



Babergh District Council - Media Release

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PLACES AVAILABLE IN COUNCILS' SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEMES

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils are keen to attract new applicants to their sheltered housing. Many people may not even realise that they qualify.

Sheltered housing offers older people the opportunity to retain their independence, in a flat of their own and have the security of knowing that there is a scheme manager to check up on them every week day.

Alan Lawson has lived at Mason's Court, in Mendlesham, for the last two years. He used to work as a builder with a shared flat but following an accident, he lost his job and then struggled to pay the rent, so opted for sheltered housing.

He said: "I have made quite a few friends here and in the village itself. This was the first place I looked at and as soon as I saw it, I knew I wanted to live here. All the flats have been re-vamped and re-wired. Each has a lovely new kitchen and bathroom plus communal gardens."

Another tenant there is Iris Rosier. She has been in sheltered housing for nearly eight years. After her husband passed away, she left Stowmarket to be nearer her son in Mendlesham.

Iris said: "I love living here and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. It is warm and cosy.

I see the other tenants fairly regularly and play Bingo three times a week. I also attend the over 60s club. What's great about sheltered accommodation is the nice, friendly atmosphere and being able to pop and see friends without having to go outside. Then again if you want your own space, you can always shut your front door."

Sue Lister, the Councils' Corporate Manager - Supported Housing, said: "Anyone over 60 is able to apply for sheltered housing. People opt for our sheltered housing for many reasons such as wanting to move closer to their family but at the same time retain their independence.

"Many people enjoy the companionship of living with others of a similar age and at the same time not have the worry of managing a home and a garden. All schemes have alarms for residents to summon help in an emergency at any time of the day or night.

"We welcome applications from all sectors of the community. Even if you do not think you qualify but would like some advice, our team is happy to answer your questions."

All sheltered accommodation is self contained. The larger schemes are made up of individual flats with communal facilities such as a laundry, lounge and guest rooms. Other schemes have bungalows with a communal lounge. There are often social activities organised by the residents.

Another factor for opting for sheltered housing is affordability. Charges vary but are typically about £100 a week* including service charges, utilities and support costs.

Across the two district areas, there are sheltered housing schemes in many villages and towns including Lavenham, Long Melford, Nayland, Hadleigh, Sudbury, Stowmarket, Eye, Elmswell and Needham Market. In addition there are two very sheltered schemes at Sydney Brown Court, Hadleigh & William Wood House, Sudbury.

Anyone interested in applying should either register on the website:
www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk or contact 01449 724760