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1. Introduction

1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. Accordingly, this Consultation Statement contains the following information:

- details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan
- an explanation as to how they were consulted
- a summary of the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
- a description as to how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

1.2 Community and stakeholder engagement has been an integral part of the Neighbourhood Plan making process. The consultation activity can however be broken down into five key stages as follows.

Stage	Time period
Inception	October 2012
Residential and Business Survey Stage	September to November 2013
Initial Plan Development Stage	January 2014 – March 2014
Advanced Plan Development Stage	April 2014 – July 2015
Regulation 14 Pre Submission Consultation	August and September 2015

1.3 This consultation statement provides an overview of the activity which took place at each of these stages.

1.4 The Lavenham Parish Council first decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan in May 2012. A Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was initially set up soon afterwards among Parish Councillors but input was then sought from the wider community following the launch of the NDP on 7 October 2012. In addition to 40 members of the community who volunteered to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan at this event, the NDP was also supported by Bryan Panton who helped with photography, professor Charles Posner who helped compile and analyse much of the evidence base, Toy Sheppard who took the lead on community issues, Tony Ranzetta who helped with health and wellbeing, Victoria Beech who set up the website and compiled the questionnaire, Sue Wigglesworth who lead on housing, Andrea Norman who assisted in her capacity as district councillor and Chris Jay who helped put together the business survey.

1.5 In preparing the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group has endeavoured to keep residents and other stakeholders informed of the plan making process. Early on in the process, a separate website <http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk> was set up to host the Neighbourhood Plan event calendar, consultation survey results, the draft versions of the Neighbourhood Plan as the document development as well as the Regulation 14 version draft of the Neighbourhood Plan.

1.6 Once the process of producing a NP was underway, the NP committee hosted village wide workshops for the purpose of informing the community about progress as well as seeking input from the wider community in to the plan making process. Altogether, there have been four separate sets

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of village wide workshops. Each of these has been held at different times in the same week typically Sunday in the village hall and Wednesday afternoon /evenings in the Guildhall. The first was held in November 2013 when 140 people attended, the second in March 2014 when 120 people attended, the third in October 2014 when 90 people attended and the last one was held in July 2015 where 250 people attended.

1.7 In addition to hosting the community wide NDP workshops, the NDP team presented at other village clubs and societies, Annual General Meetings and events and, attended the monthly farmers market.

1.8 The Neighbourhood Plan committee has also maintained regular contact with key stakeholders throughout the process in particular the Community Planning and Design Officer at Babergh District Council, officers at Suffolk County Council and Historic England.

2. Inception Stage - October 2012

2.1 The decision to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Lavenham goes back to an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council in the Spring of 2011. The meeting was held to address present and future pressures and issues on the village. These revolved around the cut back of local services by Babergh District Council and their lack of engagement with their residents. Some 330 people attended and endorsed the need and for the Parish Council to consider this and the method to be adopted. The preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan was seen as an important opportunity for the community to help address many of the issues of concern.

2.2 Following this, the first Lavenham neighbourhood planning workshop took place at the Lavenham Village Hall on the 7th October 2012 from 10 am and 3pm. The purpose of the meeting was a scoping day to identify the issues of concern to residents and to assess the appetite for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Lavenham. Residents were informed about the event in September via a hand delivered letter (attached at Appendix 1).

2.3 Over 200 residents attended the scoping day. Discussions took place around eight themes: Health & wellbeing, Culture, Heritage and Education, Amenities and Social, The Built Environment, Conservation and Settlement, Local Economy and Employment, Housing, Ecology and the Countryside and Village Access and Communities. Participants were provided with an information pack and were asked discuss the scope of each theme, identify the key issues of concern and then to express by voting their priorities in each theme. The output of this meeting is set out in Appendix 2.

2.4 At the meeting there was overall support for the production of a neighbourhood plan and 44 attendees offered to help prepare the plan.

2.5 Following the 7 October 2012 meeting, six working groups were tasked to work further on the one of the six topics set out below with the object of developing a village questionnaire:

- Housing and Planning
- Environment
- Education/School
- Commerce/Business

- Health and Wellbeing
- Communications

2.6 In doing this each working group were asked to consider reports regarding: Commerce and employment, Education, culture and heritage, Environment, ecology and countryside, Health and wellbeing, the build environment, Village access and communication.

3. Residential and Business Survey Stage – September to November 2013

Who was consulted and how were they consulted

3.1 In September 2013 both the residential questionnaire and the business questionnaire were distributed for completion. The residential questionnaire was delivered to all homes in the parish and electronic copies were available to download from www.lavenham-np.co.uk. The questionnaire was pre-ceded by the letter at Appendix 3.

3.2 The business survey was published on the website in September 2013 and distributed as a hard copy to those who asked for one. This followed an earlier survey carried out by Lavenham Merchants' Guild, the results of which are on the internet at http://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Uploads-BDC/Economy/Strategic-Planning-Policy/LDF/Evidence_Studies/LvnhmBusSurvey.pdf

3.3 In addition, the NDP committee maintained a database of interested parties and their work and notification of the two surveys was sent out via email and a drop box.

3.4 The residential questionnaire which can be viewed at <http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Lavenham-NP-Questionnaire-Final-17-09-2013.pdf> comprised 30 questions around seven themes: housing; getting around and about; our environment; shopping; employment; well-being and leisure; keeping in touch; and getting things done - our institutions. It was sent out to all households and consultees were asked to complete it by 20 October 2013.

3.5 The business questionnaire which can be viewed at <http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Lavenham-Neighbourhood-Planning-Business-Survey2.pdf> comprised 26 questions and broken into two parts where the first part focused on establishing information about the business and the second part sought the views of businesses about their various needs.

Summary of the main issues and concerns raised:

3.6 68% of households responded to the residential survey. Details of the results are provided on the Lavenham NP web site at <http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/lavenham-neighbourhood-planning-survey-pilot/>. A letter summarising the results was delivered to all residents in November 2013 and this is shown in Appendix 4. The letter announced the dates of further open days during November at the Village Hall and the Guildhall at which the outcomes of the survey were to be displayed.

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A summary of Sept 2013 Residential Survey results:

Theme	Key Messages from community consultation
Housing and development	Support for more housing: 53% of respondents expressed that the community needed a few more housing and a further 15% stated the community needed a lot more housing.
	Strong support for public sector housing with 88% expressing that this form of housing was fairly important, very important or essential.
	Strong support for 2/3 bedroom dwellings with 79% stating this was needed compare to just 24% expressing 4+bedroom houses were needed
	In terms of quantity of housing growth, 9% though there should be no housing growth, 42% considered up to 50 units to be required, 31% considered 51 – 100 being appropriate, 13% considered 101 – 200 being appropriate and 5% considered more than 200 was needed.
	In terms of how new housing should come forward 59% of respondents considered a number of smaller developments to be the most preferable choice with a further 22% expressing this as their second preference.
	Strong support for the provision of a care home for elderly residents
Getting around and about	Key concerns relating to traffic speeding and traffic calming followed by improved public transport and in particular feeder services to our local hospitals.
Our environment	Support for the safeguarding of wildlife and their habitats are safeguarded. Better use of public spaces was emphasised as was Lavenham’s historical context.
Wellbeing and leisure	It was felt that the present level of village facilities and amenities should be preserved and the most essential were; the pharmacy and doctors surgery, primary school, post office and grocery stores. Potential new facilities included; high speed internet access, greengrocers, day nursery for working parents and public allotments. Additional requirements were felt necessary for; adult learning across the age bands and better facilities for children of all ages. Respondents were quite sanguine regarding issues of personal safety and anti-social behaviour, albeit that heavy traffic and dog/horse fouling did cause concern.
Keeping in touch	Although the majority of people enjoy internet access: most residents still prefer to receive their communication in a paper format.
Our institutions	Overall a high level of respondents consider the Parish Council to be effective with a lower proportion comfortable with the District and County councils effectiveness. Likewise, any transfer of power in the direction of the Parish carried favour. Regular parish meetings were called for as was representation by the younger generation and it was reported that there are too many layers of local government.

3.7 The 2013 business survey was completed by 43 businesses in Lavenham during October 2013. The businesses which responded ranged from holiday let business, non-food retail, professional services, gallery/artist/antiques, hair dressers, building services / plumber / electrician / decorator / gardener etc etc. report of the results of this survey is available to view at <http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/np-business-survey/>.

3.8 The results of the business survey confirmed the predominance in Lavenham of small independent businesses, reliant on tourism and with a healthy level of local employment. The detailed results can be seen at <http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Lavenham-NP-Business-Survey-Summary-Results1.pdf>

3.9 The results of the residential survey and the business survey provided the NP steering group with a clear steer on the topic areas which the NP steering group should undertake further work on.

4. Initial Plan Development Stage Jan 2014 – March 2014

4.1 The findings of the residential and business survey provided the NP steering group with the basis from which to draw up a vision and key objectives to underpin the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The NDP steering group also received training during this period from Planning Aid England as well as input from Babergh officer Peter Freer. This training and input helped the group understand the implications of the basic conditions which a neighbourhood plan will be tested against at examination stage, the types of issues which could potentially be addressed through a planning policy, the Local Plan which already existed by way of the Babergh Core Strategy and the Babergh Local Plan saved policies as well as the policies of the National Planning Policy Framework.

4.2 Members of the NDP steering group met with the Strategic Director (Place), the Head of Communities, the Head of Economy, an officer from Development Management and the Community Planning and Design Officer at Babergh offices on 6 February 2014. At this meeting the NDP steering group updated officers on feedback received from the Lavenham community as well as the resulting progress on the emerging vision and structure for the NDP vision. Housing needs including affordable housing was discussed as was the need to consider a possible new primary school site.

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4.3 The NDP steering group drew up the following overarching vision, objectives and themes as a result of the work undertaken up to March 2014.

Purpose of the Plan	<i>To Preserve and Enhance Quality of life in Lavenham</i>	
Vision Component		Themes
Community	Continue to meet the aspirations of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate housing to meet local needs, including housing suitable for a growing elderly population
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate capacity and facilities of Lavenham School to protect its long term future and the growing needs of the community
Environment	Safeguard the village environment and surrounding countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve protect and enhance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the historic core of the village - important landscape value - recognised views into and out of the village
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that any development is sympathetic to the environment
Economy	Maintain a vibrant economy recognising the importance of tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Lavenham’s position as a prestigious tourism destination
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve resources to meet tourism demand, develop related services and encourage local trade
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage employment

4.3 It became clear to the NDP committee at this early plan drafting stage that in addition to planning policies, the Neighbourhood Development Plan would include a list of projects, committing the NDP committee and the Parish Council to a series of actions to help with the realisation of the aspirations set out in the table above.

Who was consulted and how were they consulted:

4.4 This early version of the vision and objectives was made available to share with the wider community on the NP website and can be viewed at <http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/survey-results/np-draft-introduction-march-2014/>. Residents were invited to two open workshops to discuss the vision, the objectives and the key components of these on Wednesday 26th March between 5 and 8 pm 2014 and on Sunday 30th morning in the village hall between 9.30 and 1 o’clock. As part of the workshops, residents were invited to provide their input on the identification of important local views in the Parish. Fourteen potential views were presented at the community workshop through the use of photographs and maps and residents were asked to prioritise the importance of these for protection. Additional detail on this is provided in the Evidence Base document 2. Residents were also given the option to approach any member of the parish council directly with regards the consultation on the emerging vision, objectives and scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.5 This early version of the vision and objectives was also shared with Babergh District Council and other statutory consultees including Suffolk County Council and neighbouring villages.

Summary of the main issues and concerns raised:

4.6 In all, 120 people attended the March workshops. Issues highlighted by residents included; need for local housing, reduction in traffic and traffic speed, integrity of village boundaries, protection from visual impact of any development, size of any development to be small in scale (20-25 dwellings), and avoidance of high density developments, such as The Halt.

4.7 The feedback received during the consultation on the March draft Vision and Objectives informed the plan development which followed.

4.8 Resident input on the views assessment undertaken at the March workshops clearly indicated the importance of retaining and protecting particular views into and out from Lavenham. As a result of the feedback two views with low scores Clayhill and Bury Road were removed and the view of the Church West Door was found as being a virtual duplication of Bridge Street Road (Evidence Base Document 2 for further detail).

