

VOTE CAINE FOR GARFF

23 SEPTEMBER 2021

fairness • openness • security • community



Daphne Caine
Independent candidate



**Vote for
a positive
future for the
Isle of Man**

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 Daphne Caine for Garff

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LaxeY duck races August 2021

It has been an honour and a privilege to have represented the people of Garff in Tynwald since 2016.

As a former journalist and public servant, I feel I have put my skills to good use as a Member of the House of Keys on behalf of the community where I have lived for 25 years.

I have enjoyed serving as political lead for the Digital Agency within the Department for Enterprise. The Digital sector continues to be one of the best performing areas of our economy with projected growth of more than 100 jobs in the coming year. My focus has also been on the Locate Strategy, which promotes Isle of Man job opportunities

around the world, and assists people to re-locate to our island with some success despite the pandemic.

Parliamentary work

Particularly of note has been commissioning and implementing the Arup report to deliver coordinated flood mitigation action for LaxeY. I steered two Private Member's Bills through the Keys, firstly the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill, which should enable the introduction of no-fault divorces by early 2022. I also introduced a bill to change the process for removing a Council of Ministers, which will now be by a simple majority of elected MHKs.

I have challenged government, asked

numerous questions and brought motions for debate plus served on parliamentary committees.

Priorities

Constant priorities have been education, the environment and climate change.

I was inspired by climate activists to table a motion to Tynwald in May 2019 to acknowledge the climate crisis. I have been disappointed by the rate of progress on climate mitigation and green transition measures for all, and this has to be a top priority of the next administration.

It is apparent that post-Brexit combined with a health pandemic the Isle of Man will face some serious challenges in the next five years. I feel I can make a positive contribution to our island's future. If elected I pledge to focus on education, climate change, health and the economy.

I would like to build on efforts of the past five years to ensure a positive future for the Isle of Man and ask you to support me by giving me your vote on 23 September.

“ Any MHK who stands out in torrential rain at an on site meeting to support her constituents has our vote. Since her election Daphne has replied fully to all our queries on a wide range of issues and readily given help and advice.

Paul and Susan, Glen Mona.

Garff is a two-seat constituency. Please give me one of your votes - vote for a positive future.

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How I have delivered on my 2016 manifesto

Local authority reform

Good to see Arbory and Rushen commissioners following the successful Garff initiative. More reform/efficiencies are needed.

Rates reform

Long awaited reform has not materialised despite spatial measuring of all property being undertaken during the lockdown in 2020.

Means testing for local authority housing

Means testing has been implemented for new tenants, reviewed on a five yearly basis.

Flood management strategy

Implementation of the recommendations of the Arup report has seen significant progress made. Flood action remains a priority.

Review of pre-school funding

Pleasing to note the increased pre-school credit available to families. However, early years education needs more investment.

Review of student funding

Government finances have not seen any progress in student funding.

Introduction of enforceable Manx provenance label

This has been implemented by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

Development of an agri-renewable strategy

A work in progress. Government is considering options for renewable energy provision.

Encouragement of energy saving technology for new builds

Building standards have improved but government has been slow to encourage the use of modern technology to build homes fit for the future.

Development of multi-agency working for health and police

More joined up services have been achieved by the establishment of mental health professionals working with police. This remains a priority.

Development of a road safety strategy

The Department of Infrastructure has produced a strategy although opinions vary on its success.

Adoption of TUPE regulations to protect employment rights

During my time working with the Department for Enterprise, this was considered and rejected for the Isle of Man as unduly onerous for our jurisdiction.



Education and Children

The Isle of Man's much vaunted 'world class' education system seems to have lost its shine in recent years. This is not a reflection on teachers or students but on a system and departmental culture that was not inclusive, that stopped listening to education professionals and one that struggled with persistent budget cuts.

My attempt to have a comprehensive review of the Department, removing policy and strategy from operational delivery, did not win Tynwald support in February 2019 but I am pleased an outside review was supported and commissioned the following year. The resulting Beamans review of Education made some painful observations but resulted in a change of culture and management style and I am optimistic for the future.


