

Vote

FALK

Horning



**Douglas Borough Council
Local Authority Election**

DOUGLAS NORTH

Thursday 22nd July 2021

- experienced & has delivered
- forward driving & focused
- scrutinising & cost conscious

FALK HORNING for Douglas Borough Council

Providing services at high quality and better value

In the last four years, I have helped to lower costs by pushing for changes in the local authorities' pension scheme, reducing the number of parking spaces for councillors and considering the impact on public finances in making every decision.

Maintaining and creating green spaces

Douglas needs to be kept litter free and tidy for the benefit of everyone.

Council's 'plan bee', transforming some suitable areas into wildflower beds and having wilder verges in less visible locations is going to help our beloved pollinators while managing budgets.

Children should be enabled to play outdoors close to where they live without facing dangers from traffic. While there already is a planning provision for creating community spaces for new developments, at the moment developers often try to offload hedges or a few square metres of grass to the local authority instead of creating spaces that are of real use.

Planning applications involving adoption of land by Douglas Borough Council should be assessed for their quality as well as the quantity of amenity space provided.

A new multi-use game area (basketball court including small football goals) in or close to Cronk-y-Berry or Governor's Hill would fill a void as Nobles Park and the Kensington Court are a long distance away. Obesity rates for children and vandalism are rising and we should try to prevent these through encouraging an active lifestyle.

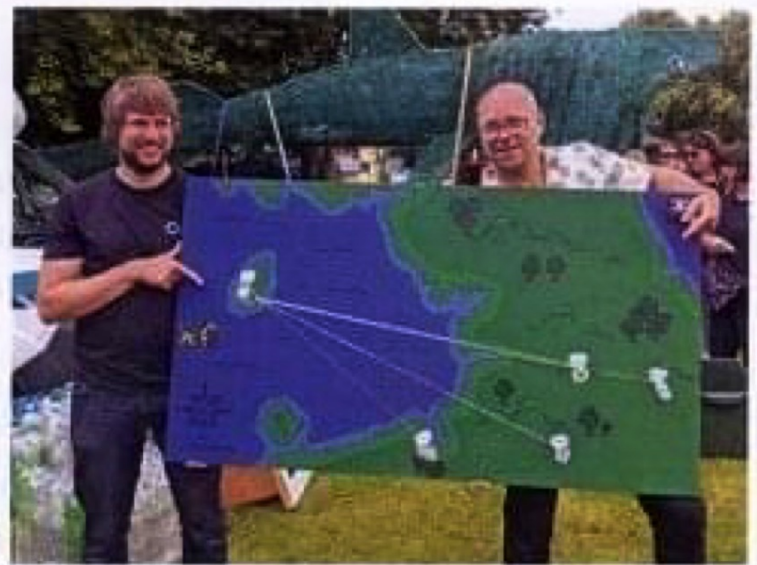


Councillors Andrew Bentley and Falk Horning with the instigators of 'Isle of Play' at their playground opening

Improving our recycling service

The recycling rate for Douglas is around 7% kerbside and 18% if the civic amenity site is included. It compares very poorly to some of our neighbouring countries, is bad for our environment and also our finances as over £ 800,000 is spent burning Douglas' waste every year.

An optional additional kerbside collection of green waste and cardboard would take more materials out of the waste stream while a fortnightly collection of black bin waste will encourage recycling.



Councillors Andrew Bentley and Falk Horning with graphic where recyclables go at Nobles Park fun day

Keeping an eye on planning

It is crucial that we find ways to support our terrific local businesses – especially since there are many that provide locally-sourced products, community knowledge and valuable employment opportunities.

I will keep an eye on every planning application coming in for Douglas and its surrounding area like Cooil Road and raise my voice that our town centre will not face more competition from business developments on green field sites.

The back lanes of our town should be free of bins to increase walkability and to make our neighbourhoods more attractive. Every planning application should have sufficient storage for waste.

Providing equal opportunities for all

Whether young or old, male, female, rich or poor, we all live in the same community. The people of Douglas are entitled, in any dealings with public authorities, to be treated in a welcoming, professional and fair manner. There should be respect and opportunity for all.

Pensions

Several parts of the local authority pension investment fund have been switched from active to passive management, decreasing costs and producing returns in line with the market.

One of the upcoming challenges is to set the scheme retirement age of 65 in line with the state retirement age of 67. Environmental, social and governance factors have been increasingly considered for the investment fund. This should be extended to protect the legacy we leave behind with an eye on avoiding the creation of extra costs or decreasing returns.

Social Housing

The Council housing stock should meet high maintenance standards. By doing this we would keep the value of the publicly owned properties high and provide the people that live in there good living conditions. Among other things, proper insulation is essential as to cut tenants heating costs and prevent fuel poverty. People should feel comfortable in their homes, no matter how rich or poor they are.

New social housing should be built to near passive house standards and have solar panels on south facing roofs. Retrofitting is much more costly and disruptive. Provisions for recycling and active travel should become normal. The new flats along Peel road will meet these standards.

Against lighting of all back lanes

A lighting scheme for all back lanes has been approved by council, estimated to cost around £ 1.1 Million. While there might be some benefits in lighting those areas, the costs are totally disproportional to the use. There will be additional electricity, maintenance and replacement costs over the years and the money would be better spent elsewhere. If elected, I will continue to vote against such a scheme and try to find a majority of councillors to stop it.

VOTE FALK HORNING
for Douglas Borough Council



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