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## Builder fears 'Nimbyist' new planning rules

**Russell Lynch**

REDROW founder and chairman Steve Morgan today voiced fears over planning reforms as a "Nimbyist charter", after steering the housebuilder into the black following his first full year back in charge.

Morgan, who owns 29% of the firm, has been a long-time critic of the current system, which sees the firm spending more on planning fees than bricks and even sending in some applications in delivery vans.

But there are industry fears that the scrapping of regional planning targets under the new Government's "localist" agenda could make matters

worse amid local opposition to new developments.

He said: "I'm such an arch-critic of the old system that I would not want to knock a new system before it has even come in, but our fear is that it could become a Nimbyist charter."

Morgan, who took the helm again in April last year, said the current system had also become even worse since the election, with many authorities even refusing to process applications ahead of the new regime.

Redrow posted pre-tax profits of £0.7 million for the year to June 30, reversing a £44.2 million loss previously, with average selling prices up from £137,400 to £149,300.