



**JAMIE
HORTON**

CASTLETOWN
COMMISSIONERS ELECTION
22ND JULY 2021



VOTE
JAMIE HORTON



@VOTEJAMIEHORTON

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All of the opinions within my manifesto are my own and if you wish to discuss these or any of the matters that may be affecting you or someone you know please don't hesitate to contact me on any of the below. I will be visiting as many houses as possible in the forth-coming few days and if you have a preferable time please let me know.

DEAR VOTER

For those of you who don't already know me, my name is Jamie Horton, I am 50 years old and I was born in The Isle of Man and have lived all my life in Castletown.

My mother and late father Win and Stan Horton moved to the Isle of Man shortly before I was born in 1970 and my mum still lives in the house they originally bought when they moved here. I have four sisters and one brother. I have a 20 year-old son Aaron who lives with me and a 29 year-old son Dean who lives in Cork. My partner Ellen Corkish runs The Bowling Green Café in Castletown.

I was educated at Victoria Road Primary School and then Castle Rushen High School. I currently work for Port Erin Commissioners and in the past I have worked for Ronaldsway Aircraft Co Ltd, Ronaldsway Shoe Company Ltd and Colas (IOM) Ltd unfortunately being made redundant from all three. I am also a local DJ working most weekends in the local pubs. I have been on the Board of Castletown Commissioners since winning a by-election on 17 th August 2017. I am very passionate about my town and can be quite vociferous when defending it. In this manifesto I have highlighted some of my opinions which I think are most important to the future of the town.



CASTLETOWN SQUARE



Well where do I start? Is the Square finished or isn't it? The D.O.I seem to be dragging their heels over finishing certain aspects of it and we will not take over full ownership until that is completed. I agree that every new build has teething problems, but the Square has had more than its fair share. Whatever people think of it, we are now stuck with it, so let's start using it to its full capacity. Markets, Concerts, Events etc.

The Square has so much potential; it just needs to be used more often, recent events such as the August Bank Holiday Festival have proved that it can work. But what do we do with it for the rest of the year? How do we fix the parking issue? This is my next point.

TOWN PARKING

This has to be one of the biggest problems facing the Commissioners at the moment. However way you look at it, it is just not pleasing everyone. If we close the Square people can sit on the benches and enjoy a picturesque rest and refreshment, but the traders will suffer because there is no parking in the Square. If on the other hand we open the Square for parking, well then the Square just becomes a car-park which defeats the object of spending all of that money on it in the first place.

Firstly, let me be very clear on this, I do not know the answer!

Somewhere down the line there needs to be discussions, actions and compromises from all sides, the Commissioners, The Local Traders and National Heritage. In the time that I have been on the Board we have reached a compromise with both traders and the public which at the moment seems to be working, but this relationship needs to continue to flourish to help things run smoothly

LOCAL TRADERS

Local trade in Castletown is on a substantial decline at the moment. They have had a tough couple of years, not helped by the Isle of Man bank closing recently.

The decline of the 'high-street' is a worldwide problem with internet shopping becoming bigger and more used every year. However, this doesn't mean that it is the end for Castletown.

The Board and Traders need to start communicating better to sort out any problems that arise both now and in the future. We all need to work together for the good of the town, before we no longer have a town to save.



DOG FOULING

I think every commissioner elect has put this on their manifesto, and the problem seems to be worse than ever. They keep saying it's the minority of dog owners who are offending. Well yes it is, of course it is the minority.



However we need to get these minorities caught and fined.

It is absolutely disgusting and unhealthy and a bug bear of mine. Poulson Park is full of it as well as the pavements down Malew Street and Arbory Street/Road. This needs to be addressed. Saying it needs to stop is not good enough. In the Isle of Man as a whole only a handful of people have been prosecuted in the last ten years. It seems that both local authorities and the Police do not have the appetite to take matters further. CCTV, DNA Testing, Dog Wardens are all options. Let's look at what other places around the UK are doing to combat this problem and see if some of these solutions can be implemented in our own town. Let's be innovative and be the first town in the Isle of Man to really crack down on it and find a solution.

