

**PORT ERIN  
LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTION**



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**08  
DEC  
2022**

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**VOTE  
IAN SWINDELLS**

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**My name is Ian Swindells and I am standing for one of the two available seats as a Port Erin Commissioner. I am a winemaker and business owner of Foraging Vintners here in Port Erin with my wife Mary Beth.**

Prior to my start in the wine making business, I worked in the offshore oil industry and served in the Australian Army. Since arriving on the Island in 2011, I have been committed to making the South of the Island our home. Our business has been open to the public since 2017 and services visitors and residents of all ages and walks of life from the village and afar.

I interact daily with residents and visitors to Port Erin and this puts me in an enviable position of having an ear to the ground and understanding of what works and where improvements could be made.

**I'm consistently humbled to receive positive feedback that since our business has opened, Port Erin has been revived and I would like to see that continue. I am personally invested in Port Erin and I only want the best for our village and community into the future.**

### **Let's talk about the Cosy Nook**

My business has been operating a secondary site out of the Cosy Nook for the past 3 summers. Initially, we had a pop-up for a couple of weeks while the island was dealing with the effects of Covid in 2020. For the past 2 years we have teamed up with other local island businesses and expanded the offering for families of all ages. It's ever evolving with the Port Erin Beach Huts, disability access wheelchair use, and other local food pop providers. It is a great example of small local businesses working together.

The building itself is compromised and it needs some immediate attention. I understand that many have intergenerational memories relating to the Cosy Nook and I have seen family photos of people's grandparents playing as children in front of the Cosy Nook. It is a special place and it should be preserved for future generations but in a sustainable and sympathetic manner and ultimately it needs to be fit for purpose.

My personal thoughts are that the regeneration of the site need not be a financial burden to the village Rate Payers. As a small-business owner, I am highly conscious of costs and spending. I would expect that any investment by the Rate Payer should have a return on their investment along with an improved asset for the village.

## Our Older Community

Our active older population contribute to our community through charitable initiatives, volunteering time and choosing to settle here after retirement. I would like to work towards making sure that there is adequate accessibility for all to benefit from the amenities that our village offers to all of our residents.

## Our Younger Community

Port Erin offers so much natural beauty making it a great time out for families with children to explore our village and surrounds. However, as they grow older and develop more independence there may not be as many options for them to socialise together. Improving local amenities for this age group can assist in re-directing this youthful energy into social spaces that are designed to enhance their experience in our village. As an Island nation surrounded by water, we also need to continue to support the Southern Swimming pool in Castletown to ensure our children have access to swimming lessons and affordable access for all to swim. I would like to see more transparency to ensure this asset is managed properly to protect Port Erin Rate Payer contributions.

## Our Streets, Parking and Accessibility

The condition of our streets and parking is an Island wide issue. Parking should be prioritized to improve access for those who have direct need to utilize the amenities and residences of our village. While improved footpaths and cycleways may help reduce the number of vehicles visiting our village, we need to make sure that the limited parking in our public spaces are not abused by individuals or businesses. I will be proactive in ensuring it's a priority

## Waste and Recycling

None of us enjoy seeing the beach being littered since we are right on the seafront. I am highly aware of the monumental task and effort it takes the Commissioners' team to manage this increase in rubbish during summer. We should make it easier for those using our amenities to make better choices how to dispose of their rubbish or look for other solutions.

## Social Housing

Over 10 % of our residents live in social housing. It is important that our social housing is fit for purpose. Port Erin residents deserve to live in a place that is sustainable for them to build their future. Our social housing assets are located at the gateway to our village and do not give the impression that we invest in our community. Maintaining these properties and working with the residents will help improve the image of Port Erin and the experience for residents.

## Visitors to Port Erin

Port Erin with its Heritage Steam Train, Railway Museum, Rushen Heritage Centre and natural beauty will always be an attraction for visitors. Rate Payers benefit from Port Erin being a desirable location to visit and businesses locate here to service the community and its visitors. I look forward to building on what Port Erin already offers and eager to work at creating a bright future for our next generation of businesses residents and visitors.

## Public Private Initiatives

Being a local business owner I am able to connect with other businesses on island to help solve some immediate issues. Earlier this year, we worked with a private contractor and the commissioners to shift sand from the Bay Hotel side of the beach down toward the Cosy Nook and the Port Erin Beach Huts. This shift in the sand up towards to Bay Hotel occurs naturally during the winter tides. We were able to subsidise the cost to the rate payer substantially by sourcing a local contractor to perform the job at cost and have businesses that benefit from the sand redistribution pay a proportion and reduce the bill to the Rate Payer. There are many opportunities the village can work with businesses to assist in reducing the liability to the Rate Payer. This is how cooperation and community works at its best.

## Please Use Your Vote

If given the opportunity, I will be the only local business owner represented on the Board. I believe I can contribute with a forward thinking, rational and objective voice for the Port Erin rate payer. I am not afraid to get stuck in or of the hard work ahead.

Please find my details below if you would like to give me a call or drop me a line. Otherwise if you are nearby the winery I am usually hanging around there. Thanks for your time and consideration regarding my candidacy for Port Erin Commissioners



**VOTE  
FOR**

**IAN SWINDELLS**