

Rethinking our shared open spaces and how they can be re-utilised to provide simple but more purposeful and practical public spaces. To offer a simple but larger variety of outdoor spaces in Onchan

Teenage play area

Idea: A teenage focused area rather than a play park in the traditional sense. An interactive area which can be changed and adapted by those that use it. Equipment that can be moved around, taken apart and where new things can be built with pleasant and interesting seating for just socialising.



Swing time park -
Howeler and Yoon
Architecture -
Boston, USA

How to implement:

Working with Manx charity 'Isle of Play' to develop a idea/blueprint for such an area. Talk to the schools to get input and inclusion to find out what they would like.

Dog park

Idea: I think that Onchan could greatly benefit from a couple of small, dispersed dog friendly areas. Hopefully this will also help reduce the amount of dog muck that is currently in the lanes, if dog walking parks are located close by.



How to implement:

To look at the different grassed areas and see if any of them can be fully enclosed and fenced off to allow for dogs to be off the lead.

Social housing!

The continuing increase in homelessness, hunger and substandard living conditions in the Island is very concerning. I believe that social housing plays an important role in mediating this growing issue by providing people whether young, old or disabled a stable and decent home. The high cost of Island life is unforgiving to those at the lower end of the income scale.

We need fair funding from the DOI in regards to our sheltered housing so that we can keep all of our social housing in good condition. Looking to the future we need to adapt and diversify our housing so peoples homes are warm, dry and for fit purpose. Any development needs to be done with environmental sustainability in mind so that no one gets left behind in the island's transition to carbon neutral. This will also ensure that those with access to fewer resources are not left living with higher than average pollution levels.

Council housing is a corner stone of our island and is a life line to those that need it. With the cost of housing rising far faster than wages social housing needs to be on the front line to get people onto stable life trajectories and away from expensive and substandard living conditions. We need commissioners who appreciate and understand this and who are willing to lobby Tynwald for the right funding to ensure that this is continued.



Looking after our lived environment - looking forward and providing management strategies which help support wildlife, pollinators and the biosphere.

1.

Short term

Investigating chemical-free weed control

Unwanted growth can lead to accelerated breakdown of hard surfaces and lead to more frequent road and kerb repairs

BUT

Traditional herbicides are terrible for the environment

- Incredible harmful to bees, worms and small creatures like birds and hedgehogs
- Studies show they are not good for us nor our pets (carcinogenic)
- Get into watercourses and the sea and are highly persistent in the soil

Alternatives to investigate:

- Acetic acid for spraying
- Weed wands (biofuel)
- Foamstream type alternatives - currently being trailed by Surrey Country Council, UK

Different areas will most likely require different approaches



2.



Medium term

Small scale environmental architecture

Providing more environmentally friendly urban architecture around the village and in our public spaces.

This would include:

- Bee bricks
- Hedgehog houses
- Bug hotels
- Bird baths/drinking tables
- Bird and bat boxes

This can be a mix of built items and leaving areas more suitable for wildlife to take up residency - like log piles

Leaving out of the way areas to re-wild and possibly some bee hives (not in busy areas).

3.

Long term



Urban fruit trees and edible ecosystems

Replacing a good percentage of mowed areas with wild flower gardens

- Plant in spring
- Cut once in late summer

Divest from fossil fuels

Divesting our active investments away from fossil fuel extraction - protects the ratepayers from the treat of stranded assets. One of the biggest actions we can take to tackle climate change

Investigating renewable energy

Look into how renewable energy systems can be utilised in our public buildings and outside spaces. Investigate the possibility of energy co-operatives for the residence of Onchan.