

# Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan **2015**

## Base Line Information

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### 1 Background

This document is designed to capture the basic information gathered from which to build the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 2 Landscape and townscape

Lavenham is set within a gently undulating landscape comprising boulder clay soils over chalk, which has resulted in land of high agricultural quality. Hedges with hedgerow trees and small areas of woodland break up the fields surrounding the village. Watercourse create the grain of the landscape creating winding watercourses lined by wooded bank vegetation contributing to a varied patchwork of ecological community types as well as the visual appeal of the countryside.

This attractive landscape adds to the amenity value of the village. Distinctive views are to be found looking into and out of the village settlement. Footpaths provide a link between the whole. Gardens break up the built environment and add balance the varied mix of hard and soft townscape.

### 3 History and context

Lavenham is unique in its character and personality. Its famous timber-framed streets are the legacy of a thriving industry in woollen cloth, already well established in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The town is a good example of early town planning, with medieval streets radiating out from the Market Place which acquired its charter in 1257.

The de Vere family, Earls of Oxford and Lords of the Manor going back to the Conquest, stimulated Lavenham's commercial growth until by 1524 it is recorded as the 14<sup>th</sup> richest in the country, with many inhabitants who would today be regarded as millionaires. Prosperous cloth merchants displayed their wealth through their timber-framed buildings, continually rebuilding in the latest style. Thus, the majority of Lavenham's houses date from between 1450 and 1530, while the magnificent Church of Saints Peter and Paul also underwent major rebuilding during this period, funded mainly by the Earls of Oxford and Thomas Spring, Lavenham's richest clothier. The hall of the religious Guild of Corpus Christi still dominates the Market Place, one of four such buildings in the town's heyday.

But the bubble of economic success burst barely a generation after this boom, and Lavenham's reversal of fortune was both dramatic and until relatively recently permanent. Such was the town's dependence on the cloth trade that when the market collapsed its inhabitants could no longer afford to maintain their houses. Many of the finest buildings were lost at this time, while others survived by being sub-divided into tenements.

As a consequence, almost no new building took place for almost 300 years, when Victorian cottages and almshouses began to spring up on the former sites of timber houses, while many of those that remained acquired 'new' brick facades. A new upturn in fortunes was brought about by the coming of the railway (which, alas, closed in the 1960s), coupled with new industry from coconut matting manufacture, horsehair weaving and sugar beet processing.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century our buildings were again facing dereliction, a process only to be halted in the years following the 2nd World War. Lavenham slowly became a desirable place to live and a famous tourist destination, with house prices beyond the means of most of the indigenous population. Careful consideration is needed now, so that those who live here over the next 400 years inherit a vibrant, sustainable village. We hope that this document will play its part in achieving this aim.

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### **4 Village assets**

Church of St Peter & Paul

Church yard

Cemetery and chapel

Salvation Army hall

Recreation ground on the Long Melford Road and children's play equipment thereon

Sports Pavilion on Recreation ground

Village hall

Doctors surgery

Glebe or Rectory Meadow – next to the village hall site

Green spaces at

- Meadow Close and children's play equipment thereon

- Harwood Place

- The Glebe

- The Common and children's play equipment thereon

- First Meadow

- Spring Street

- Weavers Close

- Deacons Close

- River side opposite the bottom of Prentice Street

- Remaining grass verges around the village

- Meadow to the west of Potlands

- Grassland verges and permanent pasture meadows along Park Road

- The Lavenham (Railway) Walk

- Dye House Wood

- Pond at the junction of Bury and Preston roads

Lavenham Primary School

Cock Inn car park and lavatory block Prentice

Street car park and lavatory block

Numerous footpaths shown on the definitive map and permissive footpaths – see appendix [xx]

Mill House and remains of windmill

Little Hall

Market Place

The Guildhall – National Trust property and Grade 1 listed building

All Listed buildings totalling 206 including;

- 13 Grade I

- 188 Grade II

- 3 Grade II listed features

- 2 Scheduled monuments

Market Cross – Scheduled Ancient Monument

Gas works in Water Street – Scheduled Ancient Monument

15<sup>th</sup> century water culvert under Water Street

Palaeolithic sites World

War II pillboxes

Victorian water pumps

Bus shelter opposite The Swan

Telephone boxes

Shops; their mix and diversity, including;

