

VOTE

Laurence Vaughan-Williams For Rushen



A BETTER DEAL FOR RUSHEN

Common Sense. Proper Scrutiny. Getting the Job Done.

Dear Elector

The Isle of Man is a wonderful place. It is a privilege to live here, and we are blessed in so many ways. But in recent years, things have been slipping. Too often we see rising costs, declining services, unnecessary bureaucracy and major decisions made without sufficient scrutiny.

I am standing for the House of Keys because I believe that the **Government should serve the people, not the people serve the Government.**

As an Advocate on the Island since 1999 and a Port St Mary Commissioner since 2017, I have spent years helping individuals, families and our community solve practical problems. My responsibility will be to the people of Rushen.

Proper Scrutiny – Your Money Matters

MHKs now carry numerous responsibilities, allowing too much of the real business of Government to be left to the Civil Service. The result is inadequate scrutiny and what I fear is becoming **mismanaged decline.**

Look at the Liverpool ferry terminal: a project, originally expected to cost a fraction of its eventual price, has reached around £100 million, yet its passenger facilities do not match the passenger capacity of our vessel. 300 places for a ship that can carry 900.

Our new Manxman cannot routinely serve Dublin because its evacuation arrangements do not meet the requirements for that route. How was a vessel commissioned for an Island shipping company without ensuring it could serve one of our nearest neighbouring capitals? The answer we are told is that it was not designed to sail to Europe – Dublin is in the EU!

These expensive mistakes must stop. There is a cost-of-living crisis. Reserves are being run down, individuals and businesses are struggling to make ends meet. MHKs should concentrate on scrutinising Government, not personal vanity projects.

Energy – A Better Deal for the Island

I **oppose** an onshore wind farm and the present offshore proposals. Nobody has demonstrated that either will reduce electricity bills for Manx residents.

If our seabed is to be used for an offshore wind development, the Island must receive a substantially better financial return. I would consider a properly repositioned **offshore scheme - only if the deal delivered a meaningful benefit to residents, in the form of lower electricity bills**, and a return capable of making a substantial contribution towards eliminating the deficit.

I support sensible renewable energy: solar, hydro and tidal. **I do not support bad deals.**

Healthcare, Care and Dignity

People tell me of waits of up to eight hours at A&E; years for some mental-health services; and unacceptable delays for routine operations. This is simply not good enough.

As I canvass, it is clear that many are suffering from mental health problems and not getting the care they are entitled to. Doctors bemoan the lack of detox centres for those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

Nobody should have to sell their home to pay for care. They have paid Income Tax and National Insurance Contributions; health care should not be means tested. Those who are elderly, sick, disabled, or caring for others deserve security, dignity and freedom from worry, and many are lonely and afraid. I am on your side. As an advocate I have always stood up for those who needed my help. I am a fighter.

I have called for a **referendum on assisted dying**. This is too profound an issue to be decided without the people having a direct voice. At the same time, palliative and hospice care must be properly funded. Hospice should not be forced into redundancies through lack of funding.

Common Sense in Government

As a Port St Mary Commissioner, I was the only Commissioner to oppose the 8.9% Rates increase. I also opposed the blanket 20 mph speed-limit policy, which I regarded as unnecessary expenditure.

Others seeking election for Rushen supported those decisions. I will not descend into personalities. **They know who they are, and you know who they are.** Judge me on my record.

Government should support small businesses and farmers, reduce unnecessary regulation, review business rates, raise the VAT threshold, stimulate the economy, and have the courage to cut waste. Those genuinely unable to work must be supported; those capable of working should be encouraged to contribute.

In the last five years there have been 250 Government Consultations. Roughly 1 per week. Consultation is no substitute for getting the job done.

Getting the Basics Right

Our roads and footpaths need attention. The new Castle Rushen High School, swimming pool and sporting facilities need to be delivered.

We must concentrate on education, healthcare and social care. A return to Bobbies on the beat would be welcome.

As Chair of the Southern Swimming Pool Board, working with others, I helped save the pool, improve disabled access, began refurbishment, introduced free swimming for hundreds of children, and put its finances on a more stable footing.

We need to cut the size of Government. However, there are people and services that we need. For example, looking at Manx Care, we need to cut the administrators, not the doctors or nursing staff.

The Island Lifeline

The Manx public owns the Steam Packet. I believe residents should receive discounted fares, with compassionate arrangements for those travelling frequently due to relatives receiving medical treatment in the UK which is not available on the Island. It is now far too expensive to travel. Freight and passenger fares are a direct brake upon tourism and a direct contributor to the cost-of-living crisis. If we are serious about being a financial centre then it should be possible to travel to London in the morning and arrive at 9:00 am, and back by air that evening on the same day.

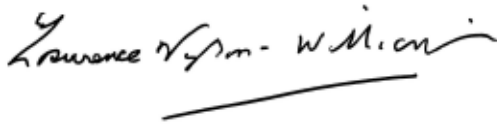
My Personal Commitment to Rushen

I will listen before deciding. I will challenge waste, unnecessary bureaucracy and poorly conceived projects. I will remain accessible and represent all residents of Rushen, whether or not you voted for me; but I can only make a difference if you do vote for me, so even if you have not voted in the past, I need your vote.

I will not promise everything to everybody. Anyone can produce a wish list at election time.

The Isle of Man remains a remarkable place. **Our job is to protect what works, repair what is slipping and demand better from Government.**

Yours most sincerely



Laurence Vaughan-Williams



Candidate for Rushen

Election Day – Thursday, 24 September 2026

VOTE Laurence Vaughan-Williams For Rushen

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