

# Glenfaba and Peel Constituency Debate

## Transcript

### **Andy Wint**

Good evening at 7 o'clock and in two weeks' time the chips will have fallen. We will know who are the two MHKs for Glenfaba and Peel will be We're at Peel golf club today, for Peel and Glenfaba. Glenfaba extends down the middle section of the west coast of the Isle of Man, bordering Michael to the north, Middle to the east, Rushen and Arbory, Casletown and Malew to the south. It is made up of the parishes of German and Patrick. Glenfaba contains Tynwald Hill, arguably the most important site on the Island, where the Manx parliament has a special open air session once a year, on July 5. Situated on the west coast, Peel is the third largest town in the Isle of Man, after Douglas and Ramsey, but the fourth largest settlement because Onchan, regarded as a 'village', also has more residents. The constituency also takes in a small part of Marown from the old Middle Constituency. When the Keys was dissolved on the 12<sup>th</sup> August the MHKs were Geoffrey Boot and Ray Harmer. Tonight, we're at Peel Golf club and we have Geoffrey Boot, Trevor Cowin, Tim Crookall, Leo Cussons, Ray Harmer, Mikey Lee and Kate Lord-Brennan. Mikey Lee is not with us tonight. Geoffrey Boot, why do you want to be MHK for Glenfaba and Peel?

### **Geoffrey Boot**

Good evening, Andy, good evening, everyone. It's been an honour and a privilege to serve as one of the image keys for Glenfaba and Peel. For the last five years and as minister for the Department of Environment and agriculture live at the heart of the constituency different breed the issues that affected all and support local businesses and enterprise. I'm passionate about my current role within government dealing with the environment farming fisheries and climate change particularly. I come from a very business background and have used those skills in government to bring about change. My manifesto lays out my vision for the future, if re-elected I will continue to work across government with fellow members with local commissioners and listening to you my constituents to achieve better outcomes for everyone across the island. By working together, I believe that we can make the West the best.

### **Trevor Cowin**

Good evening, Andy. Everybody in the audience well known as the man who writes letters to the papers and I've been to preferred to as a campaigner for accountability and a serial petitioner to Tynwald, in fact I believe I'm that the hold the record for the number of petitions to have somebody to Tynwald. For those voters who don't know me I was born on Tynwald day, all of my ancestors were Manx. I'm a true Manxman and I'm proud to be so. I've lived in peel for nearly 50 years when my wife, who is an active member of the community. We have three children and four wonderful grandchildren who all live on the island. Having spent the last ten years or so fighting from the outside of decide to stand for

election so if elected, I can fight for what I believe from the inside where my voice could have more influence.

### **Tim Crookall**

I was due for re-election to the legislative council, I was not happy and haven't been happy for some months with this present government. I decided to make a decision as well let me know go forward again for re-election or not. I was absolutely determined that we should have better in the West, and this government wasn't performing correctly so I thought the right thing for me to do is to stand down. Think about it for 15 months look at it from the outside, and that's why I'm standing up but my name go forward. I've not been happy with this government yet to go in government has been overspending we've got longer waiting lists with broken promises minimal maintenance and we now have a bigger public sector than we've ever had before, with an increase in salary over last five years or something like 45 million pounds. I think this government is out of touch with the people at the moment and there's no feel good factor on the island that has been there for years.

### **Leo Cussons**

Fastyr mie. I expect our political representatives to represent people, this means having the finger on the pulse. No amount of surveys or third party reports can take away the fact of someone taking responsibility. It is this culture we must create and enable it won't happen overnight but it will happen if you want to. I get my points across simply with common sense insincerity. I've been advocating these issues in public for the last five years as a Green Party committee member. We have made extraordinary progress and now want to use my legal personal and business experience skills to complete this work. For manifesto pledges to mean something, we need to work with parties that are invested in seeing constituency succeed.

### **Ray Harmer**

Thank you is being honoured to represent and support the people of Glen favourite people as your elected image cava last five years. The resilience of our community and support for each other has been remarkable, as weathered the storms to Covid and Brexit. As policy performance have been looking to the future to re-energise our economy and seize new opportunities through technology and green initiatives to enable our island to flourish. There's been much progress on many projects that that I have driven, there's still much so much talk more to do in complete. I built relationships across the government and their local community and worked hard behind the scenes to influence to get things done, and make vital decisions and persevere to see them come to fruition. My hope is that you continue to trust me to represent you well.

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

We need hope and change Andy, hope and change I'm standing so people have a distinct choice in Glenfaba and Peel. It's a hugely important time ahead for us on the Isle of Man, and I feel I can play in a very active and a positive role in that. So, I'm prepared to do it

because I'm passionate about what happens here in my home constituency. I am interested in the different communities across Glenfaba and Peel, and I can use my experience in the Keys from my business background but also as a working mum and importantly someone who cares and who challenges and to make a difference in the House of Keys as a representative. I want to see a bright future this island and I'm determined in that and we cannot mess about now that's what motivates me we need to change Manx politics, the way that government works to deliver. I'm genuinely passionate about seeing things change and improve for people.

### **Andy Wint**

Okay let's start at the bottom, why is there sewage in Peel Bay and what you think should be done about it?

### **Leo Cussons**

So, the fundamental issue with the appeal obviously with the problem that existed and it goes back really about 15 years or in 20 years, that we haven't been out so obviously achieved this - is down to my opinion down to culture and delivery of these projects if the culture I mean we only look at delivery of anything by these infrastructure projects. We only have to look at the delivery of anything by the MUA, or any infrastructure projects - they are not delivered within time and budget within any of our expectations anywhere near any of our expectations. So, you need the executive to hold their political representatives to hold the executive accountable and to create an environment in these organisations that people want to work. It's not just in this organisers in a lot of organisations that people don't feel but it works for them.

