# UK homeowners face plummeting property values as megasheds spread across communities



The rapid proliferation of vast storage facilities, dubbed "megasheds," has become a contentious issue across the UK, raising alarm among homeowners who find their properties overshadowed and their views obliterated. Characterised by their sprawling dimensions and domineering structures, these warehouses not only disrupt scenic landscapes but also have significant implications for local property values.

In areas like Corby, Northamptonshire—reportedly the warehouse capital of Britain—local residents are increasingly beset by the looming presence of these gigantic structures. Massive distribution centres have become a common sight, a stark shift from peaceful residential neighbourhoods to urbanised landscapes cluttered with commercial developments. In this context, residents' frustrations are palpable; many feel that these constructions compromise both their quality of life and the value of their homes. Julie Ford, a property specialist at Gothard Rowe Property Services, has highlighted the limited options for homeowners, noting that council decisions largely dictate whether such constructions can proceed. “There isn’t actually a lot that they can do sadly. It comes down to local councils,” she affirmatively states.

The plight of Ken Lungley from Suffolk encapsulates the adverse effects of these developments. Once proud of the picturesque farmland views from his property, Lungley has witnessed a stark decline in his home’s value—plummeting from £1.5 million to £900,000 due to the construction of a sprawling 1.17 million sq ft warehouse. Echoing the sentiments of many fellow residents, Lungley described the building as a "blight" on the area. Now, he faces the looming threat of another massive warehouse approved for construction beside his land, further endangering his retirement investment.

Planning decisions often seem to favour economic gains over community wellbeing, creating a disheartening paradigm for concerned residents. Danny Campbell, a UK architect, elucidates the challenges homeowners face in opposing such developments. While residents can lodge objections through their local council's planning portal, the prospect of success is often bleak, especially if the land is designated for commercial use. Campbell emphasises the importance of articulating concerns based on material planning considerations—such as noise and environmental impact—rather than personal objections. "Strong objections usually focus on material planning considerations," he advises, encouraging residents to engage actively in community consultations.

This situation is not an isolated phenomenon. Reports indicate that the UK is poised to require around 2,500 acres of additional warehouse space over the next decade to accommodate surging housing and online retail demands. Real estate analyst Will Laing notes that, in light of government targets to build 1.5 million homes within the next five years, the demand for warehousing is likely to escalate dramatically. This pressing need adds to the challenges facing local residents, who view these mammoth structures as unwelcome intrusions into their lives.

As tensions escalate, heartfelt testimonies from residents illustrate the psychological and emotional toll of living next to these "monstrosities." For many, the experience has been likened to residing by a “Berlin Wall,” casting shadows over their homes and stealing sunlight. In an emotionally charged statement, resident Jose Cruz described his neighbourhood as feeling "like we're living by the Berlin Wall," with 80% of the natural light in his home being blocked by nearby developments. Such sentiments are echoed by property owners throughout the region, whose peaceful suburban lives have been upended by the relentless growth of commercial warehousing.

Moreover, in Suffolk, the introduction of a massive 21m high warehouse has left villagers reeling, with descriptions of the structure ranging from a "gigantic mega-shed" to a "massive metal wall." The local planning authority, East Suffolk Council, defended their approval of the warehouse, stating that decisions were made in accordance with regulations, despite extensive community opposition. According to their spokesperson, the potential impact on property values was not considered a material factor in their decision-making process.

As the trend of building these megasheds shows no sign of waning, residents across the UK stand resolute against the growing tide of commercial developments that seem to prioritise economic progression over community integrity. While the conversation continues, it is clear that the dichotomy between development and homeowner rights leaves many feeling powerless, questioning whether their concerns will ever be heard amidst the relentless march of progress.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14753017/Rise-megasheds-property-value-homeowner-rights.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data