

Rushen Constituency Debate

Andy Wint

The constituency of Rushen is in the far south of the Isle of Man and is made up of the villages of Port Erin and Port St Mary, and most of the parish of Rushen. It has borders with Arbory, Malew and Castletown, and Glenfaba and Peel. Notable recent MHKs include Sir Miles Walker, the first chief minister of the Isle of Man, who held his seat for 20 years from 1976, and Noel Cringle, who stood down as the second president of Tynwald in 2011, after holding the position for eleven years. Before the dissolution of Keys on the 12th of August, the MHKs were Laurence Skelly and Juan Watterson. Tonight, we have Michelle Haywood, Mark Kemp, Andrew Langan-Newton and Juan Watterson. Michelle Haywood, why do you want to be MHK for Rushen?

Michelle Haywood

I've spent five years serving his local commissioner and three years as chair and during that time I've managed to deal with a number of local issues. I think I could achieve more on a national stage and I could actually tackle some bigger issues on behalf of the constituents.

Mark Kemp

2016 I was a swing vote of 55 off getting elected. I felt my manifesto was very strong I've produced another strong manifesto. I believe in the people of Rushen believing strength to constituency I believe in people of the Isle of Man and I believe that we have a bright future but we need the right people inside to do that.

Andrew Langan-Newton

To take leadership on the issues that important in the transformation of the community that's going to benefit the whole island, and especially the community in Rushen.

Juan Watterson

I want to be an MHK now for the same reason that I did when I stood 5th the first time 15 years ago. I'm passionate about the people of Rushen, and people with the Isle of Man our sense of community or sense of national pride and to make the sound a better place so to some of the issues around today.

Andy Wint

First of all Michelle Haywood, the issue of the underclass and poverty in the Isle of Man and the fact that a lot of the element of terribly well off and some people aren't - how can we square that circle?

Michelle Haywood

I think there's a number of things that we need to do to tackle this at source and poverty comes from a number of routes part of it is about 0 hours contracts and in stay unstable working conditions part of it is about inability to access good quality housing affordable price. There is some blocking that goes on in access to local authority housing as well, and then also we have quite high living

costs here. Fuel costs are high particularly food costs are higher and all the goods that you purchase are higher and so we have to recognise that actually we need to provide support for that that margin of our society really that is being systematically kept in that in that boundary.

Juan Watterson

Thank you I mean as someone who chaired the poverty Select Committee for the last few years one of the recommendations that came out in July that was overwhelmingly accepted by Tim bold was bringing the minimum wage up to the living wage. That's going to take 16% of monks working families out of poverty so that's part of the ingredients that we need to see in terms of as Michelle said about housing and so many other areas, to lift standards around the island.

Andrew Langan-Newton

We really need to see leadership from the politicians on this issue to build up the security on environment and that's going to take a number of tools including present progressive taxation to empower people but also really investing in long-term assets to enable them, like education we really underfunded education. Public transport should be free these are things are really high cost to individuals, and we can really benefit their outcomes and long term investment in renewable energy for the low income households. People who ride the bus from port Erin to Douglas they have a cost which is more don't drive into Douglas finding parking and paying for that so actually we're putting a tax on everyone who using the bus causes a greater cost than driving a car that actually the huge benefits for community for more people using public transport so the spill over benefits as well.

Mark Kemp

Yeah I have to agree with June in terms of raising the minimum wage to the living wage that's going to raise people well quite a few people out of the poverty trap and the income trap additionally we need to look at education we need to be looking at what the precipitating factors are that create poverty later on. If you've got 30% of every GCSE cohort that is failing their GCSEs than their job did the scope of jobs that they can move into is actually reduced there's a raft of all the issues regarding their poverty we mustn't forget about homelessness and food and fuel poverty that we haven't in silent these are big issues at the next house needs to tackle.

Andrew Langan-Newton

OK well let's go to education do you think the education for non-university students, ones who don't go to university is that education good enough - and is it serving them?

Mark Kemp

Well so very quickly that I've taught at UCM when I was doing my teacher training and to get your curriculum given to you the day before you're due to teach isn't good enough. So there are some structural issues or the worse and structural issues back then I've spoken to colleagues you work there now those issues are still there. There needs to be more done for non university students we could look at a sixth form college for example children.

Juan Watterson

I think we've got a great range of post school education at upper the college chair in terms of apprenticeships and those apprenticeships in our diversifying into other things, like accounting and others I think one of the biggest barriers. We have to have more successful education system on the Isle of Man certainly in the South is the need to replace castle wishing high school which is a crumbling wreck and has been for some time now. Vocational training too - there meant about upper the college and so we've got a lot of apprenticeships up there and we have taster days for those from fourteen onwards and that's really positive in terms of giving people that opportunity so that they can start to see an alternative to school about early age and keep them motivated and into education.

Andrew Langan-Newton

We have a predilection with the idea that the optimum thing is to go to university is not we should be supporting for people to diversity but we should be taking pride in the important roles that people who don't go to university and focusing on apprenticeships and giving that greater funding, as that's going to create the economies that we need for the future of the transition the energy transition. We massively underfunded education on this were also teaching education with two bigger class sizes, so were not given enough contact time to the students and so we rapidly need to pump up the funding education, that's going to transform a whole community.

