

LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

To: Members of Lavenham Parish Council

You are duly summoned to attend the next meeting of Lavenham Parish Council to be held at 7pm on Thursday 4th June 2026 at Lavenham Village Hall, Church Street, Lavenham.

Public Attendance

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend. At item 6 the public will be invited to give their views/question the Parish Council on issues on the agenda or local matters. This item will generally be limited to 10 mins. duration.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies and, if applicable, approval of absences**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. To consider requests for dispensations**
- 4. To approve as accurate minutes of the Council meeting held on May 14th 2026**
- 5. Chair's Announcements**
- 6. Public participation session (10 minutes)**
- 7. Local Authority Councillors' Reports**
- 8. Clerk/RFO report**
 - 8.a Motion to approve Accounts for month ending 30th April 2026**
 - 8.b Motion to approve Receipts and Payments for month ending 30th April 2026**
- 9. Planning**
 - 9a Planning Register: Report**
 - 9b Planning Group: To receive reports and recommendations**
- 10. Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 3: Minutes, Report and Motion concerning Newsletter**
- 11. Motion to request applications for Grants**

12. Motion concerning Bullying and Harassment Policy

13. Motion concerning possible improvements to local bus services

14. Motion concerning purchase of a Speed Indicator Device

15. Report concerning First Meadow Gate

16. Motion concerning Lavenham Community Allotments at the Paddocks Legal Work

17. Motion to establish a Footpath and Bridleway Working Group and appoint a Councillor to lead it.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 2nd July 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew Smith
Clerk to the Council
Parish Office
Church St
Lavenham

Date: 29th May 2026

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 14th May 2026, commencing at 7.pm in the Village Hall.

All supporting documents can be found on the Parish Council website under Meetings, May 2026.

Present:

Cllrs: Alison Bourne, Frank Domoney, Iain Lamont, Roy Mawford, Irene Mitchell, Janice Muckian, Jack Norman, Jane Ranzetta, Chris Robinson and Michael Sherman. Ten members of the public.

Opening Statement by the Chair:

Cllr Muckian welcomed everyone explaining that she was chairing the start of the meeting with the election of a new Chair, as always, the first item on the Agenda at this Annual Meeting of the PC. She told all present that this meeting is being recorded. The Chair reminded all that this is not a public meeting, but a meeting of the Council held in public. Members of the Public were respectfully asked to maintain silence during the Council's deliberations and not to approach the Councillors. Councillors were requested not to engage with Members of the Public when Council is in session. All were asked to ensure that their mobile phone was on silent and were reminded to treat all present with respect.

1. Election of a Chair

Cllr Muckian proposed Cllr Norman. Cllr Ranzetta seconded. **Decision:** Approved unanimously.

2. Election of a Vice-Chair

Cllr Sherman proposed Cllr Ranzetta. Cllr Bourne seconded. **Decision:** Approved unanimously.

3. Apologies and approval of Absences

The Clerk reported that Cllr Falconer had sent her apologies. No absences required approval.

4. Declarations of Interest and item 5 Requests for Dispensations

The Clerk said that Cllr Sherman had informed him that he no longer has any interest in land on Second Meadows and that he had received no updates from Cllrs concerning their Register of Interests or any further requests for dispensations. He reminded Cllrs that they have 28 days to lodge any changes.

He asked Cllrs whether any wished to declare any interests concerning tonight's agenda of which he was not aware and secondly, whether Cllrs had any updates to their previously declared interests. No Cllr said that they did.

The Monitoring Officer at Babergh Council has updated the Clerk concerning his progress.

The Monitoring Officer has instructed two Councillors to give apologies at this meeting and a Councillor will shortly meet with the Suffolk Joint Standards Board. He has dismissed a number of complaints regarding Cllrs participating in discussions and voting concerning various matters.

He has asked the Clerk to convey the following Guidance to Councillors:

'I am concerned that Councillors are not giving due consideration to public perception and potential bias in their declarations of interest. I would encourage you to gently remind all members to thoroughly consider any potential interests they may have and to apply the test at law for apparent bias which is 'would a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts, conclude that there was a real possibility of bias' [due to my position as/relationship with/links to] etc'.

With respect to Planning Matters the Monitoring Office has further explained that:

'Since the Parish Council acts as a consultee body on planning applications and not as the final decision maker, I have determined that this interest is not detrimental to the decision taken and that, as such, this interest does not prohibit Councillor x from participating in this item / matter and that they were entitled to remain in the room. However, I have determined that in the interest of transparency that this conflict of interest should have been declared for the record as part of proceedings'.

6. Approval of Minutes

To approve as accurate minutes of the 2nd April 2026 meeting of the Council.

Motion to approve. Proposed: Cllr Sherman **Seconded:** Cllr Muckian **Decision:** Approved. Cllrs Domoney, Ranzetta and Robinson abstained.

7. Chair's Announcements

The Chair (Cllr Norman) told Cllrs that she wished to apologise for a comment which she had made at a previous meeting. On reflection and on advice of the Monitoring Officer she regretted her comment and wished to apologise to Ms Mullan and the Parish Council for any offence caused.

Cllr Domoney apologised for the disruptive nature of his behaviour at a previous Council Meeting. He explained that whilst medication changes had contributed to his behaviour he took full responsibility for his actions. He also apologised to the Lavenham Community Allotments Association for an inappropriate comment he had made on Facebook.

8. Public Participation Session

The Chair reminded Members of the Public of the protocol for this session.

A Member of the Public asked whether there was any point in the motion on the Agenda to exclude the public from one item as Council publishes recordings of its meetings. The Clerk explained that should that motion be passed recording would cease and that section of the Meeting would not be minuted in a detailed way.

A Member of the Public said that she considered her application concerning Second Meadows on the Agenda to be a purely technical application regarding the footpath concerning which she has worked with Suffolk Public Rights of Way Officers. She said that she had informed the Monitoring Officer of her concerns with respect to apparent bias and predetermination of some Cllrs and that she had written to the Babergh Planning Officer explaining that she considered parts of the Working Paper written by the Parish Councils Planning Group to be inaccurate. She was particularly concerned by the videos. She asked Cllrs to consider these concerns.

Cllr Domoney explained that the Riverside Allotments Association was planting the vacant beds with vegetables in response to the food production and food cost issues consequent of the war in the Middle East. It was anticipated that produce will be made available to Food Banks and other community groups. A BBQ will be held to celebrate the progress of the Allotments.

Cllr Robinson began to speak advocating for the Planning Application concerning his Disclosable Pecuniary interest. The Clerk advised that this was very clearly contrary to the Code of Conduct and displayed the Quick Guide issued by SALC. Cllr Robinson stopped speaking and returned to the Council table.

9. Local Authority Councillors' Reports

The Clerk presented County Cllr Lindsay's report.

County Cllr Lindsay has advised that he was pleased and relieved to have been re-elected as County Councillor for the remaining two years of the County Council's existence.

The Cosford division had become larger, containing 3 additional villages, taking the total to 21. He explained that given the large number of Parish Councils, attendance at every one of them will be impossible, especially as many of the meetings occur at the same time. He will focus on the new villages to start with so that he can get to know the Parish Councillors adding that he believes that the Lavenham PC knows that he can always be emailed or messaged and will always respond as best he can.

Councillor Lindsay reported that the elections had cut the Conservative Councillor numbers down from 55 to 9 with Reform winning 41 out of 70 seats, enough to form an administration on their own. The Greens had increased seats from 9 to 13 – making them the official opposition - whilst LibDem and Labour seat numbers were roughly halved.

In his opinion, at this stage, it is not clear what Reform's policies are on County Council matters.

The current leader of Suffolk's Reform group had indicated before the elections that he does not support the decision to create three unitary councils and has suggested they may seek a judicial review.

If the Government does stick to its plan, in a year's time, in May 2027, there will be elections of "shadow" unitary Councillors – in our area for the new unitary of West Suffolk. Those elected will not actually be representing residents until the unitaries are legally created with full staff in May 2028.

Alongside this, the Government is creating the office of a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor, elected by all the voters in the two counties. That election is scheduled to happen in May 2028 and the Mayor will take office straight away.

District Cllr Clover reported that he continued to chase Suffolk County Council concerning the required repairs to the Lavenham Butchers culvert. Unfortunately, no update has been provided yet as to whether repairs will be funded.

Reports of a rat infestation on the Harwood Estate have been reported to the Babergh Tenancy Management team. Following a report of WW2 ordnance being found at Harwood Place and evacuation of 20 properties he was able to report that the devices had been confirmed as non explosive.

Babergh Council had announced that with respect to the new Joint Local Plan the scoping consultation will take place for at least six weeks in June/July 2026. This will be followed by a Consultation on Content and Evidence in Jan/Feb 2027. Finally, the Consultation on the proposed Local Plan will take place in Feb/March 2028 with the plan looking to be adopted in April 2029.

Small electrical appliances can continue to be disposed of at the Sudbury and Hadleigh recycling centres, the Lavenham bin had had to be withdrawn. These devices must not be disposed of in general rubbish as they can lead to fires in the bin lorries. Batteries can be taken to local supermarkets.

10. Clerks Report

The Clerk told Cllrs that this being the Meeting where the Accounts for the last financial year have to be approved there is a substantial financial update.

There are no material changes to the financial position of this Council compared to what Councillors have previously been advised.

- 1) The Parish Council made a deficit last year of approximately £4,000. This was a considerable improvement on the reforecast deficit of £16,000 and indeed was £6,000 better than the budgeted deficit of some £10,000. The reasons are fully documented in the working papers.
- 2) The cash reserves of this Council were 8.6 months at 31st March which is within the target range of 6 to 9 months and would have been some 7.8 months or so without the unexpected positive financial news of the latter part of the last financial year.
- 3) The Internal Audit has been completed. Not only has Council passed this audit no concerns or suggestions have been made. A past concern has been that Council has amounts with Barclays significantly above the Financial Services Compensation Scheme limit of £120,000. This risk was significantly reduced by paying for the Street Lights and will now be further reduced by opening a Deposit Account with HSBC. This Deposit Account opening is half complete.
- 4) The Neighbourhood CIL claim is for the entire costs incurred in 2025/26 for the LNP3 which are approx' £6,000 and the cost of the Green Willows path streetlight of approx' £4,500.
- 5) Council has approximately £52,000 of Neighbourhood CIL remaining of which £27,000 has been allocated to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Motion to approve Accounts for month ending 31st March 2026 including Neighbourhood CIL claim for 2025/26 of £10,456.66.

Motion to approve Receipts and Payments for month ending 31st March 2026

Motions to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Returns and Internal Auditors Reports

Proposed: Cllr Robinson **Seconded:** Cllr Mawford **Decisions:** Approved unanimously

11a. Planning Register

The Clerk displayed the Planning register explaining that he had no further updates not contained in the Working Papers.

11b. Planning Applications

Application DC/26/01594: Angel Hotel, Market Place. Listed building consent for renovation works.

Motion: Recommend Approval

Proposed: Cllr Muckian **Seconded:** Cllr Robinson **Decision:** Approved unanimously

Application DC/26/1566: Woolstaplers, Prentice St. Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Goat Willow to fell to ground level. T2 Alder to fell to ground level. Both trees are the wrong type for where they are and are now too close to the buildings.

Motion: Recommend Approval

Proposed: Cllr Robinson **Seconded:** Cllr Bourne **Decision:** Approved. Cllr Sherman abstained.

Applications DC/26/1057 and 1060: 40 Prentice St. Demolition of existing garage, Excavation of garden area to form parking spaces, construction of brick retaining walls and existing brick wall to be angled back.