5. Advanced Plan Development Stage April 2014 – July 2015

5.1 September 2014 Consultation on Version 10 of the Neighbourhood Plan

5.1.1 Between the period April 2014 and September 2014, the NP committee used the March Vision, Theme and Objectives paper as a basis for progressing on a fuller draft Neighbourhood Plan. To accompany this the NP committee also produced a Base Line document. This version of the Neighbourhood Plan is available to view at <http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Revision-10-no-apps-v2.pdf>. It included 11 planning policies related to housing, 2 planning policies related to design, 12 planning policies related to community, 5 planning policies related to the environment and 8 planning policies related to the economy. As part of this the document proposed a number of important defined views into and out of the countryside to be given careful consideration in the consideration of planning applications.

Who was consulted and how were they consulted:

Residents:

5.1.2 This document was made available to view on the NP website at www.lavenham-np.co.uk. Residents were informed about it via local posters and the Lavenham Life Parish Magazine.

5.1.3 An open day workshop was held on this version of the Plan on Sunday 12 October 2014 between 2 and 5pm. Residents were invited to provide their responses either at that working day or via email via the Have your Say button on the web site. A total of 90 people attended and commented.

5.1.4 A meeting was held with senior Babergh officers at Babergh District Council in Hadleigh on the content of the plan 25 November 2014. Babergh officers attended from Economic Development, Strategic housing, Communities Team and Community Planning, Heritage and Design. In addition a senior Suffolk County Council officer attended. Prior to the meeting draft copies of the plan had

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been circulated and the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the draft policies. Issues discussed included:

- Appropriateness of protecting the Tourist Information Centre (then draft policy E1)
- Wording of the affordable housing policy
- The need to strengthen the design policies
- The need to work with English Heritage on some of the detailed policy wording

5.1.5 Following the November meeting at Babergh the Neighbourhood Plan team sought input from English Heritage (now Historic England). The document received is appended at Appendix 8 commented on the effectiveness and appropriateness of the planning policies relating to the historic environment including the policies relating to landscape. The suggestions made by Historic England considered and the policies strengthened accordingly.

5.1.6 Meetings were held with Suffolk County Council on 12th June 2014 and 8th December 2014 with particular regard for the policies relating to the existing school site and the potential relocation of the school.

5.1.7 In response to the work undertaken with residents and stakeholders the NDP steering group revised the plan in order:

- Strengthen the design and environmental policies ensuring they reflect community intentions and are effective in managing future development
- Reduced the number of planning policies separating out those which were non-planning related and removing those which were beyond the scope of a neighbourhood plan.
- Strengthen the policies relating to heritage assets and views in light of recommendations made by English Heritage.

5.2 March 2015 Consultation on Version 20 of the Neighbourhood Plan

5.2.1 Between the period September 2014 and March 2015 the NDP committee worked on the Neighbourhood Plan to address the issues raised as a result of the consultation on the September 2014 version of the plan. By March 2015 the NDP committee had produced version 20 of the Neighbourhood Plan and they made this available on their website at <http://www.lavenham-np.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Revision-20-6.pdf>

5.2.2 Version 20 of the Neighbourhood Plan comprised 9 planning policies relating to housing, 2 planning policies relating to design, 10 planning policies relating to the community, 5 planning policies relating to the environment and 2 planning policies relating to the economy.

Who was consulted and how were they consulted:

5.2.3 The wider community were invited to provide input on this version of the neighbourhood plan via the website and further meetings were sought with planning officers at Babergh District Council.

5.2.4 A meeting was held with Babergh officers in Lavenham on 3 June 2015. Babergh officers who attended included one Development Management Officer and the Neighbourhood Planning Officer.

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Version 20 of the plan was discussed where Babergh officer made a series of recommendations for changes. Discussions focused in particular around the policies which sought to protect certain views in the NP area, the policy which sought to limit the size of new developments and the value that the NDP policies would add to the existing context provided by the Core Strategy.

5.2.5 A key conclusion from this meeting was that from a development management perspective the plan would benefit greatly from being underpinned by more evidence relating to the landscape capacity and sensitivity. This evidence would complement the work already undertaken by the group on the views assessment.

5.2.6 In addition the Neighbourhood Planning Officer at Babergh provided ongoing support and information via email and telephone conversations.

5.2.7 As a follow up to the work with the development management office at Babergh, the NDP team commissioned a Landscape Character Assessment & Sensitivity Analysis commissioned in July 2015.

A description as to how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan:

5.2.8 In addition, revisions were made to the NDP to respond to the feedback received to date. Revisions included:

- Writing a stronger rationale for the number of houses being planned for in the Lavenham NP and relating this closely to the higher level plan: Core Strategy policy CS11 and the accompanying CS11 supplementary planning document
- Reworking policy H2 in version 20 requiring new developments to be 24 units or less but providing more qualification as to the reasons why and building flexibility into the policy
- Removing the restriction of open market housing relating to principal residence housing

6. Pre-submission consultation. July 21st – 9th September 2015

6.1 Pre submission consultation was undertaken of the Lavenham NDP during the period July 21st to 9 September 2015 in line with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Consultation.

Who was consulted and how were they consulted:

6.2 A letter was sent to all households in Lavenham by July 25th 2015. Residents were invited to look at and comment on the plan. The letter provided information on the website address from which the plan could be viewed, dates of three open days (two evening sessions one daytime session) where residents could come in and discuss the plan, and the three village locations where hard copies of the plan could be reviewed through the consultation period. This letter invited all residents to look at and comment on the pre submission version of the plan. A copy of the letter which was sent out to residents is available to view at Appendix 6.

6.3 Announcements were made in the Lavenham Life Parish Magazine, The 'Village Edition' which is delivered free to all households and with posters displayed around the village.

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6.4 Regulation 14 b) stipulates that the qualifying body (Lavenham Parish Council) should consult any consultation body set out in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan. Accordingly, the following statutory bodies were notified by email of the consultation and were invited to respond to the plan detail:

Table 6.4 Statutory consultees contacted	
Consultation Body under Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations	Body contacted
Local Planning Authority	Babergh District Council
County Council	Suffolk County Council
Neighbouring Parish	Preston St Mary PC
Neighbouring Parish	Thorpe Morieux PC
Neighbouring Parish	Alpheton PC
Neighbouring Parish	Long Melford PC
Neighbouring Parish	Acton PC
Neighbouring Parish	Gt Waldingfield PC
Neighbouring Parish	Brent Eleigh PC
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes and Communities Agency
Natural England	Natural England
Environment Agency	Environment Agency
Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Historic England
Where is exercises functions in any part of the neighbourhood area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A primary care trust established under section 18 of the NHS Act 2006 or continued existence by virtue of that section • A person to whom a license has been granted under section 6 (1) (b) and (c) of the Electricity Act • A person to whom a license has been granted under section 1(2) of the Gas Act 1986 • A sewage undertaker • A water undertaker 	<p>NHS England</p> <p>UK Power Networks</p> <p>Transco National Grid</p> <p>Anglian Water</p> <p>Anglian Water</p>
Any person i) to whom the electronic code applies by virtue of a direction given under section 106 (3) (a) of the Communications Act 2003; and ii) who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of the area of the local planning authority	Aquirva
Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit all or any part of the neighbourhood area	Suffolk VASP (Voluntary and Statutory Partnership) for Mental Health Dementia Care Alliance RSPB

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Consultation Body under Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations	Body contacted
	Suffolk Wildlife trust Suffolk Preservation Society Community Action Suffolk
Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the neighbourhood area	Sport England
Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the neighbourhood area	Lavenham Parochial Church Council Salvation Army
Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the neighbourhood area	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the neighbourhood area	Babergh Disability Forum

6.5 In addition to the above, the following were also contacted directly: Suffolk Constabulary, County Councillor to Suffolk, Ward Councillor to Lavenham, Ward Councillor to Waldingfield, South Suffolk MP, planning consultancies, Strutt and Parker and EJW Planning for Chater Homes

Summary of the main issues and concerns raised:

6.5 Responses were received from 7 statutory consultees, two landowner/agent/developers and 23 residents as set out in the tables below. Their comments have been logged in the table appended at Appendix 7.

6.6 No comments were received from the Local Planning Authority.

6.7 Comments received from residents are summarised in the table below. All comments received from residents were supportive of the plan as a whole. There were three points of disagreement to specific proposals in the plan made by 5 different consultees. 10 helpful comments were received with suggested factual corrections to the plan.

Topic comments related to	Number of comments
General Supportive comments/congratulation the team	7
Suggested corrections and querying of detail	10
Express desire/concern/ need to address parking in the village as a whole	3
Express desire/concern/ need to address parking in the Market Place	2
Express desire/need to provide additional care home facilities	3
We need small developments not large	3
Design	1
Express desire/concern/ need to address infrastructure	1
Express desire/concern/ need to address speeding and other traffic issues	3
Express desire/concern/ need to address poor mobile phone reception	1
Need a more balanced population	1
Need more affordable housing	2
Need for smaller homes	2

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Table 6.6 Reg. 14 comments from residents	
Topic comments related to	Number of comments
Need cycle parking	1
Church should be categorised as community facility	1
Express desire/concern/ need to relocate the school	3
Points of disagreement	
Unesco project	1
Open space list	2
Public transport being poor	3
Greater detail required of where the new housing will be built	1

6.8 Comments received from statutory consultees and the two landowner/developer/agents are summarised in the table below.

Table 6.7. Reg. 14 Summary of responses received from statutory consultees and landowner/developer agents.		
Consultee	Supportive	Area of concern/disagreement
County Council	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Provide additional archaeological information that could be usefully incorporated into the plan</p> <p>Suggested improvements /amendment to Policy H5, Policy D4, Policy C9/Project 1</p>	<p>There will be significant cost implications in relocating the school and this is a constraint on ambition at this current time. Construction a new and expanded primary school for 210 places at this time will costs in the region of £4.35 million before land acquisition costs are considered.</p> <p>There are legal hurdles to disposing of the existing school. Should a free school provider wish to use the school buildings the County Council will be obliged to make them available. It cannot be assumed that a capital receipt from sale of the school would be available to fund relocation.</p> <p>The County Council has commissioned a feasibility study into options for increasing the capacity of the primary school on its current site.</p> <p>If it is not possible to expand the school on current site then it may be more appropriate to apply the school admission policy and make additional provision at other schools.</p>
Natural England	Confirms the NDP unlikely to have adverse effects on environment	
Historic	Pleased the plan has addressed	

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Table 6.7. Reg. 14 Summary of responses received from statutory consultees and landowner/developer agents.		
Consultee	Supportive	Area of concern/disagreement
England	substantive issues raised by Historic England in previous consultations. No further comments	
NHS England Midland and East		There is little reference to the access of local healthcare service for the current and future population of Lavenham with particular references to the added impact of a future nursing/care home which the NDP encourages. Concerned the plan limits size of new developments on basis this will have an adverse impact on S106 receipts achieved from development.
Alzheimer's Society	Yes but requests that aspiration is inserted in Wellbeing section that the village will want to become dementia friendly at some point.	
Lavenham Society	Yes. Would like traffic management projects to be implemented prior to new housing being built.	It is not essential for the village should be attractive younger people.
Lavenham Community Council	Yes.	Small infill sites are preferable location for affordable housing. School needs to be relocated. Parking issues are difficult.
Chater Homes/EJW Planning	Yes. Supportive comments on all sections of the plan. Suggests improvement/amendment to policy H5	
Marden/Homes Ltd/Strutt & Parker	Yes. Supportive comments on all sections of the plan. Queries methodology used to identify View 2 of Brent Eleigh Road as one of the defined views. Suggests improvements/amendments to Policies D2 and D3.	
Suffolk Preservation Society		Requests that the Neighbourhood Plan team compile a list of non-designated heritage assets within the plan area which would merit protection.

A description as to how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan:

6.9 Appendix 7 provides a log of all the responses received at pre submission stage. It also provides detail on how the issues raised have been addressed as well as any resulting changes made to the plan. The resulting changes include:

- Applying Policy D1 to designated as well as non designated heritage assets.
- Amendment to Policy D2 to help ensure design considers the specific needs of different groups in the community
- Reference to dementia included in Policy C6
- Amendment to policy C6 to clarify the support for NHS England’s provision of primary healthcare facilities for Lavenham
- Amendment to policy C9 to ensure consistency with NPPF
- Revisiting the methodology underpinning the defined views and distinguishing in policy terms those views that are in and out of the historic core from other additional views valued by local people
- Revisiting the approach underpinning the 24 unit limit set out in Policy H1 for new residential development
- Distinguishing more clearly between open spaces and recreation spaces for Policy C2
- Corrections and clarification of information
- Amendments to policy wording and justification text in order to improve clarity

7 A summary

7.1 Since its inception in October 2012, the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan process has involved engagement with the Lavenham community, initially to identify the issues of concern and then to design and refine the consultation arrangements. The latter have involved regular updates to the Lavenham NP website, regular newsletters delivered to every household and a series of open days. This community involvement has registered high levels of support with 68% responding to the village-wide questionnaire and attendance at open days of up to 200 residents. The constructiveness of the comments is characterised in the comments at Appendix 7 which generally express firm support for the Plan’s central themes and objectives.

