From: Lesley Whybrow
Sent: 12 March 2013 13:26
To: Sansom, Alexandra
Subject: South East Plan

Dear Alexandra

Following the Inspector's request for comments, would you please pass on the message below to him.

Lesley Whybrow

Unfortunately I wasn't aware of the core strategy consultation at the very beginning so I was unable to submit comments when the number of new homes in Shepway was first being discussed.

However, I do have very serious concerns that the number of homes proposed (8800) is too high and that the infrastructure particularly the water supply, roads and hospital services will not be able to cope with such a big increase in the population. The large planned increases in Ashford and Dover need to be taken into account too.

I don't dispute that we do need more homes (and particularly affordable homes) but not this many. I just can't see that building homes alone will give the area the economic boost it needs and think Shepway should be concentrating on encouraging new employment in the area before worrying about so many new homes.

As was clear from the public hearings last week, a lot of the planned development will be on flood zone 3 and I think that the revocation of the South East Plan would be a good opportunity to take another look at the total number of new houses to be built. Choosing a smaller target would mean less pressure to build on flood risk areas as well as taking some of the pressure of more controversial developments on land which is currently open space.

There is no doubt that there are areas in Folkestone in particular which urgently need regenerating and it would be better were Shepway to concentrate their efforts on that and dealing with the large number of empty homes in the area rather than aiming for an unrealistically high total number of new homes.

I welcome the fact that Neighbourhood Plans will now give the public more say in the future of their towns and I hope the Local Plan will reflect that.