

What you have told us so far ...

The built environment



Historic environment valued;
New developments needs to respected historic character of settlements;
Need for affordable housing;
Changes in working habits may increase demand for housing in villages.

People, community



Strong community spirit valued;
Settlements considered to be right size to foster community spirit.

Community facilities



Community facilities valued;
Need to be provided in new developments

Access to services



Existing services valued;
Range of services not expected in small settlements;
New services need to be provided with development;

Connections



Value strategic road and rail connections;
Improved bus service, walking and cycling connections would reduce reliance on car.

Jobs



Value proximity to larger towns and cities;
Need for local job opportunities.

The natural environment



Access to countryside valued;
Rural environment valued;
Need for more open spaces;
Should be main consideration of new development.



What's in walking distance?

For some, services are in walking distance;
Issue of areas without pavements or lighting;
Developments on edge of settlements are beyond 15 minute walk;



Recreation & sport facilities

Value range of facilities found in settlements;
Need for better facilities in some areas.



Lifestyle

Value opportunities for exercise and access to nature.

What do you value about where you live and how would you like to see it improve in the future?

Built environment: What do you like about the built character of where you live?

General comments

Value the spread of small towns and villages across District which have preserved much of the area's historical, cultural and community worth.

Is 15 min neighbourhood appropriate to rural district? People like rural location/isolation of village life.

Delivering a 15 minute community doesn't require a new settlement. Existing settlements would benefit from selective small-scale development to provide affordable housing, local facilities and improved public transport.

Changes in working habits resulting from technology advances (notably fibre & Zoom) and accelerated by the Covid crisis are likely to increase demand for housing in rural villages. Equally, the climate crisis requires a significant shift away from the traditional commuting model of working.

Need for affordable housing with mixed communities to avoid social isolation.

We need to build houses fit for the 22nd century.

Chronic lack of affordable housing.

Settlement specific comments

Clavering	Value variety and low density. New development has increased traffic and exacerbated flooding and light pollution.
Little Easton	Value historic buildings and historic connections. Need affordable housing for local people
Saffron Walden	Historic architecture of human scale and widely admired. Need more affordable housing
Stansted Mountfitchet	Include trees in new housing developments. Value good facilities, green spaces, access to transport links
Thaxted	Value heritage. Negative impact of traffic, would like 20mph speed limit through village
Various	New developments do not reflect vernacular style. Rural character of settlement

Natural environment: How easy is it for you to access nature?

General comments

Value agricultural countryside.

Environmental and sustainability factors should be main consideration of new development.

Uttlesford should be leader in Green recovery.

Need for greenspace and Country Park to relieve pressure on Hatfield Forest, need tariff on new housing to fund protection of Hatfield Forest

Settlement specific comments

Elsenham	Rural character has been spoilt by recent development.
Great Dunmow	Value open spaces. Need to ensure new spaces provided in new development
Little Easton	Value rural environment. Promote restoration of Easton Park as country park for benefit of District and relieve pressure on Hatfield Forest.
Saffron Walden	Limited open space for leisure, need more open space.
Takeley	Value rural character, wildlife.
Various	Value access to countryside from the village

What's in walking distance? Can you walk to the places you need or like to go?

Settlement specific comments

Barnston	A 'neglected corner' with no amenities.
Clavering	Dispersed village but most village services within walking distance; some roads without pavement or lighting.
Saffron Walden	Wide range of services accessible. Developments on the edge are beyond 15 minutes' walk.
Takeley	Community buildings, shops, job opportunities.
Various (Newport/Clavering)	Walkable community not easily achieved in linear / dispersed villages.

Recreation and sport facilities: What are recreation facilities like in your area? How could they be improved?

Settlement specific comments

Clavering	Has range of facilities in village.
Great Chesterford	Value integrated open spaces.
Great Dunmow	Has good facilities for town of this size.
Priors Green (Takeley/Canfield)	Lack of open space, distant from facilities in Takeley.
Saffron Walden	Need for more and better leisure and sports facilities.
Takeley	Has sports pitches and clubs.

Lifestyle: Does where you live enable you to live a healthy lifestyle? If not, what would help?

