

Dear Voter,

I have decided to seek re-election to the Town Commissioners so that I can continue my Public Service to you and the town, utilising my experience and knowledge as the towns longest serving Commissioner. I have worked diligently on your behalf.

I have also been proud to be the Chairman of the Board on 6 occasions.

I am very much involved within the town undertaking voluntary work. I am Secretary of the Castletown Festival Committee; Chairman of the Castletown Scout and Guide HQ Management Committee, and a long-time volunteer for the Southern 100 Road Races.

I hope that you will feel able to continue to support me by voting for me on Thursday July 22nd.

Thank You,

Colin

Colin LEATHER

My Mission Statement is:

To continue to develop our Town to provide for the wellbeing of all its residents, and a town fit for the 21st century, encompassing the digital age, while recognising and protecting its status as the Ancient Capital of Mann.

Housing

I have been pleased to be involved in the redevelopment plans and to support the Commissioners large housing project now underway at School Hill estate. This redevelopment will provide much needed modern public housing, and additionally some first-time buyer houses.

Within the scheme, I have continued my commitment to have developed a much-needed access road to and from the estate for use during periods when the S100 Road Races are taking place.

The modernisation of the other Commissioners housing stock must continue and given the long lead in for such projects to become a reality, I would support a project for Farrants Park.

The construction of new houses to buy, which are being built on the site at Victoria Road, will provide much needed houses for the town. However, if we are to provide houses for our future generations, the Commissioners still need to press Government to finalise the long overdue Castletown Housing Land Review.

Investment in our Town

I will continue to support, and welcome, new investment and new businesses, to provide additional facilities, opportunities, and secure employment within our town, which is being developed through a strategy entitled "Welcome to Castletown".

Southern Swimming Pool

The present Southern Swimming Pool is now in need of replacement, I believe it is especially important that we retain a **publicly funded Public Southern Swimming Pool** on the Castle Rushen High School site, being constructed in conjunction with the new High School which I fully support.

If re-elected I will continue to support the development of this important community facility, which will continue to benefit the residents of the South of the Island, and especially Castletown for decades to come.

Media / transparency

We live in a digital age and rightly the Commissioners use Facebook to provide relevant information to the residents of Castletown. However, this is only one way of communicating to the public, and I have become increasingly concerned at the lack of Press coverage being provided to keep the public informed of what the Commissioners are doing in your name. Not everyone has access to social media or even a computer, therefore I believe the Commissioners should endeavour to secure Press coverage, as the present stance of the Press in not attending meetings is not acceptable or in the in the public interest. Additionally, the Commissioners should reintroduce a regular Newsletter delivered to your door, to keep you informed.

Commissioners Monthly Public meetings

Whilst the Commissioners Monthly Meetings can be attended by the public, very few people take time to attend them. I would propose that the Commissioners be the first Local Authority to stream

their Public Meetings on the internet, so you can keep up to date with what the Commissioners are doing, and what is happening or is being proposed within the town. It is important that we improve our communications with the town.

Local Government

The reform of Local Government is always being discussed, I will not support any change that is detrimental to the town or its residents, however sharing facilities with neighbouring authorities could be a way to reduce costs but should not be done if it unfavourably impacts on our town.

The historical yacht 'Peggy'

Like many residents I am concerned that the Peggy has been away from Castletown for far too long. I will continue to support the Commissioners pressing for its early return to its historic home in the Nautical Museum.

Parking

The use of the town's car parks, and on road parking should regularly be reviewed to maximise the availability for the benefit of residents and visitors to the town.

I continue to support the retention of our towns public car parks remaining free of charge.

Poulsom Park

Poulsom Park is precious to us all and is a great community asset. In recent years we have started to upgrade the Park with the perimeter pathways having recently been re-surfaced. I support the paths being illuminated for safety and so that users are not limited to daylight hours only.

I welcomed and supported the installation of the skateboard facility; it is a great new provision for our young people. I would like to see The Park further enhanced with more seating, picnic tables, and a Wi-Fi facility being provided.

The Commissioners published a few years ago a document illustrating a suggested 'Play Scape' facility for the children, to replace the existing Play area. We need to revisit this matter and undertake meaningful consultation with the residents.

I continue to be concerned as I know many are regarding the lack of any public toilets within the park. I support an early resolution to this issue.

Castletown Roads

There is a lot of concern regarding the condition of our town's roads, with most in a poor state of repair, with potholes being a main issue. I believe the repair of potholes within the town and its estates should be delegated by Highways to the Commissioners, with the cost continuing to be borne by Government. This would not include the main A routes through our town, which should remain with Highways.

Community Support and Events

The Commissioners should give full support all local voluntary organisations, and Community Hall should continue to be free to hire by all Castletown voluntary and charitable organisations, as should the Boardroom. I will continue to support the staging of community events and believe the Commissioners should do more to assist our local voluntary event organisers.

The Market Square

I have been pleased to be involved in developing The Market Square into a much welcomed and enjoyed community area.

Christmas Festivities

As someone who has always supported providing a community Christmas Lights Switch-On event within the town which brings much joy and the excitement to the children, I have not supported the changes made in the last couple of years and was pleased to work with the community committee set up in 2020, which successfully provided a proper Festive event.

My Commitment to you is that I will Continue to work on your behalf, and to represent you and our Town honest and fairly and do my best for our whole Community.

Vote Colin LEATHER

On Thursday July 22nd Town Hall Polling Station Open 8.00am to 8.00pm

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