

PART SIX

THE CORE STRATEGY & OPTIONS

COMMUNITY WELL BEING

Theme 5 - Develop a safe and healthy community

The Core Strategy will protect and promote the well being of the community in terms of its health, safety, leisure and cultural opportunities, and access to leisure opportunities.

2.9 COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

HEADLINE FACTS – COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

- 21% of the population of 115,000 is aged over 65 (compared with 17% in both the East of England and Great Britain as a whole). Conversely there is a much lower than average number of people between the ages of 18 and 34.
- The district has high life expectancy rates – women 82.4 years and men 78.
- The crime levels are low statistically but surveys show that fear of crime is high.
- The A14 and A12 are the two major roads serving the district; the A12 is a valuable backbone connecting to the north and beyond.
- There is access to some of the main towns by way of the East Suffolk Rail Line.
- In its first 3 years the Local Plan Policy on playspace contributions has created over £500,000 for community use.
- Deprivation occurs in some localised parts of the district

The **Community Strategy** identifies as **PRIORITIES**:

- To give greater priority to meeting the needs of younger people, including providing them with opportunities to contribute to the development and delivery of services and activities to meet their needs, building on what young people actually want
- To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over decision making and delivery of services
- To ensure our community is as healthy as possible by encouraging them to live a healthy lifestyle
- To promote better access for every member of our community, particularly younger and older people and families, to employment, services and facilities
- Promoting healthy living
- Feeling safe and being safe from crime

The **Community Strategy** identifies as **KEY ISSUES**:

- Improved road safety through traffic management measures and education

You have told us the issues are:

- Perceived lack of public involvement in the planning process.
- Fear of crime.
- Lack of facilities for young people.
- Pressure on services caused by an ageing population
- Road safety, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Lack of integration of different modes of travel.
- Loss and lack of local facilities and services.
- Heavy lorries in rural areas.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Draft Objective 15 Physical and Community Infrastructure

To ensure that appropriate infrastructure, such as transport, utilities or community facilities are provided in order to address current deficiencies and meet the needs of new development.

In terms of community infrastructure to identify needs and deficiencies in public, voluntary and commercial service provision and seek new approaches to meet those needs and address deficiencies

2.9.1 The Council identifies two types of infrastructure:

- Physical infrastructure – This includes transport facilities, water supply, foul and surface water sewage, drainage, waste disposal, and utilities (gas and electricity). Flood defence is considered elsewhere.
- Community infrastructure – This includes health and social facilities, schools, cemeteries, open space and play space (considered elsewhere), community halls, etc. It is generally provided by the public and voluntary sectors.

2.9.2 The main driver of the requirements for infrastructure is the combination of housing and population growth. The main issues in respect of the provision of the necessary infrastructure in order to support that growth are funding and phasing. Key to the provision of appropriate infrastructure will be partnership working with the providers.

2.9.3 Where current infrastructure is inadequate to meet the needs of new development, developers will be required to fund new or improved infrastructure that is directly related to those needs. This is especially important when considering proposed large-scale allocations of housing land but equally applies to small-scale development proposals across the district. Already during the Local Development Framework process the following providers have indicated that developer funding will be necessary if standards are to be maintained – transport, education, primary health care, police and play/open space.

Available Options

2.9.4 None have been considered. There is an expectation in government and regional guidance that developer contributions are a means towards achieving infrastructure and that Local Development Frameworks indicate the circumstances in which they will be sought and the priorities to be achieved.

COMMUNITY WELL BEING Physical & Community Infrastructure

- Q47 Should the Council be looking to identify a set of local priorities for which developer contributions will be sought? YES/NO
- Q48 If YES, how would you define “local” and what would you consider the priorities to be?

LOCAL SERVICES

Draft Objective 16 Local Services

To promote better access for every member of the community – particularly younger and older people, those who are disadvantaged, those in remote rural areas, and families – to housing, employment, services and facilities.

In doing so to encourage the retention of appropriate local services including post offices and shops in villages and district centres

- 2.9.5 The Council recognises the value of local services, particularly to rural residents and those with restrictions on mobility due to age, health or the simple lack of a car.
- 2.9.6 Access to local services is an issue that has frequently arisen during consultation. Not every household has access to a car. The basic facilities have been identified as:
- A general shop.
 - Post Office.
 - Pub.
 - Primary School.
 - Meeting place.

Table 7 Provision of Facilities

Number of Villages	2000	2004	Change
With none of the 5 facilities	17	20	+3
With 1 of the facilities	20	17	-3
With 2 of the facilities	24	31	+7
With 3 of the facilities	16	7	-9
With 4 of the facilities	16	16	-
With all 5 facilities	11	13	+2

- 2.9.7 In the last four years, the number of villages that do not have any of the five facilities has increased.
- 2.9.8 In many cases it may not be viable to locate new or retain existing facilities in some of the smaller rural settlements. Where this happens, access to the market towns or key service centres becomes vital.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING Retention of Local Services

Q49 Do you think the Council could do more through the Local Development Framework to protect the retention of existing local services? YES/NO

Q50 If YES, what other measures can you suggest?

SPORT AND LEISURE

Draft Objective 17 Leisure

To ensure that the community is as healthy as possible by providing/promoting opportunities for it to live a healthy lifestyle.

In particular to meet the needs of younger people, including providing them with opportunities to contribute to the development and delivery of services and activities to meet their needs.

- 2.9.9 Both the Council, through its corporate strategies, and the Local Strategic Partnership through the Community Strategy, promote the concept of healthy communities. One of the ways of achieving this, and hence an important role for the Local Development Framework, is to ensure the provision of areas for sport and recreation.

PLAY SPACE

- 2.9.10 .10 Play space can be broken down into the two elements of play areas for children's use (including equipped playgrounds and casual kick-about areas) and sports grounds for youth and adult use (including pitches, greens and courts). There are national standards for the provision of such play space, related to population size. The Council has carried out an audit of all facilities in every community and identified deficiencies. This was done in consultation with the communities themselves.
- 2.9.11 An Option for this Plan may be to consider whether, given the age structure of the population, more specific provision should be made for older people.

GREEN SPACE

- 2.9.12 It is widely accepted that green open spaces are an essential resource in creating an agreeable quality of life. This is particularly important within urban environments where parks and open spaces can be wildlife havens, places for quiet relaxation, places for healthy exercise or focal points for community interaction. Green open spaces also contribute to the character of any urban or rural settlement. Green space can not only include parks but also open spaces, commons, 'green corridors', and areas of ecological interest over which there is public access.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Green Space

- Q51 Which areas would you wish the Council to identify as important green spaces, in order that they are protected?
- Q52 Do you have adequate access to green space from where you live? YES/NO
- Q53 If NO what more could be done to improve this situation?