

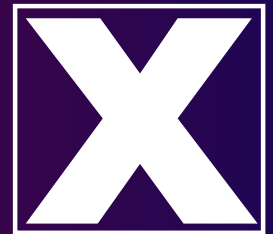
**HONESTY • ECONOMIC RECOVERY • SUPPORTING ALL SMALL BUSINESS  
SECURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OUR ISLAND'S CHILDREN**



**VOTE WANNENBURGH**

**FOR DOUGLAS NORTH - GENERAL ELECTION**

**Thursday 23rd September, 2021**



## RECOVERY OF THE ECONOMY

Brexit, Covid and proposed international tax reforms, will require us to have a fine hand on the demands of our economy in providing essential services into the future. Key to this is developing the economy by attracting new businesses and supporting existing businesses to expand further to rebalance the economy.

It is important that we take advantage of our agility as a small jurisdiction and adapt to the new landscape. We need to reinvent ourselves to stay relevant in the future.

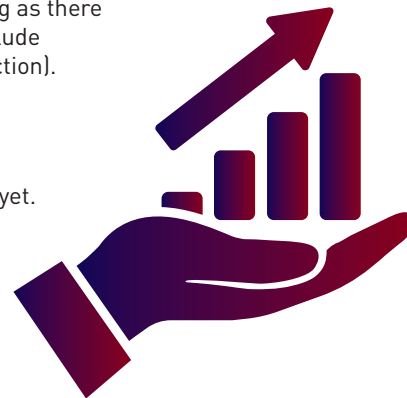
We need to grow the Island's population to a sustainable size, by increasing the economically active so that it generates enough income to sustain all sectors of our society. We have an ageing population (the 12th oldest populated nation in the world by age), it is essential to attract businesses and economic migrants in order to fund social care, social housing and our pension obligations.

We need to implement a framework to diversify the economy, as it is not diverse enough, yet in a manner that will bring real growth. Key to this is attracting inward investment and fresh businesses and other sectors to come to the Isle of Man. We are over reliant on a few industries, and a spread of industries will enable a higher proportion of our young people to remain and find their careers here.

I believe strongly that we need to look at offering Government bonds. This is appealing as there is currently limited interest return on investments. So, a long-term vision should include Government bonds - and Government Green Savings Bonds. (See Climate change section).

The Beaman's Report has called for the setting up of a single capital projects unit, something which I support, given the failures of project management, evidenced by the Promenade refurbishment debacle, the NSC flumes shambles and the Liverpool landing stage which is becoming a money-printing exercise and is not over yet.

We need to grasp the nettle of cutting government costs. This requires strong control of public finances, including but not limited to, reducing Government departments and the use of the so-called "secret civil service" – that is, the use of and reliance on private consultants.



## CLIMATE CHANGE

The Climate change emergency has resulted in the Curran Report and the Climate Change Bill. Each of us needs to look at how we consume energy as we all need to play our part in reducing our carbon footprint, as we are part of something that requires a global response.

An economic recovery plan should embrace and interlock with the floating of Government bonds and Green Savings Bonds to allow people to invest in green energy projects, as already referred to. This investment would help pay for the Island's share in the solar, wind and tidal energy revolution as we try to hit the Isle of Man Government's Action Plan for Achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2050. Both Sweden and Germany have launched similar schemes.

It is essential to fund clean energy projects, and Government should mandate that all our new housing developments include solar panels and passive building practices from the outset, as this is a far more efficient way of incorporating them than retrospectively.

Government must provide affordable grant and loan schemes to enable adequate insulation and heat. We must lead from the front, and the Government vehicle fleet must be replaced by electric vehicles, when they reach end of life. We must install electric vehicle charging points across the Island.

Green Bonds could fund clean energy projects and help the Government hit our climate change targets, including NetZero 2050. As an island, we are well placed to take advantage of renewable energies, and Green Bonds could see the Island invest in new solar power initiatives and wind farms, sea bed leasing, tidal energy and even kelp (seaweed) farming.