7.2 At the administrative level the NP team has sought and obtained regular meetings with officers from Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council and these have informed and guided the development of the Plan. The team would like to express their thanks and appreciation of this assistance given by Peter Freer from BDC and Robert Feakes and Frank Stockly from SCC. In addition the team has had detailed discussions and guidance from English Heritage (now Historic England) which has been invaluable in guiding the approach towards development in Lavenham’s historic core and the conservation area.

7.3 The team has also received invaluable advice from Planning Aid England to ensure compliance with the various statutory requirements and to give guidance on how the Plan should best be structured in order to guide planning decisions for Lavenham. This advice included assistance in arranging an inspection ‘Health Check’ by an independent RICS inspector prior to the pre-submission consultation period.

7.4 Above all, the NP team and the Parish Council would like to express their thanks towards the residents of Lavenham who have participated so fulsomely in the process. We are confident that the resulting Plan is a genuine and fair representation of how they would like to see their village develop over the coming years. We are conscious that the relatively high levels of commitment and involvement that have been achieved are a testimony to the high regard with which Lavenham is held by its residents. We hope the Plan does justice to this.

Appendices



LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Email: lavenhampc@yahoo.co.uk

September 2012

Dear Resident,

Imagine Lavenham in 20 years' time? - Or 10 years or 5 years? How about next year?

If you care about Lavenham's future then please read this.

The proposed housing development on the old Armorex site and changes to the original design of the new school buildings have highlighted shortcomings in local planning procedures and the relevance of the conservation area.

Lavenham Parish Council has decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Once approved the plan will have legal status under the Localism Act and will give the people of Lavenham, through their Parish Council, much more control over what happens in our village.

The first part of this process is a consultation and this will begin at the Village Hall on Sunday October 7th between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Members of the Parish Council will be in attendance and we want to hear about your concerns and ideas for the future. You may be concerned about social or sheltered housing, care for the elderly, road safety or other social issues. Alternatively you may have ideas about local business, the development of tourism or education.

Our objective at this stage is to listen to you, and to recruit some much needed help. Our plan will need to be evidence based not just a set of opinions. We therefore need informed Lavenham residents to join our working groups to formulate and assist with questionnaires, to analyse data and help create the plan.

If you would like to help with this then please come along on the 7th prepared to sign up! Our Parish Councillor Carroll Reeve (ca.reeve@btinternet.com, 01787 247674) is leading the process and he will be pleased to give you more information in advance of the 7th October.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Bellward,
Clerk to Lavenham Parish Council

Appendix 2 – Workshop output from October 7 2012

ONE LAVENHAM *Our Neighbourhood Plan for the community and village of Lavenham*

PEN PICTURES FOR EACH OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN THEMES

Health and Well-being

Scope

Healthcare, healthy living, life circumstances, life style, environment, facilities, fear of crime, support for victims of abuse, support for young, support for families, support for housebound, support for chronic and long-term illness, substance abuse including drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Issues

Child poverty and low income, those in poor health in isolation, support for housebound, long term illnesses eg diabetes and dementia

Key information (refer to “Starter pack of information” in the *How we live in Lavenham* folder in the drop box)

Life expectancy, age demography, access to benefits, current facilities, epidemiology (needs to be sourced from GP practices)

Priorities as voted on 7th October 2012

	264
3.3 Health and wellbeing	
Supporting our young	29
Access to health care	24
Leisure facilities (gyms, swimming pools, spa etc)	24
Sport	17
Long term illness (living with, peer and self help, home and community care)	16
Gardening	16
Exercise	16
Family (their support but also their health and well-being)	15
Activity (physical and mental)	14
Disability (living with respect for and equality of access)	14
Healthy food	14
Housebound (health and independence)	14
Substance abuse (including illicit drugs)	12
Water (quality of our drinking water and do we drink enough)	12
Alcohol abuse	9
Physical abuse (long term support for the victims)	9
Smoking	9

Volunteers to assist (enlisted at 7th October launch event)

Tony Ranzetta, Anne Toft

Caroline Gough

Coral Boon

Consultation Statement – Appendix 2

Gail Cobbold
Tim Pitt
Fiona Jenkins

Culture, Heritage and Education

Scope

The village's history, culture and heritage; diversity of people, faith, background and aspiration; supporting our young; education for all ages; exercise and activity for all ages; encouraging and embracing change; celebrating and also meeting the challenge of tourism

Issues

Child poverty, low level of progress to higher education, lack of sports facilities such as gym and swimming pool, disabled access to existing facilities

Key information (refer to "Starter pack of information" in the *How we live in Lavenham* folder in the drop box)

One in 6 children in poverty, 58% progress to higher education, lower than average level of qualifications held by residents, higher than average level of claims for benefits, highest proportion of grade listed buildings in UK, higher than average level of facilities in a village (Suffolk ACRE report), museums, library, village hall, long and diverse history covering medieval period through industrial revolution to modern era with highlights being medieval wool making and dyeing, farming and factories, depression between two world wars, second world war air base, village regeneration and becoming a tourist centre

Priorities as voted on 7th October 2012

3.4 Culture, heritage and education

Supporting our young

Education (all ages)

Library (social interaction, educational development)

Culture (respect for our heritage and that of others)

History (family, village and community)

Sport

Exercise

Diversity

Minority groups (welcoming, engaging and supporting)

Change (welcome or resistance to)

188

29
27
27
18
18
17
16
14
11
11

Volunteers to assist (enlisted at 7th October launch event)

Jill and David Jones
Melanie and John Lavergata
Hayley and Dan Upton

Consultation Statement – Appendix 2

Amenities and social

Scope

The village's facilities, societies, committees and organisations that support our social, recreational, retail, cultural and faith experiences and development. Leisure and sports facilities, social and club facilities, club and social events, shops, arts and crafts, walks, museums and exhibitions, concerts and live music, plays, dramas and literary or art festivals, restaurants and culinary events, beer and wine festivals, carnivals and celebrations, fayres and farmers markets, religious events.

Issues

Equality of access, key gaps in facilities, coordination and support for large events, club and social activity for the young, success planning for important groups and societies. There is fragility about many of the social events and clubs in the village (being currently dependent on the goodwill of a handful of individuals). The long-term sustainability of the village's social life needs to form part of our plan

Key information (refer to "Starter pack of information" in the *How we live in Lavenham* folder in the drop box)

Refer to Lavenham Today and Merchants Guild for a list of clubs and societies. May need an updated survey of what we have available in order to gauge gaps. Tourism is important for the economy of the village and has suffered in last 12 months due to Olympics and economic downturn.

The social life of the village revolves around its Hall and Library, the British Legion and Salvation Army Halls, its many coffee shops, its pubs and restaurants, its two large playing fields, and its shops. It has social highlights such as the Carnival, Dickensian Fayre, Jazz, Art and Literary festivals, Farmers markets and Christmas services.

Priorities as voted on 7th October 2012

3.8 Amenities and social

Village Hall (as a hub for community activity)

Library (social interaction, educational development)

Leisure facilities (gyms, swimming pools, spa etc)

Shops (variety, opportunity)

Sport

Exercise

Art and crafts

Facilities (not just health services but for all aspects of health and well-being)

160

28
27
24
22
17
16
14
12

Volunteers to assist (enlisted at 7th October launch event)

James Anslow

John Lavergata

Justine Paul

Consultation Statement – Appendix 2

The build environment, conservation and settlement

Scope

Current range of buildings for housing, retail, recreational, faith and social use; their condition, their future requirement, how this might change to reflect the economic, technological, cultural and social changes within the village; protecting our cultural heritage; developing our infrastructure; village growth, shape and vision for an end-point

Issues

New developments and how they may improve or challenge both the mix of building type and use, and the infrastructure to support this

Key information (refer to “Starter pack of information” in the *How we live in Lavenham* folder in the drop box)

Changes in use eg reduction in farming secondary trades and increase in retail and tourism, changes in nature of employment eg increase in home based working but also more residents working out of village, new housing eg more family homes but also more second homes, have all led to changes in the shape, size and heritage of Lavenham.

Priorities as voted on 7th October 2012

3.7 The build environment, conservation and settlement

Housing (design, type, quantity, affordability)

Leisure facilities (gyms, swimming pools, spa etc)

Shops (variety, opportunity)

Disability (living with respect for and equality of access)

Diversity

Housebound (health and independence)

Facilities (not just health services but for all aspects of health and well-being)

128

28
24
22
14
14
14
12

Volunteers to assist (enlisted at 7th October launch event)

Philip and Diana Snelling

Robin Edwards

Maria Hart

Jim Keohane

Tim West

Alex Paul

Grant and Katherine Eves

Consultation Statement – Appendix 2

Local economy and employment

Scope

Nature and size of the economy of Lavenham; types of business, longevity, how important are they for Lavenham's economy, direction of travel and sustainability, added value that Lavenham can/could bring to business, how many jobs are generated for residents of Lavenham by Lavenham trade (and what is the trend/opportunity), types of employment. Unemployment, need for benefits, alternatives the village can offer. Job generation and business regeneration opportunities within the village. Supporting/protecting local business from the boom and bust of tourism trade. Marketing Lavenham trade. The vision for Lavenham's economy. Completing the cycle: community supporting businesses which in turn support their community.

Issues

Significant changes in employment type and nature of work. Lavenham is comparatively well-served by retail and key amenities such as bakers, butchers, pharmacist etc but there is fragility. It also has many businesses that have chosen Lavenham as their head office. Key is capitalising on this by establishing a relationship within the Plan of mutual benefit. The proportion of residents claiming benefits due to unemployment OR low income is higher in Lavenham than district or county averages.

Key information (refer to "Starter pack of information" in the *How we live in Lavenham* folder in the drop box)

Benefits and Unemployment statistics (see 50 Facts about Lavenham). Merchants Guild for businesses registered with them *but not complete*. Yell.com for "full" list of businesses *but not accurate*. Babergh hold list of all businesses paying business rates, accessible through our Babergh contact point.

Priorities as voted on 7th October 2012

3.5 Local economy and employment

Employment

Shops (variety, opportunity)

Disability (living with respect for and equality of access)

Art and crafts

Unemployed (growing numbers, support)

Benefits (income and other support)

92

22

22

14

14

11

9

Consultation Statement – Appendix 2

Housing

Scope

Housing needs – assessment of current housing and households; assessment of condition and degree of over-crowding or isolation; identification of a planning assumption for household size going forwards; Population assumptions for Lavenham; survey of existing housing stock and suitability; assessment of existing and future opportunity for housing development within a reasonable village envelope that can be supported by existing infrastructure or by a future-proofed infrastructure; identification of additional housing needs; categorisation of that need into affordable and other types of housing; recommendations on size of houses; making allowance for future changes by owners eg extensions, separations and combinations.

Housing design – update the village design statement to provide guidance on future design of housing that reflects cultural heritage, environmental needs, social needs and economic needs of the village.

Issues

New developments proceeding in the absence of guidance on affordable housing requirement and design. Opportunities for developments of housing that (if designed correctly) will become a key enabler for all aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan, changing the demographic mix, providing new community infrastructure investment, providing a source of local employment, supporting those who seek to stay in the village.

Key information (refer to “Starter pack of information” in the *How we live in Lavenham* folder in the drop box)

High proportion living in isolation. Affordable housing has been voted the top priority issue in 2001, at the event on 7th October 2012, and was the top issue identified in the 1911 Census of the village!

Priorities as voted on 7th October 2012

3.1 Housing

Affordable housing

Housing (design, type, quantity, affordability)

Home (security, physical state, over-crowding, isolation)

91

53

28

10

Consultation Statement – Appendix 2

Ecology and the countryside

Scope

The parish boundary comprises some c3200 acres, mainly cultivated farmland c 3000 acres, but also including woodlands and walks, and the village itself. This theme looks at the physical and natural environment, woodlands and forests, rivers, streams, springs, culvert, climate, hills, any unique geology, local walks, wildlife (protected, rare, integral to village heritage and history, part of village economy), protected and important views or aspects of the village eg church tower, from each of the hills coming into the village, allotments and gardens, pollution and water diversion. Current ecology, how it has changed, how it will change if there is no plan.

