

Martyn Perkins

*A stronger future for **GARFF**
and the Isle of Man*



Common sense. Experience. *Getting things done.*

Dear Voter

The Isle of Man is a special place. We have a strong community spirit, a proud history, a beautiful environment and many talented people and businesses.

But we cannot take our future prosperity for granted.

The Island faces significant challenges. Our economy is under pressure, our health service is struggling with unacceptable waiting times, housing is increasingly unaffordable, infrastructure needs investment, our population is ageing and people are rightly demanding greater accountability from government.

I believe we need a change of approach and a big shake up.

Government must listen to people, set clear priorities, spend taxpayers' money wisely and, most importantly, be accountable and deliver.

It is vitally important that our independence, democracy and above all our free speech is protected at all costs.

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A stronger, more diversified economy

A growing economy is essential if we are to fund good public services and maintain our quality of life. We need to support the businesses already here while attracting new investment, entrepreneurs and skilled people to the Island. There are many new exciting opportunities that may suit the Island – let's go and find them.

The Isle of Man has many of the qualities successful businesses look for: political stability, a competitive tax environment, a safe community, strong intellectual property protection and an excellent quality of life.

Above all we need a much more positive, "can-do" approach from Government.

I will support:

- ▶ Diversifying our economy beyond its existing core sectors.
- ▶ Developing opportunities in technology, AI, life sciences, advanced engineering, robotics, digital manufacturing, clean energy and research, space technology.
- ▶ Building on our growing maritime expertise and positioning the Island to benefit from new marine technologies.
- ▶ Establishing an **Ideas Hub**, giving residents and businesses a straightforward way to put new ideas directly to Government.
- ▶ Supporting apprenticeships and skills training to create a skilled workforce.
- ▶ Ensuring the University College Isle of Man produces the skills our business economy needs.
- ▶ Improving transport and digital connectivity.
- ▶ Supporting affordable housing and childcare so people can live and work here.
- ▶ Attracting back young people, couples and families who have left the Island.

Government and business leaders need to identify future opportunities and go and bring them back to the Island.

A government that is accountable

People have lost confidence in Government.

Too often decisions appear slow, bureaucratic and disconnected from the people they are supposed to serve.

Taxpayers deserve to know that their money is being spent properly.



I will push for:

- ▶ Clear performance measures for Government departments.
- ▶ Greater accountability for senior officials answerable to Public Accounts Committee.
- ▶ A focus on outcomes rather than the bureaucratic process.
- ▶ Better cooperation between Government departments.
- ▶ Transparent procurement.
- ▶ Tenders and bids to be published after an appropriate period, with clear reasons for major decisions.
- ▶ Greater use of technology and AI where it can improve decision-making and reduce costs.
- ▶ Regular assessment of whether Government programmes are actually delivering value for money.

*Government exists to serve the public -
not the other way around.*

Fixing our health service

Our health service has dedicated doctors, nurses, carers and other professionals who work incredibly hard. The problem is that the system is not delivering quickly enough for patients.

Waiting lists for treatment and mental health services are simply not acceptable. With healthcare expenditure exceeding £400 million a year, we must make sure every pound is being used effectively.

The question Government must answer is simple:

If we have the same equipment and staff numbers as other health services, why are we not achieving comparable levels of productivity?

If we are not, we need to identify the root cause and fix it.

I will support:

- ▶ Reducing waiting times through better organisation and productivity.
- ▶ Greater accountability for performance.
- ▶ A single electronic patient record linking Noble's Hospital and GP surgeries.
- ▶ Better preventative healthcare and healthier lifestyles.
- ▶ Improved access to dental care, particularly for children.
- ▶ Recruiting and retaining nurses, GPs and consultants.
- ▶ A stronger focus on mental health.
- ▶ Robust cost-benefit analysis for major healthcare spending decisions.
- ▶ Examining the New Zealand-style ACC model for treatment-related injury compensation.