Other new industries could include Research & Development – Orkney now has the biggest Tidal Energy Research area in the UK and Europe

An IEA report recently concluded that if the Island wanted to get to net zero by 2050, there could be no new oil or gas fields opened. So, how will this affect the proposed gas field development in Manx waters off the Maughold coast? If opening the field can be done in a net-zero manner (for the whole lifecycle, not just the extraction) and if the economic benefits were significant, I would support it, but conditional on these two points being satisfied.

To conclude, this issue will only become more important as time passes. Government spending must be budgeted to combat climate change and implement the recommendations of the Curran Report at the earliest opportunity, but it starts with us as individuals.

## HOUSING

Our existing First Time Buyers' Schemes is simply not fit for purpose and clearly needs a root and branch review.

The housing chain crisis is due to the shortage of affordable housing for our first-time buyers, coupled with a shortage of stock for our senior citizens to downsize to. Government must mandate that developers increase the first-time buyers' stock; in addition, the sale of these houses should be for bona fide first time buyers – not for landlords to multi-purchase for letting out.

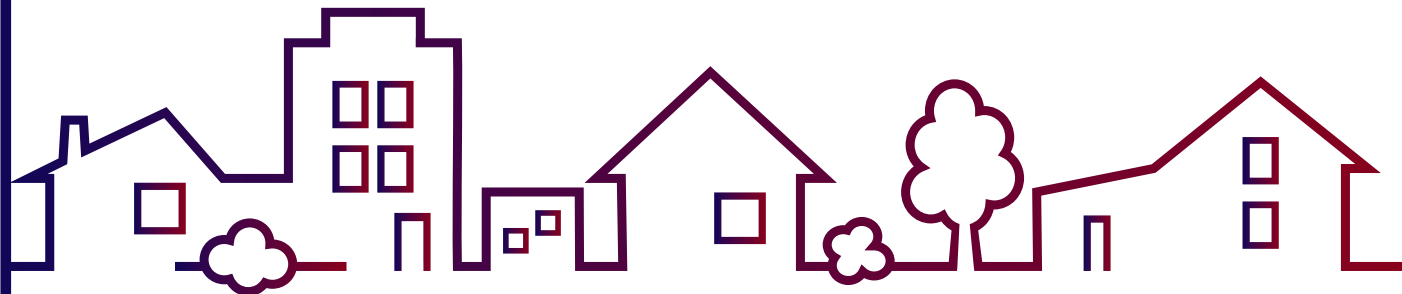
We have to enable our young people to own their own homes and have a stake in our society.

Investing in skills for young people to future proof our work force is challenging, given the state of house prices, which is driving our young people away.

I would like to see an introduction of a 'Manx Home Loans Scheme' to assist our young people in finding deposits.

Our new developments should be mandated to incorporate energy saving solar panels, water catchment units and clean energy appliances at every opportunity, as to fit these retrospectively is a costly and lengthy process.

Some of the brownfield sites in Douglas have been left derelict for years. We need an action plan as to how and when they will be developed.



## LOW TAX JURISDICTION

Our low tax jurisdiction is appealing to those seeking to move their existing or new businesses to the Isle of Man. The OECD/G20 tax proposals cast a shadow over this promise, and we need to prepare to live with these changes. It is now probable that the minimum corporate tax will in future rise to 15%.

The G7 Tax Agreement has put us on notice, and we must take advantage of being a small jurisdiction. It is imperative that we are prepared to reinvent ourselves in order to stay relevant

We must seek to increase the personal allowance to match the living wage, as it cannot be right that some of our people must use food banks or soup kitchens, despite earning a fulltime wage. Similarly, we need to review the NI system to ensure a fairer system for all.

## PENSIONS

The public sector pension hasn't been closed to new starters, but they can now only join a more restricted terms pension scheme. IOM Government pension liability is up considerably.

We also need to consider an auto-enrolment scheme for Isle of Man private companies over a certain number of employees, like the one that has been introduced in the UK.

Why? Currently there is no auto-enrolment and people are left reliant on the state pension. It is imperative that we assist all our people to prepare for the future, by introducing a statutory requirement for all employers to provide and contribute to an auto-enrolment workplace pension scheme, as in the UK. We need to do all we can to protect state finances in the future.

Part of politics must surely be to take the tough decisions, but we need to do so to protect and secure state finances in the future.





