

Vote Mahendra Patel for Castletown Town Commissioners

Mina and I arrived to the Isle of Man in 1986, with our eldest, to take over and run Castle Pharmacy. Since then, we have had two daughters, all educated here, and now three beautiful grandchildren.

I have been involved in local politics as a Commissioner in the past for over 11 years and honoured to hold the post of Chairman of the Commissioners on three occasions in that time.

I thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto and ask for your vote on Thursday 24th April 2025. If there are any matters you would like to discuss, need help or transport on the day, please contact me at Castle Pharmacy, by email or by phone.



A Vision for Castletown's Future

Castletown, the Island's ancient capital, is at a crossroads. As we look towards the future, it is crucial that we address both the immediate challenges and long-term opportunities facing our community. If elected, I will dedicate myself to tackling the issues that matter most to you and ensuring that Castletown thrives for generations to come.

Key Areas of Focus

1. Revitalising Local Infrastructure and Amenities

Castletown's infrastructure must keep pace with its growing needs. We need to address the perceived lack of parking, improve public amenities, and ensure our town's historic assets remain accessible and attractive.

My Plan:

- **Parking Solutions:** Explore the current availability and viable options for additional parking facilities, which are crucial for supporting local businesses and ensuring that Castletown remains accessible to both residents and visitors. Adequate coach parking would greatly enhance the visitors to our historic town.
- **Public Toilet Upgrades:** The recent vandalism of our public toilets must be addressed. I propose the installation of vandal-resistant fixtures

and enhanced maintenance, alongside CCTV monitoring to deter further damage. Public toilets at Poulson Park would be a welcome addition, however the town needs an accessible toilet facility for residents and visitors with changing needs.

- **Better Use of Heritage Sites:** The rich history of Castletown should be celebrated. I will push for more interactive experiences at our heritage sites, such as Castle Rushen and the Nautical Museum, and explore options for evening events to increase foot traffic and tourism.

2. Supporting Local Businesses and Economic Growth

Supporting local businesses is essential for Castletown's economic vitality. Shops, restaurants, and other small enterprises are the heart of our town, and we must ensure they thrive despite the challenges they face.

My Plan:

- **Small Business Grants & Support:** Work with the Isle of Man Government to create small business grants, especially for start-ups, to encourage local entrepreneurship.
- **Pop-Up Shops & Market Days:** By organising more pop-up shops, farmers' markets, and craft fairs, we can give local artisans and small businesses the opportunity to showcase their products and attract more visitors to the town.
- **Improved Access for Businesses:** Our local authority needs to improve access around business hubs, ensuring that businesses can flourish without sacrificing safety or accessibility.

3. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and Vandalism

Castletown's safety and community spirit are being undermined by increasing incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The town's public spaces, including the harbour area and public toilets, have been targeted in recent months, affecting both residents and businesses. Speeding motorists are raising concerns, given that we have four schools without our town boundaries.

My Plan:

- **Increased CCTV & Community Patrols:** Implement a more comprehensive surveillance system and local patrols to ensure public spaces are safe.
- **Youth Engagement Programmes:** Collaborate to develop more activities for young people, such as sports leagues, music events, and accessible community spaces. These will help channel energies into positive outlets and reduce incidents of vandalism.

- **Restorative Justice Initiatives:** For minor offences, introduce community service programs where offenders assist in repairing damage caused, encouraging accountability and a sense of responsibility.
- **Speed Control Measures:** Explore these measures with a view towards more consistent enforcement, particularly on roads surrounding schools.

4. Improving Community Spaces and Youth Engagement

Young people in Castletown need more safe spaces and opportunities for recreation. With increasing concerns about the lack of facilities, we must act now to create spaces that foster growth, community involvement, and positive activities.

My Plan:

- **Youth Clubs & Sports Facilities:** Work to improve access to youth clubs, sports facilities, and community events to keep young people engaged and active. By providing alternative outlets, we can reduce anti-social behaviour and foster a stronger sense of community.
- **Revitalise Public Spaces:** Focus on revitalising public spaces such as Pousom Park, to make them more enjoyable and accessible for everyone whether for relaxation, community events, or leisure activities.
- **New Community Facility:** Explore the addition of a community hub akin to The Roundhouse, in Strang, within our town. This could provide new sports facilities, a new swimming pool to replace our Southern Pool, an accessible sensory area for people with additional needs, a play area for young children, and a café.

5. Housing Development and Population Growth

The issue of housing and population growth remains critical for the town's future. Without new developments, Castletown may face stagnation, with younger families and professionals unable to find affordable housing.

My Plan:

- **Encourage Housing Growth:** Advocate for, and support, housing developments near Castle Rushen High School to accommodate young families; support local businesses and ensure that Castletown remains a vibrant and growing community.

6. Local Government Reform for Better Service Delivery

I am committed to pushing for local government reform to eliminate duplication of services between central government and our local authority. The current

imbalance of resources and services needs to be addressed to ensure that Castletown receives its fair share.

My Plan:

- **Fair Allocation of Resources:** Advocate for a restructuring of local government areas to ensure that Castletown receives a fair share of resources, particularly in areas like housing, public services, and infrastructure.
- **Streamline Services to Avoid Duplication:** By streamlining services between our local authority and the central government, we can eliminate waste and ensure that ratepayers' money is spent efficiently.
- **Transparency:** Improve processes to ensure local decision making and public spending is transparent.

A Commitment to Your Needs

If elected as your representative, my priority will always be to listen to your concerns and address them effectively. Together, we can create a Castletown that remains a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.

Let Us Make Castletown Stronger Together

I ask for your support on **Thursday, 24th April 2025**, to help make Castletown a thriving, safe, and prosperous community for all. I am here to work with you, and for you, to ensure that the issues that matter most are addressed with urgency and care.

Mahendra Patel

VOTE PATEL



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Representation of the People Act 1995; Local Elections Act 1986