- Butcher

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-Baker -  
 Grocers -  
 Pharmacy  
 -Eateries  
 - Dentists and complimentary beauty therapists  
 - Garage  
 Tourist information office  
 The Swan Hotel  
 The Great House restaurant with rooms  
 The Angel Hotel  
 The Greyhound and Cock pubs

### 5 Population

Based on the 2011 national census the total resident population of the Parish of Lavenham is 1,722 some 822 (48%) were men and 900 (52%) women. Babergh district in which Lavenham is located had a population of 87,740 of which 43,004 (49%) are men and 44,736 (51%) are women.

In Lavenham the percentage of people aged over 65 in 2011 was 33.4% compared to 16.4% nationally and the number under 30 was 21.9% compared to 37.6% nationally. For the economically active age range of 20 to 29 years olds the Lavenham percentage at 6.9% is half the national average of 13.7%. **This imbalance is increasing and threatens the sustainability of the community. It places extra, and different, demands on local health, education, transport and housing.**

In 2011 the age breakdown compared the district and England as a whole was as follows. The figures in brackets are taken from the 2001 census:

Age group	Lavenham raw figures	Lavenham %	Babergh %	National %
Total	1722 (1739)			
0-9	130 (100)	07.6 (05.8)	10.6	11.9
10-19	128 (138)	07.4 (08.0)	12.0	12.0
20-29	118 (150)	06.9 (08.6)	08.8	13.7
30-64	771 (820)	44.7 (47.2)	47.2	46.0
65+	575 (531)	33.4 (30.5)	21.4	16.4

From these figures we can conclude that the population of Lavenham is significantly older than the national population. Indeed, the mean age nationally is 39.3 years old, for Babergh it is 45.0 and for Lavenham a significantly higher 56.0.

The percentage of Lavenham residents older than 65 is over 50% greater than that of Babergh district and over twice that of the national average. Over the last ten years it has increased from just over 30% of the total population to 33.4%

The important economically active age group 20-64 is considerably smaller than the district and national figures 51.6% versus 56% for Babergh and 59.6% for England as a whole and between 2001 and 2011 it has declined from 55.8% to 51.6% a drop of 7.5%.

Of the population 95.24% are classified as white British. For Babergh one finds a similar percentage 95.36% and nationally a somewhat lower 90.84%.

Of permanent Lavenham residents 32 were classified lone parents of these 29 were women.

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### 6 Housing

All statistics based on 2011 national census, with the exception of the Council Tax Bandings, which were available from Babergh District Council.

There were 987 dwellings hence a housing density of 1.7 persons per dwelling of which 884 were occupied full time hence a housing density of 1.9 per dwelling considerably less than the national average. This means that 103 or just over 10.4% were probably for weekend or occasional use.

For Babergh the density figure is 3.9% and nationally 4.2% which means that Lavenham is three times that of Babergh and almost double the national average.

Housing stock

Whole houses - detached	303	30.7%
Whole houses semi-detached	279	28.3
Terrace houses	320	32.4
Flats	85	8.6

Of the 884 permanently occupied dwellings

		Lav %	Bab %	England %
Owned outright	391	44.2	39.6	30.6
With mortgage	181	20.5	32.3	32.8
Shared ownership	7	00.8	00.5	00.8
Council rental	150	16.8	08.9	09.4
Housing associations etc.	27	03.1	04.2	08.3
Privately rented	101	11.5	12.5	16.8
Rent free	27	03.1	02.0	01.3

Of the 884 dwelling with usual residents for 2011 (2001 in brackets)

	Lavenham	Bab	England
1 room	00.3 (00.0)	00.2	00.8
2	10.9 (01.5)	01.3	02.9
3	10.6 (09.4)	05.3	10.3
4	16.4 (17.2)	15.9	19.2
5	18.8 (24.1)	24.5	24.7
6	19.0 (16.6)	19.5	19.4
7	12.8 (13.0)	12.6	10.1
8+	20.7 (18.3)	20.8	12.7