## DOUGLAS NORTH

There are many issues affecting the people in the constituency, including but not limited to:

- Roads and pavement network need far more maintenance than they're getting currently; many pavements have exposed metalwork, making them hazardous for pedestrians, prams and wheelchairs. Roads are potholed and all-round maintenance must be improved.
- The lack of connectivity in Governor's Hill is an issue particularly for those working from home. In 2020 the IOM Government awarded Manx Telecom a £10 million contract to roll out connectivity to rural areas over the next 5 years, but many residential areas are still lacking this key service.
- The ongoing refurbishment of the Willaston estate – currently the time needed to refurbish the houses has risen to 28 weeks. This is too long and highly disruptive for the residents, who are unable to plan their lives. One resident who I spoke to recently was out of her house for well over 14 months. This is clearly unacceptable.
- The Bus Service must be maintained going through Willaston estate, as many residents rely on this essential service. Car parking plans need to take the buses into account and, if required, should be altered to accommodate the buses.
- Tromode Road widening scheme - I share the concerns of many Tromode Park residents regarding the proposed Tromode Road plans. I am sceptical of a single "active" lane that is shared between pedestrians and cyclists. I am not convinced that the road needs to be widened at all beyond straightening out the "knuckles". However, if the proposed plan to widen the road is to accommodate the proposed 300 house development on the other side of Tromode Road, then the DOI needs to be honest and confirm this, and genuinely consult and engage with stakeholders.
- Public sector housing needs to be monitored and rents matched with those who are earning more.

## ACCOUNTABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY

**Why is that we see little accountability from Government when things go wrong?**

**Our roads, footpaths and Government projects are failing.**

**Does the public not deserve better value for money?**

- Five years ago, Tynwald promised to deliver a leaner and smarter Government. Here we are at the 2021 election, and we have 520 MORE people on the Government payroll. 520 more salaries. 520 more pensions. The civil service payroll is out of control, bloated and is an unsustainable burden on the taxpayer. This cannot just be a matter of regret. This is a broken pledge and a flagrant breach of duty which we, the taxpayers, are just expected to pick up. Not all these new jobs are essential services. Given that technology advantages have replaced some jobs by automation (I now submit online company VAT returns for example), it makes it even more unbelievable. Where is the accountability?
- The NSC flumes have been out of action for three years. THREE YEARS!! Yet not a single person has taken accountability for this, and our children have been the ones to suffer. This is simply not good enough, be it bad planning, poor supply chain issues or anything else for that matter. As a small business owner, I would have rightly been out the game if I or my company had delivered such shoddy service. Why then are our politicians and civil servants not subject to the same pressures? Where is the accountability?
- The Liverpool landing stage - many costly mistakes have been made to date, where cost has been traded against quality. The section of river chosen is questionable for its suitability for cargo, and the costs are stacking up. The original budget of £23.8 million has seen an additional £9 million granted, and a recent request for another £14 million. Effectively it is now double the original budget, and we still don't know where it will end! Why the overspend? Were industry experts consulted on this - were they listened to? If not, why not? Who is responsible for this? Where is the accountability?
- Residents and Businesses along Douglas Promenade have been at the forefront of disruption since the work began on the 17th September 2018. Many have criticised the lack of communication and consultation with those actually living and working on the Promenade from the start.

There are of course many other examples, but I believe the point is made. Government must step up in this regard.







## HEALTH SERVICE

The waiting lists of the Health Services are very worrying. Elective procedures are backed up and the breast cancer waiting list is long. DHSC and Manx Care need to get a grip. There is a “virtual” waiting list - if only it were as visible to the naked eye as perhaps the Promenade works are, I think people would be equally outraged.

The extended waiting lists are a tsunami coming our way. I only see two ways of dealing with this, and both will require millions of pounds - (a) we ship the medical experts into the Isle of Man to address the problem, or (b) we ship patients to centres in the UK. A thorough impact analysis will determine which of these two options is most cost-efficient.

Given that the Isle of Man was largely COVID-free last year, why were there no functional inroads into the waiting lists? Why was private care outsourced as this has effectively added people to the lists?

I welcome the introduction of Manx Care as I believe in the separation of strategy and operation and this format should be rolled out across Government.

