

Castletown Comm Clerk

Subject: FW: Hustings

Importance: High

Dear Town Clerk,

Please see below my answers to the questions you forwarded:

- 1) Could each candidate please describe what they think can be done to help local traders flourish, without mentioning 'car parking'.

REPLY:

The Commissioners need to work with and liaise with local traders/businesses on a regular basis.

For the Town to be successful, which also includes the traders/businesses there has to be confidence in the Town's future and convenient access to the shops.

Attracting visitors to the Town is also an essential part of enabling the traders to flourish.

If the Square is opened to traffic in the winter months how are the Board going to ensure it isn't a weekend car park for those members of the community who feel entitled to park anywhere regardless of parking restrictions?

REPLY

The way to manage this is to implement regulations and then effective enforcement.

I have indicated in my Manifesto that I believe a full review of the town's public car parks [parking areas] should be undertaken, which I will pursue.

- 2) A 3 part question: what will candidates do to improve transparency in terms of how business is conducted; in doing so, how will they manage conflicts of interest & how will they ensure that decision making primacy lies with elected members

REPLY:

The Commissioners' monthly Board meetings are open to the public to attend however, the biggest problem to our local democracy is the total lack of any reporting of the proceedings by IOM Newspapers of Local Authority meetings, in this case Castletown's, this denies the public of reading about matters relating to the Town and what is being done on their behalf. The Commissioners' website needs either updating or replacing and should be kept up to date with public information.

The written minutes of the meetings should be more meaningful with more detail and the minutes of the Board in Committee meetings and any Committees of the Board should be published, with only confidential/sensitive/personal information being removed in the published edition.

The matter of any conflict of interest involving a Board member is quite straightforward, and a member's interest should be declared and recorded in the minutes. In relation to a Pecuniary interest, i.e. where they have a financial interest in a matter before the Board there are clear guidelines on this, a member cannot take part in such a matter.

- 3) Could each candidate offer one creative idea that would help lead to improvement in the prosperity of the town?

REPLY:

Securing investment in the Islands heritage facilities located within the Town, which will create income and employment. There are numerous other issues that can also improve the Towns prosperity.

- 4) How do the commissioners propose to repurpose the rugby club changing rooms when they don't own the building?

REPLY:

The building is located on land owned by the Commissioners, which has not been sold to the Rugby Club therefore, as I understand it under the law the building ultimately belongs to the Commissioners.

I am not aware of the basis of the leasing agreement so would need to examine this prior to undertaking any repurposing.

If/when the Rugby Club vacates the building permanently, I would be interested in considering the implications of revamping of the building by creating a public toilet facility and possibly a small refreshment outlet. If the building is not soon to become available then I would welcome consideration of how it may be possible to have access to part of the building, or to build an extension to provide a public toilet facility in The Park.

- 5) The recent anti-social behaviour does need addressing and it's good to see it commented on by the candidates but what are they going to do about increasing Manx Youth Service in Castletown.

REPLY:

The responsibility of providing Manx Youth Service facilities lies with the Department of Education, Sport and Culture, that being said, I believe the Commissioners can and should as necessary work with the DESC to assess what improvements could be instigated to better meet the young people's needs.

I also think support from the Commissioners for Castletown organisations is an important way to support the young people.

- 6) I have only had one candidate knock on the door, when will the others be coming to my door. I have heard that some candidates don't feel it necessary and that's not right just because they are "known"

REPLY:

Candidates do endeavour to visit voters however, that is more difficult when the time period between the election being confirmed and the election day being a short period. I have met with a number of people at their houses whilst distributing Manifestos and have been happy to discuss matters of interest and concern to them. I also meet and chat with Castletown residents when I am out and about, and not just in Castletown.

I have always believed and still do that a candidate, and any one holding elected public office should always be willing to talk with and listen to constituents, not only when seeking your vote, but importantly throughout their term of office, it is an important part of their role.

Tony Brown
Candidate