Protecting the ecology from potential development, ensuring there is an accurate wildlife and woodland survey.

Developing our ecology: understanding or carbon footprint, building in the transition from now to carbon neutrality and then to being a net positive contributor to the environment. The place for innovation and for new sources of energy production that is sympathetic to our culture and heritage.

Developing a vision for our future ecology, and a strategy for energy generation, sustainability and countryside protection.

Issues

New housing developments, inherited position on carbon footprint. Particularly slightly higher than average car use in village, tourism and its impact, through traffic and its impact, open fires, larger than national average house size (and its impact on heating and lighting)

Key information (refer to “Starter pack of information” in the *How we live in Lavenham* folder in the drop box)

No helpful data and will need a local survey particularly to assess carbon footprint of village

Priorities as voted on 7th October 2012

3.6 Ecology and countryside

Environment

Gardening

Beauty (natural and surroundings)

Water (quality of our drinking water and do we drink enough)

Pollution

72

21
16
12
12
11

Consultation Statement – Appendix 2

Village access and communication

Scope

Review of traffic (generated by residents, local business, tourism, and through traffic), impact of car use and other vehicle use on the village, its buildings, its people, its health. Issues are noise, pollution, damage, vibration, accidents. Equally growing demand for transport to and from the village AND growing demand from business/logistics to gain access to the village. New developments will see temporary growth in heavy goods traffic bringing materials onto and off building sites.

Setting a vision for traffic, how alternatives can be developed, how it might be calmed or diverted, how buildings and pedestrians might be better protected.

Setting a vision for community transport

Also looking at communication generally within the village: use of web, broadband, community newsletters, notice boards etc. What works, what can be improved on?

Issues

Traffic (volume and also weight of vehicles), damage and noise; transport for those who are housebound, disabled or cannot afford a car; opportunity to upgrade broadband; maintaining the current village web site

Key information (refer to “Starter pack of information” in the *How we live in Lavenham* folder in the drop box)

Car use is forecast to increase by 20% in next 20 years. High proportion living in isolation will increase both use of cars and also make support needs of housebound greater. High proportion claiming benefits makes it local shop prices unaffordable for proportion of village and transport a necessity. Babergh conducted a survey of traffic in 2007 however it did not record whether the average weight of HGV had increased (anecdotally it has). Further survey may be required. Village currently has no community transport (it previously had LAMBS).

Priorities as voted on 7th October 2012

3.2 Village access and communications (including traffic and transport)

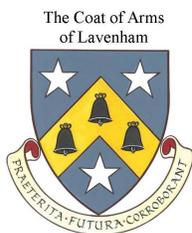
Traffic (pollution, noise, health and safety)

Transport (ease of access to other communities or to shops)

67

44

23



LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

September 2013

BUILDING OUR FUTURE: FORWARD WITH OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Parliament has empowered local communities to construct their own twenty-year plan. A neighbourhood development plan will allow us to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Approved local plans are protected by law and must be taken into consideration when future development of any kind is proposed.

We in Lavenham can now play an important role in deciding how much housing, offices, shops, and leisure facilities we will have in the future. Our ideas about green open spaces, play facilities, surgeries and schools must also be fully taken into account. Our proposals about use of land, permission to build, preservation, transport, health, safety and culture will shape the future. Neighbourhood plans allow us to get the right type of development for our community. Officially, we now have a chance to decide what Lavenham will look like in the future.

Together we can make our voices heard in deciding:

- What do we have that we wish to preserve and expand?
- What aspects of our village need support and protection?
- What improvements do we want to see?
- What do we need to develop?

In a recent forum villagers were asked to list their main concerns. In order of importance these were:

- Affordable housing and type of housing
- Traffic, transport and pollution
- Education for all age groups and library service
- Cultural and leisure facilities
- Facilities for young people
- Access to health services and well-being

The next step is to get everyone's views. Following the village forum volunteers have designed a questionnaire that will serve as the basis for future actions. Feed-back from the questionnaire will be presented to the village. This will help us devise a plan for the future that reflects what the village wants to see. The plan will be subject to a village-wide referendum as part of the approval process.

When the questionnaire arrives please help maximise its potential by expressing YOUR views. It is important that everyone gives their opinions

REMEMBER: LAVENHAM'S FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS!

Yours sincerely,
Chairman, Lavenham Parish Council



LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

13 Weavers Close
Lavenham
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 9QN

J L BELLWARD
Clerk to the Council
247041

Telephone: 01787

Email: lavenhampc@yahoo.co.uk

November 2013

Dear Lavenham Resident,

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan – Questionnaire feed-back

A big thank you to all those who completed the questionnaire, which enjoyed a response rate of 68%. The comments below are the headlines of the responses given and are aimed at giving you a flavour of the outcomes from the survey. A complete set of statistics will be on display at the Village Hall on 23rd November between 9 and 1 o'clock and on 27th in the Guildhall between 4 and 7.30 p.m. and can be found on line at www.lavenham-np.co.uk/surveys.

Housing and development ó no one should be surprised that the big issue remains the need for local housing for local people and provision of a local care home for elderly residents. Modest expansion of the village is acceptable.

Getting around and about ó traffic speeding and calming came tops in this area, followed by improved public transport and in particular feeder services to our local hospitals. The toleration of large vehicles to service local business was acceptable.

Our environment ó it is felt important that wildlife and their habitats are safeguarded. Better use of public spaces was emphasised as was Lavenham's historical context.

Shopping ó local shops are not particularly well supported with the exception of the post office. The reason for this is a lack of choice and high prices.

Employment ó it was accepted that Lavenham will never be a provider of employment for all and that tourism is a good source of jobs. Work opportunities for pensioners were also supported.

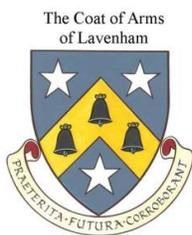
Wellbeing and leisure ó it was felt that the present level of village facilities and amenities should be preserved and the most essential were; the pharmacy and doctors surgery, primary school, post office and grocery stores. Potential new facilities included; high speed internet access, greengrocers, day nursery for working parents and public allotments. Additional requirements were felt necessary for; adult learning across the age bands and better facilities for children of all ages. Respondents were quite sanguine regarding issues of personal safety and anti-social behaviour, albeit that heavy traffic and dog/horse fouling did cause concern.

Keeping in touch ó although the majority of people enjoy internet access: most residents still prefer to receive their communication in a paper format.

Our institutions ó overall a high level of respondents consider the Parish Council to be effective with a lower proportion comfortable with the District and County councils effectiveness. Likewise, any transfer of power in the direction of the Parish carried favour. Regular parish meetings were called for as was representation by the younger generation and it was reported that there are too many layers of local government.

Yours Sincerely,

Roy Whitworth
Chairman, Lavenham Parish Council



LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

LAVENHAM'S FUTURE - HAVE YOUR SAY

July 2015

This is an invitation to all residents of Lavenham to look at, and comment on, the latest draft of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (the Plan). This is the formal pre-submission consultation of the Plan which is required by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.

The Plan is available on line at <http://www.discoverlavenham.co.uk/c.do?category=155> and hard copies are also available to view in the Library, the Village Hall and in The Guildhall. There will also be three open days as follows;

1. Wednesday 29th July in the Guildhall from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
2. Sunday 2nd August in the Village Hall from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.
3. Tuesday 4th August in the Guildhall from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This consultation period will last for at least 6 weeks and is designed to allow residents and other interested parties to comment on the Plan before it is formally submitted later in the year.

If you wish to comment you should do so in writing either by email to lavenhampc@yahoo.co.uk or by post/by hand to Mrs Jane Bellward, Clerk to the Lavenham Parish Council, 13 Weaver's Close, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9QN by 9th September 2015. Comment books will also be available at the open day venues.

Further information on the Plan including the background information which supports it and summaries of the residential and business survey results are also available on the Lavenham NP web site at www.lavenham-np.co.uk

Copies of the Plan have also been sent to statutory consultees including Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council, English Heritage, Anglian Water and other interested parties such as neighbouring Parish Councils. A full list of consultees is available on the Lavenham NP web site.

Babergh District Council has issued a screening report which is designed to determine whether or not the content of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The document can be viewed at the link below and confirms that an SEA is **not** required.

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Uploads-BDC/Economy/Strategic-Planning-Policy/Neighbourhood-Planning/LavenhamNPSEAHRAScreeningReport2015.pdf>

The next stages are;

1. For your comments and those of all consultees from the above to be digested,
2. Prepare a further draft, taking account of the comments.
3. To submit the Plan for independent examination.
4. Prepare the final Plan for residents of Lavenham to vote on in a referendum.
5. The Plan will come into effect if more than 50% of those voting are in favour.

Carroll Reeve, Chairman Lavenham Parish Council

Consultation Statement – Appendix 6

E MAIL TEXT TO STATUTORY CONSULTEES

Appendix 6

Good morning

Over the next few days all residents of Lavenham should receive an invitation to look at, and comment on, the latest draft of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (the Plan). This is the formal pre-submission consultation of the Plan which is required by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.

The Plan is available on line at <http://www.discoverlavenham.co.uk/c.do?category=155> and a PDF of the Plan is also attached to this email. Hard copies are also available to view in the Library, the Village Hall and in The Guildhall.

There will also be three open days as follows;

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The next stages are;

1. For your comments and those of all consultees from the above to be digested,
2. Prepare a further draft, taking account of the comments.
3. To submit the Plan for independent examination.
4. Prepare the final Plan for residents of Lavenham to vote on in a referendum.
5. The Plan will come into effect if more than 50% of those voting are in favour.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Bellward, Clerk to Lavenham Parish Council

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Consultation Statement – Appendix 7

Comments received during the Regulation 14 pre submission consultation (held 21ST July to 9th September 2015) on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Responses were received from 7 statutory consultees, two landowner/agent/developers and 23 residents as set out in the tables below. Their comments have been logged in the table below which is organised by paragraph/policy/section number of the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Consultee	ID	Consultee Type
Suffolk County Council	1	Statutory
Historic England	2	Statutory
Natural England	3	Statutory
NHS England – Midlands and East	4	Statutory
Alzheimer’s Society	5	Statutory
Lavenham Society	6	Statutory
Lavenham Community Council	7	Statutory
Chater Homes/EJW Planning	8	Landowner/agent
Marden/Homes Ltd/Strutt & Parker	9	Developer/agent
Suffolk Preservation Society	10	Statutory
Anglian Water	11	Statutory
Resident A M Brown	R1	Resident
Resident Mr G Patrick	R2	Resident
Residents John and Chris Grey	R3	Resident
Resident Joy Baker	R4	Resident
Resident Lyn Gurling	R5	Resident
Former Resident John Moxom	R6	Resident
Resident Jane Orbell	R7	Resident
Resident Clive Rose	R8	Resident
Resident John Hooper	R9	Resident
Resident Richard Aspa	R10	Resident
Resident Peter & Sue Thompson	R11	Resident

Table 1 written responses received from statutory consultees at pre-submission consultation

Consultation Statement - Appendix 7

Pre Submission Workshop comments book

Consultee	ID	Consultee Type
James Alan Anslow	R11	Resident
Barbara Reeve	R12	Resident
Anon 1	R13	Resident
P.G.	R14	Resident
Anon 2	R15	Resident
Anon 3	R16	Resident
Trevor and Valeria Tinkler	R17	Resident
Simon Wallis	R18	Resident
F.W.H.	R19	Resident
A. Cox	R20	Resident
D. Laphorne	R21	Resident
Patrick Corney	R22	Resident
C. Eves	R23	Resident
Table 2: responses received from residents during the community workshops		

Consultation Statement – Appendix 7

Paragraph Number	Consultee	Comment	Steering group response/changes to plan
General	3	Natural England considers that this Plan and its policies are generally unlikely to have any adverse effect on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may make comments that will help the Parish Council to full take account of the environmental value of this area in their Plan making process.	Noted.
General	2	In December 2014 Historic England (the known as English Heritage) submitted a detailed response to an earlier draft of the Neighbourhood Plan direct to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, and subsequently I attended a meeting with the Working Group to discuss our advice in more detail. I am pleased to note that the pre submission draft of the Plan has sought to address the substantive issues raised in our previous response and we therefore do not wish to respond in detail on this latest version.	Noted.
General	6	The Lavenham Society Executive Committee (LS) commends Lavenham Parish Council for producing a very thorough analysis of the relevant issues and formulating the plan’s constructive development proposals. The LS agrees with, and supports, the main proposals which reflect the wishes of the village, seek to protect the village heritage and environment and are in keeping the above-stated aims of the LS.	Noted.
General	11	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pre submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan. We have no comments to make or concerns to raise.	Noted.
General	R2	You are to be congratulated on such a well-presented and comprehensive document which must have taken an enormous amount of time and effort to put together.	Noted.
General	R11	Notes: Great effort by everyone concerned. Congratulations. I would like to see big emphasis on traffic and parking. Shared space. Less parking in square. More use of parking behind Angel. Basic landscaping could make up for loss of parking in square. Don’t need all this coach parking space. Bigger, better, free wi fi hotspot would be great too.	The team recognises these concerns and has labelled them as priorities for consideration in the ‘Projects section of the Plan. Noted.
General	R12	I support the Neighbourhood Plan and am sure a lot of hard work was involved in producing this document .	Noted.

