

## Air Quality and Climate Change – How Worried Are You?

The National Audit Office, the people who keep on the government, published a report last week that was very critical about the way that the planning system works, or rather, doesn't work.

The NAO report, amongst its other criticisms, clearly stated that the lack of trained and skilled planning professionals working for local authorities was in the way of delivering effectively the homes that we need.

Over the next 15 years or so, more than 100,000 new homes will be constructed across Hertfordshire. There is enough room for all of these to be built on brownfield sites, which is land that has been previously developed. Many of these brownfield sites are in or are close to existing built up areas.

With a shortage of skilled planning professionals, it is more than likely that most of these 100,000 new homes will be built on green fields. Now that matters and not just because we think that the countryside needs to be kept open for people to enjoy.

New housing estates built on green fields will be new housing dormitories in reality. There will be no centres where employers might set up, the streets and roads will be clogged, narrow and otherwise unsuitable for large vehicles such as buses, and pretty well everyone will need one or more cars to get to school or work elsewhere. And that is where the air quality and climate change problems come from.

CPRE Hertfordshire has written to all of the MPs with constituencies in the county, 11 of them. We have pointed to the air quality and climate change problems that are caused by the lack of planning professionals.

If you are concerned about air quality and climate change and want to contact you MP about this and the problems with the lack of planning professional, please use [this link](#) to see our letter on our web site.