

Middle Constituency Debate

Transcript

Andy Wint

Good evening! Tonight, we're with the candidates for Middle - the constituency of middle. The constituency of Middle consists of the parishes of Braddan and Marown, and now takes in Santon from the old constituency of Malew and Santon. As the name suggests, the constituency is very much in the 'middle' of the Isle of Man, although it does have a coastline to the southeast, between Douglas Central to the north, and Arbory, Castletown and Malew to the south. Prior to Keys being dissolved on the 12th of August, the MHKs for Middle were Howard Quayle and Bill Shimmins – neither are standing for re-election, so there will be two new MHKs for Middle. Your candidates are, David Fowler, Keiran Hannifin, Alison Lynch, Stu Peters and Jane Poole-Wilson. First of all, David Fowler - why do you want to become MHK for Middle?

David Fowler

I care passionately about the Isle of Man and the people and the environment. I want to cut back on the climate emergency you know, we need more trees we need we need alternative energies. We need to drive the economy forward have a much stronger economy unites really suffered with Covid. We need our taxes spent a lot more efficiently they're still getting wasted and wasted. I mean we you know I feel we need to look after the people more you knows a lot of vulnerable people on the island and things. A lot of things need changing.

Keiran Hannifin

Over the last few years I've noticed a growing apathy across the island and apathy in aggression which I'm eager to try and fix. We've always been told at the Isle of Man doesn't like change the Isle of Man is going to change with Brexit, Covid, corporation tax, it is going to change. I'm eager to make sure that it changes for the better and not for the worst unfairly convinced that I'm the candidate to do that.

Alison Lynch

Thank you yeah I've spent 10 years on a local authority number times is chairman which has brought many frustrations that I've had personally with the government. I would like to make some changes. I care passionately about the constituency, first and foremost other constituents and then the island as a whole thank you.

Stu Peters

I've spent 20 years with Manx radio were talking to people about politics on a pretty much daily basis and over the years various people have suggested that I ought to stand for politics myself, it never felt the right time previously but now it does. The other reason is

that I'm not getting any younger so I decided if I don't do it now I probably never do it so that's my reason for standing.

Jane Poole-Wilson

I'm fortunate to be Manx born and brought up here and I've lived in Glen vine for 15 years and have a strong sense and connexion to the community. It was never in my plan to become a member of Tynwald, but I have served in the legislative council for the last four years and it's clear to me that if you want to be more directly involved - you really ought to seek the public mandate. Hence I'm putting myself forward.

Andy Wint

Okay I will start with Jane Poole-Wilson, does this government have a green agenda and is it your green agenda or is yours different?

Jane Poole-Wilson

I think obviously the climate emergency was declared which was important and work is underway but we really need to focus on it now. I think there is there is a lot to be achieved we need to plan well for our energy transition, the island will need to renew its energy infrastructure in any event and I believe very strongly that we should focus on trying to do that by capitalising on renewables and storage and putting ourselves in a strong position.

David Fowler

I mean I think the government's target on tree planting is pretty pathetic. It should be it should be a lot more and it doesn't necessarily have to be all taxpayers money to pay it we, can have corporate sponsorship. We need we need to push forward on all the green energy and things and it doesn't always even necessary have to cost the taxpayers money, because from what I've heard we could lease our sea bed out to these wind farm companies and get maybe 100 - £200 million a year from it so there's fantastic opportunities there you know.

Keiran Hannifin

A mature tree absorbs 21 kilos of oxygen a year that's once it's matured the Isle of Man produces .86 mega tonnes a year. Planting 70,000 non-native trees that lot of them are going to die isn't enough we need re-establishment at the inter-connector to signed contracts for difference and a lot of other things, such as making waste disposal nationwide instead of local government.

Andy Wint

As you been on the doorstep do you find this subject comes up?

Keiran Hannifin

A lot yeah mixed reviews with people, a lot of people are concerned at how much money is being spent.

Alison Lynch

Yeah I mean I've done quite a lot of homework on this over the last few months and researching the Met Office states that burning fossil fuels, coal oil and gas produces energy. But it also releases greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide these gases build up former blanket around the planet that traps the heat from the sun and causes air to heat up. Other facts all that the five warmest years have all occurred since 2006, one quarter of human made greenhouse gas emissions come from burning fossil fuels. In 50 year's time, in our children's lifetime the Met Office projects at winters will be 4.5 degrees warmer and up to 30% wetter. Summers will be between up to 6% warmer and 60% drier.

Andy Wint

And what can the underline government do about that?

Alison Lynch

We could be leading by example now. There's a lot that we can do for climate change, we must get on board with it it's been spoken about for so long but we must get on board we need to speak to the experts and get on board with it.

Stu Peters

I've been called a climate change denier and I'm not but I do questions some of the accepted science on it. I'm not sure that CO2 is the bogeyman that everybody makes it out to be. But if I was to agree with all that if I was to concede all those points, my view on this is that the other man, we shouldn't be an early adopter we shouldn't be leading the way we ought to wait for other people to establish the technology to deal with it and then follow that. I certainly don't think that we ought to spending 10s of millions of pounds on more reports and more committees.

Andy Wint

Do you think we should have offshore or onshore wind?

Stu Peters

I think we ought to be exploiting this gas field off Maughold head.