Motion: Recommend Refusal

Proposed: Cllr Mitchell **Seconded:** Cllr Ranzetta **Decision:** Approved. Cllrs Robinson and Domoney abstained.

Application DC/25/4172: 41 Water St Erection of two-storey and single storey rear extension.

Cllrs Mawford and Mitchell left the room.

Motion: Recommend Approval

Proposed: Cllr Sherman **Seconded:** Cllr Robinson **Decision:** Approved. Cllr Ranzetta abstained.

Cllrs Mawford and Mitchell returned to the room.

Application DC/26/1475: Pegtile Court, 3 Church St, Application for Listed Building Consent Installation of an Air Source Heat Pump

Motion: Recommend Approval

Proposed: Cllr Robinson **Seconded:** Cllr Ranzetta **Decision:** Approved. Cllr Ranzetta abstained.

Applications DC/26/1738 and 1739: Barn Cottage, Barn St, Retrospective works to refurbish parts of the house and for works within the domestic garden.

Motion: Recommend Approval

Proposed: Cllr Robinson **Seconded:** Cllr Mitchell **Decision:** Approved unanimously

Application DC/26/1076: 23 Prentice St. Listed Building Consent for repairs to render and damaged laths.

Motion: Recommend Approval

Proposed: Cllr Robinson **Seconded:** Cllr Ranzetta **Decision:** Approved unanimously

Cllrs Robinson and Domoney left the room. Cllr Sherman explained that having until recently had a relevant Disclosable Pecuniary interest, he would remain in the room but not speak and not vote.

Application DC/26/1302: Second Meadow Stables, Brent Eleigh Rd Application for Outline Planning Permission (All Matters Reserved) - Erection of a Wellness Centre (Sui Generis Use) and removal of existing structures.

Cllr Lamont explained that this was a full replacement application, with amendments, to that previously refused by the Planning Inspector. The Planning Working Group had reviewed the revised plans, the comments of the Planning Inspector and the previous comments of the Parish Council.

The Planning Group thoughts were:

Council disagrees with the Planning Inspectors view that 'the proposal would provide for an unmet community need. Council considers this conclusion is based on evidence gathered in LNP1 which was derived from data gathered in 2013. The questionnaire, issued to all households in 2013 to inform the LNP, did not seek opinion about a Wellness Centre.

The application is not clear about the precise pedestrian route being proposed. There has been no application for creating an improved footpath on First Meadow to always enable all users' access. This land is grassland and is not suitable for cycles, mobility aids or pushchairs in wet weather, during the hours of darkness or months of winter.

Footpath 001 runs alongside the River Brett. The application is not proposing any lighting of Footpath 001. This path runs alongside the River Brett, which is by eye, assessed to be around 10 feet deep. Widths of this footpath vary along its course. There are no widths to the path explained.

The application does not address the requirements of NPPF(2024) para 102, in particular, ensuring the safety of children and other vulnerable users in proximity to open water.

The suitability of the final proposal for pedestrian access to this development will be the decision of the Local Authority and the PROW team, but the Parish Council cannot conclude that this route is suitable due to the lack of details provided and that a primary pedestrian route would require lighting and safety measures because of the proximity of open water.

Council considers that it has insufficient technical expertise to make any comments with respect to flood risk, by observation, the area of the application site and surrounding land is subject to periodic flooding.

Motion: Recommend Refusal

Proposed: Cllr Mawford **Seconded:** Cllr Muckian **Decision:** Approved. Cllr Sherman abstained.

Cllrs Robinson and Domoney returned to the room.

Cllrs Bourne, Norman and Ranzetta left the room. Cllr Muckian volunteered to Chair the next item.

Motion: Cllr Muckian to chair the next item

Proposed: Cllr Mitchell **Seconded:** Cllr Lamont **Decision:** Approved. Cllr Robinson voted against, Cllr Domoney abstained.

Application No: DC/26/1509: De Vere House, Water St. Application for Listed Building Consent – Replacement render and insulation.

Motion: Recommend Approval

Proposed: Cllr Mitchell **Seconded:** Cllr Lamont **Decision:** Approved. Cllr Domoney abstained.

Cllrs Bourne, Norman and Ranzetta returned to the room. Cllr Norman took over as Chair.

Motion: to defer items 14,15 and 16 to the next Agenda

Proposed: Cllr Ranzetta **Seconded:** Cllr Bourne **Decision:** Approved. Cllr Mawford abstained.

12. Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Group: Report by the Chair and Motion concerning applying for a BMSDC grant.

Cllr Sherman told Cllrs that 620 Questionnaires had been returned of which 143 were online. No household had returned more than 2 Questionnaires. The information was now being collated. Tracey Brinkley and Danielle Twitchen had informed the Group that they were now Trustees of the Hub.

The Clerk displayed the claim form required to be submitted to apply for a Babergh Grant to assist with the preparation of the new Neighbourhood Plan.

Motion: The Clerk is instructed to submit the Claim Form as drafted by the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

Proposed: Cllr Ranzetta **Seconded:** Cllr Bourne **Decision:** Approved. Cllr Mawford voted against. Cllr Domoney abstained.

13. Clay Lane to Whelp Street – Restricted Byway Surface Improvement Scheme.

Cllr Robinson left the room.

The Clerk told Cllrs that Suffolk Public Rights of Way Office had sought Parish Council support for an application to be made by Brent Eleigh Parish Council for District Community Infrastructure Levy Funds to improve this byway.

Motion: The Clerk is instructed to lodge a note of support using the wording suggested by Suffolk PROW.

Proposed: Cllr Domoney **Seconded:** Cllr Sherman **Decision:** Approved unanimously.

Cllr Robinson returned to the room.

17. Motion to consider excluding the press and the public for item 18 because of the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed.

Proposed: Cllr Mawford **Seconded:** Cllr Mitchell **Decision:** Approved. Cllrs Domoney voted against. Cllrs Robinson and Sherman abstained.

Cllrs Domoney, Robinson and Sherman left the room at 9.14pm.

18. Report and Motion concerning Land Boundary

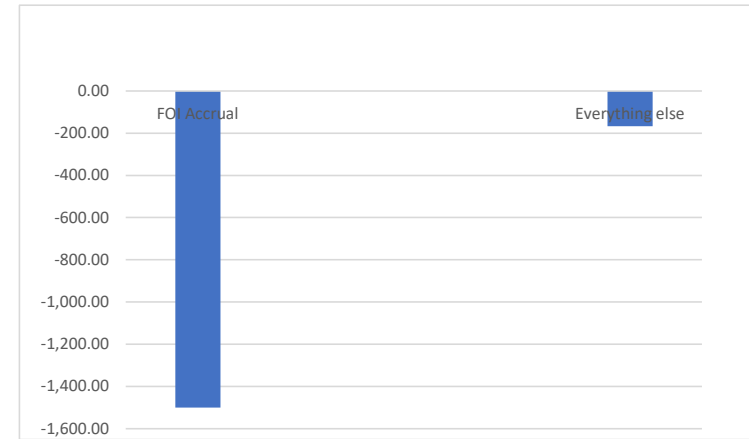
Councillors voted to extend the Meeting until 9.45pm

The Clerk was instructed to obtain further information and to obtain legal advice.

Meeting ended 9.45pm.

Date of next meeting – Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 21st May 2026 7pm, Next Meeting of Council Thursday 4th June 2026 7pm.

		Type	£
Precept	-0.02		
Babergh Cleansing Grant	0.00	FOI Accrual	-1,500.00
Burial Fees	-315.00		
Car Park and Toilet Donations	5.38		
Other Donations	50.00	Everything else	-166.30
EV Charging Income	-50.00		
Interest Received	0.00		-1,666.30
Management Costs	-1,275.65		
Office costs	-325.23		
Costs of Democracy	0.00		
Street Cleaning and Green Maint	-399.10		
Public Realm	100.00		
Toilet Costs	344.47		
Water St	24.57		
Community Events including Grants	0.00		
EV Costs	7.60		
Contingency	166.67		
	<u>-1,666.30</u>		
Per Accounts	-1,666.30		
Check	0.00		



	April Actual Mth	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Favourable /(Adverse)	Notes
Precept	11,213.75	11,213.75	11,213.77	-0.02	No variance
Babergh Cleansing Grant	555.56	555.56	555.56	0.00	No variance
Fixed Income	11,769.31	11,769.31	11,769.32	-0.01	
Burial Fees	285.00	285.00	600.00	-315.00	Timing
Car Park and Toilet Donations	239.35	239.35	233.97	5.38	Insignificant
Other Donations	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	Christmas Donations in local shop
EV Charging Income	0.00	0.00	50.00	-50.00	Still being commissioned
Interest Received	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	No variance
Variable Income	774.35	774.35	1,083.97	-309.62	Timing Burial Income
Total Income	12,543.66	12,543.66	12,853.29	-309.63	Timing Burial Income
Management Costs	5,517.65	5,517.65	4,242.00	-1,275.65	Legal Fee Accrual re FOI
Office costs	1,139.61	1,139.61	814.38	-325.23	Clerk Cilca Fees
Costs of Democracy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	No variance
Street Cleaning and Green Maint	4,331.12	4,331.12	3,932.02	-399.10	Generally timing but higher bin emptying costs.
Public Realm	578.92	578.92	678.92	100.00	No Minor Repairs
Toilet Costs	1,050.71	1,050.71	1,395.18	344.47	No Minor Repairs
Water St	242.37	242.37	266.94	24.57	Insignificant
Community Events including Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	No variance
EV Costs	12.40	12.40	20.00	7.60	Insignificant
Sinking Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	No variance
Contingency	0.00	0.00	166.67	166.67	Contingency
Total Costs	13,872.78	13,872.78	12,516.11	-1,356.67	
Surplus/(Deficit)	-1,329.12	-1,329.12	337.18	-1,666.30	
LNP	790.00	790.00	1,250.00	460.00	

	April Actual Mth	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Favourable /(Adverse)
Staff salaries and Other Consultancy Costs	5,417.65	5,417.65	4,084.50	-1,333.15
Audit and Payroll bureau costs	100.00	100.00	157.50	57.50
Management Costs	5,517.65	5,517.65	4,242.00	-1,275.65
Telephone & broadband	86.91	86.91	85.00	-1.91
Website Dev and .gov	64.80	64.80	95.00	30.20
Accounting software & computer	190.00	190.00	0.00	-190.00
Office Materials	11.24	11.24	20.00	8.76
Data Protection	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions & Insurance	284.40	284.40	300.00	15.60
All Training/Cllr expenses	325.00	325.00	60.00	-265.00
Room hire PC meetings	0.00	0.00	70.00	70.00
Office Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Digital mapping	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parish Office Business Rates	93.93	93.93	101.05	7.12
Parish Office rent	83.33	83.33	83.33	0.00
Office Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Office costs	1,139.61	1,139.61	814.38	-325.23
Cost of Democracy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Green Maintenance	1,517.08	1,517.08	1,194.09	-322.99
Tree Maintenance and Care	400.00	400.00	800.00	400.00
Street cleansing	1,556.67	1,556.67	1,552.78	-3.89
Refuse collection bins & dog bins	426.08	426.08	250.00	-176.08
Chapel Business Rates	136.28	136.28	135.15	-1.14
All cemetery management	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Play equipment	295.00	295.00	0.00	-295.00
Street Cleaning and Green Maint	4,331.12	4,331.12	3,932.02	-399.10
Street furniture	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Street Lighting energy	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
PWLB interest	78.92	78.92	78.92	0.00
Public Realm	578.92	578.92	678.92	100.00
Church Street energy	154.33	154.33	83.29	-71.04
Church Street water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church St Toilets Business Rates	62.62	62.62	67.37	4.75
Prentice St Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prentice St non EV energy	30.70	30.70	40.45	9.75
Donation Points	35.90	35.90	194.05	158.15
Washroom Cleaning & Consumables	767.16	767.16	810.02	42.86
Washroom Minor Maintenance	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Toilet Costs	1,050.71	1,050.71	1,395.18	344.47
Water Street green maintenance	50.83	50.83	50.71	-0.13
Water Street Business Rates	191.53	191.53	216.23	24.70
Water St	242.37	242.37	266.94	24.57
Small Grants (combined)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Christmas trees/lighting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Xmas Eve Community Carols	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1st Meadow summer facilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bellward Award	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Events including Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EV Costs	12.40	12.40	20.00	7.60
Sinking Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Contingency	0.00	0.00	166.67	166.67
Total Expenses	13,872.78	13,872.78	12,516.11	-1,356.67
Surplus/(deficit)	-1,329.12	-1,329.12	337.18	-1,666.30
Check	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LNP Costs	790.00	790.00	1,250.00	460.00