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		Best of luck. Do hope any future developments are small.	
General	R13	Very impressive if you can get the co-operation of Babergh. Parking still seems an insoluble issue.	Refer to Projects section.
General	R14	On map with P C boundary/open countryside/permanent grassland etc. new affordable housing on Brent Eleigh Road has not been shown – needs adding to this and any other maps.	Map to be revised.
General	R15	Listed 'Buildings' check 'dwellings'! 15 Grade I, 28 x 2*, 278 Grade 2 Listed (from Babergh) = 321 total	Text in para 7.1.2. has been amended to distinguish between buildings and dwellings.
General	R17	We support this draft plan. We especially like the idea of new development spread around and integrated into the village (no large developments). We also like the idea of nursing facilities.	Noted.
General	R18	As a fairly recent resident of Lavenham (but one with old family links to the village) the proposals appear very well thought through for the future benefit of the village development whilst preserving its unique character.	Noted.
General	R19	<u>Disagree</u> with comments re public transport. In our experience of living in other villages believe that our bus service which can connect with trains in either Bury St Edmunds or Sudbury is excellent.	Noted.
General	R20	We're very lucky to have such good bus links in this village. Many other villages are cut off.	Noted.
General	R22	The downgrading of Water Street is really necessary – the conduit will collapse. Very small developments of housing are vital – otherwise the village will become ghetto estates. Very encouraged to read that good design of new housing is vital – unlike some we already have new built. Houses should have as small a footprint as possible. Keep all bus connections; views; roofscapes and good intentions. Congratulations on all your hard work.	Project 1 seeks to limit HGV traffic in Water St. Noted.
General –	8	Overall we consider the Neighbourhood Plan to be sound and to represent an appropriate	Accepted and

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ageing population		framework for the delivery of housing and economic growth in Lavenham. However, we would suggest that specific references to ‘the elderly’ are removed and replaced with ‘older generation’ or ageing population’ such that the description of this particular age group is consistent with ministerial statements and emerging guidance on such matters.	amended in paragraphs 2.1; 5.5; table under paragraph 5.6; 7.3.7; 7.9.1, Policy H6; 9.6.1; 11.3.2;; Appendix 2;
General – Transport	7	Traffic densities appear to have increased over the past few years and on - street parking has also increased with streets now rarely empty of vehicles. The provision of additional parking is going to be difficult due to the lack of suitable locations. Free parking is essential, the voluntary parking fee has been success and is much appreciated by vehicle users and encourages the use of the car parks in both Church Street and Prentice Street thereby reducing street parking.	Project section refers to parking issues
General – Archaeology	1	<p>The County Council would be pleased to provide further narrative on the archaeological context of Lavenham, which could be set out in the neighbourhood plan for interest and as context for investigation and recording requirements to be placed on development.</p> <p>Lavenham historic core is archaeologically sensitive, with the potential for well-preserved archaeological remains relating not only to the village’s origins, but to aspects of the wool trade that are not preserved in written evidence and which tie in to the architectural features of the town. Backyard plots have potential to contain ephemeral remains relating to cloth production and dyeing (e.g. ovens and dye vats) that contribute a unique angle to the town’s heritage as a medieval cloth producing centre. There is also potential for other traces of daily life to be preserved. Excavations behind the Swan Hotel and also in other parts of the town, in advance of development, have begun to yield some of these traces.</p> <p>To the west of the church, and immediately north of the recreation ground, are earthworks of linear banks and ditches which should not be developed (HER LVM 025). More widely, Lavenham parish has areas which are topographically favourable for early occupation, particularly on valley slopes, and sites are recorded of all periods, including moated sites. Development in these locations is likely</p>	<p>A signposting paragraph inserted prior to Policy D4.</p> <p>Information on the archaeology of the are also inserted into Table 7.2</p>

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		<p>to require archaeological investigation prior to development.</p> <p>Where there is potential for sensitive archaeology, it will be managed through the planning process and applicants should be aware that there may be time and cost implications involved, particularly on infill sites (Policy D4). The County Council is happy to advise on sites as they are identified (a new school site, for example, would presumably be large, page 40). Sites should be assessed at an appropriate stage in the planning process, in accordance with paragraphs 128 and 129 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service routinely advises that there should be early consultation of the Historic Environment Record and assessment of the archaeological potential of proposed sites at an appropriate stage in the design of new developments, in order that the requirements of the NPPF and Babergh Local Plan policies are met.</p>	
General Infrastructure	R3	<p>1. In general it is reassuring to see the amount of work which has gone into the plan and we appreciate the hard work done on behalf of the village. However, while we understand that the weight of such a plan focuses on future building, we do believe that too little weight has been given to the effects on the village infrastructure.</p> <p>2. In particular both the condition of Lavenham's roads and their ability to cope with current pressures are woefully inadequate. Outside the Cock and Angel car parks parking is a free for all, double yellow lines are ignored and basic road sense and courtesy are ignored particularly by visitors who believe they have a right to park in the middle of the village and commercial traffic which simply see Lavenham as an obstacle on their route. The side of our house is adjacent to Lower Road and the amount of traffic using what is at one point almost a single track road, subject to frequent flooding and is still signposted as 'Local Traffic' is incredible. Apart from the volume, we can add the following observations:</p> <p>Speed - there is a need for a 20mph speed limit on the full length of the road. There are stretches where there is no footpath and traffic frequently exceeds 30mph, particularly at morning and afternoon rush hours when Lower Road is used as a rat run by traffic seeking to avoid the High Street.</p> <p>Condition - road surfaces are very poor, notably at the pinch point outside the Co-op where there is a large pothole. If you meet a car coming in the opposite direction, you have no option but to go</p>	<p>Section 7.2 of the Plan recognises the limitations of infrastructure.</p> <p>Comments noted and are concerns reflected in Projects section of Plan.</p> <p>Noted Noted</p>

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		<p>through the pothole.</p> <p>Noise - We also now have frequent groups of cyclists speeding down the road often shouting at each other as they go, oblivious to the fact that they are passing through a quiet residential area.</p> <p>Obstruction - with the construction of The Halt at the top of Lower Road, it is interesting to note that cars are now being parked on Preston Road outside houses.</p> <p>Control - the 'new' layout of the market place is a disgrace, particularly the area on the north side where people just park wherever they wish. Cars are frequently parked on yellow lines close to Tenterpiece which restricts two way flow of traffic. Similarly at the other end of the High Street, parking has spread from the Marshbeck furniture side of the road to The Cafe Knit side, again resulting in one way traffic at times.</p> <p>3. Lavenham has never been brilliant either for mobile phone signals or for broadband connection. We find it significant that, since the construction of The Halt, both are worse.</p> <p>4. As residents we are proud of our village school. A balanced population is helpful for the school to plan ahead and we hope full and proper weight is given to the views of the Head teacher and Governors.</p> <p>5. Living in such a beautiful village, we often have family and friends staying with us. They comment that the effect of the medieval marketplace is spoiled by the amount of parking, particularly in front of the Guildhall. The comment has been frequently made that Lavenham should take a leaf out of the book of other tourist villages like Hawkshead and Robin Hood's Bay or small towns like Jedburgh where there has been significant input by county councils in helping such areas to cope with the impact of tourism on the everyday life of residents.</p> <p>All these comments reflect Lavenham as we see it today, without any additional housing or growth. There is a need for additional housing for young families and downsizing couples as outlined in your draft, but if Lavenham needs to grow, it is essential that substantial work is done to address the current infrastructure, let alone that of a larger community.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Lavenham PC has again drawn this to the attention of BDC.</p> <p>See Projects section.</p> <p>Broadband download speed currently 15mps</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Long term aspiration of World Heritage status will concentrate minds on this issue.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
General Housing	6	<p>Whilst we agree with the proposal for affordable/smaller homes for older residents and young people who wish to remain in or come to the village, we do not see that it is essential to specifically attract younger people for sustainability. Currently a healthy 64% of residents are economically active (Table 7.2), a situation unlikely to change, and the supply of gregarious middle and retirement-</p>	<p>Refer to evidence base; Economically active group has declined from 55.8% to</p>

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		<p>aged people coming to live in the village - along with visitors - will continue to keep it alive and viable.</p> <p>The need to attract younger people was not a topic covered in the 2013 Residential Survey so far as we can see, although it did indicate more affordable housing should be provided and housing suitable for older people. Attracting young people will always remain difficult given the nature of, and facilities in, the village (compared to a city or large town) and the cheaper accommodation elsewhere in the area.</p> <p>Nevertheless, having an objective to attract more young people is perfectly acceptable to the LS - though not essential as we do not see it as a village-protection or sustainability requirement.</p>	51.6% between 2001 and 2011. This compares with 56% for Babergh and 59.6% for UK as a whole.
General Housing	7	<p>The plan demonstrates a need for affordable housing to allow families to remain or be located back to the village, where, due to the high value of privately owned housing it is proving impossible for them to afford to buy.</p> <p>Small infill sites are preferred and existing under used facilities eg the block of garages on Bears Lane, would provide such a location.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>BDC are proceeding with a plan for this.</p>
General Housing	R21	Definitely need 'affordable' houses that should not be allowed to be extended, thereby putting them out of range of future purchasers.	Noted
General Housing	R21	Great detail required of where the additional houses will or may be built.	The plan does not allocate specific sites for development.
Housing Strategy and Policies	R1	I believe there to be an error in Table 7.2. The first box states "The establishment of the CLT (see para 7.9.4) and". There is no paragraph 7.9.4. Should this read "para 7.8.4"?	Reference amended.
Housing Strategy and Policies	R1	<p>Regarding paragraph 7.8.4 Affordable Housing Delivery - How can I find out:</p> <p>a) which sites have been submitted by land owners for inclusion in the Community Land Trust</p> <p>b) which sites have been selected for inclusion in the Community Land Trust</p>	The Plan (7.8.4) refers to the inclusion of the former SCC depot in the CLT. No other sites have come forward as

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			yet
Introduction	8	This is a useful guide as to the preparation and evolution of the neighbourhood plan and the various procedural matters to be addressed before the plan comes into effect. We support the plan's principle objective of achieving a more balanced community.	Noted.
Key Issues	8	A summary of the key issues for Lavenham are set out in this section. We support the emphasis on the need to provide smaller and affordable homes to allow for existing residents to downsize. It would be appropriate to acknowledge that approach has the added benefit of freeing up family homes for the younger generation	Noted.
Key Issues	9	We particularly welcome the important research and evidence base work that has been carried out to help inform the plan which will be of benefit to local residents, landowners and potential developers alike. We are particularly mindful of the conclusion of the plan that "any future developments put the emphasis on affordable, smaller homes capable of meeting well established local needs" and will be working up a proposed scheme on this basis.	Noted.
Consultation	8	It would be appropriate to show how the Neighbourhood Development team have engaged with other stakeholders and interested parties	See section 3 Consultation and separate Consultation Document.
Objectives	8	We are pleased that the plan reflects local resident's preference for a modest number of small developments with an emphasis on 2 and 3 bedroom units and acknowledgment that this type of development is likely to appeal to those wishing to downsize from an existing property within the village.	Noted.
Objectives	9	The objective that the "community will become more sustainable with a larger proportion of working age people with young families" is noted and Marden Homes will develop proposals on this basis. It is particularly noted that "The plan reflects the preference expressed in the residential survey to create a modest number of small developments with the emphasis on 2 and 3 bedroomed units. This type of development will also appeal to those who wish to downsize to a smaller house and yet stay within the village."	Noted.