Andy Wint

OK now, David Fowler should we be accepting Afghan refugees on the Isle of Man?

David Fowler

I'd say definitely not. We don't have the infrastructure for them you know, its interpreters and things we need and mental health and all those sort of things...

Andy Wint

Do you agree with them in the UN recommends .7% of GDP for international aid do you agree with that?

David Fowler

I don't particularly we should give some money but I think more of it should be diverted to the Isle of Man you know charity begins at home I think.

Jane Poole-Wilson

Yeah and I do think we should take our part on the global stage and I do think we should build to our nought .7 of GDP. As far as the refugees are concerned, these are people who have supported the British armed forces and have been left in a perilous situation and actually we're talking frequently about skilled people and the island if we look at figures at the end of July - we had about 450 unemployed and 650 odd vacancies. So the island does need skills people and I think it's the right thing.

Stu Peters

I don't think we should take Afghan refugees no unless these are people who've got specific skills that we can use, unless they speak English, unless they're prepared to assimilate in the Manx society I think it would be a dangerous thing to do.

Alison Lynch

Yes I think we should be receiving these displaced people. We could be in a situation where we can take him to wake people who have worked in the British military hospitals for example, would we turn away a heart surgeon, would return away somebody with skills that can be used on the Isle of Man? As that today's figures it would mean us accepting in the region of 57 displaced people - why should the Isle of Man be any different we must play our part.

Keiran Hannifin

To paraphrase Tony Benn he said you should pay attention to how a government looks after their immigrants after how they look after the refugees cause that's how they look after you if they could. On the Isle of Man we're a crown dependent, for Tynwald we had an RAF fly over a Princess whilst the military marched guns in front of one of our schools. We do support the military and because of that, we should support our share of refugees that morals aside. Morals aside this is refugee help. If the house is burning down you don't ask

for the skills of the people have before you let them out the burning building, we absolutely should.

Andy Wint

Stu Peters how do we re float how does the Manx economy recover after Covid?

Stu Peters

I think it will recover fairly naturally after Covid? I think the government is doing a fairly good job of dealing with it as best it could. I think it's done a reasonably good job in trying to provide aid where it was required. Remember that some industries are probably quite well out of Covid, but the tourism sector, particularly hospitality, has been devastated by it. So that's where we need to be concentrating in the short term.

Andy Wint

Do you see tourism the infrastructure of the visiting trade as a as a priority to think we need to maintain that infrastructure?

Stu Peters

The trouble with the tourist trade is that it's always been important to the Isle of Man and. People look at it through rose tinted spectacles I think. The government say that it only contributes a small percentage to the revenue of the state, but I think he's got a much wider implication. People who do home stays, people who run guest houses people who run hospitality businesses all rely very heavily on the tourist sector, although the money from all that doesn't necessarily go into treasury.

Alison Lynch

Yeah the economy is obviously something that is a top priority for every candidate crossing island we must rebuild the economy. We must invest in local businesses, support local businesses, trying to attract businesses to relocate to the Isle of Man to businesses financial businesses hospitality businesses - you know I know some people will say well local hospitality businesses are struggling, but there's a lot of businesses doing very well. We also need to take political risk as well.

Andy Wint

What do you mean political risk?

Alison Lynch

In attracting businesses over to the island okay, finance businesses, E-commerce businesses - insert just resting on a laurels and absolutely going by the rule book - why not just you know try and not break the rules, but I will bend the rules but just make our own rules well...

Andy Wint

Make our own rules?

Alison Lynch

Not make our own rules, we have to you know we have to we can I mean of course we can just buy we can but not to the detriment of people on the island.

Keiran Hannifin

First thing to do would be to stop paying 1/6 of artworks force below living wage. We can't have an economy if there's no money going around in it have. Nothing to spend on businesses, no way to pay their rent. If no one can pay their staff all these things the first step is to put money in people's pockets with most things. It should be living wage or above and we shouldn't be able to call ourselves a first world affluent country where 1/6 of all population have paid 24.1% less than they need to participate in society.

Andy Wint

How do you think the Isle of Man can re-float the economy and charge forward now?

Keiran Hannifin

That's how. A lot of people say well where does the money come from. If you were able to set up your own business and pay your staff at living wage, then you can provide a service that you can sell externally nationwide or worldwide. As for the living wage is written massively in my manifesto not me awhile to talk about it fully extend but it's mines big rebuild on the benefit system.

David Fowler

Yeah I mean we want inward investment you know, we want to get company talking with companies get them setting up hubs here. Back in 2010 centre parks tried to come here that that would help tourism they were turned away I don't know why but we could get them back talking. We want high net worth individuals to come here and invest in our economy.

Andy Wint

Do you see the other members of premium holiday resort for people outside the album end like centre parks?

David Fowler

I think so yeah and I mean I think we could do a lot more to get tourists here I mean I we we bought steam packet, but the fares are still sky high. If we had a lower price structure on the ferry fares, we could get heaps of tourists here you know that...

Andy Wint

Do you think the Isle of Man government should enter the market should vary the market manipulate the market to bring holiday makers here cheaply?

David Fowler

Yeah I mean at the moment the boats from I've heard are only filling an average of 30% of capacity. If you if you had cheaper fares you might have 60 or 70% of the seats filled and you would get at least as much money back if not a bit more on top you know.

