

## SAVE OUR ISLAND ARTICLE FOR JANUARY 2024 HAYLING HERALD



SIR HUMPHREY must be having a Merry Christmas in his Whitehall Office in the Sky, watching his offspring expanding their control over our Country to the point where it feels like we are now governed by a monolithic intellectual perpetual motion machine called the Civil Service.

Since Maggie's time, Governments have been promising to reduce the size of their Civil Services. The results are dismal – the Civil Service since 2013 has grown by over 100,000 personnel to a total now of 520,000. They are also paying themselves more – 72% are now ranked Executive Officer or higher (up from 55% in 2013) and 68% were awarded a bonus in 2023. And of course, they also retain the best pension scheme in the land. “Ho! Ho! Ho!” says Sir Humph.

It is this unelected body (responsible for the day-to-day running of the Country) which has brought us, at the National level:

- HS2
- Massive IT system failures intended for the Police and the NHS
- A Destroyer Fleet with the wrong engines
- Two Aircraft Carriers with three planes each
- Intelligent motorways
- Uncontrolled river and harbour pollution
- An energy strategy dependent on foreign nations

With all these failures, an elected representative is pushed to the front to take the rap, and this of course immediately activates the Spin Doctors to minimise the damage. This process results in the unintended consequence of hapless politicians falling on their swords, whilst the actual guilty parties watch the assassinations on TV. “*Et tu, Brute?*” No one is ever found accountable for failures. “We will learn from these mistakes” says Sir Humph.

In addition to all this, at the Local Level here, we have been presented with:

- An unsound and rejected Local Plan
- Developers marching over our green fields with ‘cookie cutter’ housing ghettos devoid of any architectural merit
- Uncontrolled pollution of all the waters surrounding our Island

The Civil Service workers you may meet are just like us. It is the management and their processes which together have created this situation.

We have this huge, almost secret, organisation only accountable to itself, leading us like children behind the Pied Piper – or are we more like lemmings?

This unacceptable governance can be corrected by brave elected representatives at National and Local Levels who can retake control (the Constitutions require this) and tell the Civil Service who is in charge, force compliance to focus on the needs and aspirations of the electorate, and establish a sharp-toothed oversight on all their activities, and reduce their number by 10% for each of the next four years. Think of Select Committees with weapons.

We all have powerful roles here. 2024 is an election year at Local and National Level. We should all question the election candidates and support them to take control and focus the Civil Service on the projects and issues the Elected Representatives were elected to attack and resolve.