### **Tim Crookall**

Well we know why hasn't gone through last time because the planning issue with inspector he was about he was going to refuse it so MUA withdrew it. And there are very issues why it didn't happen in the past before that we now absolutely need to grab this by the scruff of the neck and make sure not only for the good of the western island, but the island as well as Laxey and Baldrine that it happens.

### **Andy Wint**

Is coming up on the doorstep?

### **Tim Crookall**

Absolutely, every doorstep as people are wanting to sort this. It's their number one issue.

### **Trevor Cowin**

The reason why there's sewage in Peel Bay is clearly that there isn't treated. Tynwald how have been talking about building a sewage treatment works for over 10 years, still nothing.

A planning application for sewage treatment works was submitted by the Manx utilities in April 2019, but it was mistakenly referred to DEFA, to the council ministers relevant to planning committee. Coman appointed planning inspector in public inquiry was held, after 20 months of spending after spending hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers money, on preparing the application the planning inspector's report was referred to Coman, however Coman was advised that the matter should never have been referred to in the first place and expectation never have been appointed, a public inquiry should never be held and Coman didn't have the legal power to determine the application. Frankly the whole situation was a complete farce, contrary to popular belief Coman didn't refuse the application. It didn't make any decision on.

### **Geoffrey Boot**

I think Andy yes I agree with you, we shouldn't be discharging raw sewage into Peel Bay. It's an issue that we all need we all know needs addressing and we nearly got there this time round this was an MU application and a UK inspector who perhaps didn't understand the nuances of the sites election, decided that the MU had not considered other sites in sufficient detail. The good thing about this is, the funding there now we have a plant that is designed it's gone through the regulatory hurdles. All we need really is a site. There are already several sites identified whether we revert back to Glenfaba house, or down by the power station in Peel itself.

### **Andy Wint**

If a site were approved tomorrow hypothetically how long would it be before it will be operational?

### **Geoffrey Boot**

Well obviously, needs to go through the planning process which in itself will take several months but then it's down to the MU and their contractors to get stuck in. I mean they can let the contract almost straight away. So, it's down to the construction.

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

Just take a step back you ask why I mean really in broad terms it's because the regional sewage treatment strategy has not been able to be delivered, that's the bottom line on it. It's been promised that it would be quick, it's been promised that it would be cheap compared to other options. There's loads to say about this but the key thing I would say now that for any regional strategy, we need to have the costly to include the extension of the outflow pipe, and all year round UV treatment. So that's why I've been calling for a full open transparent reappraisal of all options.

### **Andy Wint**

What do people say on the doorstep to you?

## **Kate Lord-Brennan**

Well they say they want it sorted.

## **Ray Harmer**

We've had many twist and turns we now need to make it finally happen. There has been some progress the money was got there the strategies got as being approved, we've got the reggae leachate linked in. The design is done the environmental impact assessment the locations are there, I was insistent that northwest plan should include that cause that's important so next time it comes to planning - that that's it that's taken into consideration. So, we were on we're on track for early 2022 we just see it all now get together not reappraise old options but really just all focus and make this thing happen.

## **Andy Wint**

Is Peel a vibrant and forward-looking place to live?

## **Tim Crookall**

It's a great shame that we've lost all the banks and at the moment the post office is struggling we as well need to be very careful and we need to make sure that we don't lose that. It is a great place to live, there's no doubt about that but we need to be very careful yeah we need more employment in the town. It hasn't been out of kilter up until now I would say because those houses have all been filled and there was a worry the beginning that those houses would be filled with people from outside the town, and yes some of them have been, but a lot of those houses are filled with people children of peel people and it's great to see that you know appeal has extended up there but we need to be very careful in the future as to anymore extensions.

## **Andy Wint**

What can be done with Michael Street?

## **Tim Crookall**

Michael St needs everybody to work together and that hasn't happened between the traders, the commissioners the for the two MHKs we've got at the moment and the constituency if you like there was number agreement basically and so we just still waiting to hear about the appeal at planning. But everybody needs to work together on this.

## **Trevor Cowin**

I was actually just actually born in Ramsey and brought up in Laxey. I thought Laxey the more beautiful place in the world, until I moved to Peel. I've been here now for 50 years and I think it is the most beautiful place in the world. It's forward looking, is very vibrant it is busy I think it's busy because most people in the come to Peel because it is such a nice place

who, would want to Double promenade for example, who would want to Onchan, who would want to go to Laxey promenade, they're not as nice as Peel.

### **Geoffrey Boot**

Yes and Peel is looking a little shopping and it needs some regeneration. There are some good schemes that have been put through the Marina has made the harbour area look a lot more attractive. We've got the House to Manannan there, but we undersell ourselves sometimes. We need regeneration badly in Michael Street and we need to link the promenade sea front harbour area to Michael St. The appeal decision has already been made, it hasn't been made public yet but that will have some bearing on a direction of travel. I worked hard initially with traders and other parties including DOI to try and come to a compromise with the scheme that was originally suggested, but sadly that didn't come to fruition. We are getting there and I think we need to push hard to get there.

