Reviewer's report

Title: The asthma epidemic and our artificial habitats

Version: 1 Date: 24 February 2005

Reviewer: Onno P van Schayck

Reviewer's report:

General

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1) The hypothesis described is a very interesting one that can be very helpful when using it in new as well as existing studies on the development of asthma in children. The results of these studies will be essential for testing the truthfulness of the hypothesis or parts of it.

2) The readability and structure of the paper could be improved. It will help if you follow the journals guidelines as described in the instructions for authors. Because your manuscript concerns a debate paper the guidelines prescribe you to include the following sections: title page, abstract, background, discussion, summary, list of abbreviations, competing interests and authors contributions. The abstract is not structured in separate sections headed Background, Discussion, Summary as prescribed. The background (you some what described in the introduction) did not end with a brief statement of what is being discussed in the manuscript.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare to have no competing interests.