Jane Poole-Wilson

I think our economy is deserves to have existing strengths supported, so our finance sector and so on. I think it is important that we position ourselves well for the future. I think the opportunities probably lie in tech, fintech and so on research and development work - but also the green future. I think you know the island has great opportunity as we start to look at the energy transition at our housing stock in other areas, to actually see some growth some new sectors coming along.

Andy Wint

OK which brings me onto education. Putting aside the students who go across away for university, do you think we're educating our non-university students successfully and well enough to enter those new trades?

Jane Poole-Wilson

I think we need to look much more closely at more apprenticeships and vocational training. It's absolutely clear that the island is crying out for skills there are plenty of young people who have talent which is not necessarily academic talent who should be enabled to thrive and flourish.

Andy Wint

Why would that be then that we have school leavers coming out who don't have appropriate skills to the marketplace on the Isle of Man?

Jane Poole-Wilson

Well I think if you're talking about apprenticeships and vocational training the system that currently operates, which is in line with our neighbours is that we encourage people to stay in education to GCSE level. We don't focus so much on the vocational, but I do think even at that stage we do need to do more in terms of apprenticeship offering.

Stu Peters

I think that the modern way is that for the most young people go away to the university. I think that there are concerns about the fact that wants to go away they're not going to come back. I don't think that they will come back until they're in the 30s and they've got children, because let's face it you know somebody is being brought up on the Isle of Man suddenly wants to spread their wings getaway from the parents go across the university being a city that's a 24/7 sort of a society. It's a very exciting place to be and they're going to get a better worldview from it, so we shouldn't worry too much about getting kids back.

Andy Wint

You think they will come back of their own accord?

Stu Peters

Yes. Again I think that most of these things are fairly natural and I think that a lot of young people will come back, because especially if their families here though goodwill go across to the UK or wherever, spread the wings do all that kind of stuff but I think that then they will realise they get children themselves that the Isle of Man is a great place to be and they'd rather be near the family.

Alison Lynch

I have a big issue with this. I have a constituent who is University College Isle of Man and doing a teacher training and at the end of it she has to go to the UK to do a years work experience, why? I would love somebody to answer that question for me. Why are we sending are university graduates to the UK for teacher training - why can't be done here you know. We work alongside Chester university so why cannot be done here what's so different to our schools and to those new UK? Because the danger - the student doesn't want to go to the UK is going to customer is going to cost a family money she just want to leave her family, she has to go - the danger is that she may not actually come back.

Andy Wint

Do you think we lose too many university students who go to Leeds to Liverpool to Manchester never come back?

Alison Lynch

Yes we do and how do we how do. Some don't come back because what they have graduated in at university they then can't find that particular employment on the Isle of Man. We need to expand the skills and businesses on the Isle of Man.

Keiran Hannifin

There's more to life than a vocation sorry there's more to life invocation it's the same thing why we can't keep teachers here as well as students it's that overall a habitat itself is not

luring, if it was we wouldn't have to keep putting a shiny alert to trick people to come over here. If you had the situation where restaurants might be open on a Monday people might be here to do still. The problem is that you need for the average man isn't really available here. Once the average man has the availability of the entire habitat improves which helps everyone on step upwards. There is the entertainment issue I am an entertainer on the island, and I know that side of things. But there is vocation as well. By and large our students are funnelled into university to come back here and get an office job. Those office jobs are one or two things which is I have a secure and rich people's money which a lot of people don't want to do or forcing people into gambling forcing encouraging people into gambling which also isn't really the most ethically OK job.

Andy Wint

Do you think the gaming industry in the autumn end is unethical?

Keiran Hannifin

Yeah especially when we talk about allowing patients cannabis for instance and we discuss the ethics around that, no one has ever smoked to join and gambled their house away after a bottle of wine. Yet, because we're already making money from that industry were quite happy to encourage it. So yeah it's gambling unethical.

Andy Wint

David Fowler back to non-university students education and university students coming back to the Isle of Man...

David Fowler

I mean we definitely want more apprenticeships and training schemes here. I think we should even be looking at I'm sort of paying back part or all of the student grants in return for them coming back to fill the jobs we need filled here. Not immediately I you know over it over a number of years, yeah.

Andy Wint

Alison Lynch to cannabis, do you support the legalisation of medicinal and or recreational cannabis?

Alison Lynch

I definitely support medicinal cannabis. Recreational, it would need to be extremely well controlled there's pluses and minuses. If it was legalised you would then take away the dealer I'm who is probably not supplying pure cannabis. People are getting illegally now but it would have to be extremely well controlled.

Stu Peters

Medicinal cannabis yes without question recreational cannabis I'm a little bit on the fence but leaning towards decriminalising. I think we should certainly decriminalise it but to make it legal I can't see many reasons not to. Talking to people on the doorstep people have got very fixed views on this. One chap that I spoke to is absolutely against it being decriminalised for recreational use because erase that the other is going to be full of people who are drugged up driving around. I made the point that you can still test for it like you can for alcohol, but he was absolutely convinced that it would be a bad thing. Other people have talked about the potential damage to young people's brains from cannabis, so you know we've got to have assurances or reassurances about that and I believe that if it was decriminalised if it was made legal and if government effectively supplied it - they could make sure that there were none of the harmful ingredients in that is making people going crazy.

