

Tim Shaw – Independent

My Constituency Network December 2023

Putting empty homes into use



**Tonbridge County Constituency
Parliamentary Candidate 2024**

timshaw1@btinternet.com

www.timshaw.info

Dear friends welcome to the December edition of **My Community Network** for keeping you informed of issues that I am representing you on within our constituency. I am a local family man, born and bred in Borough Green. Businessman, ex - school governor, Parish & T&MB councillor. My mission includes building a network of support for improving our constituency and to represent our people. *month's edition focuses on 'The Empty Homes' situation here in Kent. A topic I am pursuing.*

Fact – KCC launched its 'No Use Empty' campaign in 2005. The aim to bring back empty properties for use as quality housing accommodation and to raise awareness of the issues surrounding empty properties highlighting the problems caused to local authorities such as TMBC. In Kent we have circa 5,000 long term empty properties.



Focus – England has circa 400, 000 empty homes. New schemes are taking derelict homes and resurrecting them. Some even create apprenticeships for young people in the process. Ask most people about England's epidemic of empty homes and they are likely to think of lavish vacant mansions in London owned by absent foreign billionaires. In fact, the majority of empty properties are in post – industrial areas, where poverty rates are high and house prices languish well below their pre-crash levels. UK Govt must pledge an extra £2b for housing associations to fund the upgrading of empty homes.



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