Improvements to the system I would like to see implemented by the next administration include increased funding and early years intervention. Repeated calls for a 'pupil premium' – additional funding for the most disadvantaged children – have not been answered. EHAS (Early Help and Support) is an unsung success and requires ongoing funding, as does additional education needs.

Generally we need to understand why so many young people are withdrawing from school to be home schooled or take up online learning. Wider mental health provision, increased listening services

manxradio.com — Private

Caine calls for Education review

Tuesday, February 19th, 2019 5:10pm



Garff MHK wants department to be examined

Chief Minister announces review into teachers' dispute

Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 10:39am



Report will be submitted to Council of Ministers

An independent review is to look into issues around the ongoing dispute between teachers

and also early diagnosis of conditions that prevent children fulfilling their potential are essential if we are going truly to merit the world class education tagline.



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The switch to online learning by schools during the pandemic has shown how flexible learners and teachers can be, and this should be exploited to enable more inclusive learning in future. Schools provided exceptional support during the pandemic, but issues over digital disadvantage need urgently addressing.

Our students are also missing out by the failure to provide a modern foreign language in primary schools. Benefits of language provision are wider than the ability to communicate in an increasingly connected world and include improved literacy, problem solving and attention control. Plus as young children are better learners they have a better chance of becoming more proficient if language learning is provided from a younger age.

We also need to improve provision and funding for pre-school – I would welcome fully-funded school-based pre-school availability, as this is key to ensuring better outcomes for all children. Concentrating on communication and literacy skills is of huge benefit to support children who may struggle otherwise to catch up.

While assessment of schools and individual achievement is important, my feeling is that league tables would be too blunt a tool and would not assist recognition of attainment. We will require meaningful assessment of schools in the coming years, where progress is measured, acknowledging that each student is an individual with different capabilities and needs.

University of marine sciences

I would like to see a more ambitious strategy for delivering higher education on this island. While expanding courses at the UCM and matching skills to employment needs is important, my hope would be that a university faculty of marine sciences could be established, replacing the Port Erin Marine Biological Station. Consider the benefit if the IoM Government built a faculty on a brownfield site in Douglas, leased for 25 years to a Scandinavian, Oxbridge or university further afield. Aside from revitalising Douglas, delivering young workers into the economy, re-using older boarding houses as student accommodation, it could attract funding for innovation in IT, media, environmental or marine sciences.

Children's Commissioner

During my time as Children's Champion I highlighted areas of lack of service provision, especially since the winding up of the Children's Services Partnership, which brought all areas of youth provision together. When the remit of children's champion was narrowed to looked-after children only, I first suggested in my resignation letter to the Chief Minister that a Children's Commissioner would better be able to champion the rights of all children than a political champion.

I would like to see a Commissioner's office established in the next administration, as an independent voice to ensure the rights of all children are supported and promoted, and to ensure any lack of provision for our young people is acted on by government.

Health

The establishment of Manx Care to provide our health services, following the review by Sir Jonathan Michael, was a positive move to separate delivery of service from political control. It had a bumpy ride with the pandemic raging across the world during its first year. All health professionals have my support and thanks for the way they have responded to the pandemic.

The focus now must be on resuming normal service provision. Given the review found the cost of health care would increase by £120m over the next 10 years, we need to establish future policy.

Action to reduce waiting lists across nine clinical specialities was announced by Manx Care in July 2021. Around 12,500 appointments will be delivered virtually by using off-island external companies at a cost of £1.86million, which is extremely welcome considering the impact of the pandemic on the health service.

Alongside that, we need to see the promised ME service support chronic fatigue sufferers and also those with Long Covid.

The policy to deliver more joined up health services at community hubs is welcome.

Obesity and teeth

Meanwhile, I would like to see the Public Health focus and funding return to improving the general health of our population. Resources need to be put into reducing obesity levels.

