

## Something for the teens to do

The devil finds work for idle hands and with nothing to do in the village it's no wonder our teenagers resort to anti-social behaviour to relieve the tedium, not everyone wants to go fishing or sailing or play football and none of these are a realistic option at 5:30 on a cold wet dark November evening, we need to listen to the youngsters and give them something to keep them occupied and entertained.

One thing I'd like to see is a roof put over the existing seating area on the corner opposite the Co Op/Bank, I often see teens perched on the seats chatting and doing what teens do but only in good weather, similarly I see others sat there using the space for reading or alfresco dining or surfing the web etc. how much better would it be and how much more used if there was a glass roof put over it, similar in style to the awning installed around the railway station?

Where local shops are empty for prolonged periods of time such as Mini Shoprite, Trader Jacks and Shoprite at Home, steps should be taken to encourage their use; if that means negotiating with owners or landlords underwriting tenancies or seeking partnerships then that should be explored. Empty and unused properties do nothing for the good of the village. We need to look like a thriving village to be a thriving village. We've spent a lot of government money on the regeneration project let's spend some more on a renovation one.

## Public Housing

Some of the public housing is in a terrible state of repair, mouldy, damp and drafty, Kitchens and bathrooms installed in the 70's are long past their useful life, some of it is inappropriately tenanted with three-bedroom houses with single occupants and 1 bedroom flats with families in them, this needs to be addressed it's everyone's right to live in a property that is fit for purpose.

Let's form a partnership with the tenants and make things better together, not everyone needs a builder to come in and work on their property, not everyone needs a painter and decorator to paint their front room, a pot of paint and a paintbrush may be all that's needed, a bag of cement, a new sink they can fit themselves would make some tenants lives better faster, some work and some tenants will of course need more than that and we should aim to help everyone on a needs basis.

## Parking

Why oh why do we need so many yellow lines in the village and why are some estates not 20mph zones? The traders on the high street rightly expect their customers to be able to park so why have we lost 5 or 6 spaces outside the bank towards the front? Apparently so that the rubbish collection lorry can easily get around the corner when coming up from the beach, well quite frankly one vehicle once or twice a week having to maneuver a bit more carefully around a bend versus 5 or 6 more cars worth of customers is a no brainer.

It's not rocket science to only put yellow lines down where there is a clear and important need to do so. Everywhere we have yellow lines we discourage visitors. We've all seen the queues of people trying to park in the village during events, some of which could be alleviated by getting rid of needless parking restrictions. It seems to me that if there's room for other vehicles to get by then parking should be permitted, we want people to come to the village not avoid us in case they get a parking ticket!

## And finally...

I do think this is important that Commissioners live in the Port. Six people have put themselves forward for election, but only two of us actually live in Port Erin and have to live with the consequences of our decisions. It has always seemed ludicrous to me that a local government can be controlled by non-locals.

I for one would like to see a change to the electoral legislation to say that in order to stand for election in an area you have to live in it, after all you can't vote in another area why should you be able to stand in one?

It's a lot easier to knock on the door of your local commissioner to seek help if it's in the same village you live in and not halfway across the island.



# John Anslow



### *A new way forward*

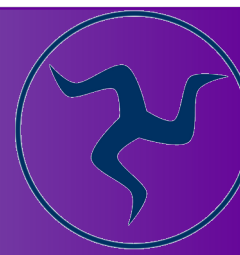
Making Port Erin a better place to live by focusing on the things that bring people here and the things people here want tackled.

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# VOTE JOHN ANSLOW



Dear Port Erin Ratepayer,

As a Port Erin resident for 16 years, I want to bring a fresh vision to our Local Authority.

As a professional IT manager for an international firm, I have the leadership skills required to tackle the challenges that face our Port and help it become a destination of choice on our beautiful Island.



We have so much to be proud of, and there is much to do. The Cosy Nook, Civic Amenity Centre and youth engagement are issues dear to my heart, which we can do more to improve as a community.

I have no axes to grind, or vested interests. I want to see Port Erin flourish, and be part of a team that has the foresight to ensure it is better for the next generation.

I want to be an accessible Commissioner. I will be knocking on doors around the Port over the next few weeks to meet with you and discuss my vision for our Port, and hear more about your priorities.

If you want to speak to me, please call me!

Yours sincerely

John Anslow

## The Cosy Nook

Now that the planning proposal to replace the building has been rejected not once but twice it's time to get on with repairing and updating the existing building in time for next year's season.

One of the main objections given by the commissioners was the cost of renovation being excessive, well I for one don't want to see a huge jump in my property tax to pay for it so how about we offer it up for a 25 year lease on the understanding that the leaseholders must:

- Open during the summer months during the day as a family cafe.
- That they construct a greenhouse type covering over the paved area that will mean the area can be used even in the worst weather.

That the building can be used as a restaurant in the evenings subject to reasonable noise control so as to not inconvenience the neighbours.

## The Beach

Due to neglect over recent years the sand off the beach has been allowed to migrate from the Cosy Nook end to outside The Bay Hotel, you may have noticed that the steps down to the beach from outside the pub are far fewer now than they used to be and this needs to be remedied either by the commissioners or if not their responsibility by the DOI, I don't care who fixes the problem or indeed who gets the credit just as long as it gets fixed.

Families come to Port Erin to enjoy the beautiful sandy beach not to pick their way through the rocks to get to the sea they can get that in Douglas, if we don't do more to protect and enhance our beach and that does include getting the Cosy Nook open again not as a boozer but as a family cafe then we are going to lose their custom.

## The Recycling Centre

I'm pleased to see that there is now a small recycling area at the amenity site but small is the word, it's an old container, every item that gets skipped because it doesn't fit in this container is a double waste:

- ◇ Someone else can't use it.
- ◇ It has to get burnt or stuck in a landfill for which we pay the price fiscally as well as in respect to preserving the planet.

We need to replace the container with a large wooden building, the foundations can't stand a brick one but a wood building, a large shed effectively, would not be affected by the poor standing and would allow for more better organised recycling of goods, the upkeep and maintenance of the facility should form part of the duties of running the site.

## The state of the roads and pavements

These aren't strictly within the commissioners' purview but it's the commissioners who request repairs and upgrades, some of the roads in the village and the accompanying footpaths are quite frankly dangerous to use and we need to be lobbying the DOI to get them repaired asap.

## Local Traders

Thanks to the good work of previous commissioners we have seen a resurgence of interest in the shops in Port Erin but there are still empty ones that could be put to use with a little support from the commissioners, the traders' association and the commissioners should work together not as so often has been the case in the past in spite of each other.