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

Well people are telling me that they feel that Peel needs to be loved back to life, and they lament the lack of infrastructure to meet the growing population of Peel, and something that will we meet the needs of Peel. I mean I've actually come to the view that it would be much better and so talking about the north west area plan to talk about a vision for a town plan you know that could be community led and could have full engagement with people, even if it was just something that was attempted, because I think you need you need buying in understanding of what people want so that things can go forward and have a place where people have their needs met and they can be excited about it.

### **Andy Wint**

When the Marina was built obviously regenerated down by the harbour from the marine right round everything got a lot better, you know there are big housing estates being built, and yet voters and we get it on the Mannin Line, people don't understand why you can't join the dots together and get Michael St - it could be a wonderful place.

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

It has proven to be a difficult scheme I think people I spoke to and didn't really feel engaged with that process so therefore becomes divisive and people don't feel like they've got buy into it and then it kind of falls flat. That's it in a nutshell.

### **Ray Harmer**

Yes there are lots of positive appeals of fantastic is vibrant has energy there's lots of things were leading the way with western world being centre, the QT stem block's got funding for east Quay- which we talked about the marine all of that that that's going ahead later this Autumn. So that whole piece of it is going to be regenerated. We've got obviously when the sewage plant is built that's also there as well with the doctor's surgery extended with other new play park without Westlands are being rebuilt. There's lots of things to be positive and

have seen lots of creative new businesses come from Peel and also operate a new cafes and restaurants. Obviously was able to get the funding for Michael St, will continue to if elected to pursue that and work with everybody to get together a solution in that.

### **Leo Cussons**

The community appealed is fantastic and the people that live there and make the place envied all over the island and some respects and we enjoy the evening light and such. Let's not kid ourselves, it's not been it's not good it's supporting its been badly represented the list of projects is endless. If I was elected, I would certainly ask for special dispensation which I think is a reasonable request. We have on end this list of things that are not correct and then not even looked - well I mean we take for example the beginning of the last government we knew the situations with silt in the harbour and such like is an embarrassing I know that we don't directly pay for, but it's embarrassing that we are in a situation which has cost last week, I stay alleged but I think it's a reasonable quote thing to look at about £6 million, on the last cost of moving goods to the site in Peel which still has no end solution. So we're not thinking sort of now and not thinking in a couple of year's time, so we're just pushing these problems down the road. It just it's unreasonable and unconscionable in a lot of respects.

### **Andy Wint**

Okay let's talk about healthcare and education in Peel and the likelihood of getting a GP appointment and also the fact that Peel Clothworkers (school) is full to the brim.

### **Trevor Cowin**

Well the sorry just a doctors surgery first, I understand that six doctors, but I understand also that those doctors are servicing the prison - not quite sure why. That obviously the knock on effect on the reduction in doctors the knock on effect on the waiting times to see a doctor. I think that's all reasonable can't see why they prison can't be service from Ramsey College hospital, and I will be contacting Manx Care whenever they've got the time to do that too after asking why that why is it that situation exists. We've had a problem with space for a while, they're always been rising – they've always been rising and it's never caught up with him and number has built house and building houses for the last 13 years but they haven't really invested in the certain in the Clothworkers School, which is the primary school, they haven't put enough investment into that and the classrooms are getting bigger all the time and there must list be more investment in schools.

### **Geoffrey Boot**

Yes obviously the stem block at QE 2 needs to be finished and then I think the concentrate on the Clothworkers is room there's a big site there and I think there certainly from my point of view that I would like to see that extended and modernised I don't think it's really fit for purpose with the number of pupils there are there now. When it comes to doctors there's a nationwide shortage of doctors and that applies to the UK. The well-being centre as come online which is starting to join things up in social care as well there's a big extension

to Peel surgery, which will allow nursing staff and what have you to carry out some of the services at doctors do at the moment. But I agree with you the waiting times are too long and it's a nation thing not just a peel thing.

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

Well there's been a lack of investment in this area social care residential care on the point of the schools you know I'm advocating for investment in an expansion of Peel Clothworkers, it's definitely needed well informs on that. Also on the doctors point, I'm concerned to understand what's happening with the issues with the GPs the appointment could really what's what is really behind that because I fear it could be a growing issue, not just here what I feel as well as the integrated healthcare needs to work properly it's supposed to be a blueprint for the rest of the islands, it needs to work to serve the needs of the community in a real way.

### **Ray Harmer**

Yes so the western world being centre is a real going forward for the whole of the island is a real lightning rod and something that will be copied and it is the way forward in terms of integrated care that's focused around the individual. Obviously stop doctors extension was a real positive, but obviously there is a shortage of doctors globally but I do think we need to look at well-being in a wider context and also look at to see how we look at care much more we look we need to look at doctors and how we do we always need to go to doctors sometimes it can be a nurse or whatever and we look at a much more sophisticated way of dealing with care. QE2 stem block is a really good project which also allow entrepreneurship and innovation amongst young children, but of course Clothworkers is another area that needs to be extended.

### **Leo Cussons**

I mean when I was talking to people in particularly New Peel, they spoke about the need for proper maintaining their own health have been able to exercise and making those sort of running courses running tracks reduction possibly of cars or working that into a sort of an environment that where everyone could sort of benefit from that. Of course, we know that evidence shows that of course people being having proper active lifestyles does maintain our own health, and then it goes awesome to mental health so also enabling the other options around that will increase our mental health. So it's very important that we make a vibrant and safe.

