

Castletown Comm Clerk

Subject: FW: Hustings

From: John Cringle **Sent:** 23 April 2025 10:15
To: Castletown Comm Clerk <clerk@castletown.gov.im>
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Answers to last night's supplemental questions

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

(Answer John Cringle) Simply footfall has to increase, there are a number of new and different businesses opening in the vacant shops, these will attract additional footfall which potentially spin off to existing shops. A new Board need to implement a more focused team for business development engaging with the existing retailers but this engagement needs to be a two way dialogue, listening and supporting new initiatives will be key.

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?

(Answer John Cringle) Firstly the parking policy for the Square winter closure and weekend use needs to be reviewed and defined. As a result of the outcome of that review with some Commissioners staff partially work Saturday and Sunday and with training there is no reason any restrictions imposed cannot be enforced for at least a portion of the weekend days.

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

(Answer 1 John Cringle) there needs to be a complete overhaul of the Website and Facebook messaging, minutes of Board meetings need to be comprehensive detailing both the debate and voting, a prominent notice board in the centre of Town also needs to have these minutes displayed. There also needs to be more business debated in the public domain.

(Answer 2 John Cringle) I believe a Board and Chairman who have experience of the correct conduct of a Board and adhere to the ethics surrounding a local authority will be self-moderating should there appear to be conflict in any debate.

(Answer 3 John Cringle) This is a key point in my manifesto and easily covered by the election of a strong board, who can demonstrate they stand united in representing the people and can quickly establish the correct hierarchy of a Board who only answer to the people, the Board defines strategic plans and actions with the officers and staff executing those plans.

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

(Answer John Cringle) I believe and described it last night and have elaborated above the formation of a Business Development Team having the ability to co-opt from businesses within the Town would send a message Castletown is changing, becoming supportive of potential new businesses and not solely retail. We may have new shops opening in the near future but we have had others who have not

moved to Castletown citing lack of support. As we have witnessed decline is quick and easy, recovery is long and incremental.

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

(Answer John Cringle) The simple answer is you don't, unless there has been meaningful dialogue with the building owners. I am sure a new professional Board would be far more respectful and certainly not make draconian unfounded statements like that.

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.

(Answer John Cringle) Again touched on last night in relation to a question asked and as we now finally have the availability of the Hall we should explore interest in utilising it for activities in support of youth activities this would partially fulfil its original purpose. A new Board needs to ensure its utilisation is not inhibited by forms and excessive cost. However it is conceivable this may not eliminate these behaviours and I would be supportive of expanding the CCTV coverage to enable early intervention to hopefully deter repetitive incidents.

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"

(Answer John Cringle) In the course of delivering my manifesto which has predominantly been at weekends and middle of the day when the most people are around I have spoken and been spoken to by a large number of people, I chose not to be intrusive in canvassing but apologise if you feel I was disrespectful by not calling.



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