



NIMBY? WE WON'T HAVE A BACKYARD TO **NOT BUILD IN!**

Cambridgeshire residents who resist major developments could never be accused of nimbyism – because they won't have a backyard at all if Labour's plans to impose housing targets on local authorities go ahead.

The new Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, has suggested immediate changes to the planning system to deliver Labour's house-building target of 1.5 million homes over the next five years.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough countryside charity, CPRE have welcomed Labour's "brownfield first" commitment. However, they are concerned that high levels of development in the county, coupled with existing climate change and a gradually sinking eastern region will lead to flooding on a scale of frightening proportions.

"The green belt has many purposes. It is crucial for food security, also to lessen the impact of climate change. Furthermore it plays an important role in promoting mental and physical wellbeing," said the Chairman of Cambridgeshire CPRE, Dr Alan James.

"During the election campaign, the Liberal Democrats promised bold, urgent action to tackle climate change. Let's hope our three newly elected Liberal Democrat MPs deliver on this promise and help oppose developments in areas most at risk.

"The quickest and most climate-friendly way to combat the present housing shortage is to bring back into use the current, roughly one million empty homes in this country and to re-develop the 1.3 million registered spaces on brownfield sites."

CPRE also fear the definition of "grey belt" may be open to generous interpretation. "Cambridge's green belt is tiny. It the only green belt in the eastern region and the oldest in the country outside London," said Dr James. "Another job of the Cambridge green belt is to protect the countryside surrounding Cambridge and to safeguard the city's setting. Any further building will have a major – and potentially catastrophic effect on the character of one of the country's most historic cities.