Another area requiring ongoing support is in oral health – the Isle of Man ranks amongst the most deprived areas of Britain for the state of our teeth. We need better access to dentists for all, and better education on oral hygiene for young children. Again Covid has impacted Public Health schemes, which need to resume urgently. In terms of oral health, I would like to see the island switch from rewarding dentists to treat people's cavities etc, with one of higher reward for ensuring healthy teeth, particularly amongst the young.

Social care

I feel the island needs to grasp the nettle of creating a fairer funding model for nursing and elderly care. This could form part of any National Insurance review.

Economy

A thriving, diversified economy is essential if the Isle of Man is to navigate through a post-Brexit and pandemic world and have the income to deliver health, education and environment policies. In my time with the Department for Enterprise I am aware of the efforts put into supporting existing business, enabling expansion and supporting entrepreneurs and new ventures.



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Given the recent global tax agreement, in which 132 countries agreed a minimum 15% tax rate on multinationals to be implemented from 2023, it is likely the island will see increasing pressure to change its zero/10 tax strategy. The findings of the KPMG economic review currently underway will provide options for the island's future direction in terms of corporate taxation and perhaps individual tax rates also. My feeling is that there are many people who would welcome greater fairness and simplification of taxes, including National Insurance, which will need to be adjusted to support the high level of services that we expect, including funding our health services.

The Isle of Man will still need to maintain its competitiveness as a business centre but inequality of income is one of the most dividing factors in our community, impacting particularly on young people. The commitment to align the minimum wage with the living wage must be maintained.

Benefits re-think

A re-think of the benefits system and ensuring salaries are increased to living wage levels would benefit our community, and generate increased tax receipts to government. It would also benefit businesses through reputation and improved recruitment and retention of staff.

This was something recommended in the 2021 Poverty Committee report, which also called for repeat applications not to require claimants to fill out extensive pages,

for instance for a disability or personal circumstances that are unchanged. Reducing the bureaucracy and stigma around benefits is something I would wish to see in the next Programme for Government.

With the IOM Foodbank warning of increasing demand, there needs to be some acknowledgement there are people struggling to cope in our community, especially during school holidays. A more joined up approach is required to ensure appropriate levels of support.

“ Daphne Caine has been the most marvellous, supportive constituency MHK. She gave practical support when a challenging situation arose from the planning department's lack of clarity; and in this difficult past year helped us navigate the bureaucracy around returning residents when the borders were reopened. In all this she saw us as individuals and sought to make matters easier, within the rules. Her grace in Tynwald, in the face of, at times, unreasonable and unfairly hostile challenges has been remarkable.

LN, Maughold





Environment

Climate protest June 2019

“

“First of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Member, Mrs Caine, for bringing her motion to Tynwald for perhaps what will be one of the defining issues of this administration”

”

Geoffrey Boot MHK, Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture
Climate crisis debate May 2019

Protecting our natural environment comes high on my priority list. Whether it is seeking biodiversity net gain in planning, questioning progress on our Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2025 or moving to renewable energy generation I have consistently pushed for action. However, the lack of progress has been very frustrating.

This frustration was also felt by

environmentally aware students and constituents who prompted me to table a motion in May 2019 for Tynwald to acknowledge the climate crisis. The result, after much amending and debate, was unanimous approval for government commissioning a review, after which Professor James Curran devised a programme for the Isle of Man to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.



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Prof. Curran outlined options for targets and actions on a higher or lower ambition pathway in his report delivered to government in October 2019. Unfortunately, we have seen slow progress and a tendency to have more consultations on various aspects. However, it is a complex, multi-faceted subject and a lot of preparation work has been done. The Climate Change Bill was passed and will enshrine into law the net-zero target of 2050 when Royal Assent is granted. It will force government to publish a five year climate change plan – which was consulted on in August 2021.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report of August 2021 highlights the critical need to progress to net-zero, with the escalation in global warming seen over the past 20 years, including on the Isle of Man.