I would personally like to thank all of the key workers for the huge effort they put in over Covid-19 and continue to deliver.



## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health is a rising concern and is currently under-staffed and under-resourced. We must not only increase the resources to deal with this, but it is imperative that we understand the causes and why this is the case. I commit to doing all I can to work on mental health issues, both in Government and in partnership with community based programmes.

## COVID-19

The pandemic has altered life for all of us.

The Isle of Man NHS has coped well under extreme pressure, and the Government's action of sealing the borders in March 2020 effectively enabled the Island to exist safely until the January 2021 outbreak. Business and Government worked well together and there were many inspiring stories of support. The re-opening of the Island (which I personally welcomed) was possibly two weeks too soon given that the Delta variant was rising exponentially in the UK, and we should have opened with mitigations in place. The policy of elimination was unsustainable. We must learn to live with Covid, and that means we all have a responsibility to minimise spreading the virus.

Truthfully, I have been frustrated by the sector approach to support of small businesses, as many businesses have fallen through the cracks. Small businesses are the backbone of the Manx economy, and Government has an absolute duty to enable them to survive in times of crises and pandemics. Whilst this has happened to many, it has not happened to all, and to have support withdrawn just because you don't fall into a sector deemed worthy of support is unfair and discriminatory.

Some people are angry that employer and travel vaccine mandates are coming. We need to do this for the good of all. The asserted freedoms of the wilfully unvaccinated do not outweigh the needs of society nor the right of employers and travel companies to keep the virus out.





## EDUCATION

As a mature student myself, I am a strong supporter of life-long education.

I welcome the EAG grants recently implemented which are designed to retain graduated students on the Isle of Man. This initiative was launched due to COVID, but we should have been offering these types of incentives already, as we have been losing our graduates and qualified trades well before COVID.

Our schools and college must be enabled to deliver an education that prepares all of our students with the tools to thrive in adulthood, apart from conventional subjects, but also others – first aid (physical and mental) and financial planning. School class sizes are creeping up, and we should try to limit them to no more than 20 per class.

Our schools should wherever possible install ventilation and air filters and necessary paraphernalia to make schools safe for children as most EU countries are doing.

We need to do more to bring people into the teaching profession.

## YOUNG PEOPLE

Our young people are our greatest asset and resource. We've been losing our young to the UK and further afield, and we need to establish why this is the case:

- Retain the young by improving first time buyers scheme and make it fit for purpose.
- What courses are they doing/who comes back? We must provide a proper apprenticeships scheme

One way to retain our young is for Government to pay for the tuition (university and apprenticeships) in return for a period of stay once graduated. This would go some way to retaining a higher proportion of our younger people than we currently do.

I am keen for young people to be encouraged to engage in politics, and a good start would be to offer a course in politics - at any level - something that is not currently addressed by UCM.

## CRIME

We must maintain positive dialogue with the police to protect our young and vulnerable people and divert them from criminal behaviour.

Treating suspected young offenders like criminals will make them more likely to become criminals. We need a “social solution” in dealing with youth crime, as I believe policing is only dealing with the symptoms and not the causes of youth crime.

I don't think the long arm of the law is particularly the way forward. Crime is often a sign of other problems. We need to take a holistic, multi-agency approach.

I don't feel that we need to criminalise the young when caught with small amounts of recreational drugs. I do definitely feel we should focus on stronger sentences for those involved in selling and distributing drugs.

As a father of three, I loathe and despise people who prey on the youngest and most vulnerable people in our community. However, being part of a civilised society means that the values we inherited from our forebears and our legal system support the right of the least worthy of us to due process and a fair trial. Improving the conviction rate for sexual offences is a problem across the world, not just the Isle of Man. I will push for reform of the prosecution system, particularly in sexual offence cases, and more resources for those providing support for the victims.

## BUREAUCRACY

I believe we are over-governed on the IOM, and I would support:

- Government departments and/or bodies to be reduced. The Legislative Council to be a revising chamber only, with no more than 5 members.
- I believe there should be 5 (four plus Douglas) local authorities across the whole of the Isle of Man. We should investigate devolving certain duties to those authorities, such as first-stage planning applications and road maintenance.
- Reform of the Department of Infrastructure which appears to be out of control politically; to my mind, we need to review its senior leadership urgently.