*Patients should receive the right treatment,
at the right time, in the right place.*

Affordable homes for local people

Young people should not have to leave the Island because they cannot afford a home.

The existing First Time Buyers Scheme and affordable housing requirements have not delivered enough genuinely affordable homes.

Government needs to become more proactive.

I will support:

- ▶ Releasing suitable Government-owned brownfield sites for housing.
- ▶ Developing attractive mews-style terraces and townhouses.
- ▶ Shared-equity and lower-cost starter homes.
- ▶ A Build Your Own Home scheme on serviced brownfield plots.
- ▶ Encouraging banks to release mortgage funding as construction milestones are completed.
- ▶ Reforming the house-buying process to give buyers greater certainty.
- ▶ Making the electronic Land Registry deliver the improvements promised.
- ▶ Ensuring social housing is properly maintained.
- ▶ Faster planning decisions, with straightforward applications normally determined within three months.

If elected I will introduce two pieces of legislation:

Firstly, dealing with empty and derelict residential properties.

Secondly, legislation to prevent speculative purchases of residential property by off-Island companies.

Housing policy should help local people put down roots - not line the pockets of developers and increase property values.

Managing population and immigration

The Isle of Man has always benefited from people who come here to work, invest and contribute to our community. We should continue to welcome people with the skills our economy needs, but population growth must be properly planned.

Housing, healthcare, schools, roads and other public services must be capable of supporting the population.

I will support stronger systems to ensure we know who is living and working on the Island and that employment and residency arrangements are properly administered.

I will push for the **Residence Act 2001 to be updated and properly implemented**, providing a clear and legally sound framework for residency. **The Legislative Council should be getting on with that now.**

At the very least newcomers should be DBS checked and have medical insurance for five years.

There must also be robust action against human trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery.

We need controlled, sustainable population growth that supports - rather than overwhelms - our public services.

Democratic and parliamentary reform

Democracy requires scrutiny and accountability.

Reducing the number of MHKs must therefore be considered carefully. Fewer Members could mean less scrutiny of Government and weaker representation.

I am open to considering alternative structures. For example six larger constituencies, each returning three MHKs, alongside a democratically elected Legislative Council.

Those who make our laws should have a clear democratic mandate.

Powers of recall

I believe voters should have the power to recall an MHK or an MLC in cases of serious misconduct or deliberately misleading the public.

The threshold must be high so that recall cannot become a weapon for settling ordinary political disagreements.

A recall leading to a by-election should only be permitted once during a parliamentary term and only after the first two years of a new administration.

With democratic power comes responsibility - and accountability.

Protecting our communities

Our communities are one of the Isle of Man's greatest strengths.

Across Garff, volunteers give their time to support clubs, charities, community organisations, churches, sporting groups and local services.

This strengthens people's wellbeing and helps combat social isolation.

We must protect the character of our individual communities and support the volunteers who make them work and reduce red tape.

*Strong communities
create a strong Island.*

Protecting our environment and our way of life

The Isle of Man's environment is part of what makes us unique.

We should protect our countryside, coastline, heritage and natural environment. The proposed Mooir Vannin wind farm represents a major change to our east coast. **The people of the Island should have a meaningful say in such a significant decision. A referendum or at the very least, Tynwald should determine whether the project proceeds.**

I will also support:

- ▶ Promoting our UNESCO Biosphere status.
- ▶ Promoting our Marine Nature Reserves.
- ▶ Maintaining and improving footpaths. Raad ny Foillan.
- ▶ Assisting farmers to protect our countryside.
- ▶ Practical action to deal with the consequences of climate change.
- ▶ Ensuring environmental decisions are based on evidence and proper consideration of their long-term impact. CO2 targets.

*We must leave our Island in good condition
for the next generation.*

Young people, education and skills

Our ageing population means we need more young people entering the workforce.

Education and training must match the jobs the Island needs.