- The Isle of Man needs to achieve 75% of electricity generation from renewable sources by 2035 and 100% by 2050. Wind, tidal or hydro-storage- whatever combination - there are exciting possibilities. My preference is for some on-island renewable generation rather than 100% importation of green energy.
- The Green Living Grant, approved by Tynwald July 2021, is a start but too little to enable more people to access a just transition. It aims to reduce emissions from homes on the island, which account for 20% of all greenhouse emissions through fossil fuel based heating and hot water systems such as oil and natural gas. All home owners will be able to access

a Manx Home Energy Audit and those properties rated D or worse can access 50% of energy efficiency improvement costs, to a maximum of £6,000 (subject to a maximum household income of £112,000). This is a first step and greater support will be needed to assist more people to transition and achieve a sustainable standard of living.

- We must incentivise new builds not to include fossil fuel boilers from now on. I would support proposals to improve Building Regulations for new builds by setting the standards to AECB (Association for Environment Conscious Building) equivalent levels within the next year, which would achieve 97% energy efficiency in new builds.
- Energy Performance certificates should be compulsory on new builds, sales and rentals.
- I would like to see retrofitting of government buildings including installation of solar panels where appropriate.

“ Thank you for your past support to the people of Onchan, in particular to us that are now in the constituency of GARFF.

I agree with many of your manifesto priorities, policies that I would wish you to implement if elected to govern, therefore you can count on my support.

Ray W, Onchan

UNESCO Biosphere

The Isle of Man is the only whole nation to be given UNESCO Biosphere reserve status and should lead the way to a more sustainable future. This should extend to seeking improved delivery of the Biodiversity strategy, perhaps strengthened into legislation and seeing an enforced ban on peat imports from 2022.

Other opportunities such as restarting and enhancing the Wildlife Grants Scheme should be supported to provide small grants for community groups to protect and restore biodiversity and enhance natural carbon sequestration, along with a pilot rewilding project.

Separately the Plastics Reduction Strategy has stalled and the Waste Strategy has not been delivered on – problematic waste is still being taken to Wright's Pit North, well after the extended planning approval for the site expired (December 2020). We need to ensure progress in developing the fully-lined site at Turkeylands but generally encourage more adherence to the Waste Strategy and adoption of the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. An increase in doorstep collection of recycling would be welcome.

Flood strategy

Climate change has implications for flood risk across our community both from severe weather events and rising sea levels.

Since the Laxey flood of 1 October 2019, flood mitigation measures around the village

have notably increased, with work ongoing along the river wall on Glen Road, Gretch Veg, Minorca Hill and Upper Rencell Hill. Responsibility for flood mitigation has been centralised in a flood management division based in the Department of Infrastructure (Dol) with a single point of contact, a dedicated website iomfloodhub.im and monthly meetings charting progress against the 10 recommendations of the Arup report.

Treasury has opened negotiations with DEFRA to extend the flood reinsurance scheme - Flood RE – to Isle of Man properties, although it is unlikely to be possible until 2024. Meanwhile, Treasury continues to liaise with insurers to share details of mitigation works completed in the expectation of securing effective and affordable insurance.

Funding has been confirmed for modelling the flood risk across the whole of Laxey, which work will continue into 2022.

All agencies continue to work with politicians to reduce the risk of further flooding, and this remains a national and local priority.



With Chief Minister Howard Quayle viewing Laxey Glen debris catcher November 2020

Community matters

Plans to stop pumping raw sewage into Laxey Bay stalled after the Planning Committee rejected Manx Utilities' proposed sewage treatment plant on the Cairn site next to Laxey's historic harbour.

The result was a victory for the community who objected and continue to have input into the Regional Sewage Treatment Strategy Consultative Group. Best4Laxey campaigners advocate the benefits of Laxey having a pump away option to connect with the IRIS scheme.

Manx Utilities undertook a further call for sites of both Baldrine and Laxey and will evaluate three options:

- Separate treatment sites at Baldrine and Laxey
- Combined treatment works
- Pump away to IRIS system

I am happy to continue to work with the Group to find the best option for Garff – everyone wants to see an end to the discharging of untreated effluent into the sea but equally we need a sewerage scheme that does not impact adversely on the community or visitors. The pump away option is my current preference.



Roads

One of the main concerns raised over the last five years is over the state of our roads and the speed of traffic, particularly around our schools.

Climate change is likely to blame for some deterioration in our roads but we simply need more investment and efficient road re-surfacing and pothole action.

Tynwald supported Middle MHK Bill Shimmings' motion to make 20mph speed limits in residential areas the default, and I look forward to this being implemented. Separately I successfully sought, on behalf of concerned residents, a 20mph limit in Baldrine Park – the housing estate Dol forgot! I have requested a review of Croit-e-Quill Road to be made in order that a 20mph limit could be installed ahead of Garff as a whole being assessed.

I continue to lobby for the footpaths in Manor Park estate, Onchan, to be adopted by the Department of Infrastructure.

Work is also ongoing with various interested parties – parents, schools, traders – to consider other road and parking improvements in Laxey, and to provide safer bus stop waiting areas and safer routes to our schools.

Footpaths



David Buttery presented a Petition at Tynwald Hill this July calling for responsibility for footpaths to be in a single authority. Others believe local authorities could achieve a higher standard of maintenance than the current system.

I am open-minded but strongly believe that more investment in maintenance is needed; the condition of many public rights of way and glens is shocking. We need to ensure routes are accessible to residents and visitors and better maintenance of amenities like Onchan Wetlands.

Affordable housing

We can't consider we are succeeding as an island when people in our community do not have a roof over their heads or enough to eat.

The government acted quickly during the first 2020 Covid lockdown to ensure homeless people were provided with accommodation. In 2021 the Foodbank and housing charities are highlighting increased assistance is now required. A Housing Strategy must address this fundamental

need to ensure a better standard of living for all.

The average house price went up to £313,036 in 2020, putting property ownership out of the reach of average wage earners; meanwhile there is increasing pressure on rental properties. A Housing Strategy is needed early in the next administration, perhaps including a deposit guarantee scheme to assist people to get on the property ladder.

More investment is needed into building sustainable social housing, with mixed-use communities in or adjoining our existing settlements. Social policy priorities must address poverty issues consistently highlighted by reports, in which housing provision is key.

Size of government

Public service headcount rose during the past five years and efficiencies are needed. The scope and structure of government has been evaluated many times over previous administrations. I served on the Single Legal Entity Committee, which report findings should be used as a blueprint for the future reduction of government, along with the One Public Service report – analysing the positive, flexible working and staff transition that was achieved in response to the pandemic. We should harness the positives and revisit with tenacity the benefits of arm's length entities to deliver certain services, enabling the core of government to be about policy and strategy for the future.



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Establishing a separate regulatory body is essential. Removal of layers of bureaucracy and better communications will also be my focus if re-elected.

Heritage and tourism

Heritage is about so much more than the plentiful attractions and historic sites around the island. Our culture and identity are linked to and influenced by our past – and maintenance and promotion of all our unique heritage is essential for island residents as much as for visitors, impacting on our pride in our nation and contributing to wellbeing.

I have criticised the apparent ‘anti-heritage bias’ of the current administration. Lack of funding and maintenance of Laxey Wheel and Maughold crosses is shameful. We require a better funding model for Manx National Heritage, to ensure we do not fail in our time as custodians of our national monuments. The repair, protection and promotion of these sites must be a priority.

Preservation of our electric railways is also essential as major contributors to quality of life as well as the northern economies.



Douglas horse trams provide significant numbers of passengers to ride on the Manx Electric Railway. Failure to complete the line to the sea terminal leaves a gaping hole in our railway network that must be filled. Rebuilding Douglas Promenade is one of the abject failures of this administration. Dol was assessed as lacking project management capability, which needs rectifying for the public to have confidence in future major capital projects.