General comments

A good work-life balance, healthy diet & physical exercise may be unaffordable to key workers

Settlement specific comments

Clavering	Easy to access physical activity, nature, allotments for fresh food.
Great Dunmow	Opportunities for exercise, fresh food and be mentally active.
Hadstock	Whilst there are social networks some people might be socially isolated.
Little Easton	Value peace, pollution free, risk free and healthy environment.
Takeley	Opportunities for healthy lifestyle.

Jobs: Are there work opportunities in your area?

General comments

Value proximity to larger towns and cities

Lack of job opportunities

Settlement specific comments

Saffron Walden	Need for more local jobs.
Great Dunmow	Lack of job opportunities.
Little Easton	Most residents commute. Value other benefits of rural living than being able to walk to work.
Clavering	Minimal opportunities. Need to travel out of village.
Takeley	Job opportunities at airport and able to commute by train from Stansted or Bishop's Stortford.

Connections: Can you use sustainable transport – train, bus, cycle, walk?

General comments

Value strategic connections (M11, rail-line, airport)

Need to have more emphasis of sustainable travel.

Public transport connections poor and expensive making a car cheaper and easier; lack of foot and cycle paths.

Low-cost transport options required and delivered early in development.

Settlement specific comments

Barnston	Benefits from good express bus service but less useful local service. Village would benefit from by-pass and all-weather footpaths to access services.
Clavering	Limited sustainable opportunities, a car is essential. A reliable and frequent bus service is a priority.
Great Dunmow	Poor connections to rail.
Hadstock	Poor bus service, lorries and traffic making walking hazardous.
Little Easton	Value walking and cycling in local area otherwise car required.
Saffron Walden	Poor walking and cycling connections; poor public transport links; need safer streets and better connectivity.
Takeley	Primary school walkable, good bus service, road access to M11, rail stations at Stortford and Airport.

Access to services: How easy is it to access essential services?

General comments

Value good health, education and other services and proximity to larger towns and cities

Difficult (time and cost) to access services such as Job centres

Refuge from domestic violence needed

Settlement specific comments

Clavering	Has shop, school and pub in village, other services 3-4 miles away.
Great Chesterford	Developments on periphery not integrated with village centre and have inadequate physical connections.
Great Dunmow	Value shops making themselves different and special. Need improved access to medical facilities. Services under pressure due to recent growth. New development should provide additional services.
Hadstock	No shop or pub and so reliant on car.
Little Easton	Value services in Gt Dunmow and Thaxted. Do not expect services in small village. Would like village shop and better bus service.
Saffron Walden	Need for easily accessible medical care.

Stansted Moutfitchet	Has a good range of services.
Takeley	The primary schools are oversubscribed, no secondary school, no doctors' surgery. No additional services provided with new development.

Community facilities: Are there places near where you live to meet, exercise, hold groups and activities?

General comments

Value libraries for quiet space to study, free access to computers.

Community facilities needed in new development to prevent isolation and encourage community cohesion.

Settlement specific comments

Clavering	Has halls and church.
Great Dunmow	Value facilities for public and private functions.
Hadstock	Would like community hub with drop in facilities.
Little Easton	Value community facilities which are within walking distance. Potential to increase use of facilities.
Takeley	Has halls and church.

People and community: Who lives in your area, is there a sense of community and what makes that?

General comments

Lack local vision for Uttlesford - need devolved democratic power leading a strong community, providing for itself and living respectfully in balance with our environment and with each other.

A vision is needed as Uttlesford is currently a poorly linked, rural commuter district with high per-capita carbon emissions. Uttlesford should be the most sustainable rural district in the UK.

Settlement specific comments

Berden	Village has a sense of togetherness as a community.
Clavering	Village has strong sense of community and passion for locality. Many retirees, few young families due to limited and expensive housing.
Great Chesterford	The village is the right size to have a sense of community. There are thriving societies and other groups.

Great Dunmow	Value community spirit and broad mix of people.
Little Easton	People have made conscious choice to live in small village community
Saffron Walden	The town has a strong community spirit with active participation.
Takeley	Village has sense of community but falls to a small minority of dedicated individuals to nurture and sustain the community spirit.