

Pauline Johns-Garrett

"Protecting our past, building a brighter future."

Your by-election candidate for Ramsey North Ward 25/11/21

I am proud to call Ramsey my home. Cornish by birth, I have lived in Ramsey since 2004, at Cooyrt Balleigh, Kings Reach. Just off the Jurby road.

I am married to Michael (Mike) Garrett, a Ramsey man by birth. I am now retired but keep busy as the Treasurer of the Isle of Man Family History Society, which has over 1,000 members worldwide. I am also a member of the fund-raising committee for the Queens Pier Restoration Trust, a community-based project I am passionate about and deeply committed to. In our recent fund-raising Coffee Morning at Ramsey Town Hall, we raised £1,229.33 for the Pier restoration in just two hours, proving what can be achieved for the benefit of all when we pull together. I want to bring my experience, knowledge, compassion and community spirit to Ramsey Town Commissioners.

I believe in Ramsey. This unique, beautiful town steeped in history, that is also thriving thanks to both our independent retailers and our resourceful youth, who bring new ideas, creativity and vibrancy. All need our support. Our heritage requires care, attention and preservation. Our businesses require our voice and our commitment. And our young people require our attention, our dedication to their future and the provision of services and opportunities that meet their needs.

I have attended recent meetings for the election of MHKs for Ramsey and public meetings discussing the Department of Infrastructure plans for Ramsey Quayside. I have been listening attentively to the concerns of Ramsey residents about the loss of parking on the Quay, the threat of flooding, flood defences and Climate Change. I have assertively and passionately made my own thoughts known in defence of our town against schemes that neither have our best interests at heart or appear to have been drafted in consultation or cooperation with Ramsey Town Commissioners or the people.

There are candidates running in this By-Election who appear to support the construction of a housing estate on South beach, taking private ownership of public land from the Stone Pier right up to the Queens Pier. Removing your historic right to free access to this land and gifting it to unproven and ecologically unsound commercial interests.

All candidates in the recent General Election will tell you the overwhelming majority of Ramsey rejects this proposal. Ramsey Town Commissioners rejected this proposal, and I wish to stand with them to protect and preserve our shore, whilst looking at sustainable, progressive, and realistic ways to enhance local facilities, provide coastal protection and restore the amenity to its former glory.

This beach is safe and clean for families with young children and with good bathing water quality. Right on our doorstep, free to access and free of marina pollution. Vote for me, and I will ensure it remains this way.

Concerns have also been raised about the run-down and sometimes dangerous state of some of the buildings on Parliament Street and The Quayside.

It wasn't that long ago that I remember businesses were given grants to clean and paint their premises, to improve the image of the town. Sadly, it could do with a good paint and clean up again. But the reality is that after the long lockdown stemming from the Covid crisis, businesses have been struggling. We must do our best to support them by shopping local, eating out at local restaurants, and finding ways to connect them to Government funds and initiatives that aid their repair, regeneration and promotion.

Ramsey is a popular, independent shopping destination, with some really good and varied shops, restaurants and cafés. Shoppers are flocking Island-wide to enjoy our amenities, retailers and hospitality businesses. Sometimes staying over the weekend at the Ramsey Park Hotel. We cannot afford to lose the parking on the Quayside, which provides easy, free access to our shops to a Dol vanity project. Pure and simple.

A two-foot wall which can be painted to show a busy harbourside scene with nets spread out to dry, crab pots etc, is sufficient. This doesn't need to be drab concrete. It's a working harbour that we all love, integral to the identity of Ramsey.

There is still much that needs doing. Drains and gullies to be kept clear of leaves. Planning applications to be assessed for their benefit to the town and the local economy. Services that must be improved. Rivers kept clear of tree branches. Lanes in the town that need cleaning. Potholes that need repairing.

We need to lobby our government to bring back the workforce teams to do this maintenance. It was a false economy to get rid of them all. We have Beach Buddies, perhaps we could have Town Buddies.

I will not be releasing a paper Manifesto or knocking on doors. Both because of Covid and for the benefit of the environment. Please contact me via my Facebook page if you wish to discuss my policies or candidacy further.

Most importantly, on Thursday 25th of November, please vote for Pauline Johns-Garrett, to protect our past and build a brighter future.

Polling station opens at 8am, closing at 8pm.

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