### **Tim Crookall**

There's obviously an issue with the doctors' services every saying three to four weeks especially in peel to get to see the doctor and that's after being triaged on the phone and all sorts of things maybe we just need to start looking outside the block and maybe doctor surgeries need to be working together providing specialties and things amongst themselves. It needs a bit of blue sky thinking here because somebody just said yeah there's a national shortage of doctors so let's go back and revisit again and get the professionals involved. Talk



to professionals and see what can be done I don't believe that's been done. As far as the education is concerned I think we've got two very good schools here in Peel. Both probably need some mix of extension yes to stem blocks coming has been coming for years since I was in education that was put in the books. And for Clothworkers will have something indent for foreseeable future but we just got to make sure it's fit for purpose.

**Andy Wint**

OK, we're nearly halfway through so if he could be brief with this climate change and action on the Isle of Man.

**Geoffrey Boot**

Well I put climate change bill through keys it's a pragmatic approach that will see net zero carbon by 2050 or earlier. We are already in phase one we've just consulted on phase two we've got a citizens forum we're trying to bring the community with us. There's a lot of work to do we need to look at future energy production on the island, and that is a decision that will have to be made fairly early in the next administration.

**Kate Lord-Brennan**

Clearly it is something the Isle of Man has to deal with and we need to do as much as we can as soon as we can but we need to be very smart about how resources are applied and how decisions are made at the dictionary.

**Andy Wint**

Do you think people are bothered about it?

**Kate Lord-Brennan**

I think they are yes you know but it's probably something that is not when you say okay I'm calling round one of the issues it's not honestly something that gets repeated to me, so there needs to be leadership by engagement on this process so because everybody is going to have a role to play.

**Ray Harmer**

Yes, so one of the things that I was able to bring in with the green living grant which will help to support putting in better heating and insulation up to 6000 pounds and 50% grant, which was also stimulate the economy as well as providing green solutions and reducing carbon, but I do think there's things that we can do very simply. It's all about new builds have example all government buildings should have solar panels; new builds should have incorporated solar energy. But this is the journey there's a big action plan there's many things that need to be done. And some exciting things to do with our season blue carbon and developing planted seagrasses.

## **Leo Cussons**

Yes so surprisingly for so many problems in peel that of course people concerned with a lot of different things I don't think they have an issue with climate change, but it's not being talked about on the doorstep and understandably why. So, we have to solve those problems first when we go out in Glenfaba people get it and they understand that they see the advantages I've been well aware that our missions don't change levels worldwide, but the sense in doing is of course it will lower costs it will make it easier to heat our homes and we've got to be a part of the larger community. So a lot of it is what I frame is common sense. I was quite surprised by the last report they didn't have at the beginning of last administration where is the Green Party have advocated along with a lot of third party organisations and we've now got something

## **Andy Wint**

On a day to day basis, I mean what do you think how does the government green initiative affect people on the Isle of Man in Peel, Glenfaba?

## **Leo Cussons**

Well there's, there's no recycling in Peel – that is a great disappointment so there is obviously private but there's not properly stockings we'd like to see that is an issue that people do want to see. I mean that is something that they notice that a friend comes to visit us and there's, where do I put this and of course I've done damage put on bin. The cost of it of course I mean a lot of likes to go out to common sense about this, the cost of waste management is more than a third of your race. So it's enormous cost so if we can get that under control then you can all sorts of possibilities aside from the fact of course our oceans and general litter.

## **Tim Crookall**

Climate changes certainly raised been raised as subject on the doorstep and an environmental issues people understand. People know we've got to do something do RB seem to be doing our bit, we're not going to cure the problem in the world where only a tiny little part of it but we need to be seen to be doing our bit and we could be world leaders. But people want clear explanations of what's going on what they're going to do and you know it's some big decisions to be made in the very near future with regards to the change in the power stations here and where do we go to after that. Tidal power has raised its head probably, more than ever before now more and more people want us to look at that. Ray, I think just mentioned about solar panels and governments put them in every building. Laxey School this summer is having a new school I had this somehow new roof on at school they didn't put it on there why not absolutely brilliant opportunity it didn't happen. But yes we need more green schemes for the future to help people

## **Andy Wint**

How long do you think Peel power station's got?

## **Tim Crookall**

According to MUA about 10 years Lincoln Douglas about 15 so we've got to make some big decisions very quickly because you know time is going to allow.

## **Trevor Cowin**

Yeah none of the constituency I've spoken to have any concerns about climate change, when I pressed them the main concern is the cost £40 million over the next 14 years is a lot of money. But the issue of climate change is one that divides opinion Tynwald had approved a climate change transformation programme which at the moment must be followed despite the costs committed so far or 40 million. Whether you registration will prioritise the current stated aim of achieving no less than 75% of the electricity from renewable resources in the next 14 years remains to be seen I have I doubt very much that it will achieve that in line with international agreements however I believe that taking into account our particular circumstances we should do our fair share to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changing climate in the most cost effective way. I do have it would have wonder how efficiently government can make meaningful change when the transformation programme will be led by a project board consisting of seven politicians, along with a nine strong steering group including the chief executives of gov departments who will collect if you manage a team of 10 civil servants who will actually deliver the programme.

## **Andy Wint**

Should we accept Afghan refugees, Ray Harmer?

## **Ray Harmer?**

Yes but it that may be depends where they're actually you know need to need there could be other alternatives about financial help you know so it's not a it's more important to for them to actually get out of Afghanistan. Is there need for them where they should go that's the issue, and also you know it could financial help be a better alternative.

## **Leo Cussons**

Yes in principle God look at what I don't know have no idea what I capacity is but I'm sure that the people do want to help him we need to enable that possibility that people can care. I know that obviously some people have even talked about offering their homes and such like that these need to be a sharp government and look at things in that respect, we are a caring nation.