Of the 884 number of bedrooms % 2011

	Lav	Bab	England
0	00.1	00.1	00.3
1	11.4	06.3	11.8
2	30.1	25.4	27.9
3	36.7	42.0	41.2
4	17.0	20.2	14.4
5+	04.8	06.0	00.5

Over the past twenty years a number of private estates have been built in Lavenham: The Glebe consisting of 44 houses (mostly comprised of four bedrooms); Riverside consisting of 19 houses

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(four bedrooms); Deacons Close consisting of 11 houses (three bedrooms); Roper's Court extension 8 bungalows (two bedrooms); White Gates consisting of 5 houses, 3 houses are detached each having 4 bedrooms. There are two semi-detached properties. One is a 2 bed property and the other is an affordable house again with 2 bedrooms. In-fill; two houses in Shilling Street, Quakers Yard four houses and Church Street builders yard one house and Hall Road studio converted into cottage and Constable Court conversion of office units to 6 houses.

**Affordable housing developments on exception sites during the same period comprised 11 units.**

Council Tax Bandings as provided by Babergh DC, are classified as following:-

	Lavenham	Nationally
Band A 121	12.66	24.8
Band B 215	22.49	19.5
Band C 177	18.51	21.7
Band D 113	11.82	15.3
Band E 122	12.76	9.4
Band F 123	12.87	4.9
Band G 83	8.68	3.5
Band H 2	0.21	0.5

Of the 884 households 15 or 1.7% do not have central heating. Twenty-two (2.5%) consist of only one room 13 or 1.5% percent of only one bedroom.

Listed buildings total 201, of which 13 are Grad 1 and 188 Grade 11\* and 11. Source English Heritage. A number of these buildings, however, are split into separate dwellings, numbering 321 and includes 15 Grade 1, 28 Grade 11 star and 278 Grade 11. Source Babergh District Council.

### 7 Health and wellbeing

Two salient points about health in Lavenham is the fact that, as we have seen, it has a large population over the age of 65 and many of these do not possess a motor car, necessary in some cases to access health services and cannot afford taxis fares. Transport can be arranged through the National Health Service but the service is restricted. As we will see some basic services can require going to larger centres but again transport is poor and can be expensive.

Provision of health services for Lavenham:

The Lavenham Surgery is part of the Long Melford practice and is highly valued as is the service provided by the Bildeston Surgery.

There are two dentists providing NHS services in the village. The nearest opticians are in Sudbury. Lavenham also enjoys the benefit of a full service pharmacy and dispensary. The village also enjoys an osteopathic practice and two beauty clinics offering a wide range of techniques.

In Sudbury a new Health Facility opened in early 2015 and offers a state of the art health centre for people in and around Sudbury, including Lavenham. Services that are housed within the new complex include:

- Paediatrics, dermatology, audiology, gynaecology, rheumatology
- Musculoskeletal physiotherapy, podiatry, speech and language therapy and continence clinics
- X-ray
- Community midwifery, health visitors and community therapy
- Neurology, urology, ophthalmology and orthopaedics
- GP services from Siam GP surgery

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The nearest hospital is the West Suffolk NHS Foundation Hospital Trust in Bury St Edmunds 9 miles away.

West Suffolk Hospital is a vibrant, friendly and accessible hospital set in a 19-hectare parkland site on the edge of Bury St Edmunds (with a direct bus service to Lavenham). It has around 430 beds open at any one time and serves a population of around 275,000 within an area of about 600 square miles. In addition, the hospital treats patients living outside this area who actively choose to be referred.

An “acute” hospital with an accident and emergency department, the West Suffolk Hospital aims to be the hospital local communities choose first, every time and is committed to achieving excellence and the highest quality care.

Current provision of services in Lavenham:

General health:

There is a First Responders service in Lavenham provided by volunteers. A volunteer therefore, is likely to be the first to respond to a 999 call. Response time is usually within the 8 minutes target time stipulated by the National Health Service. It is a highly valued service in the community. Once a Responder is on call a paramedic will attend and take charge.