Our tourism offering also needs refreshing by investment in mountain bike trails, for instance, and better maintenance of footpaths.

Planning

Planning remains one of the most divisive issues in the community. Despite changes, there is much room for improvement to increase public confidence in the planning system, with more openness and consistency of planning decisions required. Appeal decisions, which can be overturned on political whim, are a matter of concern. Perhaps a local panel would be preferable rather than a single politician determining whether to uphold or reject an independent planning inspector's decision.

Significant time and effort went into the Area Plan for the East, resulting in a mainly positive outcome for the constituency, with practically no new land being zoned for development from Groudle to Laxey. Considerations of flood mitigation will also be a taken into account in any planning applications submitted.

The outcome is now awaited of the Call for Sites in the Area Plan for the North. My preference is to move to an all-island plan, and review the Strategic Plan to reflect environmental and sustainable living requirements.

Security

The Isle of Man is a very safe place but our constabulary needs supporting to maintain the community policing model. I believe budget cuts from the previous administration are resulting in increased anti-social incidents and this trend must be reversed, combined with early years / education investment.

Crime has risen in the past year with drug offences and violent attacks being of concern. The largest proportion of prisoners are in Jurby jail for drug offences, with around £1million worth of drugs seized each year.

Licensing medicinal cannabis production is welcome but community discussion is needed to review our drugs policy. Criminalisation of people for possession of small amounts I feel should cease and we need to determine the best policy for the island to stop organised criminals operating a lucrative drugs market here, estimated at £1million per month.

Constituency issue

While I feel I have responded to all individual constituency issues raised, one has yet to be

addressed. Some Onchan residents remain concerned and angry at being in the Garff constituency for the General Election, for reasons of equalising voter numbers. This will be considered by a Boundary Review Committee to be appointed following this year's election. All those with a view on the matter will be able to make a submission and I am also happy to represent constituents' views if re-elected.

Other issues

- Financial security is important and I would wish to see government incentivise more take-up of work-based pensions.
- I support consulting the community on enabling assisted dying to be an option for terminally ill people.
- Investment in culture and the arts should increase, including in our schools, given their importance to general well-being but also for the value creativity brings, reflecting and promoting our nation, and leading to careers in creative industries.

“Over the last five years Daphne has shown to be an active, engaged and accessible MHK who has worked tirelessly to directly improve the lives of Garff constituents like myself.

Will W, Laxey



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My policy priorities...

Checklist for 2026

- ☒ Appointment of a Children's Commissioner
- ☒ Increase Education investment: AEN, university and pre-school
- ☒ A re-think and simplification of the benefits system
- ☒ Tax and economic strategy
- ☒ Action on obesity and oral health
- ☒ Energy performance certificates on property sales and rentals
- ☒ Re-start Wildlife Grants Scheme
- ☒ Flood reinsurance extended to IoM
- ☒ Best option sewage scheme for Garff
- ☒ Road safety and maintenance
- ☒ Housing Strategy
- ☒ Improved funding model for heritage

My vision is for the Isle of Man to become a beacon of sustainable living, with affordable homes and increased environmental awareness. A place that harnesses a variety of renewable energy generation and becomes a centre of educational excellence, attracting graduates to return and study here. A place with exciting varied job opportunities, where entertainment and outdoor activities abound, and with fair taxation supporting services for the most vulnerable and removing inequalities from the youngest to the elderly.

If elected I pledge to work for a positive future for all the residents of Garff and the Isle of Man adhering to the principles of fairness, openness and security outlined above for the benefit of the whole community.

I welcome your comments and input. Please contact me if there is anything you wish to clarify or points you want to raise. Also please get in contact if you require a Braille, audio or large print version of this manifesto.

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Thanks to my proposer Joanne Clague, of Laxey, seconder Hilary Simm, of Agneash, and to all those who kindly assented and encouraged me to stand.

**Contact me on 461338
if you require assistance with transport
to vote on 23 September.**

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