Jane Poole-Wilson

Yes supportive of medicinal cannabis I think the approach to recreational cannabis needs to be well thought through, because those of some of the things that the others have already touched on. I think it's important that we don't what we're doing at the moment doesn't work. It's not right I don't think that we are seeing people criminalised particularly young people for very small amounts. However, I think just decriminalising without looking at the whole picture in terms of the regulation and the content and so on I think it leaves open other problems.

Andy Wint

Bearing in mind there are jurisdictions around the world where it is legal it has been decriminalised, and the Isle of Man can be fleet of foot with legislation - is there are not any sort of opportunity for the Isle of Man?

Jane Poole-Wilson

I think the Isle of Man also has to bear in mind that it would have to work closely with the Ministry of Justice in the UK, because this would be an area where there would need to be some close working.

David Fowler

Yeah I'm highly supportive of the medicinal cannabis you know - that's excellent we want that. I don't think realistically cannabis will get recreational cannabis will get legalised overnight. I would be highly supportive of decriminalisation for puny amounts of the drug, because it takes up court time.

Andy Wint

Such as how much?

David Fowler

I don't know I mean you've you know teeny amounts but I I don't know I mean obviously would have to be reviewed I'm not an expert on it would have to be a panel of people and decide what they decide is a small amount and what isn't.

Keiran Hannifin

For medicinal 99.2% in favour on a public consultation that was done 30 months ago the most completed consultation that I'm aware of has been ignored for 30 months, which is made cannabis twice the price for a patient to receive during a health pandemic. If elected will be the first motion I put through, to give prescription private at least, to patients. As for recreational I personally am very pro - it is not about my opinion it would have to public mandate first. I would be very supportive and more than willing to work with Department of Health and social care and enterprise to make sure that that comes through correctly.

Andy Wint

And do you think there's a bridge to be crossed when it comes to recreational cannabis? You only have to walk down Strand St any Friday or Saturday night and smell the amount that's being smoked. So it is on the Isle of Man whether or not people want to accept it or not, do you think it's we're trying to push water uphill by trying to keep cannabis at bay?

Keiran Hannifin

Absolutely all we're doing is making a bigger risk versus reward for the dealers in Liverpool who will never be tried. So the 11 year old who gets caught with £30,000 here, there's no risk to the person Liverpool but if he doesn't get caught he's just got twice the payday. We are encouraging knife crime on the Isle of Man, we're encouraging black markets on the Isle of Man.

Andy Wint

Jane Poole-Wilson, let's come to affordable housing nowadays. Are you picking this up on the doorstep about the cost of housing and the barrier to entry for young people particularly? And also for older people downsizing?

Jane Poole-Wilson

Both absolutely yes I would say this is a theme across the constituency. People are concerned about different aspects of housing - and I do think the next administration needs to focus on this quickly and develop a coherent policy. I think we need to look at all help to buy schemes cause I don't think they're working anymore it's to help people. I also think it's about availability, I'm really keen now to see the Manx Development Corporation bear fruit in driving some high quality development on our brownfield sites.

Stu Peters

I think that government if it's possible or to be building first time buyers homes. I don't think it should be going to developers to make a big profit out of it. I think that the percentage of first time buyer homes needs to increase on developments, and it does come up a lot on the doorstep. I'm a lifelong capitalist - I've always thought that if somebody works hard puts a few quid to one side and wants to invest it later in life, they should be able to put it into anything that's legal. I do think now we've got a national crisis as far as affordable housing is concerned and I think it puts that to one side. Therefore I think that the first time buyer homes should be available to owner occupiers only, not to people to buy as an investment to rent out because we hear about a lot of these houses that are bought by investors many off island. That is skewing the market. So, first time buyer housing should be built by government and only sold to people that are going to live in them.

Andy Wint

Do you think that the Isle of Man government could build houses on time and on budget?

Stu Peters

Good question I think that yes, and just a final point on that all of them should be passive or partly passive. There shouldn't be a single house or building on the Isle of Man that isn't you know using those sort of passive technologies.

Alison Lynch

Affordable housing in first time buyer housing has been very much in the forefront when knocking on doors. I think the government needs to concentrate on brownfield site building, we have a couple of sites just that spring to mind straight away which is the former prison site and Park Road school. They're cleared they're ready they're ready to be built on. You know the government could be building on those, they could be building eco houses. There's a private house has been built on Victoria Road to very low cost but very carbon neutral. The Isle of Man government could be doing exactly the same. But also our housing market needs to be looked at immediately. We have estate agents people are being gazumped out of houses today.

Andy Wint

How many first time buyers were there on the Crosby estate do you know?

Alison Lynch

I yes there are eight

Andy Wint

How many could there have been in your opinion?

Alison Lynch

Probably for the numbers that have been built eight, but there are also developments within the constituency and across the island that the developer has managed to play the planning system and not build first time by properties.

Keiran Hannifin

Affordable housing is an issue because you can't afford a house on £8.25 an hour. We always talk about affordable housing, assuming that everyone wants to own a house. A big part of the problem that people don't seem to be looking at is rentals. If you're paying £900 a month rent on a house that would be on a mortgage of 1600, that doesn't give you a credit score to be able to go against it for a mortgage. We have no DHSS agreement still on flats now, even the UK is ahead of us from that. We can't get affordable housing, if all we doing is building cheap houses for people who already own properties.

