

KBS TAKES FLIGHT

Ed Penny, Managing Director of Kingfisher Building Services LLP said of his new business venture with Kingfisher Housing Association,

“These are really exciting times for us at KBS, formerly A&E Builders. Every year around 20,000 separate repairs are carried out for Kingfisher in their residents’ homes costing over £1.6million.

By setting up KBS LLP as a joint venture company with Kingfisher, creates an even stronger partnership.

We are able to save costs and create other efficiencies as well as seeing how we can improve services with even closer working arrangements, benefiting thousands of residents.”

NEW CONTRACT WON FOR VOID PROPERTIES

Ed Penny, Managing Director of KBS LLP loves empty properties. That’s because KBS LLP has just won the £500,000 a year contract to make good and refurbish all Kingfisher and HVHS Housing Group’s properties that become empty, around 500 each year.

Ed Penny KBS MD says, “I’m thrilled that KBS has won this big contract to work on all Kingfisher’s and HVHS’ void properties. To have won such a significant contract within our first year of operation is a real boost to us and shows what confidence there is from our partners in our staff and the service we provide for residents.”



A KBS workman about to carry out some work on a ‘void’ property.

KBS carries out a schedule of work which includes gas and electric safety checks and basic repairs, including checking the smoke detectors are working. Items such as sanitary ware, kitchen cupboards, walls and doors are also checked and where necessary cleaned and made serviceable, ready for a new family to move in quickly.



Checks being carried out on an empty property

Kingfisher NEWS

BUILDING SERVICES



SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS ABOUT TWO NEW CONTRACTS WON BY KBS



Who Are Kingfisher Building Services LLP (KBS)

Kingfisher Building Services LLP or KBS as they are known was set up in July 2007 as a joint venture repairs and maintenance company between the well established, Basingstoke building firm A&E Builders and one of their



Unveiling the logo at KBS's launch ceremony are Carol Williams Kingfisher MD, Allan Penny A&E MD, Brian Hutchison Wessex Group Chief Executive, Chris Holland Kingfisher Chairman, Ed Penny KBS's new MD

main clients, Kingfisher Housing Association, creating huge benefits both in improved service provision and cost effectiveness created by a closer working relationship.

A family firm of 25 years standing, A&E Builders (now KBS LLP) run by Allan and Ed Penny, had built up an excellent working relationship with Kingfisher Housing Association, carrying out all their responsive repairs work on over 6,000 homes throughout Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire.

By doing so much work together, it was sensible to set up a joint repairs and maintenance business to expertly handle all of Kingfisher's repairs on its resident's homes, as well as doing work for residents of HVHS Housing Group in Winchester, who are part of Wessex Housing Partnership of which Kingfisher is a member.

Front page photo:
Sealing the deal on setting up KBS



The KBS workforce outside their new premises in Basingstoke, next to their newly liveried vans

Key Message – No Change for Residents

For the thousands of residents of Kingfisher Housing Association, the key message with the formation of KBS is that there will be no change in the excellent repairs service that they have always received. The same workmen will be carrying out the work on residents' homes, with the only change being the new KBS logos on their vans and uniforms.

Residents continue to report their repairs directly to their landlord, Kingfisher, who then pass them on to KBS for action within the agreed timescales.

New Premises Aid KBS' Growth

Having formed a business partnership with Kingfisher Housing Association, KBS LLP have increased their workload, winning 2 major new contracts in addition to their existing work: -

- The stripping out of an 18,500sq ft office headquarters building
- The contract to refurbish all Kingfisher and HVHS Housing Group's empty or void properties

With so much extra work, larger, more modern premises were needed to accommodate the office staff, together with workshops, sufficient storage and vehicle parking.

KBS' new bespoke premises are at the Moniton Trading Estate in Basingstoke, giving sufficient space for their growing needs.



Kingfisher's new offices at Saxon Court, Sarum Hill, Basingstoke

KBS COMPLETES STRIPPING OUT CONTRACT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

KBS LLP was pleased to gain the stripping out contract for a new headquarters' building for its partner organisations Kingfisher Housing Association and Wessex Housing Partnership in Basingstoke and finished the work ahead of schedule!

The contract was for the stripping out before refurbishment work started on the 18,500sq ft new headquarters building.

Wessex Group Chief Executive Brian Hutchison said, "As a rapidly expanding business, Kingfisher and Wessex have outgrown our existing building and moving to this new headquarters will allow our expansion to continue and enable our

residents and other customers to retain their easy access to us, together with providing staff with an excellent and convenient working environment."

The buildings have been empty for some years and need to be brought up to modern standards for the 130 staff that will be relocating to the building in the summer.

Ed Penny KBS Managing Director commented, "I am delighted to say that KBS finished this stripping out contract ahead of schedule, allowing the main fitting out works to start quickly, giving Kingfisher an earlier moving in date, something that they were keen to achieve."

APPRENTICE CARVES A NAME FOR HIMSELF

KBS LLP is proud to have taken on its first apprentice! Kristian Tolbod of Swallowfield, near Reading has been working for KBS LLP for just over 8 months and he is already making a name for himself!

Kristian is employed as a trainee and will try his hand at the various skills KBS employ. He spends time with the skilled KBS workforce as they carry out their routine day-to-day maintenance work for Kingfisher Housing Association's 6,000 homes.

Kristian is currently studying a 3 year apprenticeship with Basingstoke College of Technology, where he attends college 3 days a week and spends 2 days gaining valuable first hand experience with the KBS workforce.

Kristian says of his work experience with KBS, "I am really enjoying my placement with KBS, it is a friendly place to be and I am learning all the trades."

Ed Penny, MD at Kingfisher Building Services LLP said "KBS wanted to take on an apprentice student to do our bit filling the construction skills gap that exists. As an expanding company, we felt we were in a good position to take on a work placement and help to train more people in the industry. Kristian is great to have around; he has really fitted into the team. We are committed to giving him the best opportunities we can to help him with his studies and he is working with a very dedicated and experienced team of tradesmen."



Kristian Tolbod KBS' first apprentice with KBS MD Ed Penny