About 1,500 Lavenham residents are served by a two-site National Health Service practice (called the Long Melford Practice), a partnership of five doctors, with a purpose built health centre in Lavenham and a main surgery located 5 miles away and reached by poor public transportation links in Long Melford. The Long Melford surgery is open for longer hours, has better facilities and offers more appointments. The practice has about 9,500 patients and covers a wide area including in addition to Long Melford and Lavenham the villages of: Acton, Alpheton, Boxted, Brent Eleigh, Cockfield, Glemsford, Great Waldingfield, Hartest, Lawshall, Little Waldingfield, Preston St Mary, Shimpling, Stanstead and Thorpe Morieux.

The clinical team is made up of 5 general practitioners partners, 2 associate general practitioners, 2 nurse practitioners, four practice nurses and 2 health care assistants. It is also a training practice and has up to two registrars at any one time. The main surgery has a dispensary and the Lavenham surgery works with the local pharmacy that can deliver medicines to its users.

Patients are seen by appointment as there is no open clinic. Sometimes by ringing early in the morning an appointment can be offered for the same day with one much more like to be offered at the Long Melford surgery than at Lavenham. Only Long Melford can offer appointments outside normal opening hours.

The Lavenham surgery is open from 8am to 13 hours and again from 14 hours to 18:30 Mondays to Friday. General practitioners are available from 08.30 to 10.50 and again from 14.30 to 17.20 Monday to Friday. The Nurse Practitioner is available from 08.20 to 11.20 on Monday. Practice Nurses are available from 08.40 to 12.30 Mondays to Fridays and again from 14.30 to 15.40 Thursdays. Health Care Assistants are available from 08.40 to 12.30 Tuesdays and from 08.40 to 12.00 Wednesdays.

Blood can be taken at Lavenham but only on Thursday afternoons otherwise patients must travel to Sudbury or Bury St. Edmunds particularly if they must give blood in the morning after fasting. However, blood can be taken at home for those who are housebound.

There is no surgery of any kind at either site on weekends and bank holidays

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About 292 residents of Lavenham are registered with the Bildeston Health Centre that is accessible only by motorcar. Appointments with one of the four general practitioners are given between 08:30 to 10:30 and 15:00 to 5:50 Monday to Friday. A phlebotomist is available weekday between 08:45 and 11. Health care assistants are available from 14:00 to 17:45. A Saturday surgery by appointment only is held between 9 to 12:00 noon. The Bildeston team consists of four doctors and two practice nurses and it has its own dispensary. Both practices can perform minor surgery.

### Dentistry:

Lavenham has two private dental practices. The nearest NHS practices are in Sudbury where there are six and Hadleigh, not directly accessible by public transport where there are two.

### Opticians:

There is an optician in Long Melford, four in Sudbury and two in Hadleigh.

In the 2011 people were asked to describe their health as very good, good, fair, bad or very bad. Although this is a largely subjective judgement and does not give us anywhere near good as indication as would be provided by an examination of surgery and hospital records it can be useful as an impression. Briefly, as would be expected Lavenham residents are more likely to report bad or very bad health than do the younger Babergh and national populations.

	Lav	Bab	England
Very good health	37.6	46.6	47.2
Good health	39.0	35.8	34.2
Fair health	17.3	13.3	13.1
Bad health	04.6	03.4	04.2
Very bad health	01.5	00.9	01.2
Good very good	76.6	82.4	81.4
Bad/very bad	06.1	04.3	05.4

Figures like these are to be expected with older population. Another factor is the number of residents who have been moved into care facilities outside Lavenham. This would add to those who report bad or very bad health. As Lavenham does not have any such facilities we would expect the figures in that category to be higher.

Some 403 residents report that their day-to-day activities are at least somewhat limited because of their health. This represents 23.4% of the population. The discrepancy between this figure and the much lower figure of 6.1% of those reporting that their health is bad or very bad is interesting. Additionally, 33.68% of households report that they are composed of one or more persons with a limiting long-term illness. This figure is in line with that for England as a whole.

A total of 80 residents claimed disability living allowance.

	Raw	%
Younger than 16	10	12
16-24	05	06
25-49	15	19
50-59	15	19
60-69	20	25
70+	15	19



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In 2011 some 226 usual residents provide unpaid care. Of these the percentages are as follows:

Universe 226.