David Fowler

Yeah I mean we want more help to buy schemes and things. We need to build more affordable houses. I mean I think instead of using these big construction companies which are probably creaming a huge profit even on the low cost houses, the government should be contacting sort of medium sized building companies to build them at cost so there's not a big markup on the price, so there be kind of truly affordable you know.

Andy Wint

How do you stop private people making a very good living out of lots owning lots of houses?

David Fowler

Really, certainly the affordable ones at the very least should be for residents only not inward investors you know.

Andy Wint

Okay, we're tonight at Douglas rugby club - let's go to the audience now and we've got some questions from the audience whose first for us with a question from the audience.

Roy Crellin

It's about recycling. We're massive in our house on recycling and cans batteries papers plastics, but what I find is when you go around the site to drop off these recycling, you know when we do our own the bins are overflowing - so I believe recycle start at home. What would you do to encourage it?

Keiran Hannifin

I think way should be nationwide so your taxi but not you repeat it because it's it's such a big part of the climate issue we call a crisis we need to start acting like a to nationwide crisis. What I'd like to see is you do it at the source, bring it to wherever else, say you're a millionaire and I'm not both of us getting speeding ticket 60 pounds going to cripple me it's not going to cripple you. So it's legal for a price for you. An hour versus an hour community service taking caps off bottles separation of waste - that then gets put into a plant which is aerated turn into insulation boards given to every Manx house for free - 250 pounds saved in carbon emissions an value per year. That's my idea for it.

David Fowler

Yeah I mean I'm very keen on recycling for promoting it and things. I've seen that as well these sort of skip things where you put all the clothes and the bottles in and things, they're not emptied enough. I mean something needs to be done about that I mean they empty your bins every week which is going to the incinerator, and they deprioritize recycling you know. They should have the same attitude with the recycling empty them regularly so they're not sort of overflowing. A lot of people drive around so I mean, I don't normally make a special journey if I'm taking recycling I make sure I do it on a day when I'm going past where they are you know. I think that's probably what a lot of people do or that's what I would hope they would do.

Jane Poole-Wilson

I think I mean like you we put a big emphasis on it and we do take our recycling on a regular basis to the civic amenity site. The feedback actually when you talk to people particularly around the citizens forum on climate change, is a recognition that people would find it much more convenient if it was doorstepped collected. I think Kieran's comments as well about how can we build more of a circular economy on the Isle of Man, so how do we sustain ourselves and what is viable for us to reuse and recycle, is really valid. I think the next administration should be looking hard at that and working closely with local authorities.

Stu Peters

I think that a lot of these things what we ought to be looking at is making it easy for people to do. So where I live we don't have curb side collection so everything goes in the one bin. I think that if we all just threw all our refuse in one bin and it was then recycled later with who employed people or we've got machines in to actually sort the waste, then that would be a better solution to this.

Alison Lynch

I'm very pro recycling in agreement with what my colleagues have said. The Weston civic amenity site recycle at the moment 73% of what goes over through the gate, which equates to around about £140,000 a year. I disagree with when you say that everybody in Douglas recycles, they don't because blocks of flats don't have recycle bins. There are bring banks around the island which are owned by the department of infrastructure, but they will not supply a bin for plastics. They have to go to the civic amenity sites, I take mine to my place

of work because we get them collected from there, so you know the government needs to be doing a lot more also.

Andy Wint

Do you find on the doorstep do you think most people understand recycling they get recycling they're keen to recycle?

Alison Lynch

Yes I do you know even around where I live people do recycle. You know you'll have days when will you see neighbours filling the car full of recycling to to go to the civic amenity sites but there's a lot more we could be doing.

Ian Wright

It's almost certainly going to be one of the re-elected MHKs who becomes the next chief minister. Assuming their successful next week who would you like to see stand, and who would you support?

Stu Peters

It's a case of waiting to see who's in. I mean, Alf Cannan would be a good Chief Minister I think, Alex Allinson maybe, we just don't know. We'd have to see who is elected, and we'd have to hear pitches from them and see whether or not our ideals marry with theirs.

Andy Wint

Why would Alf Cannan be good chief minister?

Stu Peters

Because he's articulate, he's smart and I think that those are qualities that we need in a Chief Minister.

Alison Lynch

Impossible to answer I'd love to answer it I was asked this question last week and you know as much as I would like to give you a name. Ask me on the 24th whether I'm successful or not and I will I will give you my opinion.

Keiran Hannifin

I think it's important for candidates to say who their Chief Minister's cause it's the best chance that anyone has acting the chief minister directly because they might not like me but they might vote for me based on who the chief minister is, and for me as it stands it's Chris Thomas.

David Fowler

I would say absolutely Juan Waterson. He's got a lot of experience he's been in 15 years and I listen to that enrolled broadcast every week and I've heard some of the things he says and he's got a lot of ideas. He's a very bright individual so I I've definitely backed Juan.

Jane Poole-Wilson

For me it has to be a person with really good leadership qualities because I think it's so important to bring people with you I would want to see. If I was elected as an MHK I'd absolutely want to see what the focus was going to be in the priorities likes to the names that are out there in terms of Alf Cannon, and Alex Allinson and I think both of them would be capable, but what I would really be interested in is what are they going to prioritise and focus on? Because I think that absolutely matters for this next administration that there is clear strategic prioritisation, and we don't end up with a programme for government but all things to all people and too cumbersome and risks not achieving some key strategic aims.

