



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **“GARDEN COMMUNITIES” – AND HOW COMMUNITIES CAN FIGHT THEM**

The Government’s “garden communities” programme threatens to create more and more patches of car-dependent sprawl around England’s countryside, but a new report shows it is possible to fight these unsustainable developments, and how to do it.

*Garden Communities – And How to Counter Them* is the third report by the Smart Growth UK coalition on the billion pound Government programme to build new settlements. The earlier reports showed why they represent the worst of unsustainable development and why communities oppose them. The new report shows how they’re doing just that.

“Garden communities do little to address housing need and are almost all built in the wrong places,” says the report. “They are already swallowing more than a billion pounds of public money to produce a small proportion of the Government’s housing targets over a very long period.”

Central to the report are contributions from four community groups fighting the sprawl settlements, setting out just what other communities need to do to defeat them.

The report also reviews the 50 garden community proposals which shows they:-

- are overwhelmingly greenfield;
- are not all new communities, some are just urban extensions while others are just agglomerations of all an area’s major sprawl proposals;
- seldom have rail access and none is situated on a major city rail network;
- are usually situated next to motorways and trunk roads, undermining claims about sustainable transport;
- squander scarce land with very low densities;
- are soaking up public cash to ensure commercial returns;

**Notes to editors:** The Part 2 report can be found at:-

[http://www.smartgrowthuk.org/resources/downloads/Garden\\_Communities\\_Report\\_2020.pdf](http://www.smartgrowthuk.org/resources/downloads/Garden_Communities_Report_2020.pdf)

[Smart Growth UK](#) is an informal coalition of national and local groups and individuals who support the “Smart Growth” approach to spatial, transport and community planning. This promotes compact and functional urban areas and sustainable transport options and opposes urban sprawl and car-dependency.

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