welfare legislation



# Climate Change

Climate change is a fact and needs to be taken account of in respect of all matters. I believe in a progressive policy which will protect the future wellbeing of our children and grandchildren.



Liberal Vannin is the only party to have signed the Biosphere Pledge and is a member of the climate change coalition. I support the 5 core principles of the Green Party.

# Law and Order

Law and Order in Onchan and elsewhere on the Isle of Man is an issue of great concern. This has to be addressed on a multiple platform basis. Onchan should have its own youth worker and a drop-in centre that reflects the needs of our community. The police force have fallen back in wages and conditions in recent years which means that we are



losing fully trained officers to other areas out of the police service. Police numbers need to be reviewed and community police stations should be re-evaluated with additional community policing resources.

## Health and Social Care



Hospital wards are closed, surgeries are short of doctors, waiting lists are long and a large proportion of patients have to be referred off-Island for treatment which could be carried out here. Significant changes in management and procedure need to be made and the starting point is to use the knowledge of the front-line staff and not be dictated by non-medical bureaucrats. Currently it is a “house of cards”.

# Pensions

Pension provisions are reducing and people retiring shouldn't need additional financial help. With our aging population, proper services need to be available. A compensation scheme for Island held pension funds is required.



Consideration should be given to fixing upper limits to all government sector pensions.

# Charities

The increasing administration burden on Manx based charities is too expensive for them to be able to operate in line with their original intentions.

There needs to be a wholesale review of all these requirements to ensure that the funds contributed by the Manx people are not dissipated in admin costs and go directly to the charitable causes



# Education

Good education is essential to social mobility - We must ensure that clever children from financially deprived backgrounds get equal opportunities in life and access to the level of education they deserve. University should be open and available for all who meet academic standards and choose to continue their education in that way.

Apprenticeships are a valued form of tertiary education and need to be more readily available - I would support a positive Government incentive to encourage employers to take on apprentices.

Nutrition is an important building block to education, especially at primary school level, and we should be providing free school meals for all primary school children.

# Off-Island air links



The “Open Skies” policy doesn’t work. A stable air link/agreement, such as existed in the days of

Manx Airlines, needs to be established to ensure that the Government controls continuity rather than having to rely on services of varied airlines coming and going. This is vital to both our business and tourist industry, as well as to Manx residents having the freedom to travel the world. A “Light Touch” system is needed rewarding committed airlines.

# Constitutional Development of the Island

Currently, the Isle of Man’s relationship with the United Kingdom gives the UK government far too much control over the Island. However, it is in the long-term interests of the Island to develop its constitutional independence while recognising that small jurisdictions always need to align themselves with international standards such as the administration of justice and human rights.



## Contact

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## When to vote:

Thursday September 23rd

8am to 8pm

## Where to vote :

The Manx Blind Welfare Centre, Corrin Court,  
Heywood Avenue, Onchan

The Community Hall, School Road, Onchan

The Velo Café, Onchan Park

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