

'Old world' village in Sunday Times top ten

Nayland one of the great places to live in the East

Ryan Jennings

A NORTH Colchester village has been named in the top ten places to live in the East of England.

Nayland is one of nine other towns and villages included in the Sunday Times Best Places to Live, which will be published this weekend.

Residents are not surprised, saying the village has a lot going for it.

"There is a lovely diverse community and there are thriving organisations for every possible leisure or past-time," said John Alexander, chairman of the Nayland Conservation Society.

"When you move to Nayland, it is only a matter of time before someone knocks on your door to invite you to some event or other. People are very close."

Mr Alexander, of Fen Street, Nayland, said the village had been well protected by the conservation society: "It has stopped a lot of adverse development of one form or another. The same cannot be said for Colchester."

Even though Nayland is just seven miles away from Colchester, Mr Alexander said many residents look to Sudbury as their nearest town.

"I would say many people in the village think Colchester has

'It has the whole winning package'

THE list was compiled by Sunday Times journalist Eleanor Mills.

During her research, she looked to find a balance between working life and home life for residents.

"Using that 'life matrix' idea, Nayland really hits it on the head," said Mrs Mills.

"It has the whole package."

She added: "You only have to speak to the local estate agents in Colchester and tell them you want to live in one of the best villages and they will start talking about Nayland."

"Nayland is very 'as it was'.

There are no housing developments and it just feels like Constable Country."

Mrs Mills also said the village had a lot to offer working



Place to be:
Nayland has been named as one of the best places to live
Picture: Nina Metson

parents. "In Nayland, you are in the countryside, but you can easily get to Colchester Station and get a train to London. "Accessibility to jobs is all part of the 'life matrix'."

been very badly developed over the years and it doesn't seem to be getting any better

"Sudbury is welcoming, there are no parking charges and it has a real local feel about it – something I wouldn't say of Colchester now."

He added: "I suppose traditionally it could be said the reason people move to Nayland is for retirement, but there has been quite a significant number of young people moving in with

young families."

Nayland is joined on the Best list by Woodbridge, in Suffolk, Felsted, near Braintree, and Safron Waldon.

Gerry Battye, chairman of Nayland Parish Council, added: "There is so much here for people. A thriving primary school, the best butchers in the whole of East Anglia and a great community spirit.

"It's no wonder houses don't stay up for sale for long here."