## **Tim Crookall**

Yes I think we should. I personally think that some persons some of these people are very well educated now and you know there's no reason why we shouldn't take our fair share, we've had forces people go out there to work in Afghanistan defend Afghanistan die in

Afghanistan - and I think they would probably want the same as well for Afghan refugees to come here.

### **Trevor Cowin**

I had this question put me by Adam and use newspapers recently and again a fairly lengthy reply but short reply in the end but it's fairly lengthy the other man is not best placed to receive an influx of refugees. We haven't got the infrastructure forum, we haven't got housing for them we haven't got, if we need interpreters we haven't got attempts for them, we haven't got school places for their children - if anybody wants to bring them here then I would say yes bring them here but it's a weird people who are clamouring to bring them here, they should provide homes for them and they should provide their funding.

### **Geoffrey Boot**

We had this question and we discussed this in Tim bold when it came to the Syrian refugees and we were advised at that time by the UK government that we were unable to offer the facilities that are required to deal with refugees, so I remain to be convinced that a small island community we could take refugees and I would look to the UK for advice on that. We are a compassionate island and I think we stand ready to do our bit.

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

I think there's probably inevitable that over the next administration that one after that that the matters too with refugees and their owners role will have to be looked at and then that's when you get to the what and the how. Obviously there is a humanitarian occurring aspect of that you know some of the points that Tim has mentioned.

### **Andy Wint**

We're live, in Peel – our candidates are Geoffrey Boot, Trevor Cowin, Tim Crookall, Leo Cussons, Ray Harmer, Mikey Lee and Kate Lord-Brennan. Mikey Lee could not be with us tonight. Questions from the audience.

### **Phil Matthews**

It is internationally recognised that all well run wealthy nations should be able to contribute nought point 0.7% of their gross national income towards international aid without any impact on the provision of services for their own people. Some people think our 0.05% contribution is too much, this is one of the smallest percentage contributions of anywhere in the world and instead of arguing over how it could be better spent here on island shouldn't we be asking ourselves if there might be something wrong with how we manage the wealth we already have when providing for our own basic public services?

### **Tim Crookall**

I think 0.7% is accepted figuring we should carry on doing that we do have an issue though with regards to looking after our own here on the island obviously in my manifesto I mentioned earlier I think that we should look at reducing the numbers in Tynwald, and that saving could go towards feeding those on island, helping to home those on island but yes I think that 0.7 is a figure that we should be sticking with reducing the number.

**Phil Matthews**

It's actually 0.5 that we give...

**Andy Wint**

What do you mean by reducing numbers in Tynwald?

**Tim Crookall**

Sorry it's in my manifesto and I said it before until now time not just electioneering now on this I have said it twice in Tynwald before, I think there was not a need for 33 members of Tynwald and if you reduced it by 4 at least a savings of £1.2 million and the ongoing pension liability - and you can use that then for whatever you need.

**Leo Cussons**

In principle, yes. Giving or being apart if you want to be a part of the world and attract business international business, we are wealthy we have vast resources. It is good for health too involved to be apart of these things we see the things on TV, we can't just sit back and say we're not part of that.

**Ray Harmer**

Yes in principle and certainly one of the things so for example the vaccine programme COVAX programme which the Islander given into being part of, that's really important because that shows you that vaccines for everybody in the world - helps the whole world to do better and. I think more educational resource is to understand International Development in schools, so people understand the world and their place in the world so that's definitely something.

**Kate Lord-Brennan**

Yeah I think people are concerned about public funds and you know how the economic activity is supporting that. I had read things there I thought it was 0.6, so I may be wrong and but I think in in any case I think it is 2.5 million year I think. I think we should be concerned with how that money is applied rather than sort of should it be a certain percentage or not so that we can see that there is genuine value and impact which is clearly important in the island's role to contribute, but we need to know how or what not just to tick a box is my view.

### **Trevor Cowin**

I've expressed very strong views about this for the letters in the paper in the past. I'm all in favour of foreign aid, as long as it's coming in our direction. At a time when recovering from the pandemic and the substantial costs involved in that, we've got food banks we've got homeless people I really think it irresponsible people giving £2.5m pounds a year away to a foreign country where we don't know where it will end up it may end up in the pit lane in that in the wallets of the people leave these countries I just think it is responsible.

### **Geoffrey Boot**

Well we've heard earlier about the demands on infrastructure the National Health Service at home and all the things that need doing here, I am in favour of foreign aid but charity sometimes begins at home. When we look at two and a half £3 million a year going off island when I'm looking and have been facing as a minister cuts to various services in the hundreds of thousands that will affect people directly, I am concerned. But I wouldn't like to cut the present level but I think it needs to be really well focused and I should say that people on the Isle of Man are very generous and the charitable front. A lot of people give to different charities on island and for use of island so that percentage is that we're giving is GDP as it were may be enhanced by private contributions mailed elsewhere.

### **Mike Durber**

If our financial centre or gaming centre or anyways that we have of raising revenue at the moment got a hit, where was the panel raise their money for the future?

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

Well I'm something that has been outstanding for the most part this administration has been an economic plan from department for enterprise. Thankfully now there is a plan that's in development in coming forward as a result of a Treasury initiative. So we need to look to diversify the economy that's really important, so that we're not heavily reliance just on just on one sector. I don't think we need to be negative or overly concerned about particular aspects but clearly we need to be on a good footing so that there is there is more options.

