

Alternative Lifestyles: an investigation into the role of mobile home parks in housing provision in the UK.

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Mobile homes are growing in popularity as a form of housing (Yarnal and Aman, 2009). There are now approximately 250,000 people living in park homes in the UK (Little, 2008). Hart, Rhodes and Morgan (2002) argue that residents of mobile homes are often seen by the public as being “deficient” and that this obscures the complex histories and geographies of these dwelling sites. It has been noted that an increasing number of authorities are exploring their use as viable alternatives to their affordable housing stock (Genz, 2001). Changes to the Mobile Homes Act in 2006 and subsequently in 2013, have liberalised the planning laws and further extended and enhanced legislative protection afforded to occupiers of residential mobile (park) homes. It is surprising, then, that very little attention has been paid to this housing sector in the geographical literature, considering that “the nature of mobile homes can vary dramatically from place to place” (Yarnal and Aman, 2009). This research intends to explore the contribution mobile home parks play in mainstream housing provision across the UK through engagement with a range of stakeholders; including mobile home residents, developers, local authorities, service providers and private practitioners.