I will support:

- ▶ More apprenticeships and technical training.
- ▶ Investment in University College Isle of Man.
- ▶ Stronger links with UK universities.
- ▶ More opportunities for research and innovation.
- ▶ Support for students who return to the Island and work here for a minimum period, including assistance with student loan repayment where appropriate.
- ▶ Policies that make it easier for young families to live, work and raise children here.

Our young people are not a problem to be managed - they are the Island's future.

Supporting our older generation

People want to remain independent and live in their own homes for as long as possible.

But as our population ages, demand for nursing and residential care will increase.

The current funding arrangements for care can place an enormous burden on families. It requires a long-term solution.

Why should the family home be sold for care when some people get it all free? This issue has been postponed for too long and needs resolving.



We need an honest debate and a sustainable solution that is fair to individuals, families and taxpayers.

Investing in our infrastructure

Good infrastructure is essential to our economy and our quality of life.

Airport and transport

Reliable air links to the UK and beyond are essential. Economic success depends on it. We must make sure that we never again get into a position of lack of Air Traffic Controllers or supporting infrastructure. This is a serious priority issue.

The Island should have a contingency plan in case an airline withdraws from our route.

Harbours

Douglas Harbour is a vital lifeline. It requires dredging to a minimum of 6.5 metres. Ongoing preventative maintenance, while remaining fully operational, should be a given.

Roads

Potholes and deteriorating roads need action across the Island - not just on the TT course.

The public reporting system should have clear priorities and timescales, leading to visible action and accountability.

Digital connectivity

Reliable broadband and mobile coverage are no longer luxuries. If we want people to live and work remotely and attract modern businesses, our digital infrastructure must meet international standards.



Flooding and resilient communities

Laxey suffered catastrophic flooding in 2015 and because little flood prevention action had been taken, serious flooding occurred again in 2019. This is despite the DoI being advised by the commissioners that fallen trees and branches were a hazard.

My experience of those floods showed me the problems that can arise when responsibility is divided between different Government departments.

I argued for, and eventually got, a **single flood team** with the authority to act decisively - monitoring flood prevention infrastructure, issuing weather warnings and ensuring emergency equipment such as sandbags are available.

That approach needs to be maintained and strengthened.

We need:

- ▶ Ongoing flood prevention measures.
- ▶ Regular inspection and maintenance of drainage and flood infrastructure.
- ▶ Clear responsibility for responding to flooding.
- ▶ Early warnings.
- ▶ Investment in resilient infrastructure.
- ▶ Proper planning for increasingly extreme weather.

We should not wait for the next flood before preparing for it.

Energy security

The Island is vulnerable to interruptions in energy supplies and has experienced dramatic increases in energy costs. Energy security must therefore be treated as a strategic priority.

We need a balanced approach, considering renewables alongside other technologies.

I tabled a petition of doleance in 2022 asking for a proper investigation into whether **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** could have a role in the Island's future energy mix. It was not picked up. This needs to be re-examined and opportunities to strengthen our electricity connections with neighbouring jurisdictions explored.

Energy security means having reliable, affordable supplies whatever happens elsewhere.

Supporting farming and food security

The pandemic reminded us that food security cannot be taken for granted.

Farmers are experiencing the perfect storm: rising feed, fuel and transport costs, plus animal diseases and increasingly unpredictable weather and pressure from the green lobby.

I will support:

- ▶ The mandatory use of Manx products in schools and hospitals.
- ▶ Better routes to market for Manx produce.
- ▶ Government assistance to sell Manx products nationally and internationally.
- ▶ More efficient consolidated shipping of feed and fertiliser.
- ▶ Practical support for food security.
- ▶ A sustainable future for the Island's meat processing facilities.

If elected I will make sure dog worrying legislation is updated.

Supporting local agriculture is an investment in our resilience and our future.

Tourism, heritage and our unique identity

Tourism and heritage go hand in hand. Our Victorian transport network, industrial heritage, coastline, medieval heritage sites, culture and unique Manx identity give us something that other destinations simply cannot copy. We should also focus on outdoor sports, food and drink tourism, maritime heritage and wellness retreats.

