

Dear Phil,

Apologies for the not responding sooner. As you can imagine it's doubly difficult for a MHK challenger who has a business/day job to manage whilst campaigning. Not certain of the format you wanted the answers so I have simply written below in email. Hope acceptable for publishing.

#### 1. Renewable Energy.

I completely agree with the view that Government should form a strategy with regards to renewable energy. My manifesto which has been published since January and clearly outlines my intention of establishing an Energy & Natural Resources Division within Government. I believe this is necessary in order to make a greater commitment to ensure an efficient, safe and environmentally sensitive use of energy and natural resources. Reducing our dependence on imported energy must be paramount. I am in favour of a long-term strategy and believe we must be careful of setting targets and making decisions too rapidly. Renewable technology is fast moving and working with this new division I believe we could attract this industry to the Isle of Man. The Island is well positioned for R&D (research & development) and attracting via an enterprise zone with tax incentives we will gain valuable inward investment, create jobs for the future and importantly acquire resource expertise. Government has already delivered a paper on the clean-tech industry and that needs driving forward. Equally target these as dual industries that compliment and form cluster opportunities. I understand insulation programme is already available and perhaps needs wider promotion. Developing and rolling-out a energy-efficient (passive-style) new building incentive scheme is vastly important. Obviously, new builds are easier to achieve energy positive results and part of this programme must include trades training who must learn new practices and products.

#### 2. Waster Management

It is important the Isle of Man plays its part in waste management and government is pro-active in this area. In my view the most effective method to get the general public to recycle is kerbside collection. Like many people I use the amenity site but this can only supplement. With some local authorities showing the way I believe it is time central government reviews an Island-wide kerbside collection programme. The Irish bag tax system has worked well and become accepted in the community in a relatively short period. I believe it is worth serious consideration for the Isle of Man.

#### 3. Transport

Vehicle emissions are an issue globally and the Isle of Man adds its fair share to greenhouse gases. Difficult to see how the Island can help except tax appropriately the vehicles that are the worse offenders. Electric post van was experimented but I never seen any report and review on expanding. We can further encourage the use of public transport. Although we must acknowledge we contribute to pollution with our steam trains. Cycle ways are an excellent idea but a challenge to execute given our limited road sizes and cost of land etc.

#### 4. Biodiversity and the Natural World

The work done to protect the seabed must be applauded and shows the way forward for Government. I believe it is about partnership between those that work our land and sea and protecting wildlife. Sometimes

an uneasy balance and has to be continually assessed. As an Island we must strive to be sustainable. Getting Government departments to sign-up to biodiversity programmes requires education first and foremost. Understanding the environment and impact of various decisions needs to be addressed. More thought on how to implement is required.

Trust this is helpful.

Regards,

Laurence Skelly  
MHK Candidate for Rushen