# Isle of Man residents voice safety fears over new oval roundabouts amid broader identity debates



Frustration and confusion have gripped residents of the Isle of Man as the introduction of painted oval-shaped roundabouts, known as 'roundels', along the Douglas Promenade has sparked concerns about safety and traffic flow. Part of a £26 million revamp, these distinctive junctions were designed to reduce speeds and encourage safer driving. However, locals argue that the lack of central islands has transformed them into what many see as potential 'deathtraps'.

Located at two major junctions connecting Broadway and Church Road Marina, these peculiar roundabouts have led to chaotic driving behaviours. Drivers, often treating the roundels as mere stretches of road, frequently speed over the markings, leading to a rise in accidents and near misses. Pedestrians, too, find themselves caught in a bind, unsure of their right of way, which heightens the already palpable sense of unease in the area. One business owner articulated the growing discontent, stating, “It’s honking every day… people aren’t sure what the rules are or if there are any rules at all.”

The introduction of these roundabouts raises questions about not only road safety but also the island’s approach to modernisation and engagement with traffic management best practices. An anonymous local lamented, “It seems we always have to be different on this island and that gets tiring after a while.” This sentiment reflects a broader discontent with the Isle of Man's increasingly distinct policies, underscored by recent developments such as the legalisation of assisted dying and medicinal cannabis.

In a significant legislative move, the Isle of Man's parliament recently approved a bill allowing assisted dying, positioning the island as a pioneering force within the British Isles. Terminally ill residents with less than a year to live will have the option to end their lives, provided they meet certain residency requirements. Critics of the bill raise concerns about safeguarding vulnerable individuals and the potential for 'death tourism', as the proposed law aims to restrict access exclusively to residents.

As one long-time resident pointed out, the shift from traditional values to more liberal legislation has been profound. “We used to be known for speed, now it’s taxes, assisted dying and old people retiring,” lamented student Sean Christian. This evolution raises questions about the Isle of Man's identity and its future direction amidst pressures for progressive reforms.

Despite the controversies surrounding both the roundabouts and the assisted dying bill, the Isle of Man continues to grapple with its identity in the face of modern challenges. Proponents of assisted dying argue it offers compassionate choices for terminally ill patients. Still, the complexities surrounding the implementation and ethical considerations remain subjects of intense debate. The island's trajectory towards reform reflects broader societal changes, illuminating the delicate balance between tradition and progress in this small but visible community.

In light of these developments, it remains to be seen how the Isle of Man will address the mounting concerns of its residents while navigating the intricacies of modern governance and ethical lawmaking. The mixed feelings surrounding both traffic management and end-of-life choices highlight the ongoing challenges faced by a community eager to embrace change while grappling with the implications of such transformations.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14687169/Is-WORST-roundabout-Despairing-residents-woke-Isle-Man-blast-crazy-painted-oval-roundel-introduced-26million-revamp-insist-deathtrap.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2: [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14687169/Is-WORST-roundabout-Despairing-residents-woke-Isle-Man-blast-crazy-painted-oval-roundel-introduced-26million-revamp-insist-deathtrap.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14687169/Is-WORST-roundabout-Despairing-residents-woke-Isle-Man-blast-crazy-painted-oval-roundel-introduced-26million-revamp-insist-deathtrap.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-10-31/assisted-dying-bill-one-step-closer-to-becoming-law)
* Paragraph 4: [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/31/isle-of-man-parliament-backs-bill-to-legalise-assisted-dying), [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-10-31/assisted-dying-bill-one-step-closer-to-becoming-law), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/30/assisted-dying-tourists-would-be-banned-from-isle-of-man/)
* Paragraph 5: [[7]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/sep/15/progressive-reform-or-slippery-slope-isle-of-man-leans-to-legalising-assisted-dying)
* Paragraph 6: [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/31/isle-of-man-parliament-backs-bill-to-legalise-assisted-dying), [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-10-31/assisted-dying-bill-one-step-closer-to-becoming-law), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/30/assisted-dying-tourists-would-be-banned-from-isle-of-man/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14687169/Is-WORST-roundabout-Despairing-residents-woke-Isle-Man-blast-crazy-painted-oval-roundel-introduced-26million-revamp-insist-deathtrap.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14687169/Is-WORST-roundabout-Despairing-residents-woke-Isle-Man-blast-crazy-painted-oval-roundel-introduced-26million-revamp-insist-deathtrap.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Residents on the Isle of Man have expressed concerns over newly introduced painted oval-shaped roundabouts along Douglas Promenade. Part of a £26 million revamp, these 'roundels' lack central islands, leading drivers to treat them as regular road sections, causing confusion and potential hazards. Pedestrians also face uncertainty regarding right of way. Local business owners report increased noise pollution and unease since their installation. The roundabouts are situated at busy junctions connecting Broadway and Church Road Marina, the largest settlement on the island. The Isle of Man's Department of Infrastructure has been approached for comment.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/31/isle-of-man-parliament-backs-bill-to-legalise-assisted-dying> - The Isle of Man's parliament has approved a bill to legalize assisted dying, making it the first part of the British Isles to do so. The legislation allows terminally ill adults with less than a year to live to end their lives, provided they have lived on the island for at least five years. The bill now awaits royal assent. While supporters view it as a compassionate choice, opponents express concerns about potential pressures on vulnerable individuals and the adequacy of safeguards.
4. <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-10-31/assisted-dying-bill-one-step-closer-to-becoming-law> - The Isle of Man's Assisted Dying Bill is progressing through parliament, bringing the island closer to legalizing assisted dying. The bill has passed its second reading and is set for further scrutiny. If enacted, it would allow terminally ill residents to choose to end their lives, with safeguards in place. Concerns include potential 'death tourism' and challenges in assessing life expectancy. The bill is expected to receive royal assent in 2024, with implementation likely in 2025.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/30/assisted-dying-tourists-would-be-banned-from-isle-of-man/> - If the Isle of Man legalizes assisted dying, the service will be restricted to residents only, according to Treasury Minister Dr. Alex Allinson. The bill, which has passed its first reading, aims to provide terminally ill adults with the option to end their lives. Dr. Allinson emphasized that the legislation is intended solely for island residents, with a minimum residency requirement of 12 months. This approach seeks to prevent 'death tourism' and manage the island's healthcare capacity.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckrdr89vp20o> - A report examining the details of laws that would give terminally ill Isle of Man residents the right to choose to end their lives has been delayed while further evidence is gathered. The Assisted Dying Bill 2023, a private members' bill by Alex Allinson MHK, passed its second reading in October, before a committee was appointed to examine its clauses the following month. The panel had been due to report back by the end of February, but chairman David Ashford said it was awaiting submissions from two 'important stakeholders', which would 'merit proper consideration'. Mr Ashford said those were expected 'very shortly' and the document should be ready by the end of March, if not sooner.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/sep/15/progressive-reform-or-slippery-slope-isle-of-man-leans-to-legalising-assisted-dying> - The Isle of Man is moving towards legalizing assisted dying, with the bill now requiring five years’ residency on the island, a prognosis of 12 months or less to live for adults over the age of 18, and mental competency. Life-ending drugs must be self-administered, and a conscience clause allows health care professionals to opt out of delivering the service. The bill was supported by two-thirds of the 24 members of the House of Keys, but there has been opposition to assisted dying from the Isle of Man Medical Society (IOMMS) and from faith organisations.