

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Revision Group

Steering group meeting 14th July 2026

Attending: Michael Sherman, Alison Bourne, Savannah Bourne, Danielle Twitchen, Tracey Brinkley, Jack Norman, David Theobald, Charles Posner and Carroll Reeve. Confirmation sought from all attending that no potential conflicts or pecuniary interests appertain to this agenda: confirmed.

Apologies: None

Minutes of previous meeting: Agreed

Matters arising: None

Parish Councillor comments on Survey feedback:

The two notes (dated 21st June) produced by the Councillor had been circulated and were discussed. There was some disquiet as to why questions were being raised when the two feedback documents had been agreed by the Parish Council, at its 4th June meeting. The threatening nature of the closing comments were considered unnecessary. However, in order to avoid any doubt, it was agreed that our Chair would write to the Councillor concerned setting out the facts.

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- 1,147 survey questionnaires were hand delivered to households. 620 were returned, 477 paper copies, 143 on-line. None were rejected. There was no requirement for all questions to be answered. The Hub held a small stock of questionnaire should they be required by residents and a register held – all forms were accounted for.

- 128 freeform answers were provided by residents, none were edited. This equates to 20.6% of returned forms or 11.2% of forms delivered.

- On-line forms were checked for multiple entries. Although, an infringement cannot be ruled out, from the independent checks made there would appear to be a low level of risk.

- The fear of a conspiratorial undertone to some freeform answers appears minor. For instance, the five comments supportive of a wellness centre equate to 0.8 % of returned questionnaires and 0.4% of all questionnaires.

- Some views expressed fall outside the scope of the NP. This includes criticism of the Parish Council.

Survey drop-in event Wednesday 8th July:

We received congratulations from most people attending on the process and getting feedback out promptly. Questions asked concerning progress, if any, on re second call for sites, there has been none.

Business survey:

Papers had been circulated and Alison will lead on this and report back at our next meeting. Her immediate observations centred on how to capture all businesses.

Joint Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework:

The JLP timetable had been circulated. During our discussion our Chair reported that last Friday a Parish liaison meeting was held and that LNP Group had not been invited. A second meeting was in hand and he would make enquiries of the Parish Clerk to ensure that we were not overlooked. It is imperative that this group is represented as the main topics include NPs and how they relate to the JLP. The NPPF has been delayed and may be further delayed due to the change in Prime Minister.

Note to BMSDC on housing:

A further draft was in hand covering the particular characteristics of Lavenham, development phasing, infrastructure and design quality.

AoB: It was reported that the Salvation Army was closing its doors at the end of the month. The LPC Chair will look into seeking to register the Hall and land as a Community Asset.

Next meeting: 11th August at 6 pm.