



Stonham Ward

June 2019

**Wrap around support to help rough sleepers maintain tenancies
Greater support will be available in Suffolk to help rough sleepers find and retain private sector housing following a successful bid for Government funds.**

At the moment housing authorities often find that private sector landlords are unwilling to house somebody who has been homeless and sleeping rough as that person may have addiction, mental health or other complex needs and require support.

That in turn leaves councils and rough sleepers dependent on hostel and other emergency or temporary accommodation beds which isn't always ideal.

Now Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, and West Suffolk Council are to create a Supported Lettings Team that will enable it to offer greater assurances and confidence to landlords to house these tenants.

The team is being established following a joint bid for £209,000 from the councils to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as part of the Government's plans to end rough sleeping by 2027.

The support team will step in to help people at the early stages of rough sleeping before they become entrenched in the lifestyle and their support needs become much more complex.

The help it will provide will include support:

- to develop independent living skills;
- with learning and skills to manage a tenancy and adhere to tenancy terms;
- with learning to budget;
- to access or signposting to health and care services;
- with budget management, benefits, work or education;
- to develop and cultivate support networks

Cllr Julie Flatman, cabinet member for Communities and Housing at Mid Suffolk District Council, said:

“We understand how important it is for everyone to have a place to call home, regardless of their situation. It's great we've been able to secure funding to offer support to those at risk of homelessness when they need it most, whilst giving them the life skills to become more independent. This specialised team will play a



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vital role in preventing and reducing homelessness in line with the aims set out in our Joint Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy with Babergh.”

Cllr Sara Mildmay-White, Deputy Leader and cabinet member for Housing at West Suffolk Council, said:

“This will enable us to help people by wrapping support around their tenancies, tailored to whatever their individual needs are, offering the assurances that landlords need that they won’t be left in the lurch if problems occur. It will complement the work of our rough sleeper outreach team which includes expertise in mental health and addiction support, and it will further our ongoing work to both prevent and reduce rough sleeping.”

The six newly funded posts will be advertised in the next few weeks. Once available, you'll be able to [find more information about these vacancies](#) on Suffolk Jobs Direct.

Plans submitted for future of Stowmarket Middle School site Mid Suffolk District Council has submitted a planning application to transform the former Stowmarket Middle School site into 38 much-needed affordable homes for the town.

The planning application, validated and [available on the council’s planning pages website](#), proposes building 38 dwellings on the site of the former middle school in Walnut Tree Walk.

The school buildings on the site have been redundant since the closure of the school in summer 2015, following Suffolk County Council’s decision to go to a two tier education system.

Under the plans submitted, in total the former middle school site will offer:

- 6 one bedroom apartments
- 8 two-bedroom flats
- 14 two-bedroom houses
- 8 three-bedroom houses
- 2 four-bedroom houses

The proposals were drawn up by Norwich-based company Ingleton Wood following a public consultation carried out last November and do not affect the adjacent recreation fields, multi-use sports area and skate park.

Cllr Julie Flatman, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, said:



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“We have a pressing housing need in Mid Suffolk, particularly for affordable housing, and we are constantly looking at the best ways to use our own resources and also team up with others to free up sites which are suitable for redevelopment. We believe there is an opportunity to regenerate and redevelop the former school, which could breathe new life into a brownfield site as well as helping to meet the town’s housing need.”

The proposals will be considered by Members of Mid Suffolk’s Development Control Committee later this year. Residents are invited to comment on the application either via the Council’s planning pages or by [emailing the planning team](#).

District Council pledges support for Bosch Workers

Mid Suffolk District Council has pledged to support all its residents facing redundancy as a result of changes at Bosch’s Lawn & Garden factory in Stowmarket, following the company’s announcement of a restructure that could affect jobs at the site.

Mid Suffolk is preparing to help those affected over the coming months after staff were informed of the planned restructure on Tuesday (28 May).

The support will be tailored to the situation in Stowmarket, which will become clearer over the coming weeks. However in the past Mid Suffolk has organised Support Days for workers with other partners from both the private and public sectors, to ensure those impacted are fully informed about both the support and the opportunities available in the area.

Cllr Gerard Brewster, Mid Suffolk District Council’s Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, said: “It’s never a pleasant experience to lose a job and in light of the hard work and improvements in efficiency at Bosch over recent years I know this must be a real blow to the men and women who are at risk. We at Mid Suffolk will be there to help them over the coming months, not only in enabling them find the support they need but also in putting them in touch with other local businesses who could use their skills and experience.

“While the news that research and development will continue in Mid Suffolk does show that our district remains an attractive place for businesses and innovation, that certainly won’t take the sting out of the news for Bosch’s current employees. They are part of a highly skilled and committed workforce, and we’ll be working to make sure their skills won’t be lost and can be put to work in new roles as swiftly as possible.”



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Mid Suffolk elects new Leader

Cllr Suzie Morley has been elected the Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, with Cllrs Lavinia Hadingham and Barry Humphreys MBE serving as Chair and Vice-Chair, at the council's Annual Council Meeting.

Mid Suffolk's Annual Council Meeting on Monday (20 May) evening saw Cllr Suzie Morley (Conservative) elected as Leader. This was the first meeting of the council following the Local Elections earlier this month.

Cllr Suzie Morley, newly elected Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, said: "It is a great and humbling honour to be elected Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council. I do so at a time of significant change, but also following a time of great progress, and achievement, that we - members and officers - can be proud of.

"In the coming weeks and months, our administration will set out its priorities for the next four years. We welcome a lively debate on this, and, as in the previous 4 years, we will be open, transparent and inclusive."

As new Leader, Cllr Morley named Cllr Gerard Brewster as the Deputy Leader of the Council.

The meeting was opened by Mr Derrick Haley, who was elected Chairman last year. Although Mr Haley did not stand in the recent elections and is no longer a councillor, as the previous Chairman he was invited to open the meeting and chair the first agenda item, which saw Cllr Lavinia Hadingham elected as his successor as Chair of the Council. The meeting also saw Cllr Barry Humphreys MBE elected to serve as Vice-Chair. Cllr Hadingham named Mid Suffolk Home-Start, a charity that recruits and trains volunteers who have parenting experience themselves and offer families informal, friendly and confidential support as their Chair's Charity for 2019/20.