Michelle Haywood

I think the problem start earlier than perhaps where the people are going to university or not I think that we fail some of our children as they go through school to diagnose them with conditions like dyslexia and dyspraxia and we failed to put that supporting in. As they go through school they become more and more separated from the mainstream education. I think we then push everyone at at year tend to go and do 8-9 ten GCSEs and that doesn't suit a lot of children, what I'd really like to see is that we scale back from that and we say actually do you know what some functional maths and functional English any three other subjects and if it's hospitality and tourism and catering for your three other subjects at that level. Imagine a system where we had our school leavers leaving with a really high percentage of them having 5 GCSEs or equivalent. We're at the UK national average at the moment and that's just not acceptable cause we've got a system that could respond and then I think I I agree with Juan in the idea that you could use the college to do more vocational training but that needs to start earlier children become disaffected around the age of 14 and if we haven't caught them before then with their learning support and then given them some sensible options. We've got like in sectors like hospitality crying out for staff and we're not making our skilled staff...

Andy Wint

Do you think Manx politics should be taught in Manx schools?

Michelle Haywood

I think beyond Manx politics but as well world citizenship I'm not a huge fan of religious education in schools cause I don't think that suits like children and is a half a GCSE that they get forced into.

Andy Wint

When we talked to a lot of young people they don't know the first thing about Manx politics they don't know about the history of the House of Keys, LegCo, Hango Hill a lot of them don't know they know more about American politics than they know about Manx politics, were asking to the vote age 16?

Michelle Haywood

Yep and I'll tell you what else they don't know they don't know how to read a bank statement properly they don't have to manage their finances they don't know how to fill in a tax return all of those things will start hitting them. Those that have jobs when they are teenagers will end up in that tax system very early on we're not giving them life skills within universities.

Andy Wint

Do you think show we should teach Manx politics and the constitution in Manx schools?

Mark Kemp

Yeah absolutely we got sorted when I was at school only I knew about all Viking parliament I was proud of it

Andrew Langan-Newton

Yeah I think we need to build the society that we want to live in and that is young engaged individuals who have the skills to live fulfilling lives to live independent lives to fulfil that he cannot making cultural and social pursuits. That includes engaging with the important history of the community built around. I was fortunate to go to junior Tynwald and experience that but that's a limited exposure and we can invest so much more in giving that, and engaging our young people who then we push out the door and expect them to go straight into the workplace at 16 potentially vote in fundamental elections like we're experiencing now and we're just under skill those individuals

Juan Watterson

For last 15 years I bought every year six class in the South of the island through the House of Keys given the immersive experience for half a day given the tour round tried to make it relevant for that 10 year old age group to bring them in to learn about how my politics works and then engage again that Junior Tynwald. There's so much more that can be done with the restriction of courses in teacher time in class time it's certainly not a lack of willingness on behalf of the Manx politicians to roll our sleeves up and engage with young people.

Andy Wint

What's your green agenda what your future for sustainable Isle of Man?

Juan Watterson

My priority is definitely around decarbonizing our grid and we've got a number of options there in the consultation document. But we've got so much catching up to do we've got a lot of wind opportunity with a lot of solo opportunity on this and that just is not being exploited we're 20 years behind the rest of the world in terms of bringing this a lot of low hanging fruit that we can start with onshore and offshore wind putting solar panels on the South face of every government building and, providing low cost loans or interest free loans to people to encourage them to do this themselves as well.

Andy Wint

Crogga gas?

Juan Watterson

Crogga gas and they've got a licence I'm happy for that licence to be honoured and if that's that's going to help decarbonize the Isle of Man then I think that's a reasonable way forward.

Andrew Langan-Newton

Absolutely not, this idea about these gases officiation this is taking the focus off the important focus of politicians and civil society away from where we need to go and that is a transformation of our community where everyone needs to come with us. We can't have point politicians pontificating away on these issues and delaying action. Howard Quayle is very sad to see what happened at the weekend but he made a decision in May 2019 to call a climate emergency. Inaction over two years we've got nothing to tell for that except reports we need action today and that's why I would like to see

Andrew Langan-Newton

And do you think this this feels the disconnect really between politicians and the public who hear all about climate emergency in a green agenda but get no meaningful specifics?

Andrew Langan-Newton

You are pushing against an open door there Andy, people want to see solar panels on roof spaces people want to see the government taking the lead on this issue but all we've seen over two years is politicians pontificating and inaction. We need decisions today which bring the community with us because there's more than just putting solar panels on people believe in change, change that they want to see.

Michelle Haywood

I think if you started to look at this issue we Jules right we have a number of things we need to do to catch up I don't agree that necessary it's been two years of inaction there have been reports commissioned because actually what Tynwald need to do is make some fairly rapid decisions. We've got ageing infrastructure in our power generation we do know we need to replace that and you can't make those big decisions without the expert advice. So that expert advice had been sought the climate change team is working very hard, there's a number of things and it will take time so at the

point where you have declared an emergency that's fine but if you do any emergency training at all for anyone you always say stop and think and then act. We're in the thinking phase and I know that that that can be impatient for some people to do that, but unless we think and we made those right decisions we could end up saddling ourselves with some big white elephants and some huge expenses that won't achieve.

Andy Wint

Of all the doors that you've knocked over the past month or so how many of them have had the climate emergency in green agenda as the number one concern?

Michelle Haywood

Probably maybe 1015% on climate emergency but actually probably about the same amount again talking about conserving biodiversity and conserving the natural environment. I think there is a general idea that we do need to act and add politicians that you have an inertia because you row years of your life span is the next election. It's difficult to take unpopular decisions now that are very important for our future because actually whoever is elected that could be the end of their political careers - you have to be brave and bold to take those decisions cause they're the right thing to do.

