

Instant homes arrive on the back of a lorry

By David Vincent

A NEW type of "instant home" is being developed in East Suffolk which could help ease the country's housing crisis.

Thousands of new homes are needed over the next few years but building is slowing down as a result of the credit crunch.

The answer could be the show home prototype from a Suffolk business.

The steel-framed Bright Build home can be delivered to the site and within two hours it can be assembled.

Just two days later it is ready for a family to move in.

The new development is the idea of business partners Mark Pryor and David Lowne whose prototype, the Bright Build Mark 1 is now on display at Tunstall, near Woodbridge.

The Bright Build home has a steel

structure with dry lined walls and insulation, and is supplied fully fitted with kitchen and bathroom, and with double glazing and electric heating, from £60,000 plus the cost of the site.

Mark Pryor said: "We call them "ready made homes".

"We have had a lot of interest already and we are also talking to housing associations.

"It could be the answer for first time buyers trying to get on to the property ladder."

In some parts of the country pre-fab homes, originally built as temporary housing, have remained popular and in use.

There are many on the Rushmere housing estate in Ipswich that date back to the late 1940s.

Nationally several companies are producing timber frame pre-built housing units which can be delivered to sites and assembled quite quickly.

Often they are then clad with bricks.

Some of these have been bought by housing associations for use in areas of special housing need.

Mark Pryor's background in industry was in providing instant space for commerce and industry, including site offices and facilities for staff on building project.

David Lowne has a building industry experience in residential and commercial property.

Mark Pryor added: "There is a desperate shortage of housing, especially in the countryside for local people.

"There is a problem in rural areas, like ours, and house prices are high. You could find sites for two or three of these in most villages. I think it is a great idea for the countryside.

"It is also an opportunity for young people to have their own home."

The Bright Build show home has 723sq feet of space and is made up of

three 22ft by 11ft units.

A home could be made of four units rather than three, or the measurements of each unit could go up to 14 ft wide rather than 11 ft, the maximum width for delivery.

The homes arrive on the back of trailers and fit together. There are no foundations and the site must be level, explained Mark.

"You need to put down concrete or steel plate foundation pads for them. Anyone with groundwork experience could prepare their own site before the home arrives.

"In areas where there is flooding you could put them on stilts."

The units are fully lined and insulated and meet and exceed current building regulations.

There is also the possibility of adding environmental features such as living roofs, rain water harvesting or solar panels.

The show home units are divided

into a living area, kitchen dining area and bedroom dining area, although the layout is flexible.

The bathroom is fully fitted with bath with shower over, hand wash basin and close coupled dual flush cistern, with electrically heated towel rail.

The kitchen has glass fronted and high gloss lacquer units, stainless steel sink and appliances which include an electric ceramic hob and integrated extractor fan, and there are units ready to receive integrated fridge/freezer, oven, dishwasher and washing machine.

Bedrooms have double built-in wardrobes.

Mark Pryor said he was already talking to suppliers and contractors with the intention of manufacturing in East Suffolk.

For more information call 0844 391 0420 or visit the website Brightbuild.co.uk