

# GRANT HILL

A VOTE FOR CHANGE



## MY VALUES

- Open to new ideas.
- Tolerant of others' views and beliefs.
- Value everyone as an individual.
- Belief in empowering people via education and knowledge.
- Helping address poverty, and ignorance.
- Protecting the environment.
- Internationalist outlook.
- Humanitarian ideals.
- Supporting community politics and engaging people at a local level.
- Committed to democratic reform.
- Champion the freedom, dignity and wellbeing of individuals.

## CONTACT

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## DEAR VOTER

Our Island has experienced many challenges recently: Brexit, Covid and climate change. All brought their own issues, but Covid affected us the most, through loss of lives and lockdowns. However, we are marching on, showing how strong we can be together: 'Quocunque Jeceris Stabit' or 'Whichever way you throw it will stand' and I am standing with you!

## INTRODUCTION

**Town Commissioners are the local part of our democracy, playing an integral role in the functioning of communities in the Isle of Man. They provide our neighborhoods, villages and towns with a democratic voice and a structure for taking action i.e., real people power at grassroots level.**

**I BELIEVE IN EFFICIENCY, CLARITY AND INTEGRITY, HENCE MY MANIFESTO IS CONCISE AND TO THE POINT.**

We need more local democracy with more empowered people, providing an opportunity to support our local towns and villages.

Each new candidate has a chance to demonstrate commitment to citizen-led action, which protects local assets/services and delivers responsive action based on local priorities; better lives, better general wellness.

**Should I be privileged to be elected as one of your Town Commissioners, this manifesto is a declaration of my motives, intention and views on addressing the real-life issues that affect the people of Ramsey, and of course our island.**

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## ABOUT ME

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- I was born in New Zealand, in 1954.
- Had my early, middle and secondary schooling in Christchurch, NZ.
- I attended the University of Otago, in Dunedin; and qualified as a dentist.
- After graduation, I had a dental practice in NZ, which I ran with my wife.
- In 1997, we moved to the Isle of Man for work.
- I enjoy living in sunny Ramsey, where I practised dentistry for many years.
- This is my first year of retirement, but I'm ready to further serve Ramsey.
- I have been active in Rotary International and supported local projects and charity work.

## CORE VIEW

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A background in health care and my personal beliefs have strengthened my respect for people and diversity. Also, I consider myself as a 'voice of moderation'.

## MY PLEDGE

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Thank you for taking the time to read this manifesto and to those, who have expressed opinions on matters concerning them.

I hope you can get a picture of what I believe and support; and how I would like to represent you, if you would place your trust in me to be one of your Town Commissioners.

**I promise to do my best, to be honest and to never shy away from difficult issues; always putting your interests first.**

## MY MESSAGE TO YOU

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**Ramsey is my home, and we are grateful for the welcome and support received since first settling in. As a retired dentist, I have changed from looking 'down in the mouth', to looking forward; and wanting to help repay your kind friendship through my civic service.**

**MOST IMPORTANTLY I WOULD CHANNEL MY ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM AND SKILLS TO BRING ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE.**

If elected I will stand and:

- Be an approachable commissioner.
- Never forget that it is your money being spent.
- Support town economy and local people's needs (all ages).
- Respect Island's Heritage and its Biosphere status.

**I would be a committed Town Commissioner, holding moderate views, but not afraid to speak up if something is unfair or amiss.**





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## PRINCIPLES

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- **TRUE DEMOCRACY**

I support an Isle of Man with transparent and accountable governance, with a closer connection between people and decision makers.

- **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

A fair and just society where everyone's basic physical and psychological needs are met.

- **RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY**

An Island where everyone enjoys a society, which is supportive of their dignity, health and wellbeing.

- **NON-VIOLENCE**

A peaceful society where we are all safe to cooperate and disagree, as needed.

- **SUSTAINABILITY**

A society that meets the needs of the present, without sacrificing the needs of the Island's future generations; to protect our ecosystem and biosphere.

## SUMMARY

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Democracy  
Social justice  
Diversity  
Non-violence  
Sustainability

## MOTIVATION

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The reason I am seeking election as a Ramsey Town Commissioner is the desire to represent and support the interests of the people of Ramsey. Since retirement I have extra time, which I can give to this; and I enjoy meeting and interacting with people. I will draw on my professionalism and people skills, acquired/developed during my career as a dentist.

After speaking with business owners and people in the North ward, there seems to be a desire for change and to do things better, especially in relation to spending, management of the local economy and projects affecting Ramsey.

**This is why I am seeking your vote to represent you, as a listening voice for positive change.**

## EVERYBODY MATTERS

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**We are all different, but every person matters; therefore, even local policy should be aimed at providing lifestyle and work opportunities for us all. Things were helped by the Equality Act 2017, but there is always more to do.**

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Challenges like, fewer work/housing openings for younger people and the aging population island-wide (especially in Ramsey), etc. must be considered when regional issues are discussed and proposed; hence I stand for being more mindful when decisions are made, so they are fair to all age groups.