Mark Kemp

I do actually support the higher ambition pathway towards being sustainable but we have to be mindful of the energy trilemma which is affordability sustainability and sorry third one escaped me. But the energy trilemma is essentially can we afford it is the resilience of the supply going to be there on is it going to be sustainable. The Arup report came up with three initial solutions, option three seems to be the what for me looks like the best solution so that's where we re-purpose interconnected builder redundancy into connector we build solar on public buildings and new builds. Unfortunately within that solution was biomass. Now wasn't particularly keen on that so I add a think in my manifesto I've come up with compressed air energy storage that's something that we can look at in the future, because within that you can actually store your energy supply for a long period of time and that's going to be one of the challenges we have to conquer going forwards. Sorry just very quickly, in terms of green agenda as well recycling and upcycling we need to do more of it

Andy Wint

We're talking about diversifying the economy to pay for everything that we want to do in the future can you foresee any new industries that you'd like to see introduced to the island?

Andrew Langan-Newton

Well I like very much like the concept of resilience like how do we become a resilient community which we can build micro economies within our community. We rely heavily on imports to the Isle of Man who are in Ireland so we're always going to have imports but what can we do where we can build up every pound that goes in the Isle of Man massively benefits the local economy and a multiplier effect, it's like how can we build up long term investments where do we add row agriculture is a great opportunity - but it needs government to take the lead to go, OK maybe we will buy apples from local environments over five years building contract so it gradually gets up and so

agriculture and other industries can have government as a procurer so yes building up resilience actually makes money that we generate from other means to go longer in the Isle of Man, and the energy is a great part of that as well.

Mark Kemp yeah

So in terms of the sustainable island we have to look at the diversification of the economy but we also have to look all the way back at education. A point I was going to make earlier was regarding changing the way we do the key stage three. We have to preserve the overall rounded learning that students have but we also need to be looking at can we introduce more stem based subjects and can we introduce more vocational subjects earlier on in the curriculum in school years. We're actually creating pathways for students so we're not getting this this failure at 30% of every GCSE cohort were creating, sounds a bit cold but the workers of the future who were able to fulfil some of these green roles in terms of diversifying the economy. There's a range of other things we can be looking at hemp products we can be looking at anything out there that's AI robotics just cause it's the Isle of Man doesn't mean we can't have it. Take PokerStars for example, PokerStars came in I mean I've worked there so I know how dynamic that company is and how dynamic the industry is. What happened was the PokerStars came in and then department of enterprise or whatever it was called when it was first created decided to sit back brilliant we've got them the rest of E gaming will follow and it didn't and it was seven years later and all of a sudden there's a panic and government against these ice forums and all the rest of it. We're not not fast enough in coming forwards.

Juan Watterson

I think we underestimate just how resilient the Max economy is I mean we are only sitting here just a few months after the last lockdown we've got unemployment is down at nought .9% again I mean that's the part of the bank's economic miracle. I'm sure will later come on to talk about housing and how that's a barrier to the growth of the Max economy. In terms of diversifying it, I mean the government is not there to serve necessary drive the economy is there to help in one of the phrases that strikes fear into the business people the honest I'm from the government I'm here to help. Because it is it is like the slow things that were there to do is provide the regulatory environment to allow other businesses to succeed rather than trying micromanage everything.

Michelle Haywood

I believe economic development are working and I'm bout 23 different sectors where they're trying to support the environment to bring businesses. I think one of the key things that the Isle of Man government could do an it it's changing their procurement processes, so that there is a always an assumption that if you can go to a local provider that you do that. Very often will see procurement process is run and where they're in or to big companies that come across from the UK and just because they have 400 staff and their bidding for this little contract, it means you overlook the local company with ten staff. Those ten local jobs with people who actually care about what happens right here on the island are far more valuable than giving again on track to a big firm. I think we need to shift the balance of how we score procurement to make sure that it's locally driven supply. We've done this in Port St. Mary, it's it's like written into everything we do that it's local suppliers as far as we can go and that's how we can keep that money circulating within the magnetic anami and keep supporting banks jobs.

Andy Wint

Does that the South of the Isle of Man in particular Rushen the two villages have a future in tourism or what can be done?

Juan Watterson

Absolutely and if you just look at if you step out the front of the railway station here you have seen the investment that has been made in this in this area in the last few years the regeneration of station road, and I think what needs to happen exit that needs to carry on round into church road. We need to promote the retail offering as well as the hotels more hotel beds base is likely to be appearing down where the marine biological station - I was fortunately this is been bought by a local developer someone who lives in the port and is very keen to see it done I believe that speaking to him over the summer and I knocked on his door it's a matter of waiting for the planning permission to come through and they can't wait to get started.

Andy Wint

And how long do you think if planning permission were given today how long would it be before something actually happens?

Juan Watterson

Exactly what I asked him and he took the next spring so I think that's really positive move also seeing the redevelopment of the Bay queen again in the next set of 12/18 months as well which I really optimistic

Andy Wint

Do you think there will ever be a Marina at Port St Mary, as a 24 hour port?

Juan Watterson

No, I don't think so. I don't think that that money is going to be kicking around and the sort of investments committed on the sort of things that only make a Marina pay are just not available in Port St Mary area, so I don't think we're going to be finding that sort of money for now

Andrew Langan-Newton

On tourism yeah well I think we benefit at the moment from having a great Isle of Man with a great heritage connection and Manx national heritage doing amazing things and we have great spaces what we can't lose is those great spaces and that really goes to planning. We can't be putting up housing estates which aren't fit for the future but also don't reflect the cultural benefit that we have in our communities, Port St Mary is such an important place coz it's really retained that fishing village feel and that's how we should be building our communities for the future. Ones where we can walk to the shops where we can walk to a pub and walk to a restaurant and is captured that historical connexion, not being put up poor quality houses which not fit for the purpose in terms of solar panels and no heap pumps et cetera but also don't reflect the heritage of society.

