



Among the best ... Villagers Ken Willingdale, James Carver, Dave George, Andora Carver and Bryan Smith in Nayland, which is one of the safest places to live.

MSFP-23-12-10 HW 001

Picture by Helen Whitcombe

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# Village is in top 10 safest communities

COMMUNITY leaders in Nayland, which lies on the Suffolk and Essex border, were delighted to learn that their village is one of the safest places in the whole of the county.

Recently-released figures detailing the number of reported crimes during a whole year in council and parish wards up and down Suffolk, show Nayland is one of the top 10 safest places to live.

Nayland, which has a population of 1,500 people, features at number nine in the top 10, with just 44 crimes reported in a full year – less than one crime a week.

The number one slot falls to the town of Debenham in Mid Suffolk with only 29 crimes reported in 12 months.

The fact that Nayland is a safe place to live is something the villagers have known for a long time, and one of the reasons why they choose to live in the community.

Residents describe it as friendly and full of people with community spirit who look out for one another.

Ken Willingdale, president

by Anne Wise

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of the Nayland Community Council, said: "I have lived in this village for 45 years and it's always been a safe place to live.

"There's a great sense of community here, and we all keep an eye on things and look out for each other.

"As you get older, you need somewhere safe to live and we certainly feel very safe here."

James Carver, church warden and treasurer at St James', said: "This is a happy community and, thankfully, we suffer very little crime, which is good.

"We want to welcome the public to come to visit our village and see our church and it is our policy to keep it open so we don't lock it during the day.

"But we are always vigilant and keep an eye out for anything suspicious. We have a good sense of public spiritedness."

Bryan Smith, treasurer of the community council, said: "We are delighted to be one

of the areas with the lowest amount of crime.

"We do a lot with the residents and keep the youth club going by paying for the village hall hire charges.

"It's important as young people don't have a lot to do here and the public transport is not very good for them."

The figures were compiled by The Suffolk Observatory – a partnership between Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils in Suffolk, Suffolk NHS, Suffolk Constabulary and Choose Suffolk, and are based on statistics by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Crimes recorded during 2009/2010 – number per ward reported:

Boxford, 48; Bures St Mary, 45; Glemsford and Stanstead, 136; Great Cornard North, 230; Great Cornard South, 199; Hadleigh North, 267; Hadleigh South, 95; Lavenham, 86; Leavenheath, 46; Long Melford, 206; Nayland, 44; Sudbury East, 396; Sudbury North, 382; Sudbury South, 777; Waldingfield, 149.

St Edmundsbury: Cavendish, 56; Clare, 77.