



Roger Spink 2017

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MANIFESTO

I have over the years passionately championed many local and international Falkland issues bringing them to the attention of the Government. I have served on the boards of The Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce, FIDC and FI Tourism and am currently Chairman of Falklands Conservation and on the board of the YMCA. After a career in business for over 30 years. I believe we need a strong local economy that values all workers.

If elected I would work on behalf of the community to provide proper consultation, a strong voice, clear leadership and ensure there is adequate scrutiny of policy decisions and implementation.

Protecting our Economy and Environment

We are very lucky to live in such a wonderful part of the world and I will work to preserve the nature and beauty of the Islands whilst developing its economy to create opportunities, jobs and improve services.

The growth and health of our private sector has ensured that despite the absence of Oil activity and the best efforts of Argentina to impose an economic blockade our economy has continued to prosper.

I co-chaired the 2010 Economic Development Strategy (EDS). The revised EDS Action Plan was agreed by the last Government. However I think it is essential that the policies agreed by that Assembly will as a priority at the least need to be reviewed by the new Assembly. An early review of this work would ensure understanding and buy in to the ideas put forward by the new assembly. This would allow FIG to provide the decisive leadership and vision requested in the document over the life of the Assembly. Several major actions are required by FIG in the update of this strategy which has just been completed and I will push for the agreed actions to be completed whilst ensuring that the pace and planning of capital programs maximises the benefits to local employment and business. I support the joint waste management strategy talks with our neighbours at Mount Pleasant Complex to implement recycling and to explore long term solutions for waste that cannot be reduced, reused or recycled.

Investing in our Community

The Government currently has an ambitious capital program and I will ensure we also include some of the smaller maintenance and infrastructure improvements around Stanley. The vulnerable person's facility, new power station and port are key projects that need to be rapidly progressed. We need to work with the private sector to deliver affordable solutions in these areas. We should plan to maximise the local involvement in these large capital projects and plan to minimise the peaks and troughs in construction activity by careful planning to support the local economy. Early decisions will need to be made on a housing strategy to continue to provide affordable housing both for purchase and rental. I would support FIG selling off a number of older properties to sitting tenants with discounts for rentals paid on the understanding that further social housing is provided for the community.

Training and education are an important investment in our community giving our people the skills necessary to take on higher paid jobs that currently are filled by contract workers. Identifying future leaders and developing our own people into senior roles is a key issue in ensuring continuity, commitment and stability in running our country. Some areas of FIG are better than others at training and promoting local talent and we need policies to spread this culture within FIG.

If you want to talk about any of my points or indeed any other issues or concerns you may have please contact me on tel 51128 email rkspink@hotmail.com or on social media.

Supporting our Elderly and Children

I support the provision of adult social care to help our elderly and vulnerable. The vulnerable persons unit work is underway and it is essential that this project and others are monitored and managed to deliver on budget. The savings identified in the project document also need to materialise.

We need to look at how we support patients away for long term care in the UK particularly when they are unable to work and we should look to provide accommodation possibly purchasing a couple of UK flats rather than paying currently some £345k per year in accommodation costs.

I support fully the improvement in child care facilities and believe we should as a matter of urgency look at options and bring in assistance for parents in funding child care to support hard working people.

Planning needs to start on the requirements for the infant and Junior School and Community School (FICS). As I did whilst on the Chamber of Commerce I support the School Improvement program for FICS we must maximise the opportunities and potential of our young people.

Communications

We have been badly served both in the new contract that has been signed and the regulation of the contract holder. In the opinion of several well respected experts in this field, there are ways forward. The Technology Development Group formed to give relevant technical advice and drive the improvements required for our future should be supported to evaluate the options in detail.

Argentina

The fundamental principle of self-determination applies to the Falklands. Despite this Argentina still exercises a series of economic sanctions against the people of the Falkland Islands with no respect whatsoever for the human rights of the Falkland Islanders, while at the same time it cynically promotes commitment to human rights on the world stage. As I said in a 2010 FIRS interview "Blockading and bullying the population of the Falklands has merely alienated Argentina to the younger members of our population and demonstrated to them and the younger generation in Chile, who may have relatives in the Falklands, that the Argentina of today is no different to that of 1982". Nothing has changed.

Finances

We are fortunate to have had operating surpluses in the last two financial years and with an estimated MTFP £24.8 million surplus in 2017/18 it is time to ensure the man in the street sees some benefit from our improved economic situation whilst prudently retaining funds for our capital programs and pensions. I believe the reintroduction of the holiday credit scheme is one of the most equitable ways of making such a distribution across the whole community. I would fight for this scheme to be reintroduced.

I believe I have the drive and experience to make a difference. If we get the community working together we can continue to give the Falklands a bright and exciting future.

In 1982 many people sacrificed their lives to ensure we would be able to determine our own future so please in their memory whoever you support use your vote