

Hello, my name is **Leo Cussons**,

I am warm-hearted and sharp-minded. With graduate and post graduate degrees in law and legal practice, and experience at law firms throughout the Island, I recognise proper scrutiny and good governance are at the heart of successful local authorities. My official title in the Green party is election strategist. I have lived in Malew when I returned to the Isle of Man in 2004. My extended family currently resides in Ballasalla. I am standing for election on the principles of the Isle of Man Green party.

I would like to take this opportunity to give the residents of Malew an idea of what they can expect from me if I was elected as commissioner and how I would vote on matters that arise for consideration at commissioners meetings and other board meetings. We have seen in other local authorities across the Isle of Man, what a difference having a Green Party commissioner can have. The Green Party has led the way on announcing the climate emergency, on being a political party that engages with local politics in the community, with raising the opportunity of clean and safe travel in our community, and with supporting residents wishes for cleaner waste management and better pavements. Having a Green Commissioner in Malew can now have an influence in your community improving waste management, community, local politics, clean transport, and clean energy. By electing me you are supporting a movement for change in Malew and across the Isle of Man for a cleaner, healthier, happier community together.

Small Matters

If elected I will be advocating that there are recyclable poo bags on hand at Derbyhaven as I know that residents have to deal with the effects of dog walkers from all over the island that walk their dogs there but are not properly prepared or take responsibility for their pets.

A cycleway has been approved by both Malew and Castletown commissioners linking Ballasalla with Castletown. However, as yet no progress has been made on actually creating this cycle route, to the frustration of both cyclist and motorist. This is something that I will be pursuing.

A third example is a linking country path that follows the stream from Ballasalla to Castletown. This has not been maintained prohibiting active travel and a chance to enjoy a walk along the stream. There are many issues such as these and I consider them of noticeable importance alongside the bigger issues.

The Big Issues

Malew will be considering in the coming months the Ballasalla by-pass, the completion of the Clagh Vane housing estate and the 'Ronaldsway gateway'. The Ballasalla by-pass is an understandable necessity for anyone living on the main road through Ballasalla. I can fully appreciate that living on this road with noise, and air pollution is not desirable. The fundamentals of The IOM Green party in regards to housing is to create living spaces where people can relax, engage with their neighbours, enjoy privacy and have positive communal spaces.

There are a number of improvements we can make to this area from the planting of shrubs and trees to cycle ways. As the Green party has been instrumental in the first announcement of a climate emergency in Braddan local authority. Confirmed by the IOM Government committing to being carbon neutral by 2050. We are going to see less noise and air pollution in the coming years as we make the transition to carbon-neutrality. Possibly nowhere else on the island could benefit more from this process speeding up then in the centre of Ballasalla.

Clagh Vane housing estate is in its final phase. I would continue to ensure that it is future proofed and that proper recycling facilities, cycle lanes, and an inspiring environment are maintained. As equality is a fundamental principle of the Green party we need to ensure that the people most in need share in the benefits of this new estate.





LEO CUSSONS FOR MALEW

Ronaldsway gateway presents Malew with an ideal opportunity to reduce the cost of business undertaken and create an exciting business park that supplements each other. I would be encouraging businesses to look at the current energy savings scheme offered by the government where solar thermals can be fitted on interest-free loans. This would be highly advantageous for businesses as they would be able to benefit from the low-cost energy as they are active during peak production times of solar power. A noticeable cost for businesses is waste management. Ironically if done correctly this can be a cash positive operation. I would be voting in favour of seeing such schemes being implemented as businesses pay directly for waste management. This is an ideal opportunity to future proof the 'Ronaldsway Gateway' making it attractive to businesses, residents, and the environment.

Stakeholders & Equality

We so often hear about the economic imperative of a decision. While the Green party is concerned about the efficient use of resources, not just because waste is expensive but because we need to have a sense of the value of the environment and our resources. There are many stakeholders in Malew that make it the place that it is. From the environment to businesses to the people that live there. Ensuring that there is equality and that all stakeholders work together is at the heart of creating a successful Local Authority. Where everyone feels represented and we can start to engage in the creation of a circular environment so that we can protect our Biosphere for ourselves and future generations.

Contact

On the 3rd of September we have organised a meeting at Ballasalla church hall in the grounds of the church on the A7 going south at 7 pm. You are invited to come along and find out more about my candidacy and the Isle of Man Green party.

I believe in actively engaging with the public and can be contacted through the social media below where I will respond to matters. Or if preferred by my email listed below.

Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/LeoCussons>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/leocussons/>

Email: Cussons@wcx.me

If you wish to find out more about the Green party or if you wish to become a member and become more involved at local elections, please visit the Isle of Man Green Party website:

www.greenparty.im/take-action

If you have any questions about the election, my candidacy or the Green Party, please do contact me on my mobile (406750). Thank you.