

## **Return Visit from representatives of Cittaslow town from The Netherlands**

The Mayor of Midden-Delfland in The Netherlands, Arnoud Rodenburg together with Cittaslow Project Manager, Robert Mangal visited Diss on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. This was a return visit following the trip to Midden-Delfland in July 2009 by Town Mayor Jane Trippett-Jones, Cllr Tony Palmer and Dr. Jan Hunt Head Teacher of Diss High School. Cittaslow town, Midden-Delfland is a cluster of close villages situated near the Hook of Holland near to the cities of Delft and Rotterdam and has many similarities to Diss being located in a rural setting with open views similar to those in Norfolk.

The two representatives from The Netherlands took the overnight ferry and arrived in Diss for a whistle stop walking tour of the town conducted by Basil Abbott. At lunch, courtesy of Armandines, Norfolk House Yard, the party were joined by former Cittaslow coordinator Cynthia Shears who was able to give information about the Diss Cittaslow project report. This was followed by a meeting for councillors and community organisations held in the Corn Hall in the afternoon and a dinner with community representatives in the Fayre View Restaurant ended a very successful visit.

On their return the Mayor of Midden-Delfland, Arnoud Rodenburg sent a very appreciative letter of thanks (in English) to the Town Mayor – extract as follows:

*'We hope that we can work together for a long time in the association of Cittaslow International. In any case, a concrete example is the exchange between our schools in preparation.  
I hope that we meet regularly to continue to speak, because Cittaslow, Midden-Delfland and Diss are actually very close together.  
Bring the greetings also to the town council, which are equally excited about the Cittaslow Diss'.*

It is hoped to continue to develop communication between the two towns which may eventually lead to twinning for which funding from the European Union is available.