

A GRAPHIC STORY

A PLACE TO BEGIN

Population, Permission
and Sustainability



The room has an address. It does not feel like a home.



You need somewhere quieter.

Where can I afford?



Different lives. The same question: where can a future begin?



What if we built whole places to live?

Who gets to belong?



People. All of us.

Move by choice. Get help to begin.



I used to play.

Then bring your guitar.



A place I can actually stay.

A warm, quiet, accessible home is the beginning.



Then the things a home needs: care, learning, food, work and transport.



Funded. Staffed. Working.

Ready for every household.



Start with 5,000 people.

Then 10,000. 25,000.
50,000.



Reserve the future footprint.
Protect the green land beyond it.

Do we have to stop life
growing?



No birth quotas.

No forced moves.



Solar roofs. Storage.
Shared backup.

Local capability. Shared
support.



Treat and test drinking water. Clean wastewater.



Grow. Repair. Reuse.



Care for land and water.

I don't have money to begin.

Affordable homes. Help to begin.



Different homes. Different budgets. Safe building choices suited to each site.



I can teach.

Room to create. To trade. To build.





I need help. And quiet.

Your life. Your choices.



Accessible help. Open budgets.

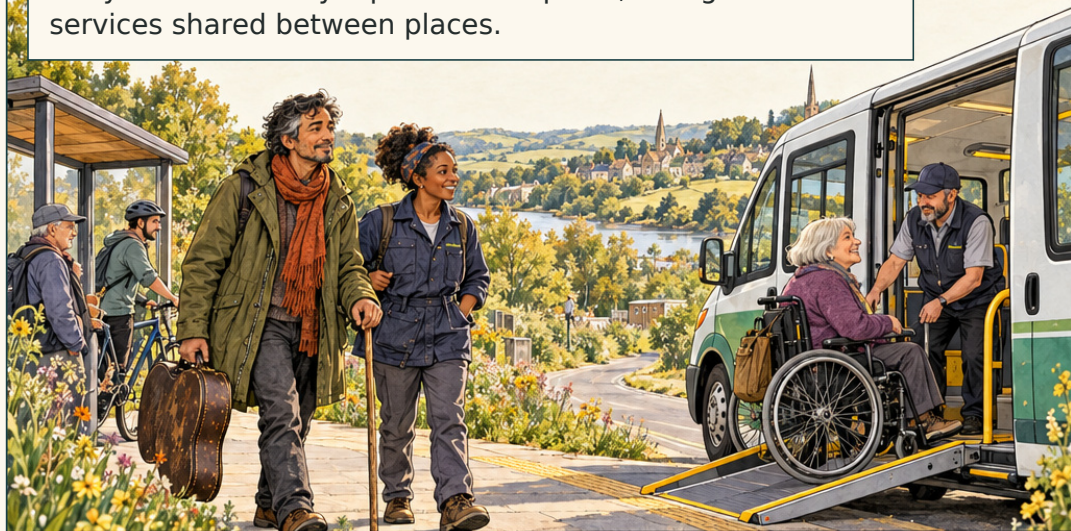
A fair way to challenge decisions.



The law must change too.

Proposed: no planned homelessness.

Daily needs close by. Specialist hospitals, colleges and services shared between places.



Connect transport, communications and science. Protect privacy. Support one another when systems fail.



Local choices. A shared national safety net.

More people creating and sharing prosperity.



Care for the land, in our own ways.

And rest when you need to.



Still in pain. Now with a future.

Will you play again tomorrow?



Yes.

A home. A choice. A tomorrow together.



The people and events in this comic are fictional. They illustrate one possible future, informed by an anonymous personal account and the wider Green Tank proposal. This is a concept, not an approved development or a promise of a home.

The two PLOS ONE studies

The Pre-History of Urban Scaling (2014) studies ancient settlements in the Basin of Mexico. It examines patterns of population and space. Its historical examples include settlements above 100,000; it does not establish a universal ceiling.

Read the study: doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0087902

Constraining the population size estimates of the pre-Columbian Casarabe Culture of Amazonian Bolivia (2025) estimates 10,000-100,000 people across a 5,020 km² region of multiple settlements. The discussion suggests the total probably reached no more than 50,000. This is not a single-city population limit.

Read the study: doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0325104

Archaeology needs careful reading. Radiocarbon dates help date occupation and activity; they do not directly count residents. Population estimates combine evidence with assumptions and uncertainty.

50,000 is a design choice

The proposal starts at 5,000 and reserves space and infrastructure for staged growth to 50,000. Research does not prove that this is an ideal or maximum city size. This is a planning framework, not a birth quota or an expulsion rule. Future changes need public review. The aim is a complete community, protected green space and voluntary movement, with no borders between settlements.

Green space still has uses and rights

Fields, gardens and golf courses are not automatically spare land. Habitat, productive soils, flood risk, water, access and existing rights need assessment. The earlier UK sketch could not fit everyone with a strict ten-mile gap between settlement edges. It was an illustration, not a siting plan.

Rights and finance would need to change

Owning land does not currently give an unrestricted right to live or build on it. UN human-rights treaties do not automatically grant UK planning permission. The paper proposes stronger housing protections, accessible decisions and safeguards against eviction into homelessness. Affordable entry, grants, loans and government-backed zero-deposit mortgages are proposals to evaluate, not guaranteed schemes.

Local capability, shared responsibility

The wider design retains the UK Treasury and pooled national finance, with transparent local budgets and fair support between communities. It includes independent living and care homes; arts, science and enterprise; civilian policing and national defence; and freedom to share community space without compulsory belief. More widely shared opportunity is intended to support higher, sustainable prosperity; the outcome would need testing.

Homes can take different forms

Modular and demountable homes, suitable non-concrete foundations, mobile dwellings, tree-supported concepts and floating communities widen the design options. Each needs site-specific safety, access and environmental checks. Marine stewardship means protecting water and recovering nutrients safely, not dumping food or sewage into the sea.

Parts of the idea already exist

Garden cities and Letchworth: planned towns, green surroundings and community benefit. **Vauban, Freiburg:** low-energy neighbourhood design and transport. **Schoonschip, Amsterdam:** a small floating community and shared energy. **Champlain Housing Trust:** shared-equity housing that preserves affordability. Each is a partial precedent, not proof of this whole system.

Letchworth: letchworth.com/about-us/our-history/

Vauban: freiburg.de/pb/208736.html

Schoonschip: schoonschipamsterdam.org/en/

Champlain: getahome.org/innovation/

Read alongside: Population, Permission and Sustainability, 15 October 2026. The companion paper contains the full argument, legal distinctions, uncertainties, population-study register and source references.

Concept: The Green Tank. Adaptation and lettering: AI-assisted. Illustrations: AI-generated. Fictional cast; no real personal names or likenesses. First graphic edition, October 2026.