



# Introduction

**The purpose of a town design statement is to set out the community's aspirations for the design of future development of a town based on an analysis of its character. (See Countryside Agency 1993; Town Design Statements).**

Whilst the TDS is produced by and for the community it is intended that it be adopted by the local planning authority, Uttlesford District Council as Supplementary Planning Document that will inform and amplify the policies within the LDF. If this can be secured it means that the TDS will be used by the planning authority in coming to decisions on planning applications in Dunmow. The decision to adopt the TDS in this way is entirely down to UDC and it will require the TDS to have been subject to extensive public consultation and to have been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. We believe that both of these criteria have been met.

## **The Aim of the Town Design Statement**

The aim of the TDS is to ensure that the layout and design of new development in Dunmow meets the highest standards of design, complements the existing character and results in a safe attractive and rewarding environment for all the community.



## **The objectives are:**

- To identify and summarise the best aspects of the existing character.
- To set out design guidelines that support a high standard of design in new development that complements the character of the town and its neighbourhoods.
- To see these guidelines adopted as formal planning guidance by the local planning authority.
- To ensure that new development respects valued features and where possible strengthens the landscape structure of the town.
- To ensure that new development enhances people's accessibility by walking and cycling to the town's services and amenities.
- To ensure that new developments are safe and constrain the speed and use of vehicles and to support this in the existing built environment.
- To identify areas and aspects of the town's environment that should be enhanced.

## **The audiences for the TDS are seen as:**

- The community, in better understanding the very special character of the town and how it might be protected and enhanced.
- The planning authority in considering whether and subject to what conditions any new development should be given planning permission.
- Developers looking to build in or around the town so that they can design developments in the most appropriate way and thus expect speedier planning decisions.
- Other bodies, agencies and businesses, public, voluntary and private that are considering development in the town or are proposing to undertake interventions of whatever kind that will affect the character and appearance.