



## PRESS RELEASE

Release time: 00.01 13 April 2018

### GRIFF RHYS JONES SUPPORTS GROUPS FIGHTING GARDEN COMMUNITIES

Civic Voice president Griff Rhys Jones has added his voice to the groups fighting “garden communities” being imposed on them by the Government.

He has penned a powerful Foreword to a Smart Growth UK report mostly written by groups around the country who are opposing garden towns and villages. Griff warns that, far from being utopias, these are disordered schemes that ignore local communities and would be located on wholly unsuitable sites.

“We encounter proposals that are not going to answer local needs for housing at all, but will waste precious countryside by building low density sprawling estates and creating expensive houses,” he says. “These are nearly all extensions and not new settlements.”

Griff warns that terms like “housing crisis” and “emergency” are being used to force through development of the countryside which enriches land owners but fails to provide the affordable homes we need.

The report sets out detailed objections by six groups opposing Government-sponsored garden communities and four opposing large greenfield developments dubbed “garden villages” by their promoters.

“We need to recognize that people who urge care, caution and attention are not dwelling in the past,” says Griff. “They are protecting the future.”

He says the protests, assessments and legitimate concerns in the report make sober reading.

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

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

[Smart Growth UK](#) is an informal coalition of national and local groups (including Civic Voice) and individuals who support the “Smart Growth” approach to spatial, transport and community planning. Last year it published a report [Garden Towns and Villages – Unwanted, Unnecessary and Unsustainable](#) about the schemes.

**Press Contacts:**

Civic Voice: Ian Harvey 0121 792 8177

Smart Growth UK: Jon Reeds 0208 773 2747/0793 251 6094