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## I AM FOR

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- **BETTER HEALTH CARE**

Faster system for diagnosis and treatment. Easier access to GPs, NHS dentists and better mental health care, here on the Island.

- **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Good incentive/schemes and opportunities to encourage growth for new, and existing businesses.

- **TOP ACCOUNTABILITY**

The right to, and ease of access to information. Also, there needs to be a direct responsibility for downfalls, to prevent costly mistakes.

## AGAINST

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Certification of all government in Douglas.

Large schemes not properly planned, or costed out, resulting in overruns, such as Douglas Promenade. Island projects with a potential to damage the environment.

## MY APPROACH

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My approach is to be open, honest and always ready to listen to you. My belief is that the way forward is working together to succeed in these tough times.

*Let's seize our best future together.*

## ISLAND - WIDE PERSPECTIVE

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### **I support any motions and petitions concerning the following:**

GOVERNMENT OVERALL NEEDS TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE AND TRANSPARENT WITH THE PEOPLE (RE DECISIONS/SPENDING).

IMPROVEMENT TO SOME ASPECTS OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (ACCESS TO GPs, NHS DENTISTS AND MENTAL HEALTH).

FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND ALSO, ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE HOMES.

LOOKING AT GOVERNMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS, WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO RUN OVER TIME AND BUDGET.

SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES AIMED TO HELP ISLAND BUSINESSES REBUILD FULLY POST COVID (FINANCIAL OR ADVISORY).

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE I.E., THE ISLE OF MAN HAS ALREADY COMMITTED TO 75% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2035, SO NY HELP TO START PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING THIS.

IMPROVING EDUCATION BY LOOKING AT CURRENT SCHOOL FUNDING POLICY (FIXING STAFFING LEVELS, REGULAR OFSTED INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS, ETC.)

*What I am standing for is common sense and accountability.*

**The Island remains a very safe and welcoming place; we must not take this for granted.**



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## LOCAL ISSUES

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- **RAMSEY BAY MARINA**

I am not for development that has the potential to harm our marine reserve; this needs safeguarding in place.

- **HARBOUR DEFENCES**

I am not in favour of blocking a working harbour, or even pedestrianising; a better plan for flood defences is needed.

- **PARKING ISSUES**

Not in favour of losing any parking, but gaining more. To consider a car share scheme and better roads; a multistorey car park desirable.

- **QUEEN'S PIER**

I support its restoration and favour a grant to the Pier Trust to accelerate works.

- **TOURISM**

I am for promoting Ramsey, not just the Island/Douglas. A proper info centre for visitors.

- **TOWN TIDY**

I am all for 'Street Buddies' as a tidy concept/as extra help.

## A TOTAL NO

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Blocking the harbour.  
Losing parking space.  
Frustrating the local businesses.

## RIGHT TIME

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From a global to a community level, there's no doubt we've been through a challenging period in history, but with this challenge comes the opportunity for both change and growth.

**There is no question in my mind that now is the perfect time for positive change.**

## RAMSEY PERSPECTIVE

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**I will give it my best thoughts and support to the following:**

INVESTMENT PROPOSALS FOR EXPANDING LOCAL BUSINESS AND SUPPORTING EXISTING ONES.

RE-DEVELOPMENT OR RE-PURPOSE OF EMPTY/UNUSED SITES AND BUILDINGS.

PROPOSALS FOR AN EVENT/PERFORMANCE/CINEMA VENUE IN A CENTRAL LOCATION.

BETTER TRANSPORT LINKS WITHIN THE TOWN AND THE GREATER NORTHERN AREA.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE: TO DOCTORS, DENTISTS, SPECIALIST CARE, ETC. PERHAPS, BUILDING A POLYCLINIC.

EXPANDING SPORT/LEISURE OPTIONS FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

FEASIBLE SCHEMES TO ADDRESS SOCIAL INEQUALITIES.

ACCESS TO TRAINING/RE-TRAINING, ALONG WITH COMPUTER SKILLS FOR THE OLDER PEOPLE. SO THEY CAN GET INTO WORK.

PROPOSALS TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOMES LOCALLY, ALONG WITH ANY SCHEMES REGARDING FAIR RENTAL PROTECTION FOR THOSE UNABLE TO BUY.

ISLAND BASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, MAY BE SHARED BETWEEN RAMSEY AND DOUGLAS.

MAKE RAMSEY A NAME FOR LOCAL PRODUCE AND FOOD DIVERSITY.

PROMOTE RAMSEY AND ITS AMAZING INDEPENDENT SHOPPING.

**Honest, upstanding and with Ramsey at heart.  
Support me, as your next Town Commissioner.**