		Mar 26	Apr 26	Increase/(decrease)	Notes
Fixed Assets		145,797.03	145,797.03	0.00	No change
Debtors		0.00	0.00	0.00	No change
Accrued Income		234.25	1,005.96	771.71	No cleansing Grant yet received
Prepayments		6,931.20	6,889.93	-41.26	No significant change
VAT Refunds		4,785.94	1,663.77	-3,122.16	Mar VAT claim included Suffolk annual streetlights and Green Willows light.
		<u>11,951.38</u>	<u>9,559.67</u>	<u>-2,391.71</u>	
Cash at Bank	Bus Prem	231,455.49	287,887.25		
	Current Acc	7,367.83	6,297.27		
		<u>238,823.32</u>	<u>294,184.52</u>	55,361.20	Precept for half year received
Trade Creditors		-5,938.03	-5,536.15	-401.88	No significant change
Accruals		-15,493.41	-13,915.15	-1,578.26	FOI
Deferred Income		0.00	-56,068.75	56,068.75	Precept for half year received
Lights Creditor		0.00	0.00	0.00	No change
		<u>-21,431.44</u>	<u>-75,520.04</u>	<u>54,088.60</u>	
Loans		-59,564.60	-59,564.60	0.00	No change
Net Assets		<u>315,575.69</u>	<u>314,456.57</u>	<u>-1,119.12</u>	
General Funds		193,631.40	192,302.28	-1,329.12	The deficit YTD
Ballot Fund		3,527.70	3,527.70	0.00	No change
Lavenham Funds in Trust		1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	No change
Street Fair Fund		5,565.37	5,565.37	0.00	No change
Sinking Fund		58,995.64	59,995.64	1,000.00	Being increased by £1,000 per month
NCIL		52,355.58	51,565.58	-790.00	LNP
Total Reserves		<u>315,575.69</u>	<u>314,456.57</u>	<u>-1,119.12</u>	
Imbalance		0.00	0.00	0.00	

	B/F	Per I and E	Misc	Misc	Misc	LNP NCIL	Other	C/F	
General Funds	193,631.40	-1,329.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	192,302.28	0.00
Ballot Fund	3,527.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,527.70	0.00
NCIL	52,355.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-790.00	0.00	51,565.58	0.00
Lavenham Funds in Trust	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Sinking Fund	58,995.64	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,995.64	0.00
Street Fair Fund	5,565.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,565.37	0.00
Total Reserves	315,575.69	-329.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	-790.00	0.00	314,456.57	0.00

Wendy Bowman	280.00
Wendy Bowman	280.00
Wendy Bowman	<u>230.00</u>
	790.00

0.00

Current

31/03/2026	Balance Brought Forward	7,367.83	
07/04/2026	Burial Income: Hanchetts	285.00	
07/04/2026	NEST: Pension Contributions	-186.55	
08/04/2026	Toilet Donations: Card	4.75	
13/04/2026	Toilet Donations: Card	9.50	
14/04/2026	Supplier Payment: British Gas	-29.30	
14/04/2026	Supplier Payment: British Gas	-6.60	
14/04/2026	Transfer from Deposit Account	10,000.00	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: SALC	-390.00	
15/04/2026	HMRC: PAYE	-3,647.28	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Wendy Bowman Accounting	-550.00	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Infinity Cleaning	-545.06	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Village Hall	-154.80	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Playquip Leisure	-354.00	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: SALC	-727.50	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Command Pest Control	-159.00	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Places 4 People	-1,400.06	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Onsite IT	-77.76	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Karl Hobbs Computer Services	-190.00	
15/04/2026	Supplier Payment: JPB Landscapes	-3,197.23	
15/04/2026	Andrew Smith: March Net Wages	-2,487.84	
17/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Mutts Butts	-165.70	
17/04/2026	Supplier Payment: British Gas	-98.22	
20/04/2026	Supplier Payment: EE Limited	-17.35	
20/04/2026	Supplier Payment: BT	-86.94	
20/04/2026	Toilet Donations: Card	29.45	
21/04/2026	Toilet Donations: Cash	110.00	
21/04/2026	Donations: Christmas Lights	50.00	
27/04/2026	Toilet Donations: Cash	60.00	
27/04/2026	Toilet Donations: Card	9.50	
28/04/2026	Supplier Payment: HP Inks	-13.49	
28/04/2026	Supplier Payment: PAYA Go Cardless	-43.08	
29/04/2026	Transfer from Deposit Account	5,000.00	
30/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Wendy Bowman Accounting	-510.00	
30/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Lavenham Press	-1,127.00	
30/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Robert Evans	-320.00	
30/04/2026	Supplier Payment: Seago and Stopps	-144.00	
30/04/2026	Balance Carried Forward	6,297.27	
30/04/2026	Per Bank Statement	6,297.27	
		0.00	

Premium

31/03/2026	Balance Brought Forward	231,455.49	
13/04/2026	Babergh Precept first half	67,282.50	
14/04/2026	Transfer to Current Account	-10,000.00	
22/04/2026	HMRC: VAT refund	4,149.26	
29/04/2026	Transfer to Current Account	-5,000.00	
30/04/2026	Balance Carried Forward	287,887.25	
30/04/2026	Per Bank Statement	287,887.25	
		0.00	

Today: 05 May 2026



LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Transactions

COMMUNITY **20-83-50 00567094**

Available balance	£6,124.02
Last night's balance	£6,110.72
Overdraft limit	£0.00

Showing 9 transactions between 28/04/2026 and 05/05/2026 from 28/04/2026 to 05/05/2026

Date	Description	Money in	Money out	Balance
05/05/2026	Counter Credit CHARITIES TRUST CP14679 BGC	£13.30		£6,124.02
01/05/2026	Direct Debit NEST IT000007669739 DDR		£186.55	£6,110.72
30/04/2026	Bill Payment WENDY BOWMAN ACCOU 1711 AND 1717 BBP		£510.00	£6,297.27

6,297.27

Today: 05 May 2026



LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Transactions

Business Premium ME **20-83-50 20567116**

Available balance	£287,887.25
Last night's balance	£287,887.25
Overdraft limit	n/a

Showing 1 transaction between 29/04/2026 and 29/04/2026 from 28/04/2026 to 05/05/2026

Date	Description	Money in	Money out	Balance
29/04/2026	Funds Transfer 208350 00567094 FT 208350 00567094 FT		£5,000.00	£287,887.25

287,887.25

9a			BDC	LPC
Apr-26				
04033/4	Hall, Hall Rd	Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent Proposed replacement entrance gates	Refusal. Appealed, Allowed	Approval
00924	24 The Paddocks	Erection Gym and Music Room Variation of Condition	Approval	Approval
01173	30 High St	Reducing size of an Ash tree	Approval	Approval
00941/2	1 Bakers Mill	Installation of an electric vehicle charging point on the internal wall of the garage	Approval	Approval
May-26				
01137/8	Blaize Barn, 5 Bears Lane	Off street parking space and new boundary screen walls	Approval	Approval
01566	Woolstaplers	Fell Goat Willow and Alder	Approval	Approval
04172	41 Water St	Rear Extension	Approval	Approval
Open items:				
05426	Chilton Woods, Sudbury	Reserved Matters 269 dwellings	Ongoing	No Comment
05163	Pegtile Court	Installation of an Air Source Heat Pump	Ongoing	Approval
00674	Land north east of Briarside	Single storey dwelling and garage	Ongoing	Approval
01509	De Vere House Water St	Listed Building Consent: Replacement render and insulation	Ongoing	Approval
01057/1060	40 Prentice St	Demolition of garage and excavation of garden area to form parking spaces	Ongoing	Refusal
01302	Second Meadows Stables	Erection of a Wellness Centre	Ongoing	Refusal
01594	The Angel Hotel	Listed Building Consent: Refurbishment	Ongoing	Approval
01738/9	Barn Cottage, Barn St	Retrospective permission re refurbishment works	Ongoing	Approval
01475	Pegtile Court	Installation of Air Source Heat Pump	Ongoing	Approval
01076	23 Prentice St	Listed Building Consent: Repairs	Ongoing	Approval
01886	The Hall, Hall Rd	Listed Building Consent: Gates	Ongoing	Ongoing
01986	Perseverance House, 47 High St	Reduce crown of two trees, fell one tree and trim a tree	Ongoing	Ongoing
01871	Land west of Park Rd	Change arable field to Dog Walking area	Ongoing	Ongoing
01962	The Old Manse, Barn St	Pollard a sycamore tree	Ongoing	Ongoing
01921	The Church	Solar Panels	Ongoing	Ongoing

Lavenham Parish Council Planning Group.

Planning Applications for consideration at LPC meeting on 4th June 2026

Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/05310 - Condition 5 (Construction Management Strategy)

Land To The West Of Sudbury Road Lavenham Suffolk

Application. No: DC/26/02074 | Received: Fri 15 May 2026 | Validated: Fri 15 May 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

Application for a Non-Material Amendment to DC/25/05310 - Amendment to fence line position



Land To The West Of Sudbury Road Lavenham Suffolk

Application. No: DC/26/02013 | Received: Tue 12 May 2026 | Validated: Tue 12 May 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/05310 - Conditions 7 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy) and the BNG condition

Show more description

Land To The West Of Sudbury Road

Application. No: DC/26/01936 | Received: Wed 06 May 2026 | Validated: Thu 07 May 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

These three applications relate to the Gas Terminal upgrade on Sudbury Road. We have already commented and supported the main application, and no further comments are suggested.

Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce crown of 1 No. Yew (T1) by 2.5m, Reduce crown of 1 No. Ash (T2), Fell 1 No. Eucalyptus (T3) and cut back over hanging branches of 1 No. Plum (T4) by 2m.

