

Ian Hansen Manifesto 2021

I am standing again for election because I care passionately about the way of life in Camp and the Falklands in general. I am a 8th generation Islander and have always lived in the Camp. I now own the house at Hill Cove where I grew up and my parents lived for over 60 years.

I will touch briefly on some of the issues this incoming Assembly will have to face.

One of the main concerns I have for future of the Camp is the fact the Falklands are drying out year on year. If you talk to anyone who works the land on a regular basis you will hear the same story. So, what can we do about it? We can't tell Mother Nature to change her ways, but I would like to believe we can mitigate some of the effects she is having on our land. I would support the formation of a group of farmers/environmentalists /DOA/Falklands Conservation/ and possibly other organisations getting together and comparing notes on what has been done or what can be done in different areas.

I believe a level of funding for this from FIG should be made available.

I am happy to speak in more detail to anyone who would like to share their thoughts on climate change which is obviously a concern, and I believe the faster we can introduce more renewable energy the better for all.

While touching on the environment the possibility of salmon farming is obviously a controversial topic. I have to say for me, it is an easy decision to say an emphatic no to going down the route of introducing salmon farming into the Falklands. I have seen no evidence that the benefits outweigh the risks.

Our capital programme over the next ten years is huge, but if we are to invest in the future for our children and grand children decisions must be made to increase expenditure in certain areas.

As an example, if we do not invest in a port now where will we be in 20/30 years? Not in a good place I suspect.

However, all Government spending should be justifiable and explained in detail to the taxpayer how costs were reached and the rationale behind agreeing to them.

The incoming assembly must absolutely continue to support capital expenditure on road infrastructure, the ferry, FIGAS and FIMCO if Camp is to survive. As a (very) regular user of both FIGAS and the ferry, I think I have a good idea of how these services may be improved, after listening to people on both East/West and very importantly the outer Islands. I would continue to support FIMCO, as it is an integral part of agriculture.

However we choose to spend our budget year on year, we will have to do it under the threats that Argentina still make in their attempt to destroy our economy. We have to continue to try and educate the rest of the world on the reality of our right to self determination, and challenge Argentina's ridiculous claim over our Islands.

You can rest assured that I will never be convinced or bullied by either the Government of Argentina or the UK to change the stance I have on self determination. I have 16 years of experience in representing the Falklands on the international scene, and have no qualms in doing so again if given the opportunity.

Health and education are key issues. If you live in Camp the service of both these are vital. We must make sure that Camp does not fall behind in either. I think I know most of the problems in these areas, but I would welcome more thoughts from the Camp electorate on what we can realistically do together to address these problems.

Communications, internet and mobile phone coverage are also massive issues to be faced. With the possibility of Starlink becoming a global reality over the next few years, why would we not look at the chance of being involved? I am certainly no expert in this field, but it seems obvious to me that any form of better communication Island wide should and must be investigated. I am trying to seek more information on Starlink in particular, so I can better understand how it might work down here.

This outgoing assembly was challenged to cope with a global pandemic, and also to try and keep our Islands economy on a level keel. Covid isn't going to disappear, so I believe we will have to continue to adjust regularly in the next four years. Consideration of how we handle quarantine issues and the opening up of tourism concerning cruise ships and flights from South America will be paramount to our economy, while keeping in mind the safety of our people.

All these issues should be considered with the advice of the World Health Organization and probably even more importantly our own FIG medical team.

Making decisions for our Islands as an MLA will never be easy. To quote John Wayne- the secret to success is making the right decisions. How do you make the right decisions? Experience. How do you get experience? By making the wrong decisions.

I will continue to live in Camp, as possibly the last old dinosaur Assembly member who knows what it is like to get out of bed in the middle of the night and reset the inverter, start the generator or switch the water supply off because a pipe has burst, rather than waiting for 15 minutes while someone sorts it for me.

If elected you will know that I understand and appreciate the downside of being a Camp resident. To me though, there are far more upsides. However, we should always remember it can be fairly easy to have a misperception of the reality of living in Camp.

In this manifesto I may have seemed to ask a lot of questions of the electorate, but without asking questions of you with the vote, just stating my opinions does not feel right and I know--if elected- I can't achieve anything over the next four years without your input.

There are almost certainly other issues that I haven't had time to address here so please contact me at anytime to point out the ones I have missed.

I doubt I will have time to visit all of you in the build up to the election, especially as this time of the year is very busy for the Camp people, and for you to make time for me to call in may not be convenient for you.

I will be available every day through social media, e-mail (ianhansen@horizon.co.fk) and tel. 21840 or 41196.