Andy Wint

Now your leader of the Green Party is there such a thing as green tourism?

Andrew Langan-Newton

Yes there is and we've certainly got great opportunities for E bikes when I speak to people who are selling E bikes there going wild because their console and quick enough and that's a great opportunity for low carbon tourism. People getting the boat to the Isle of Man with an E bike or coming here to rent one and travelling around armies in forests in a clean way in a Safeway and we could do more to create footpaths to create space spaces on roads not like we've seen in Gansey which isn't fit for purpose as a cycle way, but really investing with a vision for the future of the Alan Mann which captures the importance of green future but also tourism and money in the Isle of Man economy.

Michelle Haywood

I think tourism globally is shifted in the wake of the pandemic. I think there is a natural reluctance from people now to travel and even though we see the headlines wearing it so I'm booking my holiday to Spain Cos I can get there and went on the Red List, people are generally wary that those restrictions might change and we're not genuinely not out of the woods yet. I think well there's driven is a view to local tourism. In in the UK all of the seaside resorts I've been pretty much rammed right the way across the summer it's been impossible to book anywhere effort of stations and the Isle of Man as things open up has the possibility of benefiting from that I think what we've done is as people have discovered that you don't have to go to the Med to get a good holiday and that there are other places around the British islands that you could go and explore and I think that's where our market is likely to come from.

Mark Kemp

I'm just going to do a quick plug for E bikes I've got a really dodgy knee they are amazing Andrew I'm with you on that one. In terms of tourism down here in the South of the island walk out down the road we've all seen the beach down there it is incredible. Rushen, Port Erin has the best beach on the island hands down. Can we do more with it? Well we've got those huts down there now which I think is fantastic in addition we can have inflatable obstacle courses at down at beach to increase the offering this is great for kids as well locally and we've got to give them more to do but in terms of overall tourism we've got to be mindful that during the midst of the Covid pandemic – the Isle of Man was being looked upon as a really fantastic place a destination for people to move to. A destination for people to go on holiday to and then we kind of messed it up over the last few months - we've got we've sort of knocked ourselves on the head a little bit over this one but in terms of what the other man has to offer yes there is a blend of the quaint but we also have in Douglas a bit more of the new. I don't see why we can't have a blend of both down here and just finally just on the cosy nook I'll put a marker down at one now where I think we should preserve the facade of the cosy nook and actually build out something a bit more modern out the back of it. So we've got the old and the new going on there as an example.

Andrew Langan-Newton

Michelle Heywood why do some young people perceive that there's a barrier to get onto the property market on the Isle of Man and secondly are we building in a public sector houses?

Michelle Heywood

We're in that weird situation and I think I was in the same situation years ago when I was doing scientific research and you have a two year contract and you can't show that you've got you long term employability even though I had been fully employed. The loan to value ratios that you can get now are just not suiting those coming onto the market for the first place that's a global shift, that's caused by low interest rates and everything like that and then a reluctance from lenders to take that on. I was really fortunate when I got my first house that somebody looked at me and said OK you've had five years of paying rent at this level, therefore yes we can we can get a mortgage sorted for you and will accept that as proof of affordability. We don't have anything like that on offer in our market. I've been really interested in looking at Gibraltar where they actually have a National Savings bank that specifically targets loans for those first time buyers and for island residents - so I think we need we seriously need to look at something like that because we are putting our young people in the position where they are stop from getting onto the market. Even those who are registered on the first time buyers list can't find a property that comes within the boundaries and I know they've changed recently but it's not enough.

Andrew Langan-Newton

I think there's two issues here there's out both the properties that are being built and the properties that being sold and the speculation that's going on like that way everyone's hearing about this and we need to really need to grab it by the throat however in metaphorically. But, we need to put in tax measures that's going to disincentivise that and make that very difficult for speculation in a housing market - limits on how many you can buy or and taxation measures to station on profit perhaps absolutely and the numbers are buying and we see that in the Land Registry. We can do more that we really need to do that. The other issue is vacant properties and we're hearing a lot about this in the area because the properties that have been going round and see many and this is an issue in Rushen - and this is an issue not only because the property is being taken away from a market where we really need to have it but also because it's damaging the local environment, just left to deteriorate. It's damaged in the house prices for the properties next door and maybe structural issues as well, so we really need taxation measures to incentivise these properties to go back in the market could be last terrible for our society when we have people who can't access the housing markets but properties just sit there sitting there deteriorates.

Juan Watterson

Australia has that sort of model where non resident landlords are taxed at a higher rate and that's why I think we possibly need to to look at here. We do need a rental sector on the Isle of Man that is really important, 16% of our houses are public sector houses and that's probably about the right proportion or other white people in those houses that's another another issue will have you by the right kind of people because in in terms of those that need it's about making sure that at the end of a five year tenancy that people need to re-apply for them and making sure that those catch up. Making sure that the 16 centre needed and are in the 16% of public sector housing. I would agree that there are just proportionate number of empty properties around the island. I think the last

thing I saw was 1000 in terms of updates to properties, Tynwald gave powers to local authorities to deal with these five years ago and they're just not being used. So we need to understand why they're not well that's what we need so why they haven't been used because there has been a real reluctance on behalf of local authorities to use these places despite the most egregious examples around the island.

