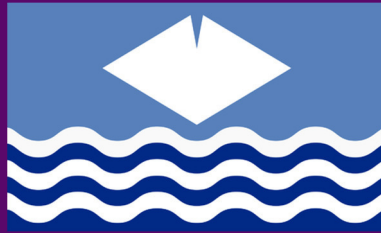




*A common sense revolution*



# The Isle of Wight

*Everything is possible*

The manifesto of  
*Daryll Pitcher*

Promoted by Sonja Ward Flat 4, 11 Highfield Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, PO37 6PP  
on behalf of Daryll Pitcher 19 Norman Way, Wootton, Isle of Wight, PO33 4NJ.



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# BREXIT

As your MP I will very forcibly represent the view expressed by the Isle of Wight in the EU Referendum. 62% of Islanders voted Leave in June 2016 and I will ensure that Brexit means Brexit. I will support any Bill brought before me that delivers what was voted for. I will oppose any watering down or any so called divorce bill placed upon us by the EU. We should not pay in to be part of the Single Market nor should we accept Free Movement of People.

I will use as my guide the Six Key Brexit Tests as laid out in the UKIP Manifesto to decide whether or not to support any Bill:

## 1 THE LEGAL TEST

Parliament must resume its supremacy of law-making without restriction. Britain must be completely free from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice, and we must be free, if we wish, to relinquish our membership of the European Court of Human Rights.

## 2 THE MIGRATION TEST

Britain must have full control of immigration and asylum policies, and border control. We must not be bound by any freedom of movement obligation, and we must be free to set and meet our own annual migration targets.

## 3 THE MARITIME TEST

The UK's full maritime sovereignty must be restored and we must have control of our maritime exclusive economic zone, which stretches 200 miles off the coast or to the half-way point between the UK and neighbouring countries. There must be no constraints on our fishing fleet other than those decided upon by the UK parliament.

## 4 THE TRADE TEST

The UK must retake its seat on the World Trade Organisation and resume its sovereign right to sign trade agreements with other entities or supra-national bodies. We must have full rights to set our own tariff and non-tariff barriers consistent with WTO rules, and we must have left both the EU single market and the customs union.

## 5 THE MONEY TEST

We must not pay any 'divorce' payment to the EU, nor contribute to the EU budget. We must have been paid our share of financial assets from entities such as the European Investment Bank, in which some £9 billion of UK money is vested.

## 6 THE TIME TEST

Brexit must be done and dusted before the end of 2019.

## The Isle of Wight

In order to achieve the aims laid out in the rest of this document substantial changes need to be made to the way the Isle of Wight is treated by Government. This needs to be accompanied by a similar change in the way the Island looks at itself.

Currently approximately half the Island (and most of its industrial zone) is designated by the EU as having Assisted Area Status. Notwithstanding that this designation is effectively meaningless and has delivered nothing to the Island's economy it will lapse when we finally leave the EU. This opens a window of opportunity to enter into a negotiation with Government on the future economic status of the Island. This window is pushed further open by the Government's recent attempts at devolution whereby they have been attempting to offload powers and responsibilities to Regions in return for certain financial freedoms. This agenda is still active and the options it gives could be of real benefit if used properly.

UKIP are committed to creating Coastal Enterprise Zones which would regenerate the run-down coastal areas around Britain. These proposals include reduced Business Rates and fast tracked access to regeneration funds for places like the Island.

With all these ideas and more I would approach the Government and negotiate an Island Deal using the devolution agenda powers to enable us to kick start our economy and deliver jobs of real substance for our community. Other powers could be used to enhance our environment, improve transport and protect services by keeping them on the Island.

Alongside this and in partnership with existing bodies I will create an umbrella group with the aim of promoting the Isle of Wight as a leader of innovation in technology, business, education and community. It is my firm view that only we Islanders know how to make our Island run in the right way and that if we put our best people in the right places and give them the right tools then we can achieve whatever we want. But to do this we need confidence in our own abilities. We need to talk ourselves up not complain about the perceived problems people think are keeping us down. Our small size makes us quicker to react. Our stretch of water makes us cohesive. Our reliance on certain industries makes us experts.

Government likes problems that they can solve easily. If we present a coherent plan that is balanced, fair and workable and that doesn't include us waving a begging bowl at them every few years they are likely to be supportive. There may be financial assistance in the package but the reality is that giving the Island rights and powers is both cheaper for them and provides the long term solution they are looking for. For this to work we must be willing to take responsibility for the future of our own Island.

## Health and Care

**UKIP would create a new Department for Health and Care and assimilate the Care system into the NHS.**

### Funding

UKIP would increase NHS and Care funding by £11bn through reductions to the Foreign Aid budget. Of this £9bn would be spent on increasing the NHS budget and £2bn would be used to reverse the Tory Cuts to the Care budget since 2010.

UKIP would crack down on foreign nationals who should pay for their own care but who currently do not do so. This currently drains the NHS by £2bn per year. Urgent care would of course continue to be provided to those in need.

### St Mary's

I strongly support St Mary's and the retention of all services on the Island. I would in time like to go further and see near universal services provided here so that only rare cases would have to travel to the mainland for treatment. Long and arduous travel is not only costly for Island patients but it is not good for their health either. I want the best possible outcomes for residents and so a well-equipped, well-funded high quality St Mary's is the only solution.

I would follow UKIP policy and campaign for parking charges on all hospital car parks to be ended including at St Mary's.

# Education

## **Sandown Bay Academy**

I want Sandown Bay Academy/former Sandown High School to remain the main location for Secondary education for pupils from the Bay area and further afield. That could mean AET changes tack or it could mean the Isle of Wight Council will have to step in. I currently have no faith in AET to deliver the education our children deserve and would prefer if they left the Island for good. However Ryde seems to be doing well and I would not want to disrupt it for the sake of politicking about Sandown.

If AET walk away from Sandown then the Isle of Wight Council must step in and reclaim the school site and reopen the school with a new provider.

## **Future Schools**

Many problems have been caused by the Government policy of allowing schools to open and shut at will, effectively privatising them by stealth. There are many different providers who can choose to create new schools and profit is often a motive. The number of available pupils does not change though, and this leads to competition for them in order that the schools can fill their places. Instead of this driving up standards as was hoped it has led to schools struggling with too small budgets because they can't get enough pupils, and they get paid per pupil.

I would not allow any new government funded school to open unless it could show that there was a need for the extra places it would provide within its catchment area.

I do support Grammar schools and in time I would like to see one on the Island as part of a balanced Isle of Wight school system.

## **School Governance and Planning**

Another side effect of Government policy has been to strip the Local Education Authority of all power over schools. No longer can the Council plan numbers or influence activity directly. Schools are for the most part independent of any local oversight, although the Local Authority is still legally responsible for them and their outcomes. I believe that this situation is untenable and would like to see changes made locally to make the bond between the school and the Council stronger.

I would like 'Community Governors' appointed to each school by the Isle of Wight Council to act as a liaison between the two. They would foster links to spread best practice more widely and so that schools start to work in concert with each other and the Local Authority more effectively.

### **Isle of Wight University**

In order to improve the educational achievement of our youngsters and help to give them a reason to stay here we need a University on the Island. This would provide the educational opportunities currently lacking for Island based students.

Having the availability of such an institution will enable the growth of higher skilled and better paid jobs that rely on Degree level qualifications. Such an institution would also enrol students from the mainland who could be attracted through a combination of quality of life, academic excellence and future job prospects.

Instead of exporting our young to the mainland we can import more young people to our Island by offering them a great start to their adult lives.

The Isle of Wight University could focus on courses based around those industries in which we are most active and proficient:

- tourism, agriculture, the care industry;
- high-end manufacturing including aircraft and ships, electronics;
- coastal studies, oceanography and paleontology.

These are all potential subject areas in which we have advantages.

Universities often have links with each other for research and academic reasons, especially primary and secondary sites. For the Island to get the greatest benefit I feel it is important that the Isle of Wight University is independent and not just an offshoot campus from an existing institution.

Creating a University campus would fit in very well with economic regeneration plans currently being drawn up by the Isle of Wight Council.

# Transport

## Ferry Travel

Ferry travel is both too expensive and inconveniently timed; and often it is unreliable. The Companies should run services at times that reflect people's lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and they should worry less about balance sheets. They are providing a public service delivering a necessity of daily life on the Island.

The business models are unsuitable in various areas - from ticketing, ticket prices, service, punctuality and lack of evening crossings, to Boardroom management, ownership and debt levels. In order to tackle the failings I have two proposals:

1. Through either negotiation or legislation Community Directors should be appointed to the Boards of all the Ferry Companies. These Directors would be non-voting and paid by the Public Purse. Their role would be to represent the interests of passengers, and in particular Islanders, in the Boardroom and in internal company discussions. They would also act as the accountable face of the Company to the Isle of Wight by liaising with the Council Leader, the MP and the Council's Scrutiny Committee - which could ask the Community Directors questions in a public forum.
2. To introduce a Ferry Regulator similar to the Rail Regulator and possibly operating as a sub-section of it in order to reduce costs. A taskforce would be set up to identify what powers the Regulator should have over things such as pricing, timetabling, accessibility, port operations and other areas.

## Fixed Link

There are many pros and cons to the idea of a fixed link with the mainland. For instance it could drive economic growth in certain sectors but it may harm other sectors at the same time. What would the cost of using it be? A low price would bring massive amounts of extra traffic but too high a price would reduce usefulness.

Any proposal for a fixed link must come from private enterprise. The financing would be private and the profits (or losses) would be private. I have no problem with a feasibility study going ahead but I cannot see why the taxpayer should pay for it. Any such study should be the preserve of those who wish to build the link as they will benefit from its findings more than anyone else, regardless of what the report says. The report must be produced by independent people so as to be above reproach and the key details should be robust. These findings can then be used to inform a public debate.

Following on from the debate a Local Referendum should be held which would also be paid for by the developer who should agree to accept the result.

### **Pensioners' Bus Pass**

Currently the Isle of Wight is part of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme. The cost of this scheme is met by the Isle of Wight Council. The Island loses in this because during the summer months many of the users are holiday makers and therefore do not pay Council Tax to the Isle of Wight Council.

I would lobby the Government for a rebate scheme whereby the Island becomes a standalone district with a reciprocal arrangement with the rest of England. Through this the Government will reimburse all non-Island Passes used here while the Isle of Wight Council would reimburse the Government for all Isle of Wight Passes used for mainland travel.

Once this scheme is in operation it would be possible to negotiate with both Wales and Scotland to see if they would also enter into similar arrangements as at present English Passes are not accepted by either.

As an interim measure I will seek to negotiate an agreement so that Scottish and Welsh Passes are automatically accepted on Island buses in order to boost tourism.

### **Island Line**

I support the principle of keeping Island Line as part of the franchise arrangements and I am pleased with the proposals put forward by the new operators for the future upgrading of the line.

In the future I would like to see an investigation into the potential for extending the line in order to relieve some of the strain being placed upon our road system.

### **Air Travel**

It is beyond comprehension that an island of 140,000 people has no regular timetabled air service. Just about every other island, many of them far smaller in population than the Isle of Wight, has regular flights but we do not. This is hampering our tourism and other commercial activity. The great advantage of air travel is the speed with which journeys can be undertaken. It would make Southampton, London, Edinburgh and even Paris and Brussels easily accessible from the Isle of Wight with the obvious benefits to business and pleasure that that would bring.

## **Future Cars**

The Isle of Wight by its compact nature is ideal as a test bed for new technologies in transportation. None more so than with newer types of car propulsion. The Island already has some infrastructure to support electric vehicles and I would like to see this extended.

I would also like to see the Island used as a test bed for hydrogen fuel cell cars in the UK. The problem with all types of new fuel is the availability of filling places. On the Island major coverage could be achieved with only one location (Newport); extend that to three (including Ryde and Sandown/Shanklin) and it becomes near universal.

I will enter into negotiations to bring hydrogen filling stations to the Island and to push the major car manufacturers to make their hydrogen fuel cell vehicles available here. In addition the Island can become home to the UK's own budding hydrogen fuel cell technology companies as the ready market availability would make their research easier and development faster.

## Economy, Regeneration and Housing

It is very clear that the long term prospects of the Isle of Wight are tied closely to its future economic performance. In order for us to afford the services that we will need to support our growing older population we need the resources that a strong economy will bring us. Likewise we will only be able to keep the best and brightest of our young if we can provide them with a good education and excellent long term job prospects with good pay while maintaining our highly valued environment.

We need a dynamic economy and the confidence as a community to make things happen and get things done.