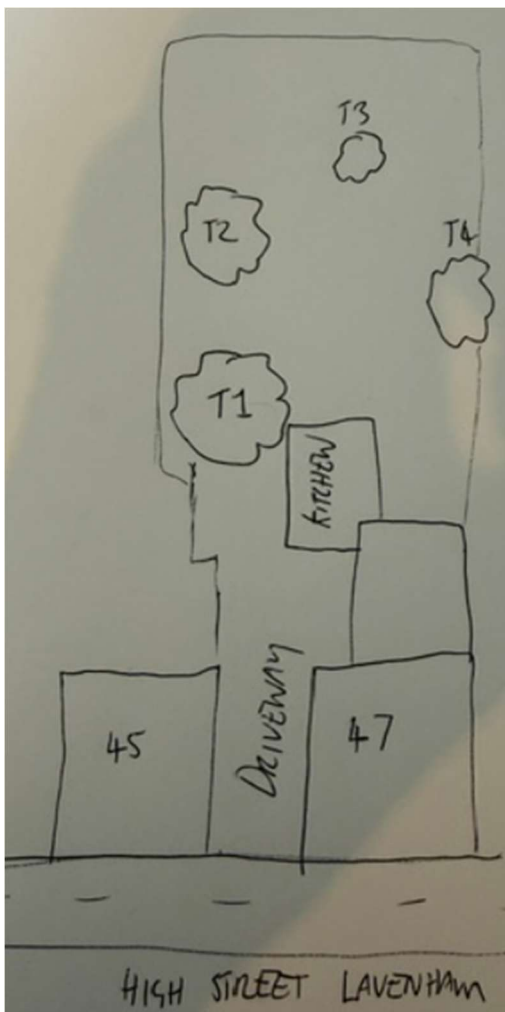
Show more description 

Perseverance House 47 High Street Lavenham Sudbury Suffolk CO10 9PY

Application. No: DC/26/01986 | Received: Mon 11 May 2026 | Validated: Mon 11 May 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

Routine maintenance of trees plus the felling of one non-native tree.

Recommend Approval





Application for works to trees subject to a tree preservation order - WS41/T23 To Pollard T1 Sycamore tree to approximately 8 metres above ground level.

Show more description 

The Old Manse Barn Street Lavenham Sudbury Suffolk CO10 9RB

Application. No: DC/26/01962 | Received: Thu 07 May 2026 | Validated: Fri 08 May 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

The application form states *"The tree is visibly in decline, continual deadwood present year after year. A large percentage of the canopy overhangs the road and footpath. The tree is structurally compromised with multiple historic wounds from previous storm damage and cavities present also."*

This tree work is quite aggressive for a tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order but it should recover from this maintenance work.

Recommend Approval



Planning Application - Installation of 46no Solar PV panels and Battery Storage



Church Of Saint Peter And Saint Paul, Church Street, Lavenham CO10 9SA

Application. No: DC/26/01921 | Received: Tue 05 May 2026 | Validated: Wed 20 May 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

The Church is Grade I listed and of great historical importance to the Village.

Solar panels are of environmental significance generating green electricity and the scheme includes battery storage to enable such as floodlighting to be powered at night.

This panels are mounted flat on the roof and are black in colour to reduce visual impact. Due to the raised parapets, they will not be visible from the street or from a distance but will be visible from above. This installation will have minimal impact on the historic structure and will be fully reversible

This text is from the Heritage Statement:

4. Design Approach and Heritage Considerations The proposal has been designed with heritage sensitivity as a primary consideration.

4.1 Minimising Visual Impact • Panels are located on less visually prominent roof slopes • Use of all-black panels reduces visual contrast with the roof • Arrays are sympathetically aligned with the roof geometry

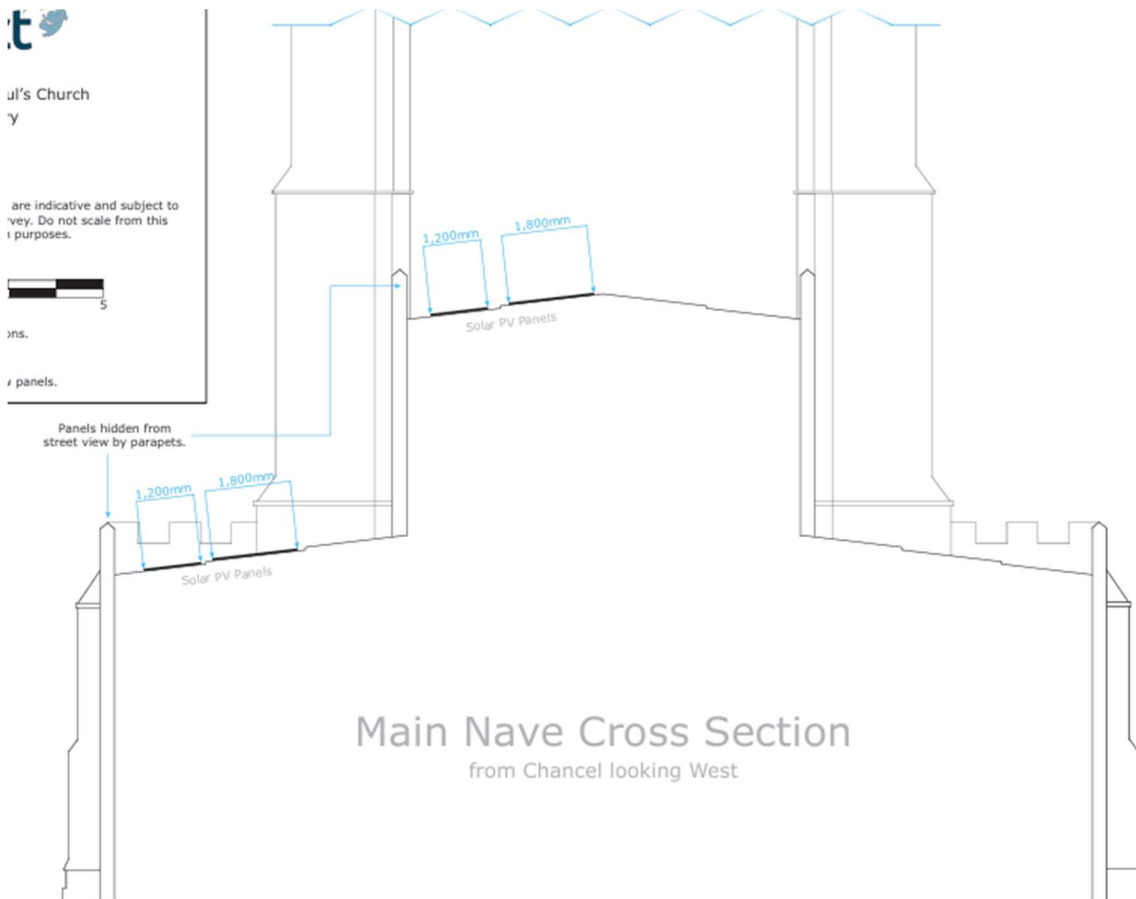
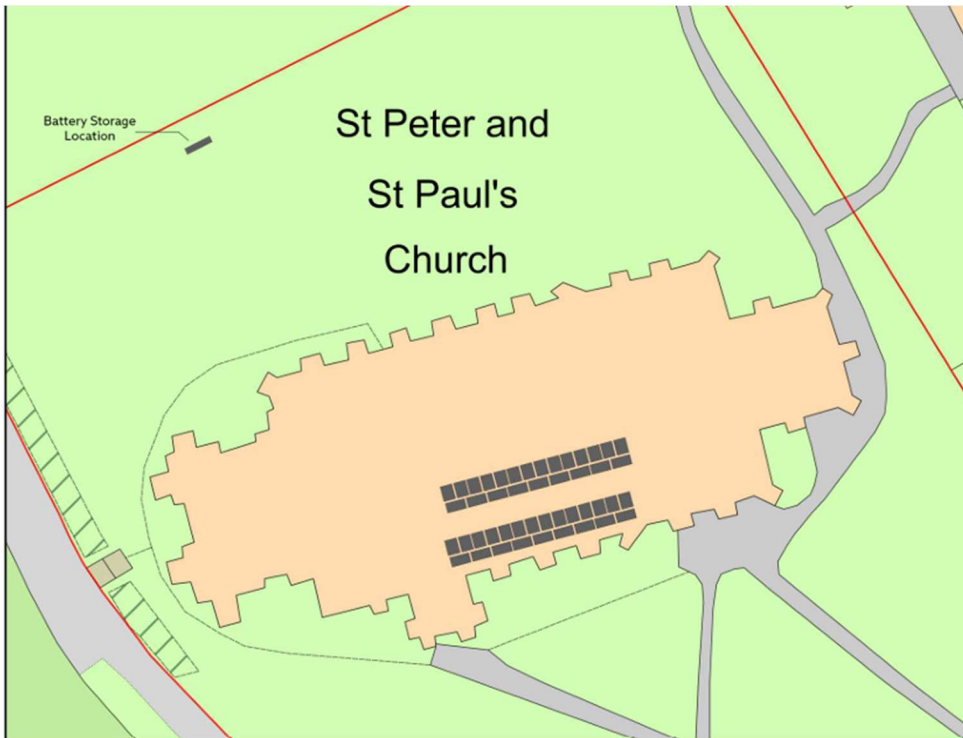
4.2 Respect for Historic Fabric • Fixing methods will: o Minimise penetration of historic materials o Avoid unnecessary disturbance • Installation avoids: o Removal of historic fabric o Alteration to key architectural features

4.3 Reversibility • The installation is fully reversible • Panels and associated equipment can be removed in future with no lasting harm to the building

Notes:

- a) The Church is grade I listed but because it is Church of England with active worship is has Ecclesiastical Exemption from the requirement to submit a Listed Building Application. The review is undertaken by internal church processes. Lavenham is in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.
- b) Bury St Edmundsbury Cathedral was granted Planning Permission in Feb 26 to fit 100 Solar panels on the roof of the Grade I Listed Cathedral. See West Suffolk Planning portal DC/25/1955/FUL. One of the requirements was that the panels could not be seen from the Ground. This is part of the Church of England Net Zero project.

Recommendation to be made following review at the Parish Council meeting



Application for Listed Building Consent. Installation of new gates as approved under Non-material Amendment DC/26/01662.