### **Andy Wint**

I don't want to put words in the gentleman's mouth but obviously we're very reliant on E-gaming and if that changed tomorrow wherever the server is where people pay tax so that could change it could go to Kazakhstan tomorrow. I mean do you think governments got is they got a plan B do they know where the next big thing is?

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

Well there's a lot of emphasis around digital which broadens out the reliance on gaming a lot of the skills and the businesses that are involved in gaming you know can do apply in which broader way for an active digital sector.

### **Ray Harmer**

Thank you yes so being popped the economic recovery group last year we're looking at meltdowns in certain sectors and the potential 5000 people being unemployed obviously we've got that down to under 400. A lot that is through being inflexible workforce by retaining capacity retraining internships, and also looking at always the next new thing so diversifying the economy. For example in financial services in medicinal cannabis is another one looking into financial service deals with New Zealand and Japan, and places like that. But it's our ability to innovate and it's our skills at the absolute key part of this and as we continue to make the economy more diverse than, we can we can recover from any shocks in anyone sector.

### **Leo Cussons**

Diversification and innovation are definitely answers it's great what we have but I was I suppose in shortcuts I had to give quick answer. I see the other man the toys that's the beauty is the biospheres and nature is that add fact that it's something better than you get elsewhere. I think that's our really greatest asset and I think if we look at that in regards to farming in regards to food and drink products and beverages and such like we have some great possibilities there in a real simple example.

### **Tim Crookall**

Diversified economy will help and it does help and that's why we've been so successful for nearly 35 years every year except for one year during this last administration's watch. E-gaming at the moment is very well regulated and that's why it still continues to go these companies now look for well regulated places and that's why the island is still successful and the same with the finance. The island is also very good at being fleet of foot and if we see changes needed you know it does happen for the benefit of the island, we have a lot of high skills here on the island people with really good skill set and we should be using them more probably taking their advice.

### **Trevor Cowin**

Yes it was revealed last night at amazement foxtail has £800 billion worth of gas reserves just to the South of the island. I believe in if they were exploited with that would create tremendous income for the place that for lost income that you're talking about.

### **Trevor Cowin**

So you will be for exploiting the gas field?

### **Trevor Cowin**

Absolutely and that's it alignment government policy which they announced in October 2018.

**Trevor Cowin**

OK and with that in anyway harm our green agenda?

**Trevor Cowin**

No, no the in 2018 they were looking at gas reserves off the East Coast but - that would that involve fracking.

**Andy Wint**

Where would the gas be brought it will it be brought ashore to the Isle of Man?

**Trevor Cowin**

It would be broadly short in the Isle of Man and create jobs I I haven't I haven't actually got the exact details but I do know it to the South West of the island it within our territorial waters and basically it's our reserves.

**Andy Wint**

Would you anticipate any problems in getting planning?

**Trevor Cowin**

The government has agreed that we should exploit our reserves, so government has the power to override any planning considerations.

**Geoffrey Boot**

Well we are already quite a diverse economy compared to the channels for instance we have manufacturing and a lot of traditional industry that goes on an island. But we are a very compliant jurisdiction and that's attractive to people coming here. If you look at what's happening at the moment, Covid has presented opportunities were an excellent place to live biosphere was mentioned I mean it's a wonderful place to live. You can do nearly everything within a 10-15 minute journey. From what I understand we're starting to see interest in the island from people senior people businesses where they can work remotely and be anywhere in the world, but the Isle of Man is it might be a preferred destination.

**Jenny Kennaugh**

What are your thoughts or plans regarding the future of public sector pensions?

**Tim Crookall**



There is allegedly remove talked about it several times this week this big black hole issue but that only happens if everybody walks out of government at the same time. We've seen over the last few years changes within government pensions to everybody in government from Tynwald members right the way across the board. The issue is now being resolved I think. They're looking at people's final salary pensions and trying to come out with what is best it's not resolved yet by any stretch of the imagination but I believe in the next probably 10 years, and that sounds like an awful long time but this issue has been going on probably now for all that's been known about probably 30 years it was an issue. It's only been dealt with in last probably 15 years, but I believe it will be sorted in the next 10 years.

### **Trevor Cowin**

I agree entirely with watch him just said we have referred to as a legacy of debt over the pension fund, but it's not really a debt it's simply a liability which could continue to grow unless you have to meet that liability and you don't unless everybody retires at the same time it's not really a big issue.

### **Geoffrey Boot**

Well it is a big issue but it's one that spread out over a long period of time This current administration has looked at this and made adjustments greed through Tynwald and the public sector pensions have been reformed considerably which will make them more affordable and more comparable to the private sector going forward. It's a slow burn because you can't suddenly turn people off, and tell him they can't have the pensions that they've been paying into the further in a day. Final salary pensions and things like that will be a thing of the past. We should always remember that pensions throughout the western world are paid from current account, rather than reserves in most countries. We have sufficient current account to cover our pension deficit, so there's not this impending disaster that was projected some years ago.

### **Andy Wint**

But people often look on the downside often if the wheels fell off the economy then the pensions would the pensions couldn't be paid or couldn't be met, what would happen then?

### **Geoffrey Boot**

But we do have reserves and I think we started the pandemic with something like 1.2 billion which includes the NI fund. We spent some of that obviously doing the covert. Supporting business as we should and people and families and the health service and that will replenish. I don't think the wheels will ever fall completely off the economy in that way the islands weathered some storms in the past and in fact a race said earlier we started this administration with more people unemployed than we have now, so the economy is fairly strong.

