

The following article by Terry Sutton is intended to provoke and stimulate the membership of the Dover Society into discussion as to the future housing issues within Dover and District. To that end the Editor would like to ask for contributions from members, to appear in the next newsletter, either for against or somewhere in between.

MORE HOUSES

by Terry Sutton

Just how many new homes should be built in the Dover area in the next 20 years? That's a planning decision that is awaited from the office of John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

The government has called for a massive home building programme in the south east of England and the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) has decided that in the region as whole 28,900 dwellings should be provided each year between 2006-2016.

Kent County Council was called on to make recommendations on how many of these houses should be built in the county.

Three options were suggested over the 20 years for the Dover district - a low level of 5,900, a medium range of 7,900 or a massive 9,900. Most of these, it is suggested, should be provided in and around the town of Dover. Dover District Council, after consultations with parish councils and others, recommended ?? (still to be decided).

It is claimed by county planners there is a potential land supply in the

immediate Dover area for 4,780 new homes, a number of which could be built in the town itself. But, if the planned house building goes ahead, it is obvious any new estates will have to be located out of the Dover valley probably to the north and towards the Whitfield area. Some green fields will be lost to housing estates, although how much will be reduced if Connaught Barracks is sold by the Ministry of Defence and made available for homes.

The planners at district, county and regional levels are not only investigating land supply for homes but also the creation of new jobs for workers (and that means more land for business parks) to fill the homes and the necessary infrastructure required for the new estates.

There are already calls, especially from the parishes, for roads, sewers, community centres - even a new Dover hospital - to be provided in advance to serve the expected population growth if all this planning goes ahead by the year 2026.