Show more description 

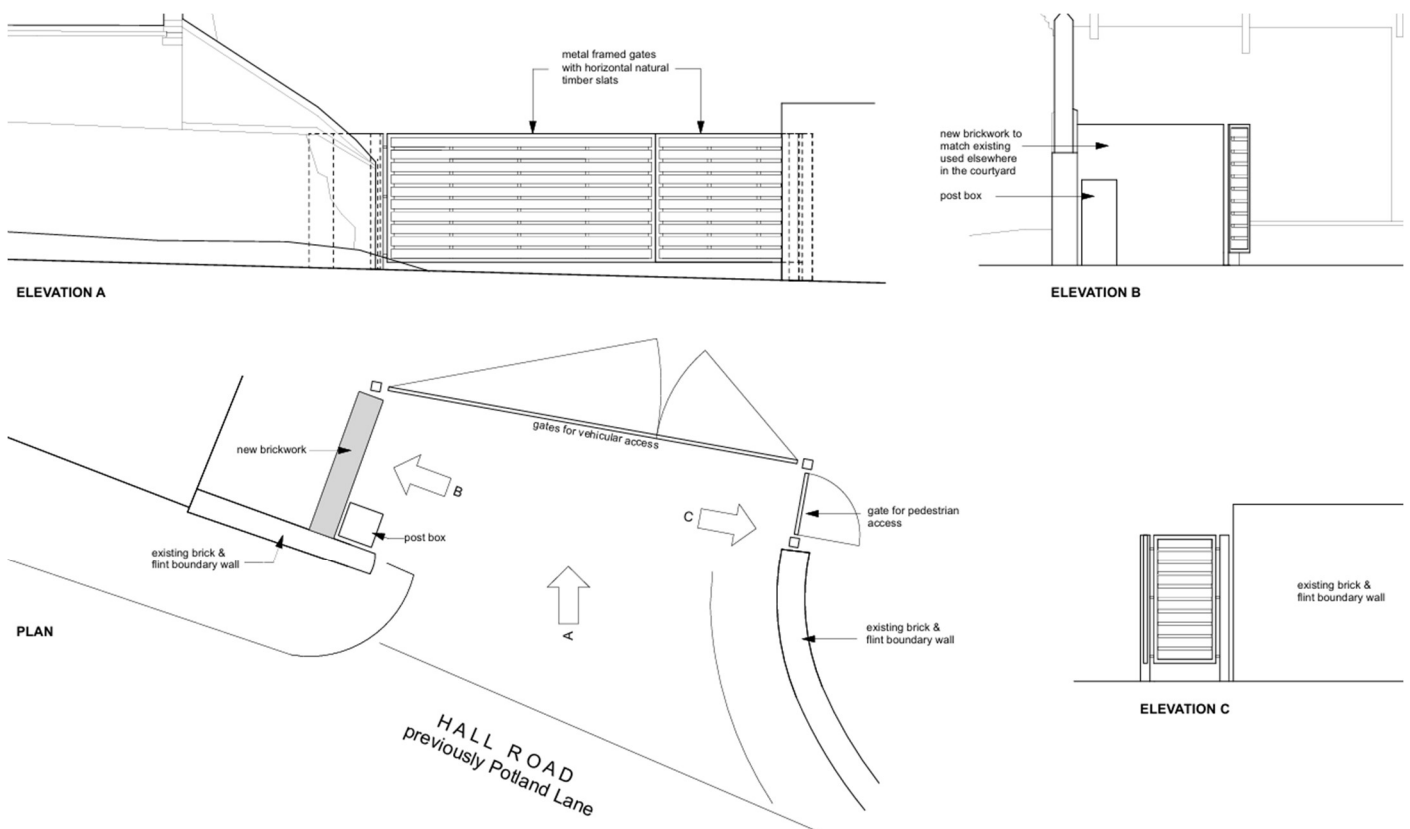
The Hall, Hall Road, Lavenham CO10 9QX

Application No: DC/26/01886 | Received: Fri 01 May 2026 | Validated: Tue 05 May 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

Following the appeal of DC/25/04033 refusal and subsequent granting after appeal, this application seeks for an amendment to reposition the proposed gates and add a pedestrian gate by moving them further back from Potland Lane.

New brickwork would be matching the other brickwork in the yard.
There will be minimal change to the appearance viewed from Potland Lane.

Recommend Approval



Full Planning Application - Change of Use of Part Arable Field to Enclosed Secure Dog Freedom and Exercise Area, including access, parking and a 1.50m high Wire Fence and Field Gate

Show more description 

Land West Of Park Road Park Road Lavenham CO10 9TX

Application. No: DC/26/01871 | Received: Fri 01 May 2026 | Validated: Tue 05 May 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

Summary from applicant

"The proposed development is for change of use of 1.35 hectares of farmland to provide a secure dog walking and exercise area. The purpose of the field is to provide a private hire opportunity for dog owners/families to exercise themselves and their dogs in a safe fenced environment. The field will be fenced, drilled/sown as slow-growing parkland grass mix and managed organically. A small grass/gravel covered car-park will be provided"

The proposal does not include any permanent structures.

There is a stock type post and wire fence around the boundary. On the boundary fence a privacy screen is proposed to be attached to the fence – this seems unnecessary in a rural environment.

There will be a small parking area, a wooden shelter and dog poo bins. Overall. the impact on the area is small.

There is already a wide agricultural access with splays, a padlocked field gate will be installed to control access.

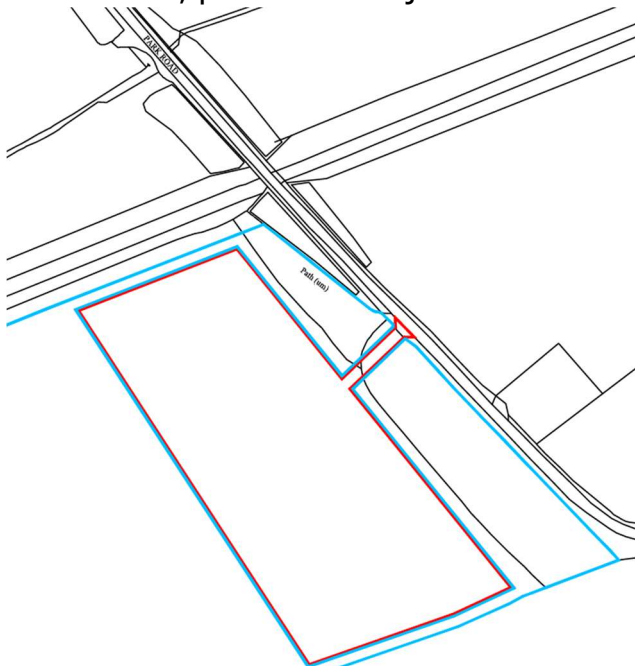
The applicant owns and farms the surrounding land.

This is to be runs as a business and there is no established need for this development.

It will increase traffic on Park Road, but only to a limited amount.

Recommend approval subject to justification of the privacy screen.

Site location, part of field adjacent to Park Road, the Lavenham Railway Walk and footpath 014





Stock style fence and privacy screen proposed for boundary adjacent to Lavenham Walk



Proposed Parking area materials and wooden shelter



LNP Group

Documents:

- a) Minutes of the Group Meeting held 12th May 2026.
- b) Report summarising the Questionnaire Responses including, verbatim, all the free page comments received and an AI produced summary of those comments.
- c) Draft Newsletter to all residents

Motion: That the Parish Council approves the text of the draft Newsletter and authorises the Neighbourhood Plan Group to have the Newsletter printed and subsequently distributed to all residents.

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Revision Group

Steering group meeting 12th May 2026

Agenda and minutes

Attending: Michael Sherman, Alison Bourne, Savanna Bourne, Danielle Twitchen, Tracey Brinkley, Jack Norman and Carroll Reeve.

Apologies: David Theobald, Charles Posner.

Minutes of previous meeting: _agreed.

Matters arising:

The Freedom of Information request has been dealt with by the Clerk.

The Expression of Interest grant form to BDC, was held back by the Clerk, rather than asking Councillors for clearance between meetings, and was included on the Agenda for its 14th May meeting. This is only an EoI and not a formal application for grant funding. The Clerk submitted the form by the Babergh deadline.

Parish council feed-back:

Confirmation sought from all attending that no potential conflicts or pecuniary interests appertain to this agenda: confirmed.

Tracey Brinkley and Danielle Twitchen have become trustees of The Hub.

Feed-back from Residential Survey:

620 forms returned, 477 paper and 143 on-line. 8 additional paper forms collected from the Hub. On-line are checked for multiple entries from same address. 1,147 households, 90 households are second homes/holiday lets.

Report awaited from our lead adviser.

Report to residents and drop-in events to be considered and organised.

BMSDC JLP: Update awaited from them.

Treasury report: Danielle reported and is asking Michael to seek a meeting with the Clerk to confirm.

AoB:

1. Three summary reports on Demography, Housing and Area circulated. Two remaining reports in hand for next meeting.
2. Website draft opening page circulated and agreed. Once formatted, Clerk to be asked to make this area of the parish website more prominent.

Next meeting: 9th June at 6:30.

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan
Revision Survey 2026

FULL RESULTS
May 2026



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	55

BACKGROUND

In March/April 2026 the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, on behalf of the Parish Council, carried out a survey of residents over the age of 16. The intention of the survey was to contribute to formulating a new Neighbourhood Plan for Lavenham Parish. A copy of the survey booklet was distributed to every house, and residents were also encouraged to complete the survey online.

A total of 620 responses were received by the deadline date of 13 April.

This report provides the full results of the survey including full written comments. In addition, as an aid to understanding the results a summary of the results is provided below which has been generated by AI.



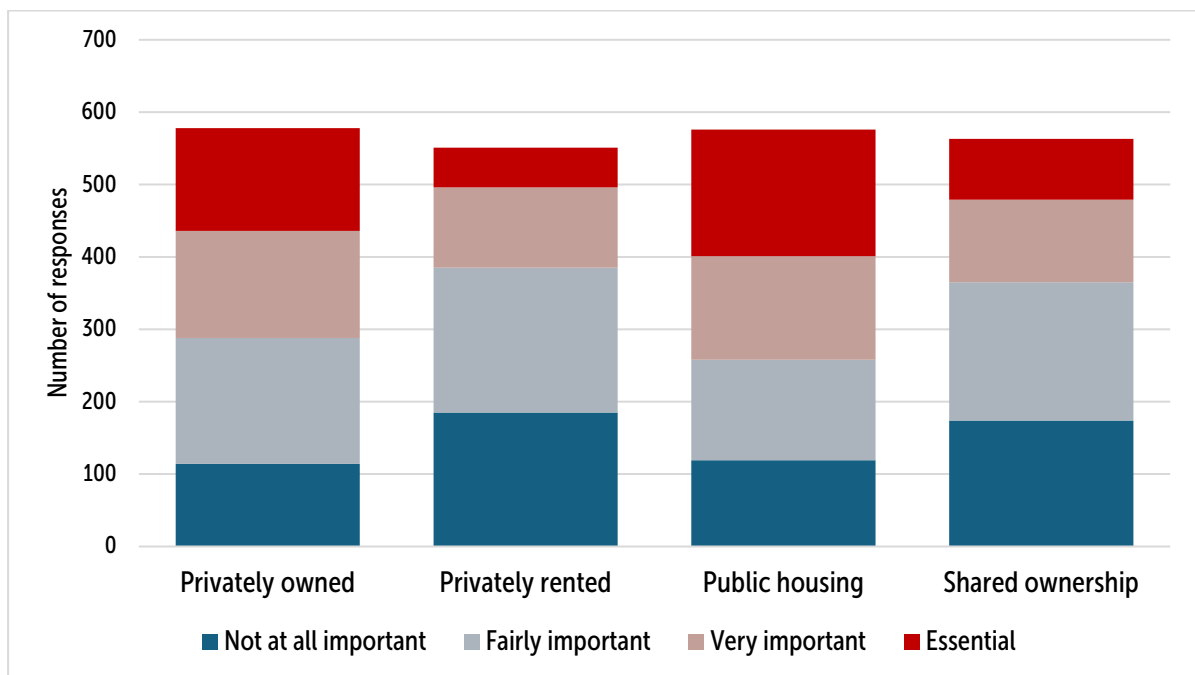
HOUSING

1. Some new homes will be required to be built in the parish; what do you consider most important?

(Please note that public housing = housing provided by a local authority or housing association or local housing providers such as Lavenham Community Land Trust)