Andy Wint

Live on Manx radio tonight with the candidates standing for middle to constituency of middle with David Fowler, Keiran Hannifin, Alison Lynch, Stu Peters and Jane Poole-Wilson.

Les Foster

The prior administration I think I can make a very long list of failures and arrogance. Yet we can't remove politicians during their term, we have no power to do that, and we can't remove failing departmental CEOs what are your views on that?

Keiran Hannifin

You can remove an MHK you can get the cats in the parish to do requisition meeting you can vote for them to stand down just as a side note. As for the CEOs, beside given huge redundancy pays you have to wait for their contracts all run out. We talk about quote incisor government all the time unless you want to pay a huge bill that's going to be like a pension bill, those redundancy pay packages were across hundreds of people at a time is going to be a lot. There definitely should be performance reviews though.

Alison Lynch

Yeah I don't I don't see why an MHK, MLC anybody cannot be dismissed from their job. If they're doing a bad job what's so different about the public sector than the private sector you know. If something was to go horrendously wrong in the private sector you would be shown the door one should it be so different? That is probably something that needs to be reviewed and looked at thank you for the question.

Andy Wint

What do you think about seen here I mean heads of department heads ahead of ministers the senior civil servants, get paid six figures and more high six figures - how do you feel about holding people like that to account?

Alison Lynch

I've had some civil servants saying to me on the doorstep that they are and public sector workers. They are very comfortable in their job really they you know that, they're there for the right they've been there you know 30 plus years or more. They're untouchable, why?

Stu Peters

It's a good question I mean at least politicians only there for five years and you can get rid of them after five years I don't know whether or not Kieran's right you can get rid of them sooner but only there for five years. The civil services therefore life usually and I see that as the biggest problem. Reading the Beamans report into the DOI recently, it seems that that performance is measured on effort rather than on results. So if everybody says yes we're all very busy then that's good enough but it's not good enough. So what we need is to give targets key performance indicators to people from the chief executive down, and if they don't achieve those targets - then it's time for a bit of a tough word.

Jane Poole-Wilson

We have in this last five years seeing a couple of chief executives leave in the Department of Education and in the Department of Health actually. But what's interesting is what leads up to those departures. I agree that one of the things that's absent for me is absolute clarity about what the business plan is, what the targets are, and then how we're going to account and measure progress. Because it should be much easier to assess how people are doing, particularly our leaders, against what is being projected. Now of course we know in the real world not everything goes according to plan and Covid is a very good example of how even the best laid plans can be thrown off course. But in the normal course, I think it is about that transparency and that clarity that there makes it blindingly obvious actually that people are falling short and it's either time for them to go or be removed.

David Fowler

I mean I mean that's why I'm standing. I'm disgusted with our government you know five years go they're all saying we want a smaller smarter government and what have we got? 500 more civil servants a billion more in pension liabilities and they're just going the wrong way you know.

Les Foster

Mr Hannifin, I'd like to come back to your assertion that we can requisition the captain of the parish. If a particular minister is in another constituency, then I can't do much about

that. So we're splitting here between, we've got a local locally elected politician that is failing on national issues - the rest of the public are powerless.

Roy Crellin

You touch to before on tourism. Growing up in the 70s my father was a coach driver tourism was massively. Foot passengers come in ships boats full to capacity, people coming in what could we do to attract that back a lot of tourists are coming now coming on coaches come straight into the island safer we can go back on the same coach?

Andy Wint

OK and also I'm going to throw into their as well if I'm a I'm going to ask about the future of the TT, Keiran Hannifin anything we can do to put rockets under tourist offering? And you think the TT is going to last?

Keiran Hannifin

I think healthcare tourism is how we bring tourism forward which does a heck of a lot for the Isle of Man healthcare. If you pay £10,000 is the price for a hip replacement if we brought for private patients over from the UK and charge them £12,500 every four you bring you get one free hip replacement to the Isle of Man. Use all the forms that you make for that put it back into the public healthcare system which means we get a world class healthcare system you get a boost over economy and you get the tourism. I'm unsure about the TT to be honest. The Isle of Wight obviously cancelled theirs or decided they didn't want it and someone brought up the point say well if we were asked today and hadn't had the TT for the last 100 years would you want it I don't think people would.

Jane Poole-Wilson

I think I grew up in the 70s here as well so I well remember the last days I suppose of the bucket and spade holidays that people would come on here. I think we have to rethink of our positioning. That that time is gone and I do think we've got a huge amount though going for us and I look at other jurisdictions where perhaps you know the weather isn't the best all year round, if you look at Iceland you look at Scotland, they have amazing capacity to attract people on holiday and people who have disposable income. Who will then spend. I think the really important thing is our heritage is an important part of our culture in the island, costs a lot of money, the more we can expand our vision for tourism fact people with disposable income, the more we drive some revenue coming in to help.

Andy Wint

What do you think is the Isle of man's USP to somebody who's never been here before?

