



## COMMUNITIES

### Priority

*Our priority is to support strong and inclusive communities.*

### Concerns

- Village shops, pubs and other facilities are closing.
- Employment opportunities are reducing in many villages.
- Recreational facilities can be limited.
- Access to services and facilities outside villages can be poor.
- The continuing viability and vitality of our town centres.
- Quality of the environment.

### What is being done

- Rate relief for village halls, community centres, post offices, shops, pubs, petrol filling stations and non-profit making sports clubs.
- Grants to convert redundant buildings into workspaces.
- Using Local Plan to retain existing business sites and allocate new land for employment.
- Capital grants for recreational and community facilities.
- Grants for community buses.
- Concessionary bus and rail travel for senior citizens and the disabled.
- Heritage Economic Regeneration Schemes in Hadleigh and Sudbury.
- Car parks in towns and some villages.
- Community Energy Project in Sudbury and Great Cornard to aid community development.
- Planning used to protect and enhance the environment.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

### Coming Year

- Review capital grants scheme for recreational and community facilities.
- Develop arts and music projects, including rural cinema.
- Carry out Phase 2 of the North Street pedestrian friendly scheme in Sudbury.
- Enhance shopping environment in Gainsborough Street, Sudbury.
- Continuation of the Community Energy Project in Sudbury and Great Cornard.

### Over the following 3 years

- By 2006 deliver a regeneration and redevelopment scheme for Poplar Road shops area, Great Cornard.
- By 2007 adopt new Local Plan which supports communities and the provision of village facilities and employment sites.



Market Hill, Sudbury

### Within the 10 year period

- Recognise that communities change and encourage Parish Councils to introduce Parish Plans. Use the plans to meet the needs of those communities.
- Provide incentives for individuals and communities to help themselves.
- Encourage support for the community by local people.
- Bid for "Investing in Communities" grant.
- Look for developers to contribute financially towards community facilities.
- Ongoing support for public and community transport.
- By 2009 complete six-year capital programme to improve car parks.