Please tick one box per row

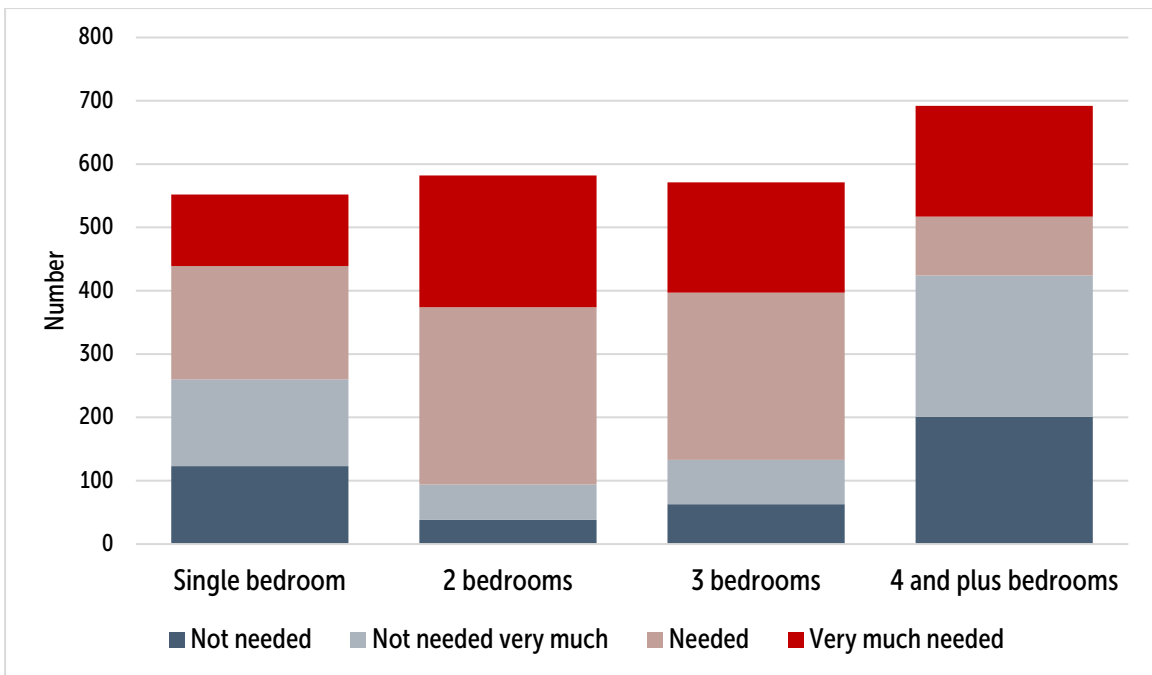
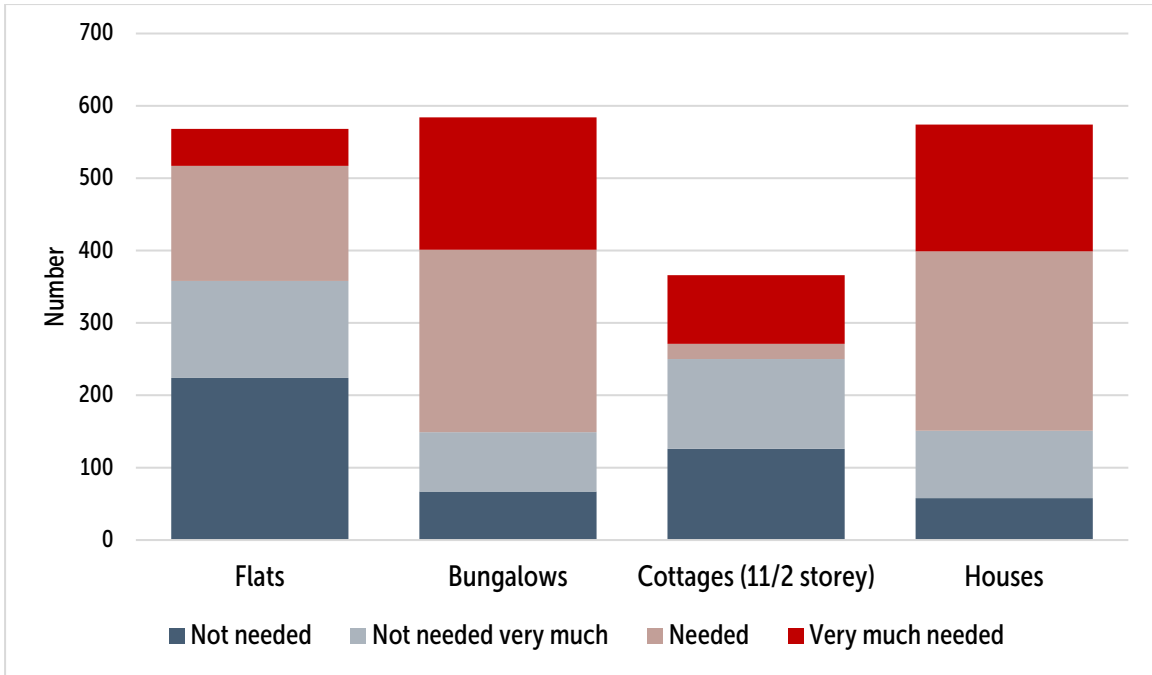
Answer Choices	Not at all important	Fairly important	Very important	Essential	Response Total
Privately owned.	19.72% 114	30.10% 174	25.61% 148	24.57% 142	578
Privately rented.	33.58% 185	36.30% 200	20.15% 111	9.98% 55	551
Public housing.	20.66% 119	24.13% 139	24.83% 143	30.38% 175	576
Shared ownership ie. part owned / part rented.	30.91% 174	33.93% 191	20.25% 114	14.92% 84	563
				answered	600
				skipped	20

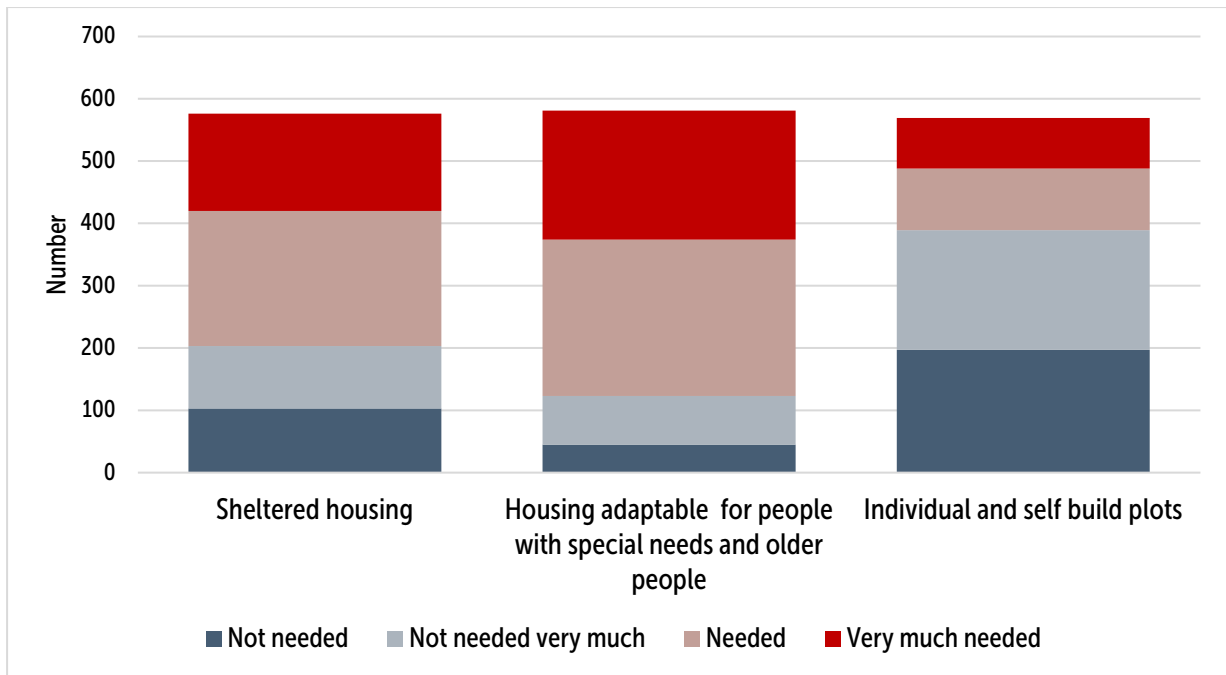


2. Government policy and local information suggests smaller properties are required. What type of housing do you think might be needed in Lavenham over the next 20 years local plan period?

Please tick one box per row:

Answer Choices	Not needed	Not needed very much	Needed	Very much needed	Response Total
Flats.	39.44% 224	23.59% 134	27.99% 159	8.98% 51	568
Bungalows.	11.47% 67	14.04% 82	43.15% 252	31.34% 183	584
Cottages (usually 1½ storey).	22.66% 126	22.30% 124	37.95% 211	17.09% 95	556
Houses.	10.10% 58	16.20% 93	43.21% 248	30.49% 175	574
Single bedroom.	22.28% 123	24.82% 137	32.43% 179	20.47% 113	552
2 bedrooms.	6.53% 38	9.62% 56	48.11% 280	35.74% 208	582
3 bedrooms.	11.03% 63	12.26% 70	46.23% 264	30.47% 174	571
4 and plus bedrooms.	36.88% 201	40.92% 223	17.06% 93	5.14% 28	545
Sheltered housing.	17.88% 103	17.36% 100	37.67% 217	27.08% 156	576
Housing adaptable for people with special needs and older people.	7.75% 45	13.43% 78	43.20% 251	35.63% 207	581
Individual and self-build plots	34.62% 197	33.74% 192	17.40% 99	14.24% 81	569
				answered	605
				skipped	15





3. Because new homes will be required to be built in the parish; what do you consider most important?

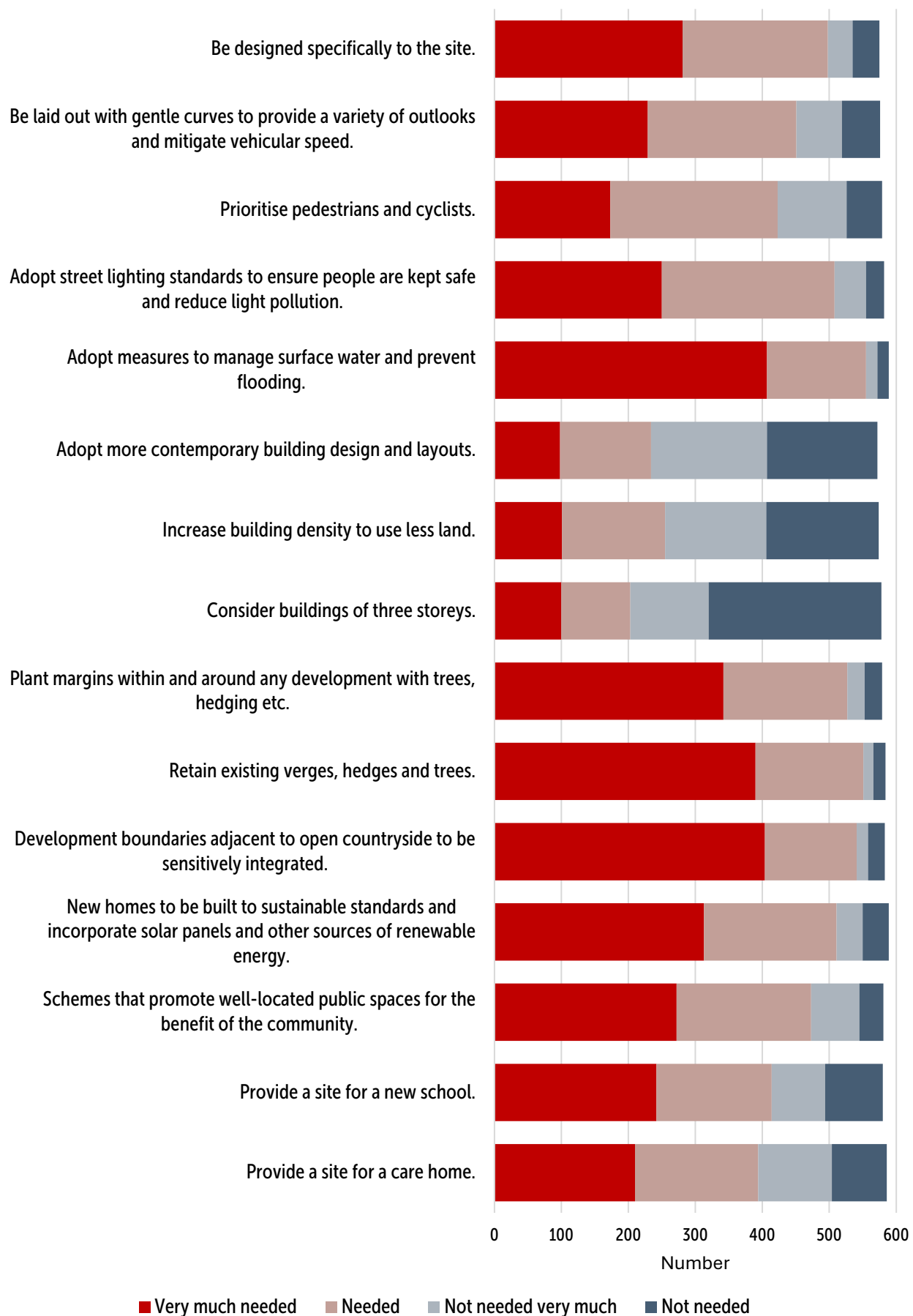
Please rank in order of preference, where 1 is your first choice, and 4 is your least favourite choice.