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		<p>more easily integrated into the existing structure of the village. Similarly, we agree with the view that this also avoids concentrations of affordable housing. Furthermore, we also support the view that smaller developments provide greater scope for older people to be integrated into the existing community.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Chapter 7 – Housing Strategy and Policies</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>We note the high level of support for new housing within Lavenham and Marden Homes are committed to work with the Parish Council to help meet these needs.</p> <p>The regular housing needs surveys, carried out for Lavenham by Community Action Suffolk, will be particularly beneficial for this and the role of market housing sites in helping to meet affordable housing needs should be given considerable weight within the plan.</p> <p>It is similarly noted that there is a lack of available of brownfield sites.</p> <p>The preference for smaller sites within the plan is noted, however we would suggest this needs to be balanced this desire against the need for sites to be well designed in their context, the need to secure the provision of infrastructure or contributions which may not be possible on smaller sites; and the fact that as noted in the plan, important affordable housing will only be delivered by sites of over 10 units.</p> <p>The support for schemes involving Sheltered Housing under Policy H6 including on site adjacent to the settlement boundary is supported. We consider it important that the final policy wording is sufficiently flexible in order to allow for the detailed design and provision to be appropriate to the particular site. For example warden and/or staff accommodation may not be required on every site.</p>	<p>Affordable housing will now be required on schemes of less than 10 units due to national policy on this being quashed in a July 2015 High Court ruling.</p> <p>The approach/preference for smaller sites (as set out in Policy H1) has been carefully revisited and is considered an essential component of this plan. The primary purpose of the planning policies in the plan is to ensure all schemes are well designed, contribute positively to existing character and are sensitively sited with respect to Lavenham’s unique landscape.</p>

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Paragraph 7.1.3	R11	2. Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015 - Pre Submission Draft: Para 7.1.3, page 14, 4 th bullet point – as mentioned above Whitegates’ should read ‘White Gates’.	Changed to White Gates.
Paragraph 7.1.5	R5	Coming back to 7.1.5. How many holiday lets %, does this affect the economy? Needs to be more defined.	No data has been collected on this but the Plan cannot influence any change in this area.
Paragraph 7.2	R5	Ref; 7.2 page 15. As we all know there are a lot of people in Lavenham who are well placed financially (as there are many who are not), those well off tend to put their views forward , therefore a pity that the results of the most recent survey were as said.	Noted.
Table 7.2	R5	Ref; Page 18. We do need more assisted living or nursing home facilities for older residents – please stress. This has been said before, Care Home needed.	Noted.
Table 7.2	R5	Again Page 18. The public transport system is very good in comparison with some other places. I am on the Hadleigh Community Transport Committee and am very sorry to say that Suffolk County Council is going to make some more severe cutbacks due to their financial difficulties and therefore it may be (I am attending a meeting again this week) that the entire system may have to be reviewed and funding from “where”?? Our Good Neighbours Scheme is very helpful and the Hadleigh Community Transport Scheme has many options to offer – is under used. As in most cases it comes down to that horrid word <u>CASH</u> . Cash needed for most things, referring back to the school requirements earlier in the page 18.	Noted.
Housing General	R9	Affordable Housing Who picks up the difference between the actual rent paid and the true cost? Doe the developer get re-imbursed by the Government? It worries me that using this term [affordable housing], unintelligible to laymen like myself, the substance of the report becomes clouded.	Affordable Housing is managed by a Housing Association. Definition subject to different interpretations

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		<p>Additionally, we've discovered at The Halt, the "affordable homes" have not been built to the maximum level of insulation, so are not so "affordable" to run.</p> <p>Regarding possible development sites – why can't the old Gasworks in Water Street be used? Please don't tell me it's of historic interest. If it is, BG should turn it into a museum, instead of leaving the eyesore that it currently is.</p> <p>Apart from that, it's a fine piece of work – any my appreciation to its authors.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Gas holder is scheduled ancient monument.</p>
Policy H1	8	We support this policy and its limit on a maximum of 24 units in any one development.	Noted.
Policy H2	8	We support this policy, particularly the need to take into account of the needs of the ageing population.	Noted.
Policy H2	R1	<p>A number of black outlines (10?) have been drawn on "Map 7.4 Walking times to the centre of the village" but there is no key for these outlines.</p> <p>Can I please ask for an explanation as to their meaning/relevance. My home is encompassed by one of these outlines.</p>	The map has been replaced without these lines. They were the now superseded 2011 Strategic Land Availability Assessment
Policy H3	8	We agree that the delivery of affordable housing should be integral to the development as a whole and the requirement for 35% of the units to be affordable.	Noted.
Policy H4	8	We fully support the contention that affordable homes should be allocated in the first instance, to those with a strong connection	Noted.
Policy H5	8	We agree with the intentions of Policy H5. We suggest further that this Policy could be further strengthened, by adding that housing permitted on exception sites should be held in perpetuity for that purpose and not later sold on the open market.	A further bullet point has been added to the policy to include the need for affordable housing to remain in perpetuity.

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Policy H5	1	<p><u>Landscape Assessment</u></p> <p>The County Council’s landscape officer has been advising on the commissioning of landscape assessment evidence to underpin the policies of this Plan.</p> <p>In addition, it is suggested that the third bullet point of Policy H5 be amended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are not visually prominent in <u>significantly damaging to</u> the Defined Views into and out of Lavenham and are not considered detrimental to the wider Parish landscape. 	Recommendation accepted
7.9	8	We are pleased to see that the Neighbourhood Plan specifically acknowledges, in accordance with recent parliamentary statements and emerging policy the need to plan for the changing needs of the over 65 age range to allow older people to live independently and safely in their own homes for as long as possible.	Noted.
Paragraph 7.9.1	R9	Although repeated later on in the report, should it not be emphasized that it is government-run care homes that are not available closer	Noted.
Paragraph 7.9.1	R19	Need for quality 2 bedroom houses/flats for those (like us) who may wish to downsize from a 4 bedroom house and garden to a more manageable property so as to remain in the village	Noted.
Paragraph 7.9.1	R20	Definite need for smaller houses/flats etc	Noted.
Policy H6	8	We fully support this policy.	
Paragraph 8.1.5	R9	One spelling mistake on p. 29 paragraph 8.1.5 I think it should be “palate” not “pallet”	Altered to ‘palette’.
Policy D1	9	The objective of the plan to deliver high quality design is supported. We support that the Parish Council will engage in active consultation with potential developers and the need for consultation with the community. We would however question whether a development brief should be required	The Parish Council consider the provision of a Development Brief

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		<p>in the case of all major development proposals given the requirements for major planning application are already set out in national legislation through the General Development Procedure Order 2015, Babergh District Council, and other neighbourhood plan requirements. Consultation can in our experience often be successfully carried out based on site analysis, constraints and opportunity drawings for example rather than necessitating the use of a development brief.</p>	<p>an important tool which can allow meaningful and effective engagement with the community.</p>
Policy D1	10	<p>As the draft plan identifies, Lavenham’s strengths include its historic core with its numerous listed buildings and the relationship with its rural setting. The plan aims to ensure that new development relates well to local characteristics and seeks to secure locally distinctive design, both within and outside the conservation area, through Policy D1. Moreover, the important relationship with the surrounding countryside is to be protected through the identification of important views into and out of the built up area.</p> <p>We note that baseline information document 1 accompanying the draft plan includes a list of the village’s wide ranging assets and that baseline information document 2 lists historical features in the parish. Both these lists include features which could be classed as non-designated heritage assets (unlisted buildings, features and monuments, both within and outside conservation areas, which have a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions).</p> <p>It is important to remember that non-designated heritages assets (identified as being of local rather than national interest) area offered a degree of protection by law. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the protection given to –non-designated heritage assets (para. 135) and identifies the use of a local list as a means of identifying them. Babergh District Council does not currently maintain a district wide local list and SPS considers that the Neighbourhood Planning process presents an ideal opportunity to do so. Historic England also advocates this approach and provides advice to local groups via its website, in particular its guidance note <i>Neighbourhood Planning and the historic Environment</i>.</p> <p>Lavenham’s conservation area and listed buildings already enjoy statutory protection. The</p>	<p>The importance of compiling a list of non-designated heritage assets in the parish is recognised and the Parish Council will commit to delivering this as a project. In the meantime, Policy D1 is amended as follows:</p> <p>Third bullet point: “All development proposals must be sympathetic to the setting of any individual heritage asset (<u>including any non designated heritage assets</u>) as well as the historic core of the village itself</p>

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		Neighbourhood Plan allows for the formal identification of the non-designated heritage assets which also contribute to the parish’s distinctive character. This will strengthen their protection from demolition or harmful development within their setting which would otherwise be limited, particularly outside the conservation area. We would therefore encourage the Lavenham Neighbourhood Planning team to consider compiling a list of non-designated heritage assets within the plan area which, although unlisted, merit protection.	
Policy D2	R9	Reference is made to an “existing cycle network”. Where is it? Whilst on the topic, should provision of cycle parking racks be considered for the Car Park and/or the Square?	Reference to ‘Acton Bury Loop’ added to Evidence Base.
Policy D2	1	Where policy D2 refers to designing streets to function as social spaces, this may be acceptable on some streets where traffic flows are not to a level where safety would become an issue. So this may be acceptable on roads within new residential development.	Noted.
Policy D2	1	<u>Housing and Design Standards (Ref: Policy D2)</u> Government policy is that neighbourhood plans cannot be used to apply optional technical standards related to housing design. ¹ Where Policy D2 sets requirements in relation to the use of potable water and to meeting standards on space, an examiner of this Plan is likely to strike these policies out. It may be preferable to give <i>encouragement</i> to such principles. The County Council would also welcome an additional design principle, to give consideration to the needs of an ageing population. Whilst this neighbourhood plan cannot set a requirement that homes be built to a higher accessibility standard, it can encourage development to meet this standard and to put in place design measures related to the wider built environment.	Suggested additional bullet point has been added to the Policy D2.

¹ See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/planning-update-march-2015>

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		<p>A new bullet point, to be included in the first set of points, could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Considering the specific needs of different groups in the community, such as older people and young people, and applying the principles of a ‘lifetime neighbourhood’ to new development.</u> <p>The Lifetime Neighbourhood principle is set out in a 2011 paper produced for the Department for Communities and Local Government: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6248/2044122.pdf</p>	
Policy D3	9	<p>With regards to Site Management we would support the intentions of Policy D3 however we consider that adoption of working practices in line with the considerate construction scheme and environmental health best practice should adequately safeguard amenity. Similarly methodology statements if required should be covered by planning condition rather than being required pre-planning when the details of site construction phasing and working may not have yet been established. We would suggest that a similar approach could be adopted with requires to other similar emerging requirements such as that relating to connectivity in Policy C8.</p>	<p>Minor policy amendment has been made to address this: “..... subscribe to an independent considerate constructor scheme. <u>Applicants are encouraged to submit a methodology statement to the Parish Council as part of the consultation process.</u></p>
Policy D3	1	<p>Policy D3 refers to considerate construction methods. The Parish Council may wish to include reference to lorry route management strategies, as part of implementing this approach.</p>	Noted.
Policy D4	1	<p>Where there is potential for sensitive archaeology, it will be managed through the planning process and applicants should be aware that there may be time and cost implications involved, particularly</p>	Paragraph added in supporting text to

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		on infill sites (Policy D4).	signpost applicants.
Policy D4	1	Paragraph 8.7.1 refers to an open character and the relationship to infill development. It is not clear that Policy D4 supports consideration of this matter.	Second bullet point D4 amended to include reference to landscapes setting and the conservation area.
Policy D4	R4	For consideration by the Group, please. P 34 Policy D4 : I queried this with Philip re respecting the Medieval layout. His suggested third bullet point wording : And is not detrimental to the Conservation Area.	Policy amended.
Chapter 9	5	Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the draft Lavenham Plan, which is certainly thorough and will do much to preserved the village’s beautiful characterise in a sustainable way. I would only offer one observation perhaps unsurprisingly given my role . I wonder if it be appropriate for the Plan to contain an aspiration in the section on wellbeing circa para 9.3.1 that the village would want to become ‘dementia friendly’ at some point . There are good examples, I’m sure you are aware of locally, albeit in larger communities, such as Hadleigh. The presence of over 50 independent retailers points to a significant areas where resilience of this nature could be built .	Reference to dementia included in Policy C6
Paragraph 9.1.2	R5	Page 35. Community and well-being 9.1.2. The village enjoys the following community facilities. I do feel that our Church should be included for not only does it offer facilities for weddings/ christenings/funerals and general services, peace and solace to those needing this, but after services there are sometimes refreshments under the tower. Harvest Festival, Musical Evenings, Art Festivals and Choirs and I feel perhaps I have not seen mention of the importance of our church, forgive me, but I feel the Church and the importance of it in Lavenham should be mentioned along with the Legion, Salvation Army etc. etc.	Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul added to list in para 9.1.2.