Unpaid care	Lav	Bab	England
1-19 hours	72.1	70.2	63.6
20-49	09.7	10.5	13.3
50+	18.2	19.3	23.1

### 8 Air quality

A report was prepared in 2014 but has yet to be published – October 2015

Local authorities, in the case of Lavenham, its district council is required by the 2007 Air Quality Strategy to issue yearly reports and a plan to deal with seven pollutants largely the products of transport and industry within its boundaries recommending how to achieve the reductions of any significant risk to health and attain the wider objectives of sustainable development in relation to air quality.

The District of Babergh in conjunction with Mid-Suffolk Council has issued yearly air quality reports up to at least 2011. The reports for 2012 and 2013 have not been published and are not accessible. As of 2011 Babergh District Council does not have an air quality strategy in place.

Those pollutants which are cross boundary, so to speak and consist of ozone, nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide are not part of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) system.

Of the seven pollutants that all within the remit of Babergh it does not measure benzene, PM10 particles are sulphur compounds as they are regarded as low risk.

Within Babergh the only place to be designated an Air Quality Management Area is Cross Street in Sudbury because of an exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide. Water Street in Lavenham has some of the same characteristics as Cross Street but perhaps because of the lower volume of traffic to the best of our knowledge it has not been monitored and there are no automatic monitoring or non-automatic sites in the village. It is claimed that the main source of pollution in Lavenham is from the emissions of motorised vehicles.

### 9 Public transport

Overall Lavenham suffers from the lack of an integrated system of public transport. It lost its railway in 1966 and its links by bus do not necessarily dovetail with the schedule of the closest railway stations located in Sudbury and Bury St. Edmunds. The lack of such a system makes the use of a private motor car imperative and those without a motor car often cannot take jobs in the nearby towns where employment is on offer.

Links:

Lavenham is located 6 miles by road from Sudbury Railway Station which links via Marks Tey with an hourly train to London Liverpool Street, as does the village of Bures 10 miles distant. Bury St. Edmunds Railway station is 11 miles and links via Cambridge with London and to Ipswich, via Stowmarket. Colchester main line station enjoys a direct service to Liverpool Street with trains leaving about twice an hour and is 15 miles away.

Airports

By road Stansted airport is 28 miles away and Southend airport is 37 miles. Both can be reached by motor car or a hired taxi service. There is no direct public transport service, albeit that both can be

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reached by train via London Liverpool Street.

### Buses

An hourly scheduled bus service to Bury St Edmunds links to West Suffolk Hospital and from the bus station links to the national bus network. An hourly service in the other direction goes to Sudbury and Colchester visiting intermediate villages en route. Suffolk Link offers a dial-a-ride service and is located in Hadleigh. GoStart of Sudbury provides a flexible dial-a-ride service.

The Parish Council sponsors a Good Neighbour scheme and its main offering is a 'taxi' service provided by volunteer drivers with a fixed tariff.

The Babergh Core Plan recognises the lack of good public transport as an issue.

### 10 Employment

Data based on 2011 national census.

Of permanent residents aged 16-74, a total of 1,205, some 64 percent were classified as economically active (a very slight decline from 2001 when 65.3% were classified as economically active). The corresponding figures for Babergh district are 70.3% (69.7% in 2001) and England as a whole 69.9% (67.9% in 2001). The difference of between 5 and 6 percentage points is due to the higher percentage of population that is classified as retired.

#### Classified as economically active (total of 771)

	Count	Lav	Bab	England
Employed part time	153	12.7	15.2	13.7
Employed full time	358	29.7	37.2	38.6
Self employed	212	17.6	12.7	09.8
unemployed	27	02.2	03.0	04.4
students	21	01.7	02.3	03.4

#### Classified as economically inactive (total of 434)

retired	312	25.9	18.2	13.7
students	25	02.1	03.4	05.8
carers	41	03.4	04.2	04.4
disabled etc	45	03.7	02.5	04.0
Others	11	00.9	01.3	02.2

Retirees constitute almost double the national percentage and about 25% higher than for the Babergh district. What is equally noteworthy is that the percentage of employees in Lavenham is lower than for Babergh and England as a whole and the percentage classified as self-employed is again just short of double of the national percentage and just under 40% higher than for the Babergh district. Unemployment is about half of the national average and there is a considerably smaller proportion of the active and inactive population classified as students.