Mark Kemp

So we're talking about the issues surrounding these houses and getting people onto the property ladder - we've got homelessness over here we've got a big issue with it now with some of these empty properties there could be an opportunity here for some brownfield regeneration whereby we can get people off the street or off someone's couch or out of their car, so I just want to say that and just say look we've got to be mindful of these issues as well. In terms of the issue that we're discussing right now specifically, I think its multipronged approach and I'd like to see if there are institutional investors I'd like to see maximum of five houses per institutional investor that's it they form a company that taxed on that an its they can't have several companies per beneficial owner either it's just one. So the other thing as well just very quickly in terms of getting first time buyers onto the ladder - what I'd like to see is that there's a company in Glasgow that creates ecological sustainable homes and these can be used I think they can be built quickly they can go up on the Isle of Man they're ecologically responsible but they're also cheap and off to conquer that issue whereby the trying to get people on the ladder and what we need to do is to need to make sure we got homes that remain as homes for people, so they don't come off the first time buyer the affordable housing list.

Andy Wint

Time for questions from the public.

Pauline Pennington

We are frequently told that we live on an affluent island and there's certainly money for capital spending on grandiose projects, why then I would like to ask the candidates or provision of untimely access to primary healthcare hospital treatment mental health services and dental treatment at best disturbingly patchy? How would the candidates like to see the new administration address these problems to improve the situation?

Andrew Langan-Newton

I think a big part of the issues we're facing is the SoC is increase of chronic disease and conditions in our society and especially that's even starting at the primary school age. We really need to reflect on prevention as a means to resolve these issues for the long term and these are going to resolve these long waiting lists were experiencing. It starts today it starts with ho we transform our society and education and really investing in what food we put on the table for people what a food we put in our schools what food we feed people in the hospital he's got the right food that is going to give them the filling benefits to live like healthy lives or are , is that the right food or just making things worse by what we're feeding people? Prevention but absolutely we need to be prioritised in the healthcare mental healthcare as well especially in a young population coming out of COVID-19 increasing the opportunities in the schools and outside the schools for access mental health services.

Mark Kemp

I'm going to say one word will probably all sick of hearing it budget the budget process is fundamentally flawed and we need to change it so if we go to zero based budgeting system at least in in the first two or three years of this next administration we can make massive – the way the government is doing things is there taking last year's budget although there is a process involved but it's essentially last year's budget plus a bit, and whatever wastage sat within there is gone. Right so it's spent we've had sorry Phil we've had the Slock road, that was wastage, we've TT World Series as wastage you name it. Now zero based budgeting it's where we start at zero and we build our expenses up item by item that includes the staff resources as well, we've seen massive increases in staffing in government and 45 million extra now in staffing costs. But where is that coming where is it being spent? Very quickly I will just add - Manx care are trying to recruit 200 headcount they're going to have to do what's called break ceiling in order to recruit those stuff they're going to have to spend a fortune to do it so we've got to get the budget process right in order to do this, to fix these short term problems, but we also need to be looking at capital expenditure how we ended up in these masses these massive massive messes.

Michelle Hayward

I think the problems in healthcare have been longer coming than just recently, the hospital is the size of a small District Hospital probably not even that if you compare it to UK. That makes recruitment of staff difficult if you are training as a medic and you've got your three days at a level and you go off to university to get into medicine which is highly competitive what you want to do when you come out as you want to work at a teaching hospital where the cases are challenging and you have experts supervisors who are helping you develop your career. What you don't necessarily want to do is end up stuck somewhere in in what's almost a backwater hospital, so I think we have to appreciate that actually for the size of the population here we have a fantastic facility but what we have to do is be more realistic about what we can treat here and what we should be contracting in because it's not acceptable to have surgeons but maybe do an operation ten times a year because they will not be hitting the standards of excellence that we want - it's much better to be able to send patients away to an expert hospital where that surgeons doing that operation 10 times a week and your outcomes will be better. One of the things that Manx Care put into place is actually tracking patient outcomes for the first time and I know I've been a victim of not being treated very well by the hospital, and when you try and complain when you try and put something right when you try and ask that data is just not there. We've kind of taken our eye off the ball and actually it's it's it's a longer serving problem than just now.

Juan Watterson

When I was elected chair of the Public Accounts Committee back in 2016 one of the things we looked at as well as the biggest potential waste of government money and we looked at the first place we look for nobles hospital not because the quality of service at the ground floor isn't right but actually because of their consistent failure over 25 years to deliver the strategic change that they've been putting in their plans have been doing wonderful planning and then never delivering it things such as integrated care things such as dealing with waiting this things such as theatre processes. The three reports that we've done not only led to so Jonathan Michaels review and the new structure that we've got that will deliver that strategic change but it will also it's also had knock on symptoms

of looking at where we spend the money. We spent £10 million more here on consultants than we would if we deployed them under similar terms and conditions in the UK so we're already spending more on consultants here than the UK where we need to do is we need to work harder on the soft recruitment, as Michelle's quite right the Isle of Man is 40% the size of the smallest hospital trust in the UK we are very small by UK standards so we need to work on the soft aspects of quality of life issues here on the Isle of Man, the lower tax all these sort of soft tissues that are going to bring people here because we are all not just in the Isle of Man but across the British Isles as well fishing in a really shallow pool for medical professionals. There's fewer people going into it and the Superbowl staying in it because they're getting burnt out it's becoming a harder more kinetic job.