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Paragraph Number	Consultee	Comment	Steering group response/changes to plan
Paragraph 9.2 and open spaces	6	The safeguarding of the 17 Open Spaces identified in the Plan (para.9.2) is fully supported by the LS. These spaces are essential to the character of the village.	Noted. Re-designation of open spaces and recreation areas following other representations.
Paragraph 9.2 and open spaces	R6	<p>On pages 36 and 37 of the Plan I see that 17 areas in the Village have been noted as being either Open Spaces or Recreation Areas. However nothing has been said to identify which of these areas are Open Spaces and which are Recreation Areas. It might not matter very much, but for the wording of the Policy C2 which follows on. Policy C2: Open Spaces, on page 37, states that: “The open spaces identified above will be safeguarded”. It goes on to say that: “An exceptional circumstance will apply where the development of an existing open space is necessary to facilitate the successful relocation of the existing primary school to a more suitable site”. I therefore understand that, apart from the stated exceptional circumstance, any open spaces identified above will not, as a matter of principle, ever be allowed to be developed for any reason. Some open spaces should of course never be developed. But which, in the list of 17 areas, are open spaces and which are recreation areas?</p> <p>Rectory Meadow, no. 3 on the list of 17, should, to my mind, not be included in a list of open spaces never to be developed. I think it desirable for it to be earmarked as a possible amenity site which could be of benefit to the whole village at some time in the future.</p> <p>I understand that the Village Hall itself is on a part of Rectory Meadow. So if the position is not clarified there might be a problem later on should there be a wish to enlarge the Hall in some way</p> <p>A re-wording of this section on pages 36/7, whereby a clear distinction is drawn between open spaces and recreation areas, would therefore be helpful.</p>	To improve clarity on this, the NP has been amended to distinguish between recreation spaces and open spaces. An additional line has been added to the policy stating “The recreation areas will be maintained or enhanced for recreational use by the community”.
Policy C2	R8	I have one suggestion regarding Policy C2 (page 3). It is that a further exception should be made to this policy to permit any future proposals for use of the Rectory Meadow (Item 3) which in the Council’s view would enhance the amenities of the village for the benefit of both residents and visitors.	To improve clarity on this, the NP has been amended to distinguish between

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		Any such proposals would of course require the agreement of the Diocesan authorities and the Parochial Church Council (Lavenham PCC).	recreation spaces and open spaces. See above.
Policy C3	8	We fully support this policy	Noted.
Map 9.2	R16	Map 9.6 . front garden to Cordwainers	The current owners have now registered their front garden, so it is no longer an open space.
Policy C5 (pre submission version)	4	<p>We have reviewed the information available and note that there is little reference to the access of local healthcare services for the current and future population of Lavenham. It is also noted that there is the ambition for the provision of assisted living developments or nursing/care homes, the provision of such services will have an increased impact on primary care services in the area . Lavenham is currently serviced by the branch surgery of the Long Melford Practice, in terms of space this practice and its branch surgery are currently at capacity.</p> <p>The plan identifies the preference for housing developments with smaller numbers of dwellings rather than one large development. Please bear in mind that the planning obligations that can be gained from larger number of smaller developments will not always have as much benefit as one large development. This will limit the options available for the provision of additional community infrastructure to be delivered as part of a scheme and NHS England have limited funding available to invest in creating additional capacity as a result of development growth.</p> <p>We would welcome the addition of a simple statement to confirm that Lavenham Parish Council will support NHS England in ensuring suitable and sustainable provision of Primary Healthcare Services for the residents of Lavenham.</p>	Policy C6 amended to include the Parish Council’s continued support for NHS England’s provision of suitable and sustainable Primary Healthcare facilities for Lavenham.
Policy C6 (pre submission version)	1	<p><u>Education Provision</u></p> <p>60 additional dwellings is expected to generate in a minimum of 6 additional pre-school pupils (ages</p>	Section 9.7 refers to this issue.

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		<p>2-5), 15 primary school pupils (ages 5-11) and 13 secondary school pupils (ages 11-16).</p> <p>At present and based on current statutory requirements, it is expected that the new pre-school capacity being funded by the local community at the village hall will be sufficient to absorb the additional pupils. However, the Government has indicated through the 2015 Queen’s Speech that it intends to double the hours of free provision which are to be made available to parents. This may lead to a further requirement for provision in Lavenham, for which contributions from the Community Infrastructure Levy pot may be sought.</p> <p>At secondary level, the County Council will consider cumulative needs across the whole Thomas Gainsborough catchment and seek CIL contributions from Babergh District Council as necessary.</p> <p>Chapter 9.4 of the Plan refers to relocation of the Primary School. As per paragraph 9.4.7, discussions are underway in respect of the future of primary school provision. The County Council has commissioned a feasibility study into options for increasing the capacity of the primary school on its current site. It is expected that the results of this study will be available for a meeting with the school later this month (September).</p> <p>The relocation of the pre-school may provide additional potential for providing places at the school, but given that the pre-school occupies the school’s dining room it is not clear that additional teaching space would become available.</p> <p>Whilst it may be the case that a suitable site could available for relocating the school, there will be significant cost implications which must remain identified as a constraint on ambition at the current time. Constructing a new and expanded primary school, of 210 places, will cost in the region of £4.35 million before land acquisition costs are considered.</p> <p>There are legal hurdles to disposing of a school which would need to be overcome, such as consent from the Secretary of State. Furthermore, should a free school provider wish to use the school buildings, the County Council would be obliged to make them available. Finally, there may be</p>	<p>Now renumbered to Chapter 9.7 and para 9.7.7</p>

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Paragraph Number	Consultee	Comment	Steering group response/changes to plan
		<p>restrictive covenants on the use of the school buildings which prevent other uses. For these reasons, it cannot be assumed that a capital receipt from sale of the school would be available to fund relocation.</p> <p>Furthermore, whilst consideration of the needs of older people is welcome, this may reduce any capital receipt from sale, restricting the funding of the relocation.</p> <p>Should relocation or expansion of the school not be possible, the impact of pupils arising from c.60 dwellings will still need to be considered. The County Council will consider expanding the primary school to deal with the additional pupils on the basis of the outcomes of the feasibility study.</p> <p>If this is not possible, the proportion of the school’s pupils attending from outside the catchment area will become relevant. At present, 25% of the school’s pupils come from out of catchment. It may be more appropriate to apply the school admission policy and make additional provision, if necessary, at other schools.</p>	
Policy C6 (pre submission version)	7	<p>The existing village school is now oversubscribed, and forecasts indicated that it will remain so for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Early leaning and youth facilities are being provided alongside the Village Hall, although the timing of this is subject to some of the funds being raised privately, as Government funding is limited. There also appear to be some grants available for this type of project.</p> <p>A new school is needed, however as suitable location is the stumbling block. The land on the Melford Road between Butfield and Artesian Close has the necessary room, is accessible on foot to the majority of the village and families, who are resident in surrounding villages, have better car access than the present location in the village centre. The demolition of the existing school could pave the way to more housing for either young or old.</p>	Noted.

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Paragraph Number	Consultee	Comment	Steering group response/changes to plan
Policy C6 (pre submission version)	R10	<p>Once the Neighbourhood Plan is done and dusted, I hope the Parish Council will give high priority to ensuring a new Primary School is built on the outskirts of the village.</p> <p>The current school is too small to accommodate all those in the locality who wish to attend and the situation will only worsen if new affordable homes are built for young families.</p> <p>Research has shown that attendance at pre and primary schools providing a good standard of education is more important than gender or family income. The opposite is also true, poor pre-secondary schooling is potentially devastating to the development of a young person’s job and life prospects.</p> <p>We owe it to society to give children the best start in life. Our school is highly rated by Ofsted and a strong case for a bigger school serving a wider community should receive considerable support from the educational authorities.</p> <p>The NP has proposed two options for developing the school site:</p> <p>Option 1: NP Page 41 9.4.9</p> <p>“The present school buildings in the centre of the village could well present an ideal place for retirement living. The buildings are eminently suitable for conversion The conversion of these buildings into a combination of retirement living/assisted retirement living and care home, all of which Lavenham lacks at the moment, could be achieved once the new school has been created.”</p> <p>I strongly disagree with the above statement for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accommodation for the elderly should be purpose built to the highest standards. The plans should ensure that advances in care facilities could be seamlessly incorporated into the new building. It is inconceivable that this would be possible in an old building on the current cramped site. - I understand the latest thinking is that homes for the elderly should ensure that they are “life-long” facilities, initially providing accommodation for active members of the community and progressively providing support and medical care if required. <p>This would be impractical on the school site and it would be necessary to relocate residents requiring medical care to more appropriate accommodation elsewhere. This would be detrimental to the psychological well-being of residents, depriving them of visits from their friends, banishment from</p>	<p>Project 1 – 6 relate to traffic and parking issues and are being addressed by the Parish Council. The responsibility for this area, however, rests with Suffolk County Council.</p> <p>The situation regarding the future of school and the potential/possibilities for the school site have been set out within the NDP but are not necessarily exhaustive.</p> <p>Dialogue has already commenced with the School, Education Department of SCC, our local MP and County and District Councillors.</p> <p>Elderly care provision needs to be as centrally sited as</p>

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Paragraph Number	Consultee	Comment	Steering group response/changes to plan
		<p>their “home” and maybe separation from their partner.</p> <p>- The NP (Page 28 H6) envisages that by 2030 Sheltered Housing will be required incorporating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an adequate amount of accommodation for warden/staff • usable, attractive areas of communal garden • adequate car parking • internal and external layout designed to meet the needs of people with restricted mobility <p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>The school site occupies a prime location in the centre of the village and converting it to an “old people’s home” would reinforce the impression (fact?) that Lavenham is principally occupied by the elderly.</p> <p>This would be bad for tourism and for local business; furthermore it would discourage young families to relocate to Lavenham. It would probably also lower resale values of surrounding properties.</p> <p>Conversion of the school site to residential 2/3 bedroom accommodation would be financially more viable and immediately attract investment interest. It would also give impetus to plans to relocate the school.</p> <p>This is by far the best option for the elderly. Splitting the care of the elderly between two sites would be a waste of scarce financial, nursing and management resources. It follows that it would not be in the best interests of its residents.</p> <p>Option 2: NP Page 41 C6</p> <p>“Residential development proposals (of the school site) would be permitted provided that the existing building was retained and that small buildings capable of accommodating more elderly residents wishing to downsize were provided.”</p> <p>To my knowledge there is no over-riding architectural reason why any part of the school building should be retained. It is not an attractive building and retaining any part of it would impose height and planning restrictions out of all proportion to its minor historical importance. Higher build costs</p>	<p>possible within the village for the convenience of any residents.</p>

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		<p>and a lower site value would impose additional constraints.</p> <p>I understand that downsizing implies separate accommodation with each unit having its own ‘front door’. This reinforces isolation and loneliness and would be inappropriate for the targeted age group.</p> <p>Most of the arguments listed against 41 9.4.9 also apply to this proposal.</p> <p>If downsize accommodation was built on the school site for commercial sale, how could the units be reserved for local residents? This presumably would be the intention of the Parish Council but how could it be achieved?</p>	
Paragraph 9.4.3	R19	Para. 9.4.3. Relocated larger school with parking and access to playing fields	Noted
Paragraph 9.4.3	R20	Agree with proposal for larger school and finance for such should be pushed hard	Noted
Paragraph 9.5.3	1	The reference to spending CIL monies on sustainable transport measures is welcomed (paragraph 9.5.3).	Noted
Policy C9 (pre submission version)	1	Where policy C9 makes reference to refusing development on grounds of increased traffic, this clause will need to be deleted as it is inconsistent with paragraph 32 of the national planning policy framework. National policy is that development may only be refused on transport grounds where the impacts are ‘severe’.	‘Additional’ changed to ‘severe’ in Policy C10 reference to traffic congestion.
Chapter 10	9	<p>We are broadly supportive of the concept of ‘Defined Views’ within the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan and Marden Homes have commissioned Chartered Landscape Consultants to carry out a visual appraisal of the land in the vicinity of our client’s site.</p> <p>Whilst we support the principle of seeking to protect important views our Landscape Consultant is concerned about the methodology used to identify View 2 (Brent Eleigh Road) as a one of the ‘Defined Views’.</p>	The Brent Eleigh Road view has been amended and now shows the view taken from a public path.