The percentage of retirees has increased from 21.2% of the total population in 2001 to 25.9% in 2011 a significant increase of some 22%. For Babergh one finds that the proportion has increased from 15.5% to 18.2% and nationally the figures are 13.5% in 2001 and 13.7% in 2011. Hence the trend is a rise in the number and percentage of the population classified as retirees well above the national average and a proportion of the population that is classified as retired also well above the national and district averages.

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Based on two surveys carried out by the Lavenham Merchants Guild in 2000 and 2010, the breakdown of occupations is;

Business Category	2000 Survey			2010 Survey			%+ - %
	Full	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
Hotel/Pub/Restaurant	71	63	134	87	44	131	-2.3
General Shops	49	14	63	43	75	118	+87
Food Shops	14	15	29	15	20	35	+20.6
Galleries/Antiques	15	10	25	10	16	26	+4
Professional Services	34	6	40	41	25	66	+65
Health/Hair/Beauty	10	10	20	14	19	33	+65
Building Services	52	5	57	25	5	30	-47
Industrial	60	15	75	48	7	55	-26.7
Farmer	19	4	23	10	5	15	-35
B&B/Holiday let	5	10	15	10	21	31	+106
Others	1	4	5	3	2	5	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>+12.1%</b>

The socio-economic status in the 2001 census was as follows. The information is for 1,555 people:

	Raw	Lav	Bab	England
AB Higher/professional	360	23.2	24.0	22.1
C1 Supervisory, clerical	484	31.1	30.0	29.7
C2 Skilled manual	227	14.6	16.8	15.1
D Semi-skilled manual	182	11.7	14.5	17.1
E Labourers/on benefit	302	19.4	14.7	16.0

Of course, these figures do not fully take into account the possible changes in status that occurs when one retires and also do not take into account accumulated wealth. The class composition of the village is more extreme than that of the country as a whole.

In 2011 the census changed the way it classified socio-economic status making it difficult to fully compare the results of 2001 with those of 2011. Using the rubrics used in 2001 it is possible to arrive at the following estimates that are far from exact because the large group of retired people many living on earnings from capital are excluded as the categorisation is based only on those at work. However, the following comparison is still of some merit.

Based on a total of 1,161 Lavenham residents of working age we find the following:

	2001	2011	2011 actual numbers
AB Higher/professional	23.2	24.4	283
C1 Supervisory, clerical	31.1	25.6	298
C2 Skilled manual	14.6	10.4	121
D Semi-skilled manual	11.7	14.0	163
E Labourers/on benefit	19.4	25.5	296

Even if the figures are not entirely reliable it is still possible to conclude that there has been a loss of residents from the C1 and C2 categories. Gains have been made by those categories at the extremes which could be taken as an indication that socio-economic differences have widened.

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### Distance travelled to work (2011)

Universe: 825

Work at home	134	16.2%
Less than 2km	159	19.4
2-5 km	019	02.3
5-10 km	171	20.8 includes Sudbury
10-20km	121	14.7 includes Bury St Edmunds
20-30 km	069	08.2
30-40 km	025	03.0
40-60 km	024	02.9
60+ km	051	06.1
not fixed	050	06.0
outside UK	003	00.4

This indicates that 35.6% of those at work either work from home or are within walking distance of their place of work. Probable commuters to Sudbury are 20.8% and to Bury 14.7% meaning that 292 people require weekday transport to those places. On such a scale careful thought must be given to the provision of adequate and timely public transport for economic and ecological reasons. In 2001 only 17 residents used public transport for such purposes, 10 travelled by bicycle, 3 by a motorised cycle or moped and 45 as a passenger in a motor car. 110 went on foot.

