

## **1. 5-year land supply**

Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), land supply is a material consideration in applications. Councils are supposed to maintain a land supply sufficient to provide housing for the next 5 years. As at the end of January, however, Mid Suffolk's land supply was only sufficient for 4.3 years, which equates to an under supply of approx. 300 houses. One could interpret this as a failure on the part of the planning department to approve a sufficient number of developments to meet the target, although one can also understand why they may have been reluctant to cut corners. Basically, it is a new scheme, and we have clearly been behind the curve. Until the balance is redressed, however, it is possible that there may be some speculative applications outside existing settlement boundaries. In the longer term, it means, however, that we shall be under pressure to approve more developments.

## **2. ACRE funding**

Following a countrywide campaign, Defra (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) has now confirmed that it will maintain its investment of £2.3m in the ACRE Network for 2015/16.

This is good news for the nationwide ACRE Network of 38 rural community councils, and reflects the successful campaign backed by everyone who showed their support for rural communities and the vital work being done around the country (over 13,000 signatures were collected). This commitment to further funding will enable Community Action Suffolk to continue to provide rurally focused support and services that help our communities develop and thrive.

Charles Tilbury  
01449 767857

[cmw\\_tilbury@btinternet.com](mailto:cmw_tilbury@btinternet.com)  
07710 376555