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		<p>Residents have been asked to say whether they value this view and have been shown an elevated photographic view of the Site from the opposite valley side where there is in fact no public access and therefore no public viewpoint. As noted on Page 63 of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan this photo has been taken from open countryside on private land on the opposite valley side. We would contend that a 'Defined View' should be from a public viewpoint (Road/Footpath/Bridleway/Public Realm) if it is to be used as a constraint to development. If the public cannot get access to the viewpoint, it is difficult to see how the view can be used and valued by the public.</p> <p>We would also suggest that some Sites may come forward for new residential development that may have the potential to provide new footpath links and public open space that might enable new important views towards the open countryside surrounding Lavenham to be enjoyed, thereby creating new defined views of strategic significance that do not currently exist.</p> <p>The section on defined views could be strengthened by acknowledging this.</p> <p>The scheme currently being developed by Marden Homes is being developed with regards to the landscape objectives of the plan including opportunities for enhancement as identified by Chartered Landscape Consultants. The Neighbourhood Plan policies should contain sufficient flexibility to allow for enhancement of areas where possible including in particular opportunities for increasing public access to landscape around the village.</p>	
Project 1	1	Project 1 (under chapter 12) refers to downgrading the A1141 to a B road. Changing the designation of the A1141 to a B road is unlikely to affect its use in terms of traffic type or volume. Presently the A1141 carries less traffic than any other A road in Babergh and less than many of the B roads. A change from A to B classification would reduce the amount of funding to maintain the road.	Wording of project 1 amended
Project 1 – 5	6	It would be advantageous if Traffic Management Projects 1 – 5 could be implemented, so far as possible, before further housing was built.	Noted
Project 10	R2	As I was part of the group that originally looked at the footpaths for the Neighbourhood Plan I need to point out an error in the route of the St Edmund Way (which has been repeated from the VDS).	Amendments made to Evidence Base.

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		<p>The route is correctly shown on the Ordnance Survey maps and is described in the book "<i>The St Edmund Way</i>" as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(coming from the Melford direction) the route tracks the course of the former railway all the way to Lavenham. Pass under a road bridge [on Bridge Street Road] and carry on as far as the next road*. [Park Road] go up the slope here and turn right up the hill into Lavenham, keeping left at the junction to go down Hall Street (<i>sic</i>). At the end of the large garden on the right take the earth path down to a footbridge and half right over pasture into the churchyard. From the church turn left down to The Swan, go right down Water Street and then left up Lady Street into the Market Place. Cross the Market Place and go down Prentice Street, then turn left at the bottom and left again at the crossroads. At the T junction just ahead, turn right up over a road bridge and climb to the style [no longer there] on the left at the end of the bridge parapet. Descend steps and follow the field boundary ahead. After bending right and left, turn right to use a path across the narrowest part of the field close to overhead cables. At the upper boundary, go left to follow the field edge path to the end and there turn right. Almost immediately, leave the road [Park Road] at a sharp bend to keep straight on along a grass track (the remaining route is shown correctly on the Neighbourhood Plan map on page 38)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">* note this is the route of the railway NOT the footpath running alongside is as shown on the map on page 38</p> <p>As item 12. 3. 1, project P 10: footpaths actually refers to the long-distance St Edmund Way it is obviously important to know where it is!</p>	
Project P14	6	The Long-Term Preservation aim for the village set out in para.12.4 (freedom from HGV through-traffic, pedestrianisation in some areas etc.) is fully supported by the LS.	Noted
Project P4	R7	My main concern is regarding the plan to apply for recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Personally I do not believe that Lavenham comes into that sort of category and, if it did, the local people and organizations would lose control of various ways in which the village works.	Noted
Projects and traffic	R7	I cross the Bury road daily in order to walk along the Railway track and often feel that "I take my life in my hands", especially between 5 pm & 6.30 pm. To name a few villages where there are	Noted

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management		permanent or occasional checks;- Long Melford, Cavendish, Sicklesmere, Cockfield, Chelsworth, Needham Market, Little Waldingfield etc. whilst we do not seem to have any speed checks at all. Why not? I know that I am not the only resident to ask this question.	
Appendix 1 - Glossary	6	It would be helpful to include a definition for ‘Sustainable Development’. The full definition in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (para.7) is somewhat lengthy, but could probably be shortened	Definition added to glossary
Evidence	R11	1. Base information document One: Para 6, Page 6 – Firstly ‘Whitegates’ should read ‘White Gates’. This name was given by Babergh District Council Street Naming Dept., when the houses were built and now pops up on all post code searches. Unfortunately it seems the land registry documents still use Whitegates. Secondly there are a total of 5 houses in White Gates. 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.	Base line information amended.
Table 3: Log of consultation responses			

Appendix 8

English Heritage Letter December 2014



ENGLISH HERITAGE

EAST OF ENGLAND

Ms Carroll Reeve
Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
By e-mail

Direct Dial: 01223 582717

Direct Fax: 01223 582701

Our ref: DG/Lavenham/02

22 December 2014

Dear Ms Reeve

Ref: Draft Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan

Further to our e-mail exchange earlier this month, I have now had the opportunity to read the draft Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan and my comments are set out below. English Heritage is primarily concerned with the historic environment and my comments therefore focus on those aspects of the plan.

I note in Section 2 that the principal objective of the plan is to achieve a better balanced community through sustainable development of the town and the provision of 100 new homes in the plan period provided through a number of smaller developments. I welcome the identification on paragraph 2.2 of Lavenham's historic core and setting. However, while the preparation of defined views into, and out of, the town may help protect the historic setting, the plan would benefit from setting out the key contributors to the local distinctiveness of the town. Such information would help inform both designers and promoters of development proposals, and also the local planning authority when they are required to determine applications. From my knowledge of the town, the key contributor to its local distinctiveness is its vernacular architectural heritage and includes:

- The pallet of materials (timber frame and render, flint, gault clay and soft red brickwork, plain tiles and welsh slate).
- The relationship between roof pitch and roofing material – plain tiles are used on steeply pitched roofs (around 45 degrees) while slate appears on shallower pitched roofs (around 30 to 35 degrees).
- Roof orientation – Roofs are predominantly set parallel to the streets, but there are a number of exceptions where the buildings (or cross-wings) are set gable-on to the street.
- Location on plot – in the historic core buildings are sited tight to the back of the pavement, with buildings abutting directly to their neighbours.



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- Scale and massing – Predominantly two storey, but with some accommodation provided within steeply sloping roof voids, and the use of projecting jetties at first floor on timber-framed buildings.
- Window-to-wall ratios (more wall than window)
- Window proportions (an overall horizontal emphasis in mediaeval buildings, but with the windows made up of a series of vertically proportioned elements, and with vertically proportioned sash windows to later Georgian and Victorian buildings).
- Et cetera

The map in figure 3.4 is helpful, but would be more legible if greater differentiation were used between the colour of the historic core and that of the 1990s buildings.

Turning to the Policies contained in the plan: Policy H1 sets out the target number for open market and affordable new homes. For clarity, the policy should state that the target figure of a minimum of 100 dwellings is over the life of the plan (ie 2015 – 2035). No guidance is given as to the sites where this new housing is to be accommodated and again it would be helpful if the plan could be more explicit on this point. If you are unable to suggest sites (or unwilling to promote individual sites) then some more general advice could be given, such as *'visually prominent sites in the view cones attached to the plan would not be supported'* (this is picked up in Policy H4 for affordable housing on exception sites). It may be necessary for the plan to identify important open sites (if any) within the town where applications would also not be supported. Policy H7 (Care Home) would again benefit from similar cautions in respect of siting. Policy H8 is concerned with the scale of development, but consideration might be given to expand this policy to also consider density of development, especially if you feel the town would benefit from having higher density development within the established built areas, but a lower density (to provide a transition to open countryside) on the edge of the settlement.

Policy D1 is concerned with Good Design and the reference to local distinctiveness is welcomed, but would benefit from clarification (hence my comments above). A perennial problem with policies that require high quality design is 'who is to be the judge', though that should not be a reason for not requiring it. However, you may wish to consider making use of an independent design review panel for larger developments in the town (I believe Shape East already operate such a panel). It would also be appropriate to include a general requirement that *'developments should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area and respect the setting of nearby listed buildings'*. I note that this draft contains two Policy D2 (one covering Design and Access, the second covering Site Management).



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Policy C2 is concerned with Sports and Leisure Facilities. Consideration should be given to incorporating into this policy (or elsewhere in the plan) a requirement for new housing (and in particular housing sites on the edge of the settlement) to incorporate good pedestrian and cycle permeability out into the countryside.

Section 6.2 of the document concerns the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); English Heritage would welcome a commitment in the plan for some of the monies received from this fund to be spent on enhancements to the public realm in Lavenham, possibly commencing with a 'Streets for All' type survey of the public realm to identify key opportunities for enhancement. Policy C4 is specifically concerned with Developer Contribution, and where development is to be phased in tandem with timely provision of infrastructure it is recommended that this be secured through appropriately worded conditions attached to the granting of planning permission. On Policy C9 (Communications Infrastructure) I request that the phrase '*and the setting of listed buildings*' is added to the end of the policy.

Policies C10 and C11 are concerned with the change of use from residential and change of use from retail. On Policy C10 consideration should be given to adding a fifth bullet point to cover 'signage'. Signage on commercial buildings in historic places can be a real problem, and I would recommend that you do not support the use of internally illuminated signs, or signs made of Perspex or similar non-traditional materials. The size of any signage should also be proportionate to the building to which it is attached. Furthermore, you may wish to consider encouraging the use of traditional hanging signs. In Policy C11, when considering the marketing of a closed business premises, it would be important for that marketing to be at a '*fair market price*'. Marketing of a business at an unrealistic or inflated value is unlikely to result in a successful outcome.

Policy ENV 3 is concerned with the Protection of the traditional roofscape of Lavenham, and for the avoidance of doubt I would recommend adding to the end of this policy the phrase '*or character or appearance of the conservation area, including the setting of nearby listed buildings.*' In respect of Policy ENV4 (which deals with the Market Place), might this be an appropriate project for the expenditure of CIL receipts?

Policy P13 is concerned with Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). Currently the land to the east and south of Lavenham is designated a Special Landscape Area (as noted in the map to Appendix 3 on page 41 of the plan) and the 2006 Baber Local plan had 3 policies associated with SLAs (Policy CR04, CR05 and CR06). Of these only policy CR04 has been saved and carried forward, but even that policy does not appear in the new Core Strategy. Policy CR04 stated:



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Development proposals in Special Landscape Areas will only be permitted where they:

- *Maintain or enhance the special landscape qualities of the area, identified in the relevant landscape appraisal; and*
- *Area designed and sited so as to harmonise with the landscape setting.*

If this policy no longer exists in the new Baber Core Strategy, the protection it affords to the SLA within Lavenham parish will also no longer exist and you may wish to discuss with Barber the practicalities of reinstating this policy within your Neighbourhood Plan to afford a degree of protection to that part of the SLA that currently exists within your parish. Policy P13 specifically concerns extending the SLA to fully encompass Lavenham, but in extending the SLA careful consideration would then need to be given to where new housing might be sited to fulfil the objective of the plan for a better balanced community.

Policy P14 is concerned with investigating the feasibility of adding Laveham to the UK's tentative list for UNESCO world heritage sites. While Laveham is an exceptionally fine historic town, English Heritage believes that it will be difficult to make a case that meets the criteria for Outstanding Universal Value, which is a requirement for World Heritage Status. Also, while there are potential economic benefits that can be derived from WHS inscription, there are significant costs in achieving and sustaining this status and ensuring that the UK continues to meet the terms of the World Heritage Convention.

I hope this letter will be of assistance in finalising the draft of your Neighbourhood Plan. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter please give me a call.

Yours sincerely

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