

Expert Witness

Neil Robins, Technical Director – MMC, United Welsh
Housing



What is your passion / specialism / position on solutions to the climate crisis?

I have spent over 25 years in timber frame manufacturing and sawmilling, during this time I have also been involved in setting up 2 timber frame facilities in Blaenau Gwent.

Modern methods of construction will certainly have a place to play in reducing both embodied Carbon and operational carbon. By ensuring new homes are built to exceptional standards and adopt a fabric first approach, new homes should be very well insulated to reduce any heat loss and also airtight to eliminate any lost energy.

By also introducing local sustainable materials into the construction of the new homes, such as home grown timber further contributions in reducing carbon can be made. I would encourage you to visit the website below.

[Home-Grown Homes Project / Prosiect Cartrefi o Bren Lleol - Woodknowledge Wales](#)

Thinking about critics and/or alternative views to that which you have put forward above – what would others say about your perspective and idea?

I just want to be clear; I am not talking about building 1950's prefabs, I am talking about well design and manufactured homes of the future, built to exceed current building regulations from sustainable materials.

If these homes are to be built from timber, they will need to be fire tested to ensure they are of no greater risk to the occupants than any other form of construction.



Use this final part of your presentation to help Assembly members better understand your position in relation to others and what that means for addressing the question that they have been set.

By using modern methods of construction for all new homes, we can:

- Reduce energy demand
- Lock Carbon into the homes we build
- Reduce Waste
- Help Combat Climate Change
- Improve the environment we live in
- Create an opportunity to use Welsh Timber
- Create Green jobs.