



CAMPAIGN TO ELECT GEOFFREY BOOT

MHK for Glenfaba & Peel
General Election 22nd September 2016



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Dear Elector

Our Parliament Tynwald dissolves on 11th of August when the election campaign for the new combined constituency of Glenfaba and Peel starts, culminating with the election on September 22nd. Although I cease to be an MHK on 11th August I will continue with my Department responsibilities in Department of Economic Development (DED) and Department of Environment Food and Agriculture (DEFA) until new members are selected after swearing in at the end of September. Even if re-elected my responsibilities may well change as these are in the gift of the Chief Minister.

As a prospective candidate I will endeavour, over the next few weeks, to call on as many of you as possible but with the new much larger constituency it is all the more difficult. Consequently I thought it would be a good idea to let you have a taster of what I am about and where I am coming from.

This is not a manifesto but I am a great believer in letting people know what I believe in and my chosen path whilst I have been a member of the House of Keys.

I strongly believe in representing people rather than telling them what they should do. During past elections I have conducted Electors Surveys but this time I am relying on grassroots opinion gleaned from Glenfaba's constituents and Island residents over the last 12 months.

It would be naive of me to say that I have orchestrated big changes in my brief period since last September as an MHK, I've worked hard communicating and helping constituents. I embrace social media, and attempted to keep these media feeds up to date in addition to my own website www.geoffreyboot.org & facebook.com/geoffrey.boot.iom. There have been two newsletters, one to the Glenfaba electorate and one to my prospective electorate in Peel.

I have taken my Government responsibilities very seriously and not shied away from a busy Departmental workload, at the Department of Economic Development (DED) with 6 delegations covering the Retail Sector, Construction Sector, Mines and Minerals, Department Property, Clean Tech and Support for the Built Environment.

Furthermore at the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) I have embraced my delegation covering the Food Strategy linking with my Retail Delegation in DED.

Chairing and attending many meetings including the Construction Forum, Retail Strategy, Retail Training, Regeneration meetings, Regeneration promotion in Peel and endeavoured to attend the many presentations in Tynwald on a wide and interesting array of subjects.

In addition I've sat on two Select Committees: The Social Affairs Policy Review Committee (SAPRC) which has had a wide ranging inquiry remit into Children's Social Care, Fostering, Health Care procurement, ID Checks and latterly looking at the Dependability Capability Reviews, and also been a member of the Strategic Sea Services Working Group Committee which recently culminated in a new user agreement proposal from the Steam Packet .

I tasked myself to visit many businesses in the constituency and around the Island including the Meat Plant, Ramsey Bakery, Isle of Man Creameries and with my Delegation in Mines and Minerals have visited a number of active quarries and recycling plants around the Island including Ballaharra and Poortown.

What I am really trying to say is that I have garnered as much knowledge and made as many contacts as I can in my short time as an MHK. I really hope that you will feel able to re-elect me for a full five year term when I will be in a position, I hope, to make more of a difference, not only for you as constituents in Glenfaba and Peel but for the Island as a whole. I believe in tackling issues head-on with transparency both locally and nationally.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Boot
Prospective MHK
for Glenfaba & Peel



Health Provision

- Support on-Island health care and expertise wherever possible
- Reduce waiting lists
- Resist so-called efficiency savings that do not stack up
- Ensure proper consultation before changes are made

Visited and had a full tour of the Nobles Hospital and was pleased at the progress being made although waiting lists are still uncertain and we could do better. Been involved in the review of the Children's Services under the auspices of the Select Committee, Social Affairs Policy Review Committee (SAPRC) and hope that the report that has been presented to Tynwald will be adopted and will improve and change the way these services are focused with particular emphasis on children's outcomes rather than knee jerk reactions.

There continues to be concern at the use of locum staff from consultants through to nursing that has been costing so much money and I have pushed for a more open and extensive recruitment process.

A fully staffed medical profession with the right qualifications will go a long way to solving some of the ongoing problems both in medical and social services.



ECONOMY

- ▶ Encourage new interest and ideas that grow our economy which helps pay for all the good things we want, we need a more diverse and larger tax base

Worked hard in the Department of Economic Development, particularly in the retail and construction sector to help with regeneration where possible and ensure our construction sector has a bedrock of sustainable and transparent government contract work. It has been suggested that the tendering process for such contracts needs to be examined and this is an avenue I'd like to explore further.

We need to expand the number of people working in all sectors whilst ensuring our homebred talent has the option to find employment compatible with their skills and knowledge closer to home.

Education



- ▶ No to adopting UK education policy as such

- ▶ Work with teachers to provide a system that addresses our present and future requirements and aspirations, not those of a distant UK government. Pre school education is widely acknowledged to be beneficial

not only for the child involved, but also the wider economy as parents can return to work, even if only on a part time basis

I have visited four schools in the constituency and have visited the Bunscoill in the past, all are excellent examples of the Island going it's own way, dare I say doing it the Manx way.

I am supportive of the new science technology engineering and maths (STEM) block at the QE II. This will build on the excellent new engineering GCSE offered to capable year 10 pupils who are proficient in maths and the sciences. This can only help to bolster the Island's important engineering sector.

Immigration

- ▶ Continue protection for the Island's workforce without inhibiting economic growth, using the present work permit legislation. Benefits restricted to those that have worked for them

POLICING



- Ensure proper manning levels so that we don't slip into the UK laissez-faire attitude to minor crime

Visited Police HQ and spoken in detail with the Chief Constable about many issues and in particular those surrounding minor crime and traffic matters.

We have a great story to tell with falling crime rates but it is important that we support and retain local visible policing.