### **Leo Cussons**

You have to make a deal that's going to work if you look at for young people they are the people that would be paying this is going forward. There's a responsibility for the older people in the older generation to say what kind of deal can we make going forward that's going to work for everybody. It isn't generally fair and I think people can sort of see some of that it wasn't done right and the current strategy is I would argue failing as friend intended to increase the active working population, they haven't managed to do that and that is absolutely key - that is how we meet our liability. We need to focus upon those sort of areas and that's quite a task.

### **Ray Harmer**

Thank you so last year I've put forward a very important reform and that was really important cause what that did was create the cost envelopes and now what people put in is what they get. As the liability changes the cost of pensions or what people pay in will increase. So that actually puts a cap or a stop on any future life liabilities what we can't do with anything about is the short term where people are retiring over the next 10 years, but certainly what that stops is it massively reduces that. So what people pay in is what they get. In addition we've just introduced a voluntary to find contribution scheme, and what that does is instead of having a defined benefits is on what you again on what you pay-out. So they are the reforms that are ongoing and have massively changed the pension or public pension.

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

Well you know I'm afraid that the reforms haven't gone far enough and I'm also of the view that Tynwald voted the wrong way in 2019 when it was I'm decided to not close the defined benefit contribution scheme for public sector. Now, I would hasten to add that this is not about turning off pensions for current public service workers it's not about that at all. What it's about the idea that you would have people on a defined contribution scheme is something that would be much more fair much more actable much have much more parity with the private sector. I think that's the way it needs to be to be balanced out and I think that it is an issue when you see that there are you know we're reading that there's £4.8 billion in this public sector pension liability, clearly the public sector provision for new civil service join us needs to be much more in line with what is generally acceptable.

### **Andy Wint**

OK tonight where at Glenfaba and Peel for the Manx radio constituency debate and when I said the wheels may come off remember nobody thought the wheels will come off tourism in 1979.

### **Mike Durber**

Would the panel work as politicians running the Isle of Man for a basic working wage?

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

The idea that you could carry out full political role in the way that you've described there would in effect mean that it would be only for people who could afford to do it. That's the reality you don't want to go to a time when it is in effect an elitist career for someone that can do it they're already wealthy and they can just do it on the side. The commitment and the level of activity and important decisions that are needed you know that that means that there needs to be pay associated.

### **Geoffrey Boot**

Well lot of political work used to be voluntary and but I think this Kate the Leeds too if we want to be inclusive and make it open to everyone to participate, then you have to pay a salary that is appropriate to the role to enable people to engage. For some people have the salary we get at the moment or aspirational, for others in high flying jobs it would be a salary cut. You it's a complex subject.

### **Trevor Cowin**

I don't think that would work, if you want to attract people with the challenges and a brain to run the country most people would want something which...

### **Andy Wint**

Used to be the case that rich businessmen used to be MHKs in their spare time

### **Trevor Cowin**

That was very that wasn't very long term and go the to times have changed, Tynwald just reviewed the salaries for MHKs, my concern is that under the new pay structure I think it's now £60,000 for an MHK but they don't get anymore if they if the members of parliament and more importantly, who would take on the DOI for £6,500 a year extra?

### **Tim Crookall**

Yes it would take us back to the good old days as you said just now Andy about you know people who already had wealth behind them then they would be the only ones that would take this on so I think that you've got to have a realistic ways to attract the people to do the job otherwise you will end up with nobody being able to forward some lower end of the market if you like, who needs a lifetime of looking after their families and supporting their families but totally understand your question.

### **Ray Harmer**

I think if you want to attract the people into the roles and get a good set of candidates you have to have a sort of enumeration that's going to do that. I think if you don't do that you will just limit the pool of those who can actually do it.

### **Leo Cussons**

It's a question that comes down to ethics obviously we don't pay our judges minimum wage because they add a certain value to the service that they perform. I can understand people feel frustrated about the differences in societies, we need to look at your politicians and you need to ask questions about ethics and what ethics they hold and how they operate those ethics. Because every decision that they make from their manifesto it comes from ethics you can see that on the Green Party website.

### **Linda**

I'm concerned about the falling popular falling birth rate which we've known that for quite some time. Maternity benefits haven't been raised for ten years we have problems with housing for young people with young people still living with parents and because they can't get onto the housing ladder, how would they the panel actually prioritise that?

### **Tim Crookall**

Regards to falling birth rate info there's nothing I can do about that sometimes but it is a huge issue I no it is one that government is aware of and will have to sort work with end just plan for the future but it's one as a government is aware of need to deal with.

### **Trevor Cowin**

Well I shave Jim Timothy I'm 72 now and I can't do anything about the falling birth rate either. As far as housing is concerned there's been a recent review of the housing they had the government support scheme I don't think that's gone far enough and I think the level of come support you provided should be increased that aperitive young people are priced out the other market. Consideration should be given to the feasibility of introducing restrictions on property ownership. Based possibly on residency similar that in sealing it in the channel islands.

### **Geoffrey Boot**

My daughter has done her bit my son has yet to do his bit in increasing population. I think the key issue is we need to attract more people to the island younger working people, but we also need to attract our graduates and people that qualify across back to the island. I would advocate and want to have a National Housing strategy that will look at all the issues around provision of housing.

### **Ray Harmer**

Yes a number of things. Obviously improved child benefit is one of them improved pre school credits for schools but also increasing on affordable housing things like deposit guarantee scheme with the government guarantees the deposit and also some of those initiatives like the Development Corporation that was set up to develop new housing for the and areas such as the old nurses block in Douglas and things like that that could provide increase housing so it's increasing the supply is looking at a planning system and also more work on affordability.