## SMALL BUSINESS

Small businesses are the unsung backbone of the Manx economy and we need to do all we can to create the right conditions for them to thrive, and we need to do it immediately.

Too many of our small businesses have fallen through the cracks during COVID-19 and it is Government's fundamental obligation to do all it can to help them survive.

As a small businessman myself, if elected I will champion them in Tynwald.



## OTHER ISSUES

- **Homelessness & Dependence on Food banks**

These are two very real problems and largely unseen by those not at the sharp end of society. We need to do all we can to eradicate these issues.

- **Euthanasia** I am a supporter of greater choice, control and access to a full range of medical and palliative services at the end of life. This includes providing terminally ill adults with the option of a painless, assisted death within strict legal safeguards.
- **TV licences** Isle of Man Government should pressurise the BBC to provide free TV licences to the over-75s.
- The **planning system** needs reform.
- **Equality** The Island must be an equal home for all our citizens and our laws and policy decisions must reflect that.

## ABOUT JOHN

I was born in the UK, but my formative years were spent in South Africa. My family and I moved to the Island in 1994 and I worked in the hospitality sector. Over the last 15 years, I've been self-employed in the events & entertainment industry.

I completed a Business Studies degree through the IOM International Business School in 2008 and have lived in Douglas North for the last 18 years.

"The Island warmly embraced me as soon as I arrived here. It's because of this that I was able to raise my family and build a thriving business, so I owe the Isle of Man, and now it's time for me to give something back. I know I can bring a fresh perspective to the problems the Island faces."

My priorities are the economic recovery of the Island, support for small businesses which form the backbone of our community, and creating opportunities to encourage the Island's young people to remain living and working here. These aspirations are no less nor more important than other critical issues, including but not limited to, health, education and climate change.

If elected, I will hold a bimonthly surgery to listen to and address the individual concerns of my constituents, who will always come first.

### GENERAL

Age - 56

Born - Lincolnshire, UK

Lives and works in Douglas North

### PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERIENCE

Hospitality professional, with the last fifteen years as the owner-operator of The (Isle of Man) Sporting & Dining Club.

### EDUCATION

Liverpool John Moores University via the IOM International Business School

Witwatersrand Hotel School

Two years National Service in the South African Navy

Kearsney College

### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Trustee of The Friends of Chernobyl's Children (IOM).
- Committee member of The Bobby Moore Golf Day (IOM), supporting Bowel Cancer Charity.
- My company, the Sporting & Dining Club, has contributed hugely to the social progress of the IOM. Our events have raised almost £150 000 towards Manx charities and causes over the last 15 years, something that I am very proud of for a small business.

Please click on the image below to see Johns interview with Paul Moulton.

*Isle of Man TV - Independent candidate John Wannenburgh, standing for a seat in Douglas North, talks to Paul Moulton about his vision for the next five years in the House of Keys, following the September General Election.*



# DOUGLAS NORTH - GENERAL ELECTION - Thursday 23rd September, 2021

**POLLING STATIONS ARE OPEN FROM 8AM TO 8PM**

If you require a postal vote, please contact me on [john@wannenburgh.com](mailto:john@wannenburgh.com) or 495749, and I will arrange this.  
Note that there are time restrictions on these, so please do this sooner than later.

## **DOUGLAS NORTH POLLING STATIONS**

### **EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE**

Glencrutchery Road, Douglas, IM2 6EB

### **CRONK-Y-BERRY SCHOOL (YOUTH WING)**

Hailwood Avenue, Governor's Hill, Douglas, IM2 7PA

### **CRONKBOURNE CRICKET CLUB**

Tromode Road, Douglas, IM2 5PA

If you require a lift to the polling stations, please contact me on 495749 or Siobhan on 426439

Designed and published by John Wannenburgh, The Old Farmhouse, Johnny Watterson's Lane, Douglas, IM2 5NB

Printed by BHW Print, Douglas - Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) Act 2020

Registered with the Isle of Man Register of Controllers and Processors. Registration No: R003070

# WANNENBURGH