Mark Kemp

I just want to add two more things that the Nobles hospital was in special measures between 2015 and 2018. So medics work wasn't being signed off by the General Medical Council, we've got to make that distinction right now so everyone is aware that there was a big problem and it's still a problem that we're dealing with now. The other big issue that we've got we can talk all day about this being a small island et cetera et cetera but we have fundamental issues and another one is GPs, we cannot recruit them because of a pension transferability issue. Let's make that public knowledge as well.

Nick Bernard

Vaccine passports, yes or no?

Juan Watterson

No, I don't see the purpose.

Andrew Langan-Newton

No I wouldn't see it as a priority but I'd like to know more about the debate and if it came before Tynwald, like it might do and follow what the best practises at room around the world but at the moment - I'm not going that's what we should move towards.

Mark Kemp

I think it's a no from me.

Michelle Heywood

I'm going to put my science head on here there's an undoubted difference in risk between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. I suspect as we move forward and we have booster vaccines, that risk differential is going to increase. I think there may well be that we need as a government to have an idea about what those levels of risk are, because if you have a high proportion of understated people - your risks are running close on medical services running out a much higher. I think there may well be some proof going forward but it's just the same as you know, I've had to yellow fever vaccines to visit certain countries in the world there are requirements and I

suspect that that might be where the world ends up and it probably won't be our decision, it will be the decision of airlines and other countries.

Nicky Meritt

I'd like to ask the candidates if they would agree that it's time that neurodegenerative diseases were taken out of the bracket of social care? And that the care that people need for the last stages of these terminal illnesses were funded from taxation just as the treatment of all other illnesses?

Juan Watterson

In terms of nursing care I've long been a believer that nursing care on the almost be provided as a fundamental part of the National Health Service. People shouldn't be having to sell their homes to pay for care, it should be something that is funded through the health service is part of something that we all pay into will need because I just don't think the present way of doing it is equitable.

Michelle Heywood

Yes I think it should move out and it should be within healthcare actually think I'm always stunned that Hospice services sit outside of the healthcare system when there are so many doctors and nurses that work in there and there are so many absolutely excellent stuff but we don't properly fund that because I think we recognise it as a society that's so important to us.

Mark Kemp

I think it should sit within healthcare I believe that again it's going back to the budget process. If we can find the money there we know it's there actually, we can actually channel some of that those savings into better care - such as what you're talking about. Then there is another thing that we can actually explore obviously it needs a lot of research but we can we can be looking at dementia villages and things like this as well, obviously not out in the sticks because people like to be close to what's familiar to them but I think we need to look at this this problem in a bigger scale as well.

Andrew Langan-Newton

I'm in favour of a national social care model similar to the National Health Service model but what that factors into it as well it's choice choice for the individual user if you go to the NHS's new medical is all reactive so you have to accept the doctor et cetera but in a long term care model the individual should also have some autonomy about how they want care to be delivered, so I think a national social care model is like in health service model where is funded across the community not an insurance model a long term community based investment model like the National Health Service, where we respect the elderly population we give them the care that they deserve however in that choice we also give the individual choice about how they want that care delivered and this is something that I think the next Tynwald should be moving towards how we fund that hotel social care model and BB strong in thinking about that and dealing with the difficult questions about that funding model but the important questions about the delivery of the care that should be universal to our community but also should factor in choice for the individual but how they want that care delivered.

Liz Leatherbarrow

Can Juan say a few words about the Auditor General and what amount of money he feels that that person could save the Isle of Man in budgeting.

Mark Kemp

Well we do need the Auditor General but for some reason we've got a delay on that. I think it's a positive step towards budgetary control and towards get not finances under control but beyond that I can't I can't really say what I think they're going to save, because I've already talked about reforming the budget process anyway and I think there's probably about £20 million at the top end.

Michelle Haywood

I speak about from the audit process from local authorities it's been compulsory for local authorities and local authority boards to have audits in place I know that when we have those audit reports come through it's actually really useful for the elected members to sit down there with somebody who's outside of the organisation who steps you through who looks at all the different parts and steps you into your what your challenges are going to be in the future and going forward. I remember famously sitting there in a Port St Mary board meeting with the auditor said just stop spending, any of those you know the history of Port St Mary knows how important that decision was but it was absolutely critical advice and with the right person in place auditors are absolutely invaluable for running large organisations where there are multiple tasks going. Big hopes for this.

Andy Wint

I don't want to make a sweeping generalisation but I will a lot of the population think that local authorities and the government mistake public money for their own money. They see a disconnect they see they say

Michelle Haywood

I've never never ever thought that I've always thought that actually every pound of ratepayers money that I've had a decision over when it was at Port St Mary is actually more precious than my own if I want to fritter away £5.50 on a cake and a coffee that's my choice actually a port Saint Mary much to the disgust of some of the members I stopped us having bottled imported Scottish spring water on the table as it costs £120 a year and I thought it was just a waste of ratepayers money.

Andrew Langan-Newton

I think where we've been really let down the oldest general can benefit things by giving transparency to information issues that aren't transparent the moment so that's going to be positive but where we've been really let down is the accountability that should have been instilled by MHKs on government. Governments there to execute the laws the decisions that parliament passes but will reverse the model actually governments telling the MHKs is water pass and it's the wrong way round image case should be representing the people and holding government accountable when it doesn't do the things or it does them with overspends or it takes too long with the things we want as a population and so that issue needs hopefully will be addressed by the new parliament.

Andy Wint

Is it possible to reverse the trend of what you're representing in that the machine of government tells elected representatives what's going to happen?