LOCAL HOUSING



We are looking forward to School Hill being re-built starting this year and a new site has recently started opposite Janet's Corner, and it is something that I whole-heartedly support. We are stretching the boundaries of our town but new houses do need to be built. New houses increase the town population which could increase footfall into the town and helps support local traders and businesses. I find it ironic that in some cases, the people who oppose new housing in Castletown are the same people who protested about the Isle of Man bank closing? Although it's not certain, I can't help thinking that a larger footfall in the town may have saved the bank from closure. We need to try and keep our young people in the town. With the cost of property today, young couples can't afford to buy old town houses and then spend a fortune modernising them to suit today's demands. We need to help these families out every way we can, and one way of doing that is to build new modern houses at affordable prices.

ELDERLY & DISABLED

The regeneration of the Square was a perfect opportunity to be at the forefront of facilities for the elderly and disabled, unfortunately I don't think this has happened. We need to listen to what they are saying and listen to their experiences and make Castletown a better and safer environment. I would like to see the board do more to support the over 60s club by helping out with functions? I would like to see the board speak to the local schools to see if they could help with a scheme bringing together the local children and the elderly. Last year I started doing Family Night Disco's at Morton Hall to help raise funds for the Over 60's and various other local charities. Although this has been hard to continue over 2020 because of the pandemic and work commitments, hopefully I might be able to start them back up again in 2021/2022.

YOUTH INVESTMENT & CHILDREN'S PLAY-AREAS

We have invested substantial funds into Poulson Park, and I applaud that along with the facilities that this board has achieved such as the cycle track and concrete skate park. However, facilities nearer to town, such as the play park at the tennis courts are being ignored and becoming dated. I know that the Youth Centre in Arbory Street work hard for the youths of Castletown and I would like to see the board take a more interactive role whether that be financially or volunteering time to help out. These are the future of this town and the board needs to show that they will support them.

VOTE JAMIE HORTON AS YOUR CASTLETOWN COMMISSIONER

TRANSPARENCY

I believe that too many decisions are still taken behind closed doors. Why? After all, it is you that vote the board in to work for you. Times are changing fast and because of the emergence of social media i.e. Facebook/Twitter/Instagram everyone knows everyone's business almost immediately. The board need to use this to their advantage. In the three years I have been on the Board the public meetings have been poorly attended with sometimes not one member of the public turning up. Data protection laws are an absolute minefield but surely we could utilise social media to promote our meetings, whether that is streaming live or recording the meetings and putting them on the Commissioner website. The younger generation would be far more receptive to that and would/could get involved a lot more than they do now. Whether we like it or not, social media is now a massive part of everyday life and the board need to embrace it, not be scared of it.

VISITORS TO THE TOWN

One thing Castletown will always have is visitors, because we have a castle. But that has taken a massive hit with the recent pandemic with businesses in the town barely surviving. So when the borders finally open we need to do everything we can to get visitors into Castletown. The Castle is not the only thing we have - so let's show off the other things we have, let's meet them off the coaches and give them a tour, let's get more stuff going on in the Square to keep them entertained, let's get the notice board back up so that people know what's going on, let's speak to the coach companies and see if we can do things that will keep them in our town a little bit longer.



WORKING TOGETHER

This town needs to all pull together to survive.

The MHK's, the board, the police, the traders, the electorate, EVERYONE! Castletown isn't just any old town, it's a heartfelt community where most people know each other, have grown up together, worked with each other, socialise together. The spirit of Castletown is stronger, I feel, than most places in the Isle of Man. We need to use this closeness to achieve our goals and make Castletown a better place. After all, isn't that what we all want?

Remember that this year you will be voting for both the Board of Commissioners and later on in the year our MHK's.

Castletown is my town and I am proud to serve and help to my fullest ability. I am not and nor do I pretend to be a miracle worker, but I do promise to fully commit myself for the next four years and beyond if I am elected, and I ensure you that I will always act in Castletown's best interests and for the good of the town

VOTE

JAMIE

22ND JULY
2021

HORTON

AS YOUR COMMISSIONER



If you or someone you know require assistance getting to The Civic Centre Polling Station please don't hesitate to contact me on 825194 / 311103 or email [**jamiehorton@manx.net**](mailto:jamiehorton@manx.net)

CASTLETOWN COMMISSIONERS BY-ELECTION

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1995, LOCAL ELECTIONS ACT 1986

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