# Residents clash with Isle of Man government over £26m roundabout redesign and assisted dying law



Residents of the Isle of Man are voicing their frustration over the recent introduction of oval-shaped roundabouts, commonly referred to as 'roundels,' on Douglas Promenade after a staggering £26 million revamp. The Isle of Man's Department of Infrastructure claims these unconventional junctions are intended to enhance traffic flow and safety, but many locals perceive them as an impractical disaster in the making, contributing to a growing divide between the community and policymakers.

These roundabouts aim to connect key areas of Douglas, such as the busy Broadway and Church Road Marina. However, locals are concerned that the lack of a central island leads drivers to regard these roundels merely as extension points of the road rather than regulated junctions, resulting in traffic chaos. A nearby business owner lamented, "It's a nightmare," describing the relentless honking and confusion among both drivers and pedestrians. They expressed doubt about the enforcement of traffic rules, stating, "People aren't sure what the rules are or if there are any rules at all."

This frustration is intensifying against the backdrop of other progressive policies adopted by the Isle of Man, often dubbed the "Isle of Woke" for its liberal stands on issues such as assisted dying and medicinal cannabis legalisation. The controversial passage of the assisted dying legislation in April has ignited significant debate, with many residents fearing the repercussions of reforms that could tarnish the island's reputation, especially given its troubling suicide rates.

Together, the issues of roundabouts and assisted dying legislation illustrate an alarming trend towards unconventional policymaking that prioritises modernity over practicality. Many residents are increasingly disillusioned with these changes, reflecting a growing sentiment that the island's efforts to modernise have gone too far. One local poignantly remarked, "It seems we always have to be different on this island, and that gets tiring after a while."

Despite the Department of Infrastructure’s assurances that these roundabouts are forward-thinking traffic solutions, local pushback indicates a significant disconnect between the government and its constituents. Critics point out that the island’s progressive policies often seem to be implemented without adequate public consultation, leaving community members alienated from decisions that profoundly affect their lives.

Notably, a survey revealed that 74% of local doctors oppose the proposed assisted dying legislation, citing ethical concerns regarding protections for the vulnerable. This widespread unease further complicates the narrative of community satisfaction with the island's swift shift towards liberal policies.

As the Isle of Man grapples with these significant changes—both in traffic management and contentious ethical legislation—the friction between progressive initiatives and community dissent underscores the importance of prioritising local consensus. The ongoing controversies surrounding the roundabouts and the assisted dying law highlight a community in turmoil, attempting to reconcile its emerging identity with a legacy that is increasingly at odds with its residents' values.

As the island stands at this critical juncture, the challenges of navigating modernisation and ethical debates reveal a society in search of balance, desperately seeking a path that aligns with the genuine needs and sentiments of its people.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <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
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-57519235> - The BBC reports on the controversy surrounding the introduction of oval roundabouts, known as 'roundels', on the Isle of Man's Douglas Promenade. Locals have criticized the design, calling it a 'disaster waiting to happen' and a 'hideous eyesore'. The Department of Infrastructure defends the design as a modern traffic-calming measure, stating that motorists will become accustomed to it over time. The roundabouts aim to improve traffic flow and safety but have faced significant public backlash due to their unconventional appearance.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-58356140> - The BBC covers the opening of the controversial oval roundabout, or 'roundel', on Douglas Promenade. Despite initial criticism labeling it a 'joke' and a 'hideous eyesore', the roundabout has been opened to traffic. Local councillor Andrew Bentley expresses curiosity about its functionality but believes drivers will adapt. The Department of Infrastructure maintains that the roundabout is part of modern highway design and that motorists will soon get used to it.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-67136350> - The BBC reports on a survey conducted by the Isle of Man Medical Society, revealing that 74% of doctors oppose proposed assisted dying laws. The survey also indicates that 34% of respondents would consider leaving the island if the legislation is passed. The bill, which has passed its second reading in the House of Keys, would allow terminally ill residents with a life expectancy of less than six months to choose to end their lives.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-67273819> - The BBC reports on the progression of the Assisted Dying Bill 2023 in the Isle of Man's House of Keys. The bill, which has passed its second reading, would grant terminally ill residents the right to choose to end their lives. While some members support the bill as an act of compassion, others raise concerns about safeguards and the risk of coercion. The bill is now moving to the clauses stage for further debate.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c99wkjqy7x7o> - The BBC reports that the Isle of Man Medical Society supports a public vote on introducing assisted dying laws. Chief Minister Alfred Cannan has called for a referendum before the bill becomes law, stating that 'the public must decide'. The society has expressed concerns over safeguards and professional ethics but supports the public consultation process to ensure an informed discussion.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-57519235> - The BBC reports on the controversy surrounding the introduction of oval roundabouts, known as 'roundels', on the Isle of Man's Douglas Promenade. Locals have criticized the design, calling it a 'disaster waiting to happen' and a 'hideous eyesore'. The Department of Infrastructure defends the design as a modern traffic-calming measure, stating that motorists will become accustomed to it over time. The roundabouts aim to improve traffic flow and safety but have faced significant public backlash due to their unconventional appearance.