

# Laurence Skelly MHK for Rushen

Newsletter January 2014



## *Working for Our Community & Our Island*

With half a political term completed I wanted to share some of my achievements & efforts working on your behalf. These are truly difficult times and decisions today are vital for our well-being for tomorrow's future. Subscribing to the three government priorities of growing the economy, rebalancing the budget and protecting the vulnerable, I feel I have made a positive impact. Adopting a proactive approach to politics I have endeavoured to make constructive contribution in my various Government roles to the benefit Our Community and Our Island.

- Working closely with Juan & Phil I believe we have been effective by attempting to make a call to 1, a call to all 3.
- Helped secure 17 acres of recreational space & 39 affordable housing units at Ballakilly development.
- Opened all units at Southlands & gained direct bus route to Nobles Hospital.
- Created Rushen Youth Action Group (144 members) to connect with & support our young people.
- Saved Queenie Festival, supported Beach Festival & work closely with local trader groups & commissioners.
- Assisting Marine Centre development & initiated Government's "outside Douglas" business support scheme.
- Representing Regeneration Committee helped save Edwardian waiting room for Port Erin's joint travel terminus.
- Successfully accelerated roadworks for Four Roads into Port St Mary & Castletown Road into Port Erin.
- Pre-school care equalisation achieved for Rushen.
- Derelict properties issue is a work in progress & assisting campsite development enquiries.
- Opposed constituency boundary review reducing Rushen to 2 members but I did agree with voter equalisation.
- Support the creation of Heritage Trust within Rushen to protect, educate and promote our rich history.

# National Highlights

- Political responsibility for many business sectors that helped achieve remarkable economic growth of 3-4%.
- Supporting education & jobs for future - promoting ICT University & Centre of Excellence for Engineering & opposed introduction of University Fees policy.
- Contributed positively in securing significant savings in the different departments I have served.
- Delivered overdue retail strategy, supporting construction & indigenous trades through downturn & transition.
- Major contribution towards new national energy strategy supporting security, sustainability & affordability.
- Media launched “Island of Culture” for 2014 to promote our under-valued culture, arts & national identity.
- Attempting to expand our strongest brand the TT, promote IOM globally & reap greater economic benefit.
- Currently developing new tourism strategy & initiatives to build the value of visitor economy.
- Actively involved with Scope of Government work in different departments.
- Backed political pay reform motion & declined pay increase, made maximum pension contribution at first instance & refused to claim mileage allowance.
- Challenged Health Department on major failings including high level of complaints, patient care & unsustainable policies.
- Supported Department of Social Care with a proposed Shared Equity scheme to help home buyers.
- Gained commitment from Department of Education & Children to introduce “Respect” as core value in schools.
- Supporting new bill to introduce IOM Credit Union - community bank helping locals save & loan.

Department of Economic Development	- Responsible 15 businesses / industry sectors	2011 -
Department of Infrastructure	- Chairman of Planning & Building Control	2013 -
Department of Community, Culture & Leisure	- Chairman of Isle of Man Arts Council	2011- 2014

*I continue to work on other manifesto pledges & am happy to elaborate further.  
Please feel free to contact me to discuss any issue or arrange a personal meeting*

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