Item	Total Score ¹	Overall Rank
Infill and developments less than 10 homes.	1952	1
10 – 24 homes.	1844	2
25 – 49 homes.	1416	3
50 - 100 homes.	758	4
¹ Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.	answered	597
	skipped	23

4. For any Neighbourhood Plan to work it needs to designate specific sites for development. If new sites are necessary, please indicate what attributes you consider preferable.

Please tick one box per row:

Answer Choices	Not needed	Not needed very much	Needed	Very much needed	Response Total
Be designed specifically to the site.	6.96% 40	6.43% 37	37.74% 217	48.87% 281	575
Be laid out with gentle curves to provide a variety of outlooks and mitigate vehicular speed.	9.90% 57	11.81% 68	38.54% 222	39.76% 229	576
Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists.	9.15% 53	17.79% 103	43.18% 250	29.88% 173	579
Adopt street lighting standards to ensure people are kept safe and reduce light pollution.	4.64% 27	8.08% 47	44.33% 258	42.96% 250	582
Adopt measures to manage surface water and prevent flooding.	2.89% 17	2.89% 17	25.13% 148	69.10% 407	589
Adopt more contemporary building design and layouts.	28.85% 165	30.24% 173	23.78% 136	17.13% 98	572
Increase building density to use less land.	29.27% 168	26.31% 151	26.83% 154	17.60% 101	574
Consider buildings of three storeys.	44.64% 258	20.24% 117	17.82% 103	17.30% 100	578
Plant margins within and around any development with trees, hedging etc.	4.49% 26	4.49% 26	31.95% 185	59.07% 342	579
Retain existing verges, hedges and trees.	3.08% 18	2.57% 15	27.57% 161	66.78% 390	584
Development boundaries adjacent to open countryside to be sensitively integrated.	4.29% 25	2.92% 17	23.50% 137	69.30% 404	583
New homes to be built to sustainable standards and incorporate solar panels and other sources of renewable energy.	6.62% 39	6.62% 39	33.62% 198	53.14% 313	589
Schemes that promote well-located public spaces for the benefit of the community.	6.20% 36	12.39% 72	34.60% 201	46.82% 272	581
Provide a site for a new school.	14.83% 86	13.79% 80	29.66% 172	41.72% 242	580
Provide a site for a care home.	13.99% 82	18.77% 110	31.40% 184	35.84% 210	586
				answered	601
				skipped	19

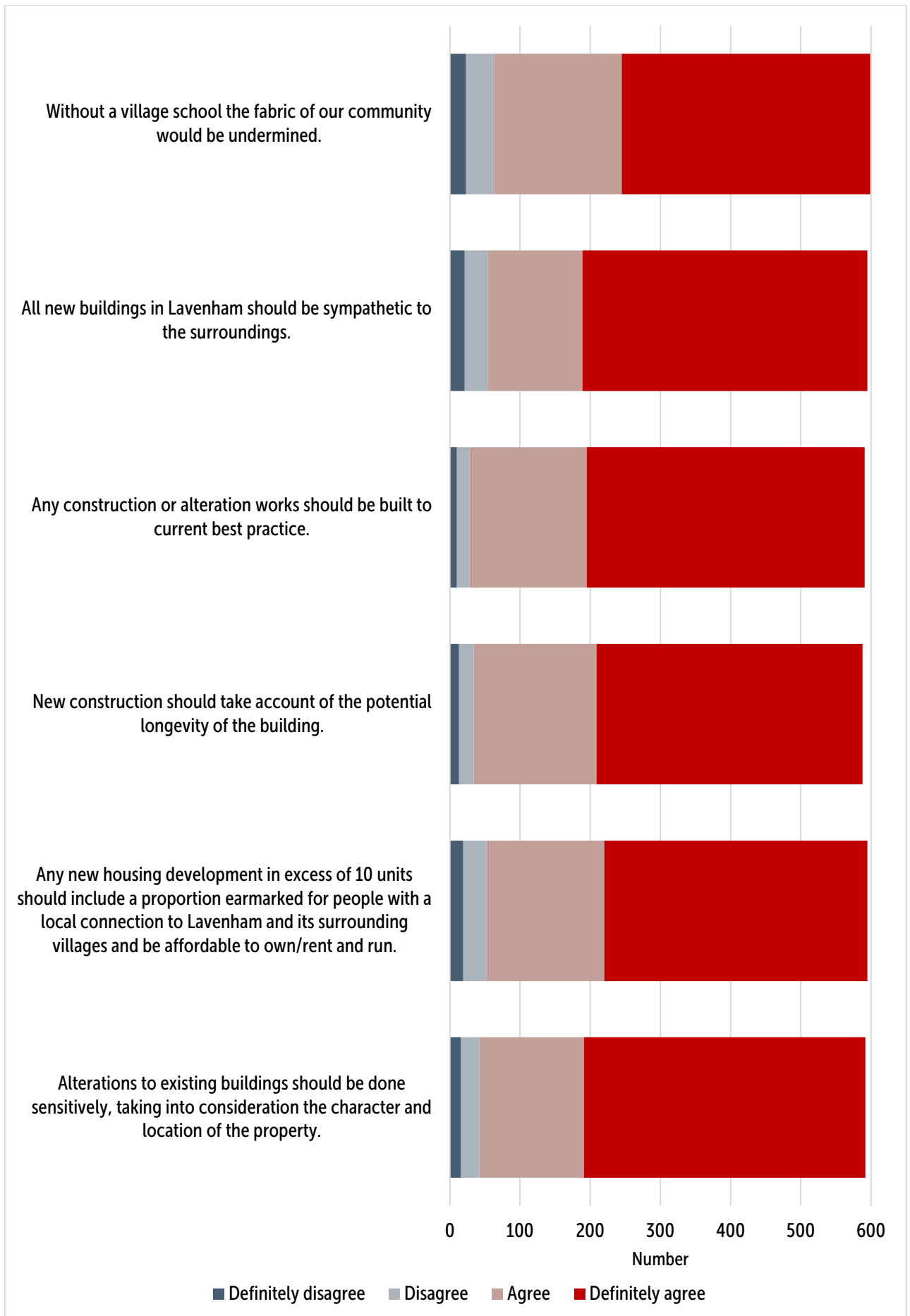


5. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Please tick one box per row:

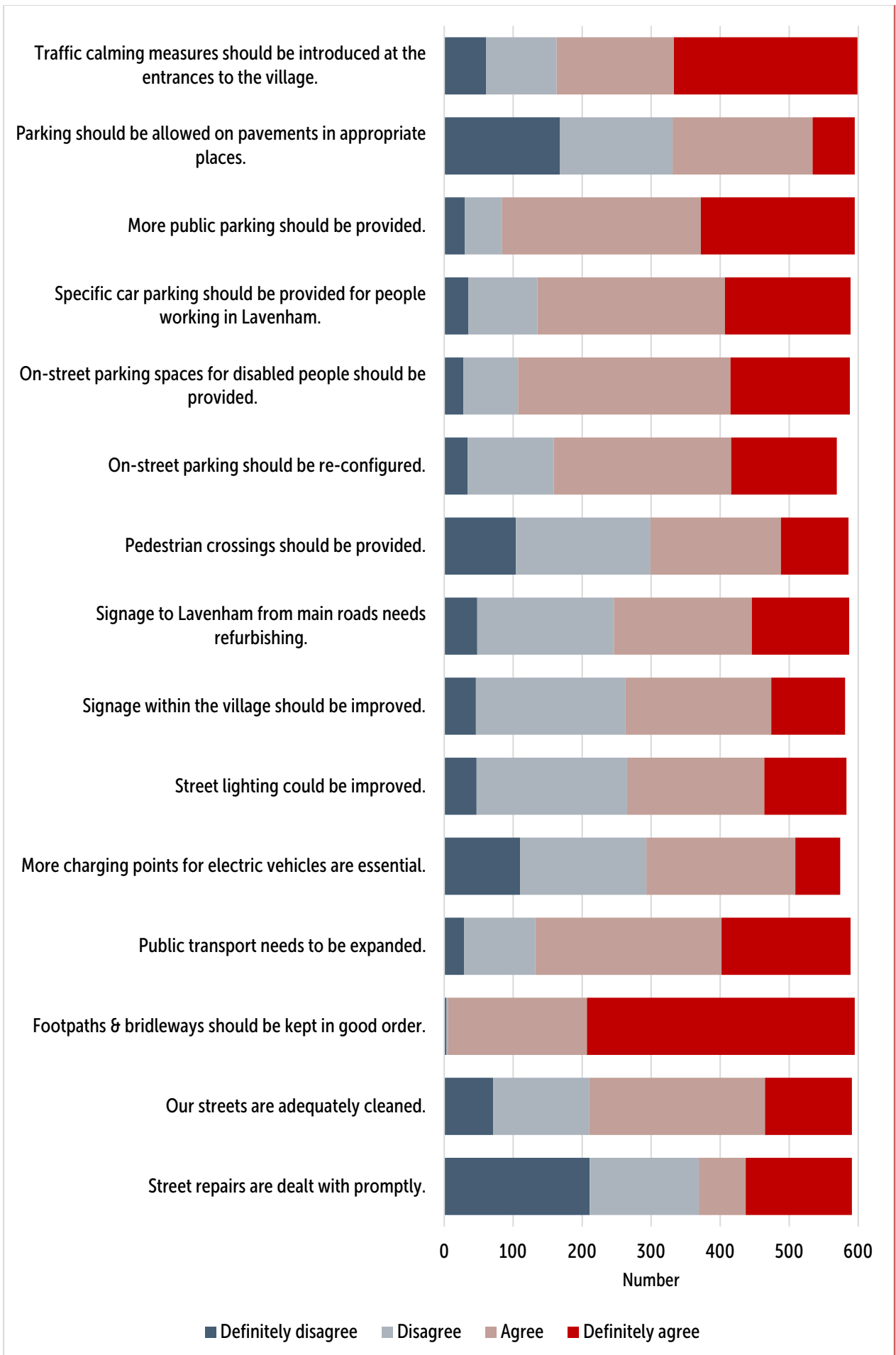
Answer Choices	Definitely disagree	Disagree	Agree	Definitely agree	Response Total
Without a village school the fabric of our community would be undermined.	3.84% 23	6.68% 40	30.38% 182	59.10% 354	599
All new buildings in Lavenham should be sympathetic to the surroundings.	3.53% 21	5.55% 33	22.69% 135	68.24% 406	595
Any construction or alteration works should be built to current best practice.	1.69% 10	3.05% 18	28.26% 167	67.01% 396	591
New construction should take account of the potential longevity of the building.	2.21% 13	3.57% 21	29.76% 175	64.46% 379	588
Any new housing development in excess of 10 units should include a proportion earmarked for people with a local connection to Lavenham and its surrounding villages and be affordable to own/rent and run.	3.19% 19	5.55% 33	28.24% 168	63.03% 375	595
Alterations to existing buildings should be done sensitively, taking into consideration the character and location of the property.	2.70% 16	4.39% 26	25.17% 149	67.74% 401	592
answered					604
skipped					16





