Reviewer's report

Title: Good places for ageing in place: a trans-disciplinary, cross-sectional study investigating the links between physical characteristics of neighbourhoods and older people’s wellbeing

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Reviewer: judith torrington

Reviewer's report:

Studies of the relationship between the physical environment and wellbeing of older people are welcome. This is an important area for policy, which is becoming an urgent issue due to the expansion of numbers of people over 65 in the population. There is very little empirical evidence underlying design of the physical environment, and new insights such as are presented in this paper are welcome.

The aim of the research, and the research question are clear and well-defined.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

- Minor Essential Revisions

The methodology section does not include a summary of the characteristics of the participants. Since there is so much variation in the population over 65 this is important. For example it is known that poor mobility, visual impairment and other conditions that affect older people can severely limit access to external environments to the extent that it has been estimated that the older cohorts may spend 70-90% of their time indoors. The profile of participants selected is relevant to the study, and it would be helpful to see them summarised in tabular form. A similar summary showing the characteristics of the environment selected for the study would also be helpful.

An obvious variable that does not seem to have been mentioned is the economic circumstances of the participants, and economic status of the research sites. There should be some reference to this in the discussion.

- Discretionary Revisions

The research methodology, as explained in the paper is necessarily innovative. This kind of research in physical environments requires researchers to invent instruments. The environmental measuring tool that was used for this study is reasonably well described. The paper reports that the tool was validated, but it would be useful to include more information about the validation that was carried out.

The methodology for assessing wellbeing is also innovative. It would be helpful to
have more information about why this method was selected as more appropriate than using internationally recognised methods of assessing wellbeing.

The limitations of the work are summarised clearly in the paper, but this section could be expanded to refer to economic inequalities, and limitations based on participant profiles and the categories of place that have not been included in the study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests