

The Tories, the Big Society and Jersey

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The [Jersey Evening Post](#) has published a gushing report saying:

PRIME Minister David Cameron should come to Jersey to see his vision of the 'Big Society' in action, according to one of his MPs who has been in the Island this week.

Conservative MP Daniel Kawczynski has been in the Island for an official visit, and he has echoed the comments about Jersey's community spirit that departing Lieutenant-Governor Andrew Ridgway made two months ago.

Mr Kawczynski — a junior agriculture minister who chairs two committees on relationships with the Arab world — said that Jersey's system of voluntary and honorary service was the model of the more caring society that Mr Cameron spoke about.

Well, let me set some facts straight.

Mr Kawczynski is not a junior agriculture minister. He has never held ministerial office - although his personal web site [says he is a member of the 'shadow' foreign office team](#) - indicating that he has not updated it since May 2010 - such is his attention to his duties. What he actually is is parliamentary private secretary to a junior agriculture minister - something very different indeed.

And Mr Kawczynski is not a member of any select committees at all right now - [because he so rarely turned up when he was](#).

So Mr Kawczynski seems best noted for being that sort of Tory MP whose concept of the Big Society is getting elected to a pretty safe seat, ignoring the constituents, for whose benefit he can't even communicate what he's doing, going on some nice jollies to places like Jersey and doing as little as possible in Westminster.

And we're supposed to be impressed by this man's opinion?

Oh come on Jersey! When you can't even report his status properly please don't ask us to believe the guff as well.

And guff it is. Because the reality is Jersey is a place riddled by fear, populated by people who can't afford to buy homes, who know their government is going bust, who are having more tax demanded of them just to support tax avoiders and evaders and which is running an illegal tax regime to ensure that the place continues to be considered a pariah on the international stage.

And that's the Tory vision of the Big Society?

Well, maybe it is.

I take it all back.