### Of those in employment: and who travel to work: method of travel to work 2011 Universe: 658

	Lav	Bab	England
Train/tram/metro	04.1	04.1	10.0
Bus	00.8	02.4	07.9
Taxis	00.5	00,2	00,6
Moto	01.1	00.7	00.9
Van/car driving	70.0	73.7	60.2
Van/car passenger	04.9	04.9	05.3
Cycle	00.9	02.2	03.1
Walk	16.6	11.1	11.3
Other	01.1	00.7	00.7

Of Lavenham who are employed and do not work from home 74.9% drive to work or are transported to work in a private car, very few cycle and given the relative unavailability of trains etc., few are able to avail themselves of those services unless they are commuters to larger towns and cities. The use of the bus as means of conveyance to work is spectacularly less than is the case in Babergh and full ten times less than for England as a whole. This requires attention. A higher percentage 16.6% walks to work than in either the district or England as a whole. Overwhelmingly the motor car is the form of transport to work for those who do not work from home or within walking distance of their place of employment.

Comparing the occupational profile of 2001 with that of 2011 is difficult because of changes in the systems of classification. However, there are a number of discernible trends. The total number of people who are between 16 and 74 and working (as opposed to being retired or living off investments) has declined from 826 in 2001 to 742 in 2011. Whereas 42 people were employed in agriculture and related sectors in 2001 this has now declined to 15. The fall in manufacturing is even

# Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015

## Base Line Information

steeper with a contraction from 143 to 86. Those engaged in trade has fallen from 134 to 108. Construction has remained more or less steady increasing from 92 in 2001 to 93 in 2011.

The number of professionals including science and technology has increased to 52, public administration from 32 to 39, education from 52 to 72 whilst those in the health sector have declined from 68 to 62 and those in the restaurant and accommodation sector have remained more or less steady.

Employment: Residents; 16-74. Sectors

2011 Total: 742

	Nos.	%
Agriculture	15	02.0
Building: quarrying	00	00.0
Manufacturing	86	11.6
Electricity	04	00.5
Water supply	03	00.4
Construction	93	12.5
Trade	108	14.6
Transport	20	02.7
Accomod./food	68	09.3
Info/Communic.	20	02.7
Financial	16	02.2
Estates	10	01.3
Prof./science/tech	52	07.0
Admin. Support	30	04.0
Public admin	39	05.2
Education	72	09.7
Health	62	08.4
Other	44	05.9

We can look at this in another way;-

Occupation of Lavenham residents.

2011 Total: 742%	% of population
Manager directors etc	14.2
Prof	14.4
Technical	12.4
Admin/secy	09.7
Skilled	17.3
Caring leisure	08.2
Sales etc.	06.6
Operatives	05.0
Elementary occupations	12.3

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### 11 Education and skills

Highest level of qualifications 2011. Aged 16+ Universe: 1512

	Raw	Lav	Bab	England
No qualifications	376	24.9	22.8	22.5
1-4 O-levels	174	11.5	14.5	13.3
5+ O-levels	226	14.9	17.5	15.1
Apprenticeship	059	03.9	03.9	03.6
2+ A-levels etc.	166	11.0	11.6	12.4
Degree or equiv.	446	29.5	25.8	27.4
Others	065	04.3	03.9	05.7

In line with a greater proportion of people in categories A/B and E there is a somewhat higher proportion of Lavenham residents at the two extreme: no qualifications and degree or its equivalent.

In 2007 the last year for which we have full data 58% were not entering some form of higher education and 41.1% of adults (age group 25-54) had no or low qualifications.

Lavenham Community Primary School is currently and may in the future be unable to cope with increased pupil numbers.

Lavenham Pre-school shares space with the primary school and due to restrictions on the availability of facilities can only operate in the morning. Local practice elsewhere in Suffolk is for pre-schools to be available all day.

From year 7 Lavenham's young people go by bus to schools in Sudbury and Gt Cornard

Lavenham Primary School is affiliated to one of these - The Thomas Gainsborough School, Gt Cornard. The alternative available to Lavenham students is the Ormiston Sudbury Academy.

The aim of both schools is to provide an education of sufficient breadth and balance for every student to maximise their potential: so that each student is able to develop their self confidence in learning culture based on mutual respect. Students are coached to become honest, resilient, happy young people who make a positive contribution to their Community. Both establishments take students through to sixth form.

#### Lavenham Primary School

The people of Lavenham are proud of their village school and the proven good grounding it gives its children. This is borne out by the 'Outstanding' report granted by Ofsted in its latest 2010/11 report.

