Reviewer's report

Title: Environmental interventions to reduce fear of crime: Systematic review of effectiveness

Version: 2 Date: 5 March 2013

Reviewer: Kerry Dwan

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Major revisions:
Methods regarding subgroup analyses are not included in the methods section. I'm not convinced that these subgroup analyses should be done due to the small number of studies that have reported on this - this could be due to selective non-reporting i.e. the studies found no effect so did not present the data. The way it is currently presented it appears to be more of a post hoc decision.

Minor essential revision:
Abstract
1. the background is too brief in the abstract

Background
2. fourth paragraph, 'on' is repeated twice. Also the aim of this review is repeated in this paragraph and is also included in the third paragraph, please edit.

Methods
3. fourth paragraph. Please be aware that only including studies reporting data on any fear of crime related outcome may risk outcome reporting bias having an impact on the review i.e. a study may measure an outcome but not report it because it is non significant or not desirable. Ideally studies should not be excluded based on outcomes, but authors should be contacted to identify whether studies did in fact measure the outcomes of interest.
4. Final paragraph, there is an extra 'and' in the first sentence

Results
5. page 6 - paragraph 5, third sentence, 'find' should be 'found'.
6. page 7, paragraph 3, final sentence - do you mean measured or reported here?

Table 1
7. this table could benefit from further information about the studies, i.e. sample size, conclusion

Layout
8. there are many very short paragraphs in this manuscript, please look at these and amend.

Appendix 4

9. Please clarify what you mean by 'usable' data.