Reviewer's report

Title: Good places for ageing in place: development of objective built environment measures for investigating links with older people’s wellbeing

Version: 2 Date: 18 July 2011

Reviewer: Vanessa Taler

Reviewer's report:

Overall assessment:

The authors have undertaken substantial revisions and the manuscript is much improved as a result. The constructs and statistical analyses are much clearer and easier to follow. Overall, I feel that the re-orienting of the manuscript towards development of a tool for objective measurement of the built environment has aided considerably in addressing my concerns. The revised statistical approach appears appropriate to me, although evaluation of the statistical aspects of this paper is outside my area of expertise. However, several concerns remain and these should be addressed before I can recommend the manuscript for publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

I feel the manuscript could benefit from a clearer statement indicating that this study is exploratory, and that it aims to identify potential predictors of well-being. Thus, the exact nature of the relationships identified by the analysis remains unclear. The research reported in this manuscript cannot clarify these relationships, a shortcoming that can only be rectified through future research.

Moreover, given that the development and validation of the NeDeCC is now the major focus of the manuscript, more attention should be paid to reliability and validity of this tool. While face validity and inter-rater reliability are addressed, the authors should also consider whether the tool demonstrates good test-retest reliability, internal consistency, and construct validity.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.