

Focus on Port Erin



Southern Branch

Introducing Gary Chambers

I have just been elected un-opposed as one of seven Commissioners for Port Erin. Only 7 candidates put their names forward so there will not be an election on Thursday, April 24th.

Very much a local boy, I was born and bred in the South and currently live in Bradda, Port Erin, where I have resided for the past 6 years. I have lived in the South for nearly 35 years in total, in between spending 12 years in the UK.



Personal life

I first started working at 15 in the old fisheries in Port St Mary (as most people did in those days), at weekends and then went on to work in various local hotels and establishments in the South of the island, on the promenade in Port Erin as it was back in the day, as well as the old Castletown Golf Links hotel and Villiers hotels.

Whilst in the UK for 12 years I became a bus driver in and around the Manchester/Cheshire area for First Group Buses Before finally coming home.

Since returning to the island, and for the past 22+ years, I have worked for IOM Transport as a Bus Driver and now Supervisor.

I am a member of Liberal Vannin and have enjoyed serving the public for most of my working life.

During my time in the UK, I helped create a community football team in Manchester and I became secretary/treasurer as well as continuing to play for the team. I am also a qualified football coach and have coached/managed kids and adult football teams as well as continuing to play into my mid-40s.

Printer and published by Gary Chambers

Apartment 1, Carlton Apartments, Spaldrick, Bradda, Port Erin, IM9 6PD



On the Island, I have done the Parish Walk, taken part in the Easter Festival of Running, the Harbour to Harbour Walk, charity football matches, Tough Mann Challenge and last year the Thriller in the Villa charity boxing match (which I won).

I will try to continue some of these (fitness allowing).

Now I feel is the time to put something back into our great community.

Gary says:

“Port Erin has a wonderful community feel about it, very much like times gone by. I’m always seeing people in and out of the local shops and chatting away to the friendly shop keepers and owners in Port Erin.

“We are also very blessed here with the sporting prowess of the Southern Nomads Rugby Club and the long-established Rushen United AFC Both magnificent clubs, well supported and sponsored by our local community. We have a selection of magnificent shops, public houses, cafes and restaurants as well as gyms.

“We also have shared facilities such as the amenity site and the Southern swimming pool which we should continue to use and support.”

However, I think we can still improve what we already have in Port Erin.

Many shops are lying empty (some for quite a while) we need something extra to attract new business preferably with rents that are not too high to give potential new business people a fighting chance. More affordable housing here in the South.

We still need to know what’s happening with the old marine biological station and its surrounding area. The old swimming pool which continues to be an eyesore.

The two landslides on the pathway leading to Bradda Glen which continues to block public access (the areas which you can walk on to Bradda have an ongoing problem with dog excrement as well as many areas in general). - Maybe Port Erin needs a dog warden?

Please get in touch, if you want me to raise any issues with Port Erin Commissioners. You can contact me on:

Facebook: at GARY CHAMBERS.PEC <https://www.facebook.com/gary.andrew.chambers>

Email: garychambers.pec25@gmail.com

Mobile: 07624 488032

Kind Regards

Gary Chambers

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Apartment 1, Carlton Apartments, Spaldrick, Bradda, Port Erin, IM9 6PD