To attract the best people and the best jobs we need the rest of the world to see the Island as a place to do business. We need to foster a reputation for a good work ethic allied with a high quality workforce, decent infrastructure and an innovative mindset that gets results and can add value to any business which sets up here. Government can give us the tools that will allow us to give our businesses an edge in the market place. Only as a community can we provide the can-do positive outlook that will complete the picture and turn the Island into a centre for world excellence.

### Kingston Marine Park

I have been involved with efforts by the Isle of Wight Council to bring forward the Kingston Marine and Technology Park plan. This project is now vital as without it our shipbuilding future is under severe threat. In less than year we could be looking at losing a great number of highly skilled and well paid jobs and the destruction of one of our key industries. This must not be allowed to happen.

The Council are doing what they can - the problem lies with the Government. As part of the proposals a new hoist must be installed so that vessels can be put in and lifted out of the water and moved between the boatyard buildings. The current site has such a hoist but the Homes and Communities Agency (the Government Department which has sold the site to developers and which also owns the Kingston site) has made no provision for a new hoist. They know that the businesses must relocate due to their actions and yet they won't take responsibility. Various plans have been drawn up as to where the £3m of finance for a new hoist could come from. I say that it is the responsibility of Government to replace what they got rid of. I am less concerned as to whether it is the HCA or another Department that stumps up the money but Government has an obligation to put right the damage it has done to our economy and to support it in future.

As your MP I will lobby vociferously in Westminster for the funding for the Kingston hoist.

## **Conference Centre**

Many successful seaside resorts have re-invented themselves by having conference centres. These places can provide year round income for the local economy particularly hotels as they provide the accommodation for the visitors to the events being held. As part of regeneration I would like to see consideration being given to a 1500 seat conference centre with ancillary supporting spaces on the Island in order to extend our tourist season and provide year round employment. In this venture the Isle of Wight University could provide additional event space, catering and accommodation during its Vacations which would be particularly useful in summer.

A conference centre project could be done in partnership with Government as they are currently exploring possibilities for other spaces to use while the Houses of Parliament are refurbished. We could offer them the space and support to bring part of it here; they could provide the finance, build a centre and use it for their needs. Once they have finished with it they could hand it to the Island for use as a conference centre thereby securing a legacy for their investment.

This would also show the Island's commitment to working in partnership with Government and our ability and willingness to help them in return when we are able.

## **Housing**

For the final three months of the last Isle of Wight Council I was the Executive Member for Planning, Housing and Homelessness. As part of this role I initiated investigations into the use of modular construction as a way of bringing forward additional housing for the Island quickly and efficiently while also providing jobs for Islanders.

Proposals were discussed for creating a factory here on the Island which would produce the kits that could then be used for projects around the Island. This would address our housing and economic regeneration needs in one go. There are partners ready to work with us to deliver this opportunity. To make best use of a factory it might be possible to sell the kits to mainland developers thereby creating a new export market for the Island.

UKIP has in its national Manifesto a commitment to modular construction which I strongly support. The recent work that I undertook on this issue shows that UKIP representatives take action to deliver their policy objectives when given the chance.

### **Social Housing**

UKIP are very supportive of Social Housing which again I fully support. There are two main reasons for providing Social Housing.

Most importantly it gives a quality of life to those who cannot afford even so called 'affordable' rent. Settled people can become much more productive and enjoy better health and higher educational achievement than those living on the fringes. Morally it is the right thing to do.

Secondly it makes financial sense to do it. Currently there are over 700 people on the Housing List of the Isle of Wight Council. The Council will be paying out for temporary accommodation and supporting the welfare of these people. As stated they will have more health issues (particularly mental health) and a greater reliance on Council and Government services.

Morally and economically it makes sense to provide people with a decent standard of housing.



## Daryll Pitcher's 10 Point Plan for the Isle of Wight

1. Hold to UKIP's 6 BREXIT Tests
2. Negotiate an Island Deal with Government
3. Reverse the Social Care cuts of £2bn since 2010
4. Retain all services at St Mary's
5. Keep Sandown Bay Academy Site as a Secondary School
6. Create an Isle of Wight University
7. Place Community Directors on the Boards of the ferry companies
8. Hold a Referendum on any Fixed Link proposal
9. Secure Government funding for the hoist at Kingston Marine Park
10. Make Modular Housing a reality on the Isle of Wight