Andrew Langan-Newton

Well hopefully we're seeing a positive development in terms of equality in pay so MHK will no longer have this perverse issue where you get an incentive to be part of government losing your independence, losing your Independence and ability to hold government account, the report said it was just not tolerable from an international perspective to look at the Isle of Man and pretty much look at a one party state when 87% of the image case had the patronage of government. That's a system that's broken that doesn't have transparency that doesn't have accountability.

June Waterson

Gosh, the Auditor General and there's only 17 minutes show left to all try and keep it to 12 of them - this is something that is one of the Commonwealth benchmarks for democratic legislatures. The financial statements order is a very very small part of it, the real emphasis on this is the value for money it takes the politics out of the value for money. The public accounts committees being I didn't find 10s of millions of savings over the years. It comes down to the politics of it whether they get agreed Tynwald. This is an independent person tasked with saving initially their own salary been - tasked with saving at least their own salary and office costs in the first instance with a target of three. Most auditors general around the world are saving between three and ten times the cost of providing that office. Now, we did put out we had a very narrow window we wanted to get an appointment made by July - we effectively rushed the recruitment process because we took that long to get the approval of Tynwald. It wasn't there for possible we had a window was so tight we didn't feel that we give it a fair crack of the whip to get the right candidates in for that job, so it's something that will be re advertised in the new house.

Ashton Lewis

What are the candidates views on the fairness of the rates as a form of taxation?

Andrew Langan-Newton

I think yeah there's been a long debate about rates an long issue between communities which were very concentrated like Douglas, and then communities which are much more dispersed around the Isle of Man. I think we need a debate around that but there's been long views upon that I don't have a defined view at this moment on that but going into the next parliament I think it's going to be an open issue that we need to explore.

Mark Kemp

Yeah there has been long protracted debates about it there was a report done wasn't there so an all island rate policy I think they decided it wasn't suitable. In terms of the rates yeah I think it does need a little bit more discussion to get it right, and we do need to be mindful because I think the

current proposal is based on area of house and I think that those need to be consideration for single tenants as well.

Michelle Haywood

I think you actually have to take the question back to what we expecting rates to pay for and there are number of things that local authorities charge rates for which I'm not actually sure should come under local authorities. So street lighting for example seems to have ended up with local authorities historically because it was local authorities that put the lights in in their community. However there is one supplier who goes around replaces them goes round servicing tells you when they need replacing again and deals with it and I don't understand why that still comes under local authorities and it's not national. The same with waste collection, I don't understand why we don't have a national waste strategy and that would move that away from the rates discussion as well. And then when you start looking at water and sewerage which are the other components within those apart from you about the local services bit but the other the components that we can measure the water and sewage there are recognised standards for how much one person can generate in the way of sewage on average per day. Works out about 200 litres in case you I was looking at this cause I was looking in the context of how many millions of litres flow out of peel every single day I'm an and the same for water usage as well so I think there has to be an element there that recognises the occupancy of a house you can be one person living in a house with ten bathrooms you can still only go to the toilet so many times a day where we got ten people living in one house with one bathroom and that toilet will be used 10 times more so I think we're not looking at it very sensibly in terms of actually paying for the services that we're using and I'd like to see something that's much more aligned to that. There will have to be some some recognition of how much land you occupy I think just as that's how much street gets cleaned.

Juan Watterson

I think there is a role for a property based taxation in the overall mix especially that that's the only part that's basically non-resident people pay and certainly second property owners pay. I think the there is an issue around single occupier households that we need to make more equitable I think they pay full amount they should get a discount for that I think one of the other unfair equity issues around rates is around the business rates and they are focused in the bigger towns and some of the Witcher parishes that's not necessarily the right way to do that either so centralisation of business rates to pay for business structures but Michelle's will you take those big areas of waste and St lighting out of the local authority budgets and there isn't actually a huge amount left and so you need to really look at what autonomy local authorities have what we want them to do in order to be a part of that but ultimately it should be a system based on capital values rather than what a property cost to rent in 1969 which is to completely bonkers system.

John Pennington

We now have equalities legislation which ought to be helping the 15% or so of the population who suffer from disabilities, such as limited mobility and vision loss and hearing loss the private sector is required to adhere to this legislation but what is the government and what the government to be doing?

Mark Kemp

Well some of this business open it's actually come up on the door steps as well and if you look around we've got buildings around here that aren't wheelchair accessible so I feel government should be doing more to enforce the act to be perfectly honest with you yes that might require some increase in headcount something I'm generally against but I think where it's needed to enforce these social issues then I think it's a good thing.

Andrew Langan-Newton

We see like pavements was a popular one on the doorstep coming up where people have been disadvantaged in a community where we should public sector bodies should be taking a lead on this making reasonable adjustments to the benefit of the users to inner the society the flexor range of people and demographics and we shouldn't leave people behind him that and now there's a legal obligation to do that to make reasonable adjustments so absolutely a government should be taken a proactive leader not only retrofitting things but how we design the future as well.

Juan Watterson

Yeah again it comes down to reasonable adjustments people making their case heard people approaching their which case and others to highlight what those issues are so that they can be rectified because less you can necessarily see the world through that lens it's not always obvious to able bodied people and not every disability is of course visible but this is one of the other spurs for getting places like church road finished the generation around there because we still have in Port Erin at least I am a central business district that isn't really wheelchair and mobility friendly.

