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## Full Story

### Nimbyism on the rise as climate bites

Samantha McClary 09/03/2009 11:38

The British public's attitudes against development have hardened in the midst of the economic climate, according to a new survey from Saint Consulting.

The Saint Index, which surveyed 1,000 people in January and February this year, found that 85% of respondents were anti-development.

Nick Keable, UK vice president of the Saint Consulting Group, said: "Nimbyism is hardening in Britain. Although it is possible we may have reached the high water mark for general opposition, those that are against development are becoming more aggressively active in opposing schemes nationwide.

"It is bad news for everyone involved: the property industry, developers, central Government and local authorities."

The index also revealed that 51% of public believed that planning gain packages should not be reduced to help project viability.

The government's new community infrastructure levy also lacked clear-cut public support. While 55% said they would support a new tariff-based system, 65% still support a case-by-case negotiation between councils and developers.

Government housing targets are also taking a pounding, according to the index, with 74% of the public believing that building three million new homes by 2020 is unrealistic. Eco-towns were rated as the most ineffective way to tackle the housing crisis.

Saint Consulting chairman and chief executive Mike Saint said: "The British public is far less inclined to help developers in the throws of economic recession.

"While there are differences in culture, land values and economic cycles, the issues remain the same: a growing tide of nimbyism is frustrating all manner of proper development and thus hurting economic growth."

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