# Mitzi and Tony Bradshaw transform empty North Norfolk homes to tackle housing crisis



Mitzi and Tony Bradshaw's venture to renovate empty properties and holiday lets in North Norfolk stands as a beacon of hope amidst a growing housing crisis. With an eye toward revitalising their community, the couple aims to transform neglected spaces into affordable homes, thereby addressing both housing shortages and local employment prospects. Their recent success in refurbishing Northfield House in Mundesley, which they plan to rent out, is just the beginning of an ambitious project that could reshape the area’s housing landscape.

The Bradshaws’ plans reflect wider concerns about housing availability in North Norfolk, where statistics reveal a troubling trend. An increasing population has led to significant housing demand, but only a limited number of affordable homes—around 238 are projected to become available in the district over the next year. This shortage is exacerbated by the prevalence of second homes and holiday lets, which account for about 8% of council tax properties in the area. With 7,169 such properties present, many stand empty and unoccupied for most of the year, raising questions about their impact on local communities.

Mitzi Bradshaw highlights a triad of pressing issues facing Mundesley: housing shortages, lack of job opportunities for youth, and inadequate transport links. Over the past five years, the couple has secured funding through a loan against their own property to kick-start their first refurbishment, now seeking broader financial backing to expand their efforts. They are particularly focused on targeting empty homes and holiday lets, many of which languish unused while local families struggle to find affordable lodging.

In tandem with improving housing, the Bradshaws are committed to nurturing local youth by offering them practical work experience. Tony Bradshaw's construction background allows him to teach practical skills to three teenagers involved in the project. Their engagement has received positive feedback, underscoring the benefits of providing young people with meaningful opportunities at a time when many face barriers to employment. For young individuals like Jake Stewart and Jeremy Rogers, who have faced challenges during and after school, the chance to work on the renovation has been transformative.

Local governing bodies are also taking proactive steps to alleviate the housing crisis. The North Norfolk District Council has launched initiatives to bring long-term empty properties back into use. The Council's Empty Homes Officer works actively with property owners to provide essential support ranging from refurbishment advice to connecting owners with potential tenants. These measures form part of a broader strategy to turn vacant homes into viable housing options for residents.

Furthermore, the Council imposes additional council tax premiums on long-term empty homes as an incentive to encourage property owners to reoccupy their buildings. This approach aligns with their goals to reduce the number of unoccupied properties and increase the overall housing stock in the district. In collaboration with local housing associations, the Council is exploring ways to engage small and medium-sized developers in the construction of new affordable homes, thereby supporting both families and young individuals who might otherwise face difficulties affording local living.

While the Bradshaws’ efforts and the Council's initiatives depict a concerted response to the local housing crisis, the road ahead remains challenging. With high demand and limited supply, North Norfolk’s housing landscape requires ongoing cooperation between community leaders, developers, and residents to ensure that strategies implemented not only address current shortages but also foster sustainable growth for the future. The warm reception of the Bradshaw's project illustrates the potential for grassroots initiatives to make significant, positive changes for communities grappling with the harsh realities of housing insecurity.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25177891.mundesley-couple-battle-north-norfolk-affordable-home-desert/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2025/february/council-continues-to-fill-homes-by-helping-to-bring-long-term-empty-homes-back-into-use/> - North Norfolk District Council is actively addressing the housing shortage by assisting property owners in bringing long-term empty homes back into use. The Council's Empty Homes Officer offers support in various areas, including providing advice on letting or selling properties, connecting owners with estate agents and potential tenants, and offering guidance on refurbishment and energy efficiency improvements. This initiative aims to increase the availability of housing in the district, particularly for those in need, by utilising existing empty properties. The Council also imposes additional council tax premiums on long-term empty homes to encourage reoccupation.
3. <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2022/october/the-council-is-recruiting-an-empty-homes-and-revenues-generation-officer/> - In October 2022, North Norfolk District Council announced the creation of a new role titled 'Empty Homes and Revenues Generation Officer' to tackle the issue of empty homes in the district. This officer is responsible for identifying unoccupied and unfurnished properties, ensuring they are charged the correct rate of council tax, and working with owners to bring these homes back into use. The initiative aims to address the housing crisis by increasing the availability of homes for local residents and reducing the number of empty properties in the area.
4. <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2022/july/the-possible-impacts-of-second-and-holiday-homes-in-north-norfolk/> - In July 2022, North Norfolk District Council discussed a report on the impacts of second and holiday homes in the area. The report highlighted that North Norfolk had 7,169 second and holiday homes, representing 8.0% of council tax homes. The Council charges 100% of council tax on the majority of second homes and has chosen not to reduce the council tax on these properties. The report also noted that second and holiday homes play a significant part in generating local income and employment, contributing £529 million to the district's economy in 2019.
5. <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/housing-strategy-community-support/affordable-housing/small-sites-for-new-homes-in-north-norfolk/> - North Norfolk District Council, in collaboration with local housing associations, is working on a project to provide more affordable homes by encouraging small and medium-sized developers to bring forward sites for new homes. The initiative offers benefits to developers, such as a guaranteed price and support with planning applications, and aims to deliver quality affordable homes to the community, helping to retain young people and families who may otherwise be unable to afford to rent or buy a house locally.
6. <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2022/july/the-possible-impacts-of-second-and-holiday-homes-in-north-norfolk/> - In July 2022, North Norfolk District Council discussed a report on the impacts of second and holiday homes in the area. The report highlighted that North Norfolk had 7,169 second and holiday homes, representing 8.0% of council tax homes. The Council charges 100% of council tax on the majority of second homes and has chosen not to reduce the council tax on these properties. The report also noted that second and holiday homes play a significant part in generating local income and employment, contributing £529 million to the district's economy in 2019.
7. <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/news/2025/february/council-continues-to-fill-homes-by-helping-to-bring-long-term-empty-homes-back-into-use/> - North Norfolk District Council is actively addressing the housing shortage by assisting property owners in bringing long-term empty homes back into use. The Council's Empty Homes Officer offers support in various areas, including providing advice on letting or selling properties, connecting owners with estate agents and potential tenants, and offering guidance on refurbishment and energy efficiency improvements. This initiative aims to increase the availability of housing in the district, particularly for those in need, by utilising existing empty properties. The Council also imposes additional council tax premiums on long-term empty homes to encourage reoccupation.