Michelle Haywood

I think it's one of those things that ought to be enshrined in how local authorities and how the planning authorities look at things as well I think planning needs a number of tweaks to it one I'd like to see it looking at the environmental impact of any planning but actually with its disability hat on any planning that comes through there should be an assessment of how accessible buildings are we need to look somewhere especially when we're doing stuff out onto streets we'd have to accept things like more ramps for access or lifts for access like having managed a lift at Port St Mary town hall. I know how difficult it can be to make those electronics work in a marine environment so I think the last technical changes we can make the better. I think the other place that we risk excluding people is that we've moved to so much that's online and that's digital that were actually excluding people who can't access that format as well and some of those people especially dealt with a particularly those got sight loss who the Internet is a minefield you think there's a digital divide there is a digital divide and I think that disadvantages some of our disabled people even more than it does in terms of normal paper copies.

John Pennington

I was asking what is the government doing not is what the not what is the private sector expected to do you look at the government website and you can't call it user friendly look at last opportunities like Douglas promenade all the Victorian boy boarding houses where the flights of steps nothing's been done about that the only places get that as a ramped access is the Sefton hotel, what about all the other premises on the promenade is last opportunity for sentence the next century...

Andy Wint

The legalisation of medicinal and recreational cannabis..

Andrew Langan-Newton

I think this has been a popular one as well in the global debate not so much on the doorstep it in Rushen but I think we needed approach to cannabis that really reflects the science and really reflected compassion to the people who exceptional – medicinal? I think that's a close debate really now I think we're growing it we've got licences to grow it in the Isle of Man I think we've moved onto medicinal and not in additional zone open door for a year well I think it's happening now I think that would I think we wouldn't be paying bypassing policies in the future about additional cannabis and recreational yeah I think we need an open public debate that engages the whole society and respects the whole range of using our society, because what we've been doing today is not working - putting people in the criminal justice system which is expensive for very small amounts of cannabis it's just not fit for purpose, so we need to go straight away to decriminalisation and then we need an open debate about legalisation - understanding the concept complex issues around our society and both range reviews.

Mark Kemp

I agree the criminalization of cannabis is an opportunity for the island too stop ruining the lives of young people who are making mistakes, but also in a bit cold about this there's a tax incentive for a so we can tax the supply which would have to be fiercely regulated So what I would also add there is anyone that is dealing outside of that regulate supply off the Derby off you go.

Michelle Heywood

Medicinal is already in the pipeline I think it's the issue of having doctors that are willing to prescribe it that seems to be the stumbling block at the moment in terms of recreation I think again it's one of those things where you look back at the history of of why alcohol is legal and tobacco is legal and yet somehow cannabis is not especially if you sit there and you look at the harms that was causing the implications for SoC there isn't very much case to stand back and not go down the route of decriminalized.

Juan Watterson

Yeah we've got to bother disconnected and fragmented approach to how we deal with cannabis at the moment we have but we don't have a policy delete that joins that together that's why my manifesto I've called for a Select Committee to sort of try and square the circle look at good examples from around the world as to where this works and I am quote conscious and cautious about the psychosis effects of cannabis about the unregulated nature of the product that we have at the moment these are offset somewhat bouts of the business opportunities but of course when we talk about criminalising people for small amounts of cannabis what isn't often reported by the press is that these people will have gone through normally a drug arrest referral service then a police caution so by the time they're going to court even for small amounts this is their third or fourth time through the system and so there is that sort of anti-social elements as well.

Andy Wint

Now it's time for the closing statements for the candidates

Juan Watterson

I am passionate about Rushen and the people in the community now as I was 15 years ago if you are looking for an experienced local candidate of rooted in the community that I think I'm your candidate on Thursday.

Andrew Langan-Newton

This is the most important election that we've ever faced in 154 years of our democracy the right to vote for your MHK to represent you and change is happening around the world and we can't sit by and just accept that change is going to happen here, we need to take decisions today cause we can't wait five more years to transform our community well-being at the core to transport or energy to transform how we build affordable houses for people how we have accountable democracy and governance and how we protect the environment - vote for me and join with me on September the 23rd to bring this vision to effect.

Mark Kemp

I've been working for you for over 15 years behind the scenes I've risked my career several times even paid the price for speaking up I'm a next teacher I care about the future of our students your children grandchildren nephews and nieces I currently work in finance and I have skills and expertise to be in MHK, now ask yourselves what do you want from an MHK what do you really want do you want someone that would be passive and mindful and scared to break convention an rules or do you want someone who will speak up do you want someone that will play by the rules or do you want someone that will rock the boat and shine a light on things when they're going wrong or whether something nefarious going on consider and remember this you were all a stakeholder in everything you see you have a voice you pay or taxes and you should get a say in how our island. I will fight for you I will work for you we want to safeguard your future if you want to reclaim your island vote camp on the 23rd of September thank you everybody.

Michelle Haywood

I chose to come and live in the Isle of Man over 15 years ago it's where I've raised my family we love the island we love the way of life here and as I'm sure many of you do all other things that's really come up to me when I've been on the doorstep is actually how much people say I love being here I love the environment and then there's the belt and it's those but bits that have impact on people's lives and it's those bits that I want to help fix it so sometimes it's little niggles it is but I can't get a NHS dentist and so there are those things that trick truly lives generally we know we have a fairly good life here and we need to keep those elements of it but we do need to move forward. I think I have the experience in local government I have the experience of working with a number of departments in different capacities at times I've taught and I've lectured I've worked with different DOI gone quite a lot of projects I've been a consultant there as well so I understand how civil servants work and I think I could work with them In order to move us forward.

Andy Wint

Ladies and Gentleman, you've been hearing the candidates for the constituency of Rushen - you've heard Michelle Haywood, Mark Kemp, Andrew Langan-Newton and Juan Waterson.