

1. This Council is concerned that private gardens are under increasing threat of development because of inadequate protection of green spaces in planning rules imposed earlier by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott. Because of mounting pressure from national and regional government to increase housing density and build more homes, gardens are disappearing at an alarming rate. This Council will write to Ruth Kelly, the Local Government Minister, asking for local planning authorities to be given greater discretion to protect inappropriate over-development and to maintain the character and amenity of areas.

Further, this Council calls on the Minister to change the planning status of private gardens so that they are no longer regarded as previously developed land for planning purposes.

Meanwhile, Councils should have greater authority to set density and parking standards in new residential developments.

Proposed: Councillor Fred Willis

Seconded: Councillor Wilson for
Councillor Jim Clark

The Mayor ruled that in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(a) this Motion stood referred to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport.