



*Please VOTE for*

Andrew

**BENTLEY**

DOUGLAS BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION  
THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018  
DERBY WARD

*Please feel free to contact me*

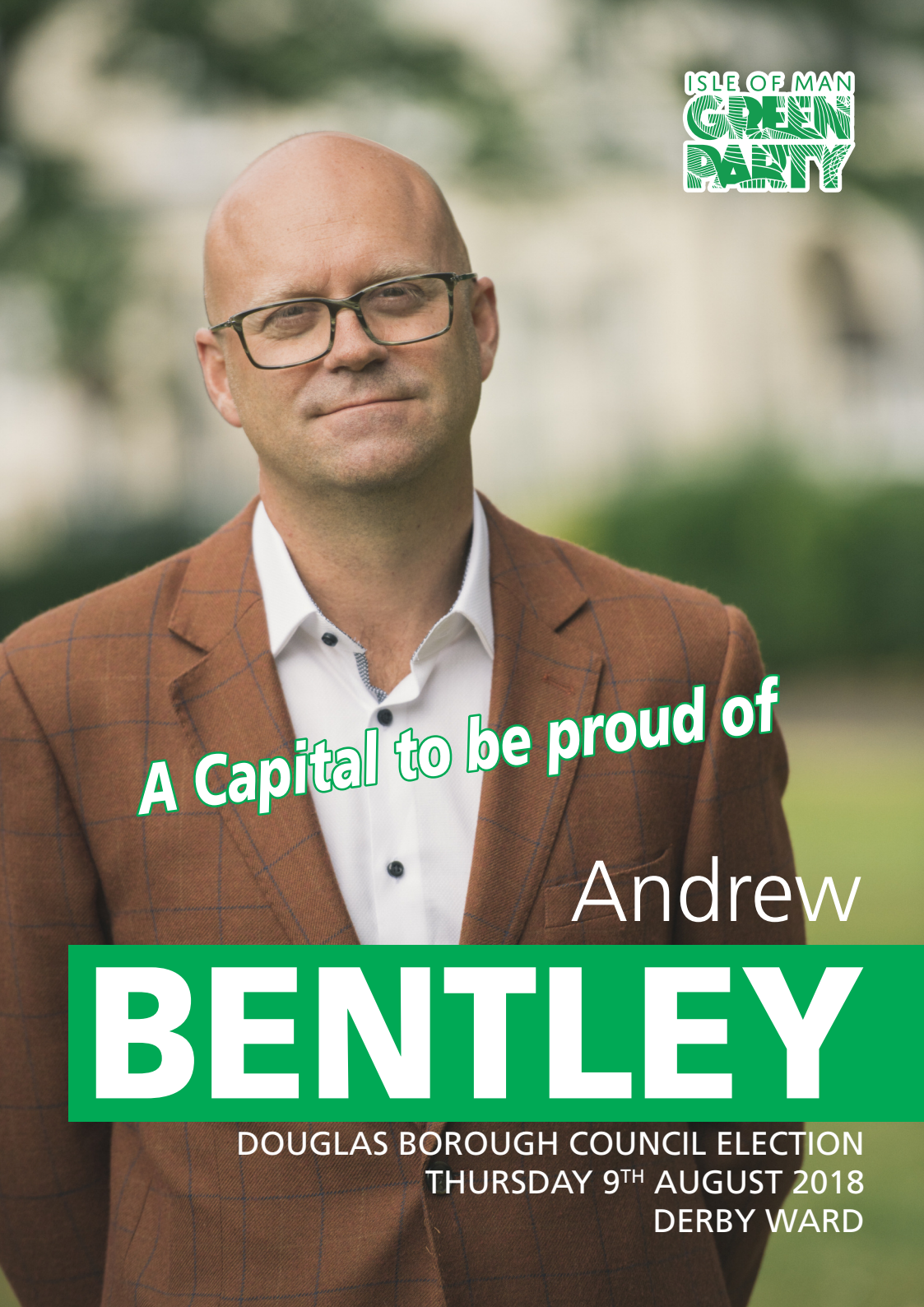
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 Andrew Bentley - Candidate for Derby Ward



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*A Capital to be proud of*

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## About me

I'm Andrew Bentley, an architect and chairman of the Isle of Man Green Party. I came to Douglas as a child in 1983, and after spending much of the 1990's in the UK, Spain and Italy I returned to the island in 2001.

Architecture is both my passion and my career and after working in government and private practice I started running my own business in

2013. Like most people I talk to, I feel dissatisfaction at the appearance of central Douglas. I believe it can be better and I would like to offer my vision and experience to the council. A founding member of The Green Party in 2016, I am motivated by a belief that it should be easier to carry out our daily activities without compromising the wellbeing of our planet.

## Regeneration

The most pressing issue in Douglas is the regeneration of the town centre and its surroundings. There are too many vacant sites and unused buildings, some of which are in a state of disrepair and many owned by the Government. Regeneration isn't just about expensive paving and shiny new buildings, we need to find imaginative uses for the town's unused buildings and the

use of public art can enhance an unloved space. I have recently been inspired by my involvement with Castletown Commissioner's Barracks Square regeneration, where I designed a pizza restaurant in an old mortuary. This together with some murals has successfully turned a tired car park into a vibrant public space. Similar regeneration in Douglas would be of benefit to all.

## Parks and Squares

Derby Ward is the most densely populated area in Douglas with relatively little public open space. These spaces are well used by all ages and I would oppose any reduction in council owned amenity space in the ward. I believe in community involvement and any

changes proposed should be carried out in consultation with the residents of the area. In recent summers the council has sown wild flowers on Douglas Head, which has proved popular with both people and wildlife. I would like to see more such schemes around the town.

## Waste

The public are ever more conscious of the issue of waste, its impact on the environment and cost of its disposal. Great efforts have been made in recent years to improve recycling facilities and this needs to be supported with strategies to encourage the reuse of materials and the avoidance of waste production in the first place. The Government has launched its

Single Use Plastics Reduction Plan which intends to reduce the use of disposable plastic from government activities. I would like Douglas Borough Council to follow their example. We should celebrate retailers who minimise their waste output, possibly through the Douglas Town Centre Management, and encourage local food producers to sell in the town.

## Transport

The Government has approved its Active Travel Strategy which aims to increase the proportion of people who walk or cycle to work from 14% to 20% which is a positive policy that the council should embrace. For an island with such a proud cycling heritage there is still relatively little cycling infrastructure, and with half the island's population living within

easy cycling distance of the town centre there is great potential for improvement. We should expect larger commercial developments to provide secure dry bicycle storage and changing facilities for employees as part of planning applications. Secure bicycle shelters should also be provided in the town centre for the public, and let's make them interesting and fun.