



# Focus on Ballaugh



## Liberal Vannin Chair, Paul Weatherall, returns as a Ballaugh Commissioner

### Dear Residents of Ballaugh Parish,

Following the deadline for close of nominations for this year's local authority elections, I am one of three candidates for the 5 places on Ballaugh Commissioners; the other two being Steven Curphey and Stephen Smith. We are therefore all duly elected unopposed, and there will be a bye-election announced in due course to invite nominations for the two remaining vacancies.



It is unfortunate that so few people are prepared to come forward to serve our community in this way. In that regard, I am disappointed that an election wasn't required and hope that people will put their names forward when the bye-election is announced. I would be delighted to hear from you, if you are interested. Many thanks to those who signed my nomination form and supported me in standing again, following my recent return to live in Ballaugh. You will remember that I served as a Ballaugh Commissioner during 2022/23 until I moved to Agneash. It is good to be back!

I will represent you on Ballaugh Parish Commissioners as a member of Liberal Vannin. Having the support of a political party is important, as I can share ideas with Lawrie Hooper, our Party Leader, MHK for Ramsey, Gary Chambers, newly elected Commissioner in Port Erin, Pauline Johns-Garrett, Liberal Vannin candidate for Ramsey North in the election on April 24<sup>th</sup> and fellow party members and supporters. As one of your Commissioners, I can bring this collective experience to bear on your behalf. My first

loyalty, however, will always be to you, the residents of Ballaugh.

I will work on your behalf, with my fellow Commissioners and local MHKs, to lobby for the best possible services for Ballaugh from government departments and agencies. I will keep you informed about issues that may be relevant to us and seek your views as to how local services may be improved.

I am particularly keen to see if we can get better bus services locally, particularly night-time services to Douglas, Peel and Ramsey.

I will also support moves to ensure that the Civic Amenity Site at Balladoole remains open and that the re-use shed is restored. The re-use shed was highly valued by people who left items there, hoping that someone would find them useful, as well as those who then took them away. No-one was concerned that a few people made a bob or two by taking items to then re-sell.

Our local shop / post office, pub, school, recreational facilities and other local businesses and community groups are all vital to us and it is important that Ballaugh Commissioners support them in continuing their successful existence and development.

I will argue against planning development on 'greenfield' sites within the parish and support ideas to help protect and encourage wildlife in the village and throughout the parish. As this year's local elections have again shown, local authorities on the Island are often struggling to generate local support and enthusiasm. Having a voice to represent our views on very local issues is important, and our MHKs can't be expected to do this alone. Ballaugh Parish Commissioners work closely with our counterparts in the other Northern parishes and developing more joint services and less duplication of effort is essential, in my view.

Please get in touch if you have any ideas to help improve Ballaugh, or if you want to know more about my own ideas.

Yours sincerely,

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