The extension of the horse tram to the Sea Terminal is a good example of making our heritage more accessible to visitors.

Our heritage generates economic value. Our vintage railways generate around £17m per year and MNH around £27m.

The Archibald Knox exhibition demonstrated the international interest in Manx culture, attracting visitors from countries including Canada, the United States and New Zealand. We should make much more of our unique identity.

Our heritage is not simply something to preserve - it contributes to our economy and is something to celebrate and share with the world.

Policing, border security and law and order

The Isle of Man Police do a good job in keeping traditional crime relatively low but we cannot be complacent.

Drugs, organised crime, financial fraud and cybercrime all present serious threats.

The Island is increasingly exposed to:

- Cyber attacks.
- Ransomware.
- Financial fraud.
- Identity theft.
- Attacks on Government systems.
- Threats to our financial services sector.

Our police and security services must have the resources, technology and powers necessary to deal with modern crime.

I have long supported photographic identification at all points of entry and appropriate powers to stop and search vessels in our territorial waters.

The Island must remain a safe place to live, work and raise a family.

Defending the Island's constitutional position

The Isle of Man's constitutional position is one of our greatest strengths. We should remain a well-regulated, responsible jurisdiction with a competitive tax environment and high standards of governance.

But we must also be prepared to defend our interests.

I will stand up for the Island when external political or international pressure threatens our constitutional or economic interests.

We should cooperate internationally where it is in our interests - but fight our corner if the Island is threatened.

Welfare and contribution

Our welfare system should support people when they genuinely need help. Where people are able to work, we should help them back into employment and participation in society.

I support exploring properly designed community welfare for work opportunities for people who have been unemployed for long periods and are capable of contributing on a full or part-time basis.

This could include maintaining footpaths, environmental work and community projects.

The aim should be participation, skills, confidence and a route back into employment - not simply welfare dependency.

GARFF - local priorities

While the Island-wide issues matter, an MHK's first responsibility is to the people who elected them.

I will continue to lobby for:

- ▶ Flood protection for all vulnerable areas.
- ▶ Better roads and transport connections.
- ▶ Protecting individual communities.
- ▶ Supporting equally Onchan, Baldrine, Maughold and Laxey.
- ▶ Protecting our unique heritage and environment.
- ▶ Maintaining local services.
- ▶ Supporting community organisations and volunteers.
- ▶ Ensuring Garff gets its fair share of Government investment.
- ▶ Road safety when TT mountain road is closed.

Where do I want us to be in five years?

Our economy is growing and more diverse.

Our health service treats people faster.

Young people can afford to live here.

Government is accountable for every pound it spends.

Our roads, harbours, airport and digital infrastructure work properly.

Our communities remain strong.

Our environment and heritage are protected.

Our farmers have a sustainable future.

Our older people can live with dignity.

Our Island remains safe.

And our constitutional position is protected.

My promise to you

- ▶ I will listen and be accessible.
- ▶ I will ask difficult questions as and when they need to be asked.
- ▶ I will support bringing business to the Island.
- ▶ I will challenge Government when it is not delivering.
- ▶ I will support the development of good ideas, whoever proposes them.
- ▶ And I will always put your interests first.

The Isle of Man has enormous potential... we can build a stronger economy, better public services, safer and more resilient communities and a better future for our children and grandchildren.

If you place your trust in me I will ensure your views are heard in Keys and Tynwald from day one of the new administration.

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Pre-Election Meetings

Constituents of Garff will have opportunities to hear from and put questions to their electoral candidates at the following pre-election meetings.

Monday 14 September:
Laxey School, 7pm

Thursday 17 September:
Dhoon School, 7pm

Friday 18 September:
Elim Family Centre, 7pm

**Polling, on 24 September 2026,
will take place between 8am and 8pm.**

THE POLLING STATIONS FOR GARFF ARE:

- **Laxey Working Men's Institute**
- **Manx Fun Farm**
- **Maughold Church**
- **Onchan Methodist Church**

You can vote at any polling station in your constituency.

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