Jane Poole-Wilson

It's interesting about the TT isn't it, if you ask people what they know the island for they will mention things like that the TT and maybe Manx cats. I wonder whether our knew a friend and I'm not sure where there yet is really positioned around the biosphere, and attached to that is our environment culture, food et cetera et cetera.

Stu Peters

I think that we're never going to get the days that you talk about is just never going to happen you know, Frank Whittle ruined that with the jet engine. So what we've got to do is to play to our strengths we are already niche marketing the Isle of Man holidays and we've got to continue to do that. We've got to do it better I think. I don't remember seeing anything particularly different from the department of tourism or whatever it's called now over the last 10 or 15 years. I think we need to get smarter about, it in terms of what's the Isle of Man to be famous for - we've got great history here. Not everybody wants to come on walking holiday or a cycling holiday but we've got great history here as well so maybe that's the kind of thing that would attract people.

Alison Lynch

In agreement with my colleagues actually. We unfortunately will never get back to the 1970s and before that. As far as people coming over on English registration plate coaches, it must be a cost why is it more cost effective? Is it the same for a group of people going on holiday from the Isle of Man, do they take it an Isle of Man coach from Douglas with them? It would be nice if people came over and it was coach holidays from the moment you arrived at the sea terminal for example. TT I live inside the TT course, have done for all of my life. Would I like to see it cancelled? Probably not no. I think it needs to change. You know we talk about competence zero and yet we're going to allow bikes full of fuel to you know give out all these revolting smells.

David Fowler

Yeah I mean as I said before I think now we own the ferry company, we should be have more involvement in the pricing because the price to get a car over here is a small fortune.

Andy Wint

You said that twice do you think then that somebody should come up with a schema matrix whereby anybody coming on holiday can come here for a fiver or something silly like that?

David Fowler

I don't think that's all no but I I would be in favour of outside of the TT. Having some kind of cap on it so you'll pay if you bring your car over, it's £100 each way and you would get heaps of people coming here.

Paul Craine

In the Isle of Man in the last ten years the number of births have fallen by 35%. At the other end of the age scales the number of people here aged over 65 puts us in the top six countries on the planet is very high. What would the candidates do about that? Which first which of those figures concerns them the most?

Stu Peters

The low birth rates is a real problem I honestly don't know what the answer is to that I really don't know obviously we've not got enough young people here we need more young people. This comes on to things like immigration we should have more people moving to other men whether or not 100,000 people which is a figure that's being banded about is a sensible one, I would suggest it is. We need more economically active people who can make more babies and look after the oldies like me.

Alison Lynch

I agree for you same for we do have an ageing demographic. I'm looking at that both my parents are still alive in their 80s. The lack of young people on the island is a concern and is that due to them not coming back post-graduation from university? The cost of houses the cost of rent renting, we need to encourage that this can all fall into attracting businesses to the Isle of Man. Businesses will penultimately employ a younger generation. It's important because the young people are the future of our island.

David Fowler

Yeah I mean is a big problem really I mean. A lot of that comes down to not having enough affordable housing and the cost of living and things but the Isle of Man isn't unique. I know a lot of people say oh it costs a fortune to live on the Isle of Man, but housing is very expensive across you know. It is a universal problem really and yeah. We need to attract more young people to come here really.

Keiran Hannifin

If we want to increase the birth rate we either need to lessen our education quality or improve our quality of life because people are smart enough to know that they can't bring children or in a bad environment. If you less than at any habitat the animal stop breeding that's across the globe on every ecosystem in the world.

Andy Wint

Okay where do you stand on things many people who have children complain about the cost of pre school care and education?

Keiran Hannifin

Yeah I think this is something should be brought in where they say a don't want to word nationalise but that's what I mean like a publicly funded childcare option, whether or not

that's incentivising businesses to have creches or if it's incentivising the government to pay off a chunk of that.

Jane Poole-Wilson

I think it's a really good question I think we have to recognise that the falling birth rates probably can be attributed to a number of things. Yes it might be about the number of young people that we attract to live here, but also you have to ask the question white people might choose not to have children or have children later. I think you have to have I think we need as an island to look at now increasing our support for young families. I think looking at our maternity and paternity legislation is very important, I think childcare is absolutely important as part of this good quality early years care with funding and extension of pre school credit. I think all of these things will make a massive difference.

Andy Wint

It has to be said of course that falling birth rate isn't just exclusive to the Isle of Man it's happening all over Western Europe.

Dalan Mercer

Lots of the biggest problems in the previous administration and probably in the next administration relate, and I say biggest both financially and in terms of public perception, relate to capital projects - what are you going to do to get to the bottom of what's happened in lots of the most high profile projects over the last few years? And how do you change future procurement to stop these things happening?

David Fowler

Well I'd say they need to have like penalty clauses in these contracts. It seems that the developers seem to doing these contracts seem to get away with anything and the government do as well. The budgets just keep going up and up and it's you know it should be a fixed price and it shouldn't go over. But it never does it.

Keiran Hannifin

I'm with the penalty side of things but as well as that we need people who can negotiate these contracts well in the first place like the Liverpool ferry, the front page of the news was that we were outclassed in negotiations we should have people on our behalf you can actually deal.

Alison Lynch

People need to be held accountable for what they've done. There are there are set prices and there are set time deadlines built under all penalty notices built into the contracts, the promenade for example. I would like to know you know Covid aside, why have these penalty notices not being adhered to?

