

## **Our Vision for Thaxted**

*“There is no town in North Essex – and very few in England – to equal in beauty, compactness and juxtaposition of medieval and Georgian architecture, the town of Thaxted “- Sir John Betjeman.*

The beauty of our town is recognised by all of us. We are lucky to live here. We will therefore seek to preserve this beauty for generations to come. This extends not only to conserving our historic buildings, but also to protecting the countryside in which they are placed. Where development and change is necessary, we will strive to ensure that it is consistent with Thaxted’s heritage.

The latest plans of Uttlesford District Council suggest that very little new housing will be imposed upon Thaxted in the coming years. This is welcome, and we will work with UDC to ensure that what new housing is built will be suited to local needs – especially with regards to design, sustainability and affordability.

The infrastructure and facilities of the town – paths, parks, toilets and the like – should be improved and extended to meet the needs and preferences of those who live here. At the same time, we welcome tourists and will seek to provide a welcoming and comfortable experience for them.

Thaxted’s historic heritage and setting will be preserved. Its reputation as a centre of culture will grow with the wonderful contributions of the Thaxted Festival and traditional Morris dancing. Its place in the country’s history can be increased by advertising and expanding the town’s resources, archives and artefacts. The traditions, spirit and enterprise of the community should be strengthened by encouraging participation in the wide variety of activities that local societies, clubs, churches and other organisations offer.

This our vision for Thaxted. Its conservative, but it is also ambitious. The policies that are detailed in the following pages explain how we intend to bring about our vision. We hope that you will enjoy reading them, and that you will want to join us in bringing them about.