Housing Provision

- ◆ A fairer planning system with more democracy and transparency, particularly at local level
- ◆ Address local needs with particular emphasis on affordable housing and provision for older people
- ◆ Affordable rental property. If government can't afford housing encourage the private rental sector. Ensure that standards are kept high

Government

- Stop regulation and legislation creep from the UK or EU
- More independence - if it works for us
- Support changes made in rationalisation of Departments
- More transparency
- Limit or downsize the public sector - but no to mass redundancy
- Control the impact of Health & Safety regulation to make sure it works properly

Agricultural



- ▶ Work with farmers to bring back some certainty to the system that will enable young people to continue farming, preserve our landscape and provide viability for our meat processing facilities

The Meat Plant continues to have an uncertain future but it is a strategic asset and if subvention continues to be necessary this may well have to continue but we must seek greater efficiency and persuade farmers that it's in their long term interest to use the meat plant. The opportunities that may be afforded by Brexit to protect local production may assist in this in the longer term.

Constitutional Reform

- Support changes to the Legislative Councils role and change the electoral process

I recently responded to Lord Lisvane on the functioning of Tynwald and await with interest the outcome.

Environment

- A planning policy that reflects our population's requirements and aspirations
- Support green initiatives where they bring real benefits and not perceptions to the Isle of Man



Future Government Expenditure

- ◆ Pay close attention to and scrutinise large capital projects better. We simply cannot afford to go on making the mistakes of the past.
- ◆ Taxation, particularly personal and companies is an easy target. Some say put taxes up, yes that may solve our deficit problems in the short term but most jurisdictions that do that see a peak in taxes then a substantial fall off. We only need a few businesses to relocate and we have big problems.
I think there are avenues for examining the way we tax offshore multiple retailers on Island to ensure more money stays here.
- ◆ Press for a proper appraisal of what impact leaving the present VAT agreement with the UK would have. Then make appropriate decisions as to various degrees of independence especially post Brexit.

Brexit

We had an emergency debate in Tynwald in June following the UK Brexit vote, it was an interesting debate, but I felt was somewhat on the negative side. I spoke about positive matters that may flow as a result of the UK leaving the EU. For instance we oft complain about the amount of EU regulation that washes over us that is not relevant, this will stop and maybe we can reduce that burden. We can look at solving our own problems rather than perceived problems from across. In addition whilst I am no proponent of total market protectionism, things that have frustrated me in government particularly with regard to procurement are EU competition regulations that mean we have to put contracts out to tender and frequently end up awarding them to companies, not Isle of Man based, simply because we must comply with anti-competition rules and can take no note of Isle of Man social or financial consequence for our own businesses.

In addition to this I know other jurisdictions do offer some protection for local producers and the red meat derogation that was lost on the back of the UK is a matter in question. If we want viability of our abattoir we need to look at protecting our markets.

Uncertainty there will be but we need to present a positive face. There are still businesses interested in coming to the Isle of Man. I know, having recently attended the International Festival for Business, they will continue to use us as a base to do business in the UK and greater world. The message is we are open for business.

Transport and/or Roads

► Get our local roads repaired as some of them are in awful condition. There have been many complaints and whilst some work has been carried out there is still a large backlog. At long last however the Foxdale scheme is proceeding. I secured funding for this as soon as I entered Tynwald and whilst it is undoubtedly going to cause severe disruption it is long overdue and I am ensuring there is good public consultation and all options are being examined



- Review and promote road safety and appropriate traffic calming and speed limits where necessary
- Work with public transport to ensure timetables and destinations accord with people's needs
- Be tougher on fuel prices, find out why we pay more

Tourism

- Support better promotion of the Isle of Man as a tourist destination
- Transport to the Island: We need to carefully examine and have control over future user agreements
As a member of the Strategic Sea Services Working Group (SSSWG) our deliberations have culminated in an offer by the Steam Packet for a new user agreement

Tynwald considered the same in July and there will be further negotiation with the Steam Packet and also with regard to the new landing stage in Liverpool. I feel that we have the basis of a good agreement with extra capacity, new ships, price controls and better still the Steam Packet is a locally based company that employs local people with ships on the Manx registry.



So far all the feedback has been positive and the public consultation concluded that there is a great desire to retain regularity of service. Having looked at other jurisdictions I believe we will get value for money.

We must however park our prejudice about what happened in the past with regard to the debt loading within the company that has now been removed from the Steam Packet IOM. We are after all contracting for a service if the Steam Packet don't perform then like any other contractor there will be break clauses and an ability to bring in another operator.

Tourism as a whole on the Island tells a great story. We have a number of great visitor attractions, at present we retain the Horse Trams which I support. With our new UNESCO Biosphere reserve status, we are unique as the only whole country to get biosphere recognition, let's market that.

Government Reform

- ◆ At local government level once again consult, and think very carefully about, any proposed changes or amalgamation that will simply lead to a larger bureaucracy and more expense for ratepayers

As a past Commissioner myself I am aware that Government is trying to pass more responsibility to Commissioners, this is a double edged sword in as much that it will mean that local rates will have to rise to cover the additional services such as road cleaning, hedge cutting etc but it may make local Commissioners feel they have more responsibility therefore the role is more worthwhile attracting more people. What I don't want to see is a mass compulsory amalgamation of local authorities .

Electoral Roll

A lot of people were disappointed at the by-election in both Glenfaba and Peel to find themselves not on the current electoral roll. This was a result of the roll being purged in 2015 and people having to make a positive response rather than being kept on the roll.

In my opinion this change was not publicised sufficiently but Government has been making up for it in the meantime. Make sure you are on the electoral roll for the forthcoming general election, if you think you are not then use the following link www.gov.im/categories/home-and-neighbourhood/elections-and-voting/ Alternatively contact me and I will arrange the same but bear in mind time is running out for the September election.