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

Young people and growing families needs a proper focus I think and it's interesting the responses that we've had is joke you know sort of joke away but actually it's really difficult issue to talk about you know this this issue that is referred to as the low fertility right so me. My views that you need to have a proper look at the sort of policies that would make a difference to this. I would definitely support and increased maternity allowance however I don't just think it's about benefits but we need a proper clear and positive offering for young people and mums and babies.

### **Leo Cussons**

Yes so the very sore interesting points maternity pay it is the biggest issue I mean SoC depends upon a skating at this right Peel does proud or schools or packed so please in that respect, but maternity pay needs to be increased the whole question around that how we look after children need to create an environment where families can do that and have the freedom and that it works for both partners in the modern democracy.

### **Andy Wint**

Now comes the time where the candidates have one minute to talk to you the voters as to why they should be one of the two MHKs for Glenfaba and Peel.

### **Kate Lord-Brennan**

I will work to serve the people and fight for the interests of this constituency and the best interests of the island. I can see what needs to be fixed and focused on, we need systematic change and I will work with others in an endeavour to ensure that people are at the heart of policy making and at the forefront of effective service delivery, if those decisions come my way. No doubt the issues are major on a national and local level, but I believe now is a chance for a reset of approach, a fresh direction which is positive and graphs opportunity amidst challenge. That is why I say we need to renew to revive and reform we can do this. I give my commitment to pursue this in the Service plan paper appeal and the island if elected I have what it takes back me back the change that we need by voting for me Kate Lord Brennan on the 23rd of September.

### **Andy Wint**

Mikey Lee is not with us tonight.

### **Ray Harmer**

Thank you. My approach is to be open honest and ready to listen. I believe in making the island an even better place for everyone as policy and reform minister I've been looking to re-energise our economy following Covid-19 securing jobs and seizing new opportunities through technology and green initiatives. I believe in putting people first and caring for

individuals, for me constituency workers of the highest importance giving people a voice in Tynwald and helping them in a day today. I believe in not avoiding difficult challenges but embracing and solving them. I was able to engage with others to require funding in 2019 for desperately needed sewage plant in Peel, location is to be approved in early 2022 and construction should start later in the year. Over the last six years I've gained valuable experiences of the process of government, which can be frustrating at times but is knowing how to navigate and persevere to get a policy adopted or a project completed for the benefit of our community. I hope that you will continue to trust me to represent you well and vote for me on September the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Leo Cussons (Green Party)**

Thank you all for tonight it's greatly appreciated. If you do not vote green now perhaps we never will do not vote to rebuild a common home the opportunity will go, if you do vote to stop corruption and cronyism it will not stop, if you do not vote for proper bus service that we will never get one, if you do not vote for the young in mind they will leave the island, if you do not vote for campaign for responsibility in government it will never happen, if you do not vote to protect their biased for enshrinement and law we will have no nature. If you do not solve the housing and the problem associated our society will fail. I have great faith in the residents in Glenfaba and Peel to engage in these issues and help others do the same in making a choice in being part of a new era of health prosperity and community on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September I have two words for you vote Leo.

### **Tim Crookall**

I have a lot of experience energy enthusiasm and personal skills to offer the people of Glenfaba and Peel and the other band and that is why I put my name forward as a candidate in this election. Please do not forget how this outgoing government has let us down with overspending longer waiting lists broken promises minimal maintenance and bigger public sector workforce and over £45 million added to this public sectors salary is over the last five years. I would ask you to consider supporting me so I can support you and support the constituency and the island for the next five years. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September please support me to support you.

### **Trevor Cowin**

Efficient lawful use of results of our resources together with truthful open and accessible governance without blind bureaucracy is my goal. I have the knowledge to address the things that need to change. The courage to expose the issues with require changing and the wisdom and breadth of knowledge of the workings of government to ask you for your trust to make it happen. I'm tenacious, I'm incorruptible and direct, I'm almost an experienced and passionate - I hope you'll vote for me.

### **Geoffrey Boot**

I'll keep it fairly simple reiterate that I come from a commercial business background which enables me to bring a commercial as well as compassionate imperative to politics. I have a

great passion for the Isle of Man its people and the environment and as a long term residents of the West believe that we can working together make the West the best. I support local businesses and I've been involved in developing businesses through my role in DEFA. The essence of a good politician is one that can join all the strands as we recover from Covid. I'm very enthusiastic about setting the agenda for a new programme for government that will reflect today's realities and your aspiration. I sincerely hope that you the electors will give me an opportunity to do this thank you.

Ladies and gentleman of Glenfaba and Peel, thank you for attending tonight. A week next Thursday you will make the choice you will decide your MHK. Maybe tonight's helped you decide who your second choices is. This isn't the final word remember the final word is from the people around here, they are your candidates there are no MHKs anymore these are your candidates. These are the people who will be your voice in Tynwald, in Keys in the next five years. So I urge you to speak to them maybe speak to them tonight, maybe when they come on your doorstep to chat to them, find out exactly what they represent and question them deeply. Now remember they've been to what they used to call requisition meetings, there's one left and it's Wednesday the 15th it'll be QE2 high school Wednesday the 15th from 7 until 9 so go along there. And as often been said if you don't vote you can't moan, so thank you for being with us tonight thanks to our candidates thanks to all the technical team here at Manx Radio - I'm Andy went and tonight we've been live from Peel golf club.