The school is a Suffolk County Council coeducational school for children aged 4+ to 11 years (Reception through to year 6, thus 7 years of education) mostly from the Parish and surrounding villages. Until recently the County operated a three tier system with children leaving the school in their eighth year. It has a current enrolment of around 112, albeit that it has an overall theoretical capacity of 105 pupils. Should any expansion be required and/or possible then any new development would be expected to contribute to new school places. Without such further development the school is currently at breaking point.

Adult further education is catered for by an outreach service provided by the West Suffolk College, silver surfers club meeting at the school and Lavenham Lectures, which replaced the Cambridge Extra Mural course run out of Madingly, Cambridge. In addition, a number of societies such as the Lavenham Society run ad hoc educational events.

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### 12 Equality

One hundred and fifty households (or 17 percent of all permanently occupied households) were in receipt of housing benefit/council tax benefit. Of these 60 went to men and 95 to women (five seem to be missing from the census). Fifty were younger than 59 and 110 more than 60. Thirty couples received benefits as did 120 single people.

The deprivation scale runs from 1 to 32,482 (being the total number of localities measured) with the higher figure indicating the least deprived.

Composite scale	26,801	82.5
Income scale	22,292	68.6
Child deprivation	15,526	47.8

On a scale of 1 to 100 with 100 indicating the least deprived on a composite scale and 50 representing the average for the entire country Lavenham performs quite well (a score of 82.5), as it does somewhat less well in terms of income (68.6) but below average in terms of an absence of child-deprivation (47.8). This is a serious problem indicating that less well-off families with children have serious problems. But again one must remember that the differences between rich and poor in Lavenham are more extreme than in England as a whole hence one should not be surprised that there is a relatively large group of the population suffering from relative deprivation. Special attention should be paid to this sector.

In 2011 some 14% of the population received a key benefit as opposed to 15% nationally. Two percent claimed jobseeker's allowance, lower than the national average, and 6% claimed incapacity benefits, marginally lower than the national average. Lone parents comprised 2% of the population, carers another two percent and disabled accounted for 1%.

Half of those claiming a key benefit were over 50 years old which in percentage terms is about 30% over the national average.

In 2010 the total number of children eligible for child benefit was 235 and 135 families claimed benefit.

One hundred families received tax credit. Of these 85% were in work and 27.3% were single parents.

Some 150 individuals claimed either housing benefit or council tax benefit. Of these 110 were over the age of 60 and 120 were classified as single. This means a disproportionate part of the population of the parish were elderly people claiming benefit. Of these 63% were women.

Ninety-five people (40 men and 55 women) were pension credit claimants. Of these 75 lived in couples and 20 were single. About 45% were over the age of 80.

None of this is surprising because, as we have seen, Lavenham has a disproportionate number of well off and very badly off people and, as the census indicates, the extremes are growing whilst the middle is shrinking.

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### **13 Climate and energy**

Babergh Core Strategy policy CS12 seeks to reduce carbon emissions and sets out residential design standards (including those for both major residential developments via the Building for Life Silver Standard and for non-residential developments via the BREEAM 'Excellent' standard). Policy CS13 deals with the approach to renewable and low carbon energy, focusing on the Strategic Allocations and Broad Direction of Growth and large-scale new developments, but also encouraging low and zero carbon technologies in other developments.

Transition Lavenham a Community Interest Company has recently (September 2014) been awarded grant funding under the WRAP scheme to fund a viability appraisal into building an Anaerobic Digestion plant in the vicinity of Lavenham. The industrial nature of such an enterprise and the requirement for a two-hectare site would rule out this development within the parish of Lavenham.

### **14 Rural Community Profile for Lavenham (Rural place)**

Content link [http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RuralPlaceProfile\\_E34002507\\_Lavenham.pdf](http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RuralPlaceProfile_E34002507_Lavenham.pdf)

Source Community Action Suffolk

### **15 Rural community profile for Lavenham (Parish)**

Content link [http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RuralPlaceProfile\\_E04009103\\_Lavenham.pdf](http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/RuralPlaceProfile_E04009103_Lavenham.pdf)

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