

### 3. What Makes Kelsall Special

3.1 As part of the process of preparing the Parish Landscape and Village Design Statement, residents were consulted through an initial workshop held in February 2005 and in a more detailed exhibition held 28 January 2006. In both sessions residents were asked what they especially valued about Kelsall, and what aspirations they had for its future development.

3.2 Kelsall residents:

- recognise that their village is set in a beautiful varied landscape - with hills, valleys, trees and plains - and that it has a long history of passage and settlement from Roman times and earlier;
- particularly value the spectacular views, both from the high points of the parish to east and west and south, and also the views of Kelsall Hill from the plains below;
- Appreciate the distinctive sandstone on which much of the village is founded, and the way it has characterised the village in outcrop, quarry, buildings and walls;
- say that the diversity of building styles in Kelsall adds to its distinctive character;
- value the remaining open space in the heart of the village, which provides an opportunity for recreation and helps the village to retain a rural character.

3.3 But residents expressed **concern:**

- that important green space was being lost because mature gardens were being surrendered for new building;
- that some recent development was out of scale with older settlement, unsuitable to the landscape and too urban in style;
- that there were repeated problems of flooding and sewage inundation; and that the growth of the village appeared to be making these problems worse;
- that the growth of the village had not been matched by improvements in infrastructure or in the provision of recreational and other facilities.