

# The New Town Story

**Use the information on this page to help you to answer the questions on the worksheet. You might not need all of the information, but you will need to read the whole page first.**

After the Second World War many areas of London were so badly damaged by the bombing that had happened, that people could no longer live there. Lots of people needed new homes. People also wanted to move out of the big cities like London into smaller towns. To help solve the problems, in 1946 the government decided to build eight new towns around London in places like Stevenage and Hatfield. These towns had to be close enough to London for people to get to work in the city, but far enough away so that they were not part of London. All the towns chosen were about 30 miles (48 km) from London.

In 1947 the government said that it was to build a New Town around three small communities in Sussex; Crawley, Three Bridges and Ifield. The area was chosen because it had good level land, a railway line and because it was about the right distance from London.

At first some of the people who lived in the area complained and tried to stop the building because they did not want to live in a big town. However, later that year they began to build Crawley New Town. They started by making a Master Plan, to decide what they were going to do. The person in charge of all the work was Sir Thomas Bennett.

In 1974, Sussex was divided into two counties, East and West Sussex. Crawley is now the biggest town in West Sussex. Nearly 100,000 people live in the town.