Jane Poole-Wilson

I think we I'm in favour of a central capital projects unit that can access the appropriate expertise. It's of note to me that when the government bought the steam packet they did bring in the expertise of part partners to do all the due diligence and work and actually Tynwald members could have some confidence and faith in the reporting there, and I think we need to see that replicated where we don't have the skills set on island and we can't easily access it - make sure we get the right expertise because ultimately that will help us deliver better.

Stu Peters

I think the problem is almost entirely government rather than contractors. I don't necessarily think that penalty clauses are the answer. What we've got to do is to have a smarter government, smarter departments, smarter people there for too many years we've been throwing money at problems, we've been creating jobs for the boys where the boys aren't up to the jobs. It's government that needs to take responsibility and be held accountable.

Andy Wint

Now it's the time of the proceedings where each candidate will have one minute to sum up their thoughts and present their credentials to the constituency of Middle.

Jane Poole-Wilson

Thank you and I feel very passionately and strongly about our community and our island. I feel like having had some experience in the legislative council for the last four years I really do want to become more involved to try and drive improvement and head standing for the House of Keys. I believe that my experience not just in the legislative council, but my voluntary community service and my legal background are skills and experience that I can bring to try and add value to try and contribute to a positive future. We do face a number of challenges, but I am optimistic that the island can navigate a positive future course and I would ask for your trust to represent you and to make my contribution to that positive future.

Stu Peters

My campaigns all been about accountability and common sense, because I don't think there's much common sense in government at the moment and hasn't been for a while. There's been virtually zero accountability so we need to address that as a matter of urgency. I've been looking at and reporting on politics in the other man from best part of 20 years, I want to get inside the tent and try and make some changes and I appreciate that the picture inside the tent might be very different, but I can only do my best to get in there and see if I can make changes.

Alison Lynch

Ladies and gentlemen, at the age of 53 having worked in the private sector role in my life I feel at having had and still have 10 years plus experience on a local authority it is time for me to move into national politics. The words have been spoken here tonight are very important and essential, but actions speak louder than words. In the decade I've served as a local commissioner experiences taught me one vital thing, and that is the key is to engage with the people that you represent. Listen to your people, understand their concerns so fundamentally when it comes to people of Middle and strongly believe but I do speak of public's language. I would be humbled and privileged for your vote on the 23rd of September.

Keiran Hannifin

I am not all will never be a career politician I didn't join the party because it didn't want to work for a party I don't want to work for a party or government, I want to work for the people who vote me in. If you vote me in, I will lead by example I'm giving away 24.1% of my salary which is the difference between living a minimum wage as that the justice each year I will adjust weather if I can't fix it by the time I leave the House Keys I'll do the same thing with my pension. I will be transparent. I will make sure your voice is heard, which a lot of people don't seem to think they do that it will. People keep saying that they don't want more of the same so when you go and vote make sure you don't vote for more of the same. I am different, I ride the bus, I have had hospital issues I have had too many of my friends committed suicide a dying of drugs, and because of that I will sink my teeth into Tynwald and I won't let go until it is sorted.

David Fowler

I'm passionate about the Isle of Man, I'm passionate about politics, I'm passionate about the environment and growing the economy sorting out the inefficiencies within government and caring for the vulnerable and making sure essential services run properly you know and if you give me your vote, I will give you 110%. I will be really dedicated to it. I'll hit the ground running, really give me your vote. Thank you

Andy Wint

I'm going to go to each candidate now just for a very short summing up of how would you tell a 16 year old or 16 to 21 year old who didn't vote last time for the reason of age, how would you get a young voter to cast their vote what would you say to them?

David Fowler

I would say go out and vote. You have opinions on things if you don't vote you don't have a say. There's lots of things you know I mean. The young people are very keen on environmental issues and so am I and I think that's the way get talking to them about what they like and get them encouraged to come out.

Keiran Hannifin

I'm 31 years old I was 16 the first year it was able to be able to vote and I didn't. Repeatedly multiple years in a row, during those years quite a few problems were really problematic and it was straight from the government straight affecting me. Had I actually cast my vote and might have been in a better situation now.

Alison Lynch

Young people can make a difference to the future of the island you know absolutely. They're important that you know they have spoken to me on the doorstep and they want to be involved.

Stu Peters

I've talked to quite a lot of young people on the doorstep, more than I expected to, and some of them are absolutely passionate about politics and deeply involved and interested in it. The majority at age 16 really aren't, don't care about it I didn't care about politics at 16 - so you can lead a horse to water whether or not you can make him drink is a different thing.

Jane Poole-Wilson

I think it's interesting that many of the things we've talked about tonight absolutely speak to 16 to 21 year olds and their future, and that's what I say. This is your chance to say what you think because it will affect your future.

Andy Wint

Tonight we've been at Douglas Rugby club, tomorrow night we're going to be at Onchan at the Ocean Views and on Monday that for the constituency of Onchan. On Monday at the Whistle Stop cafe in Port Erin for the constituency of Rushen, and next Tuesday at Seven Kingdoms for Douglas central. Tonight thank you to David Fowler, Keiran Hannifin, Alison Lynch, Stu Peters and Jane Poole-Wilson. I'm Andy Wint, and tonight Manx Radio has been live at Douglas Rugby Club!