GETTING AROUND AND ABOUT

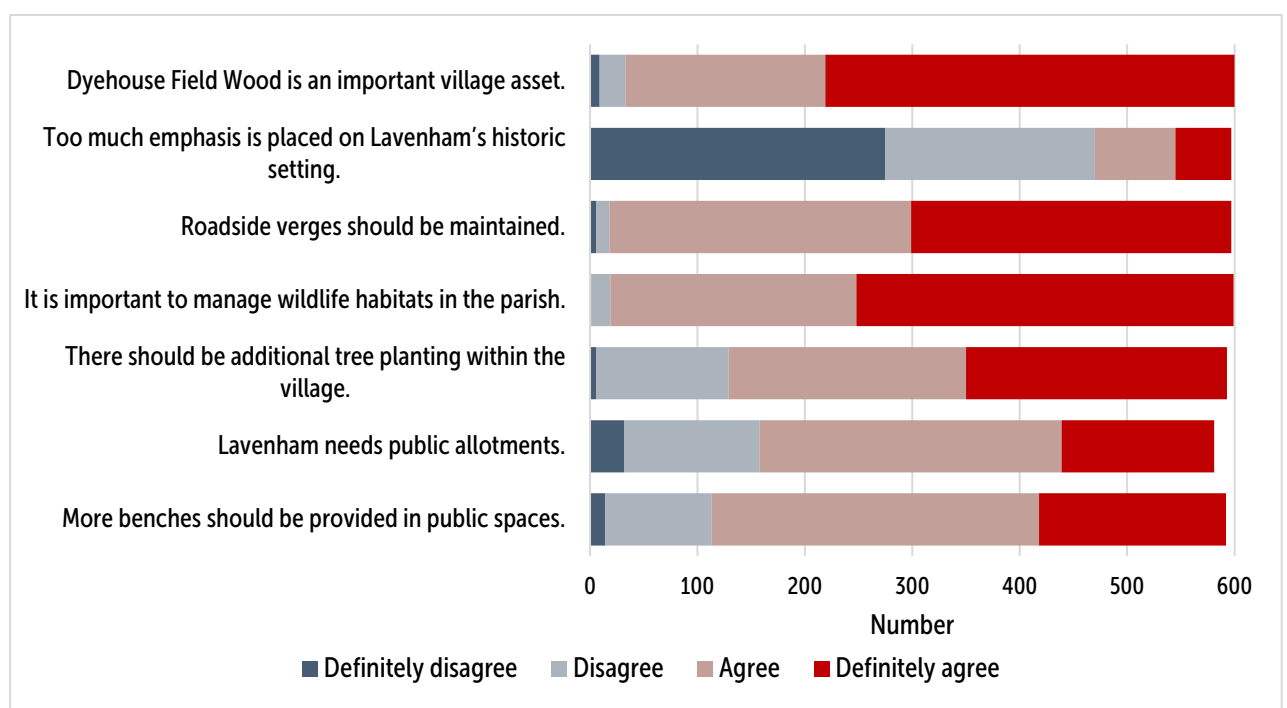
6. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Please tick one box per row:					
Answer Choices	Definitely disagree	Disagree	Agree	Definitely agree	Response Total
Traffic calming measures should be introduced at the entrances to the village.	10.18% 61	17.03% 102	28.38% 170	44.41% 266	599
Parking should be allowed on pavements in appropriate places.	28.24% 168	27.39% 163	34.12% 203	10.25% 61	595
More public parking should be provided.	5.04% 30	9.08% 54	48.40% 288	37.48% 223	595
Specific car parking should be provided for people working in Lavenham.	5.94% 35	16.98% 100	46.18% 272	30.90% 182	589
On-street parking spaces for disabled people should be provided.	4.76% 28	13.44% 79	52.38% 308	29.42% 173	588
On-street parking should be re-configured.	5.98% 34	21.97% 125	45.17% 257	26.89% 153	569
Pedestrian crossings should be provided.	17.75% 104	33.28% 195	32.25% 189	16.72% 98	586
Signage to Lavenham from main roads needs refurbishing.	8.18% 48	33.73% 198	34.07% 200	24.02% 141	587
Signage within the village should be improved.	7.92% 46	37.35% 217	36.32% 211	18.42% 107	581
Street lighting could be improved.	8.06% 47	37.39% 218	34.13% 199	20.41% 119	583
More charging points for electric vehicles are essential.	19.16% 110	31.88% 183	37.63% 216	11.32% 65	574
Public transport needs to be expanded.	4.92% 29	17.49% 103	45.84% 270	31.75% 187	589
Footpaths & bridleways should be kept in good order.	0.50% 3	0.50% 3	33.78% 201	65.21% 388	595
Our streets are adequately cleaned.	12.01% 71	23.52% 139	43.15% 255	21.32% 126	591
Street repairs are dealt with promptly.	35.70% 211	26.73% 158	11.51% 68	26.06% 154	591
				answered	606
				skipped	14



OUR ENVIRONMENT

7. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:
Please tick one box per row:

Answer Choices	Definitely disagree	Disagree	Agree	Definitely agree	Response Total	
Dyehouse Field Wood is an important village asset.	1.50% 9	4.00% 24	31.00% 186	63.50% 381	600	
Too much emphasis is placed on Lavenham's historic setting.	46.06% 275	32.66% 195	12.56% 75	8.71% 52	597	
Roadside verges should be maintained.	1.01% 6	2.01% 12	47.07% 281	49.92% 298	597	
It is important to manage wildlife habitats in the parish.	0.17% 1	3.01% 18	38.23% 229	58.60% 351	599	
There should be additional tree planting within the village.	1.01% 6	20.74% 123	37.27% 221	40.98% 243	593	
Lavenham needs public allotments.	5.51% 32	21.69% 126	48.36% 281	24.44% 142	581	
More benches should be provided in public spaces.	2.36% 14	16.72% 99	51.52% 305	29.39% 174	592	
					answered	607
					skipped	13

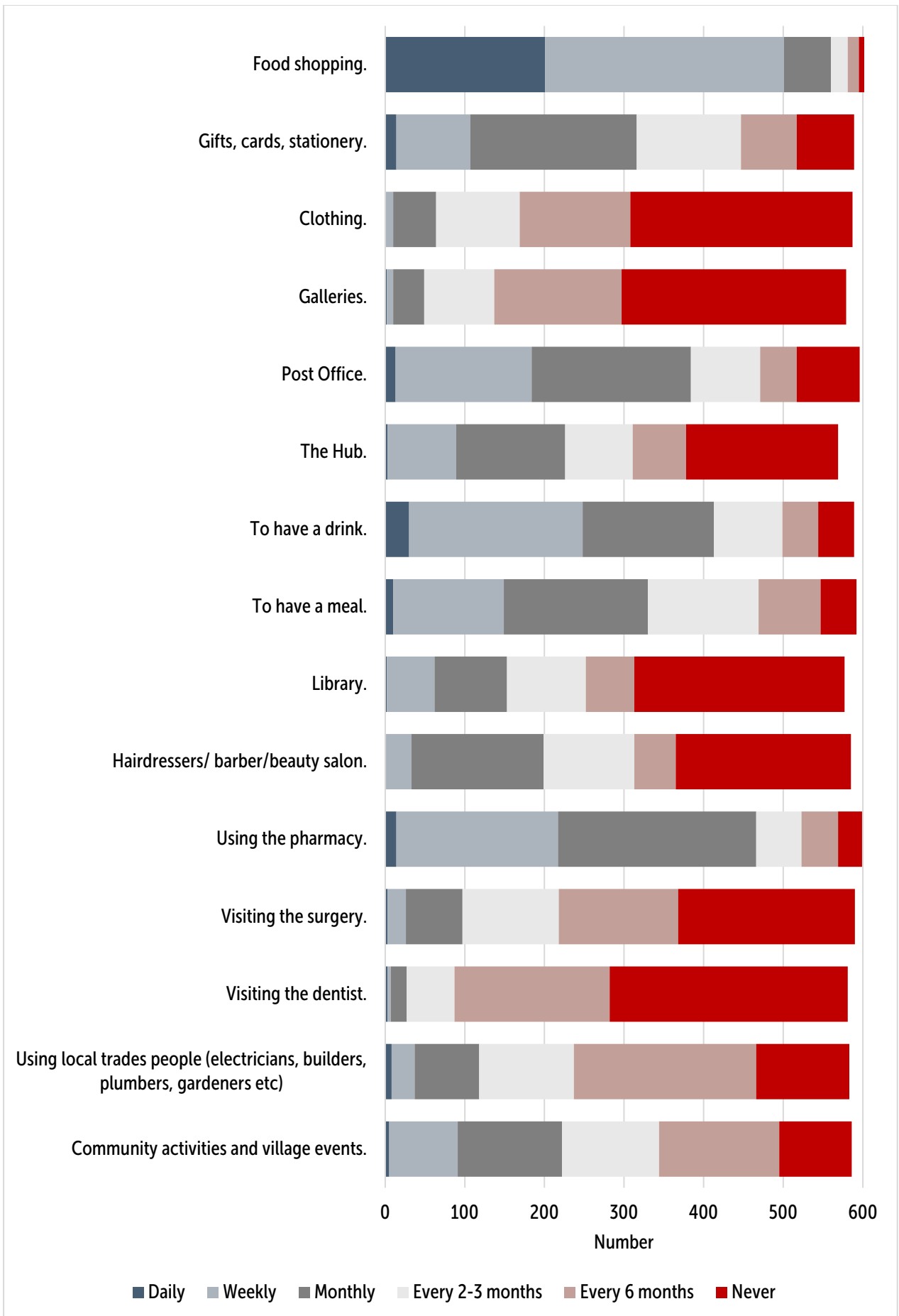


SHOPPING

8. Listed below are various things that most of us spend money on. Which best describes how often you use the following services in the village?







Please tick one box per row:

Answer Choices	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Every 2-3 months	Every 6 months	Never	Response Total
Food shopping.	33.28% 201	49.67% 300	9.77% 59	3.48% 21	2.32% 14	1.49% 9	604
Gifts, cards, stationery.	2.38% 14	15.79% 93	35.48% 209	22.24% 131	11.88% 70	12.22% 72	589
Clothing.	0.00% 0	1.70% 10	9.20% 54	17.89% 105	23.68% 139	47.53% 279	587
Galleries.	0.35% 2	1.38% 8	6.74% 39	15.20% 88	27.63% 160	48.70% 282	579
Post Office.	2.18% 13	28.69% 171	33.56% 200	14.60% 87	7.72% 46	13.26% 79	596
The Hub.	0.53% 3	15.11% 86	24.08% 137	14.94% 85	11.78% 67	33.57% 191	569
To have a drink.	5.09% 30	37.01% 218	28.01% 165	14.60% 86	7.64% 45	7.64% 45	589
To have a meal.	1.69% 10	23.48% 139	30.57% 181	23.48% 139	13.18% 78	7.60% 45	592
Library.	0.35% 2	10.40% 60	15.77% 91	17.16% 99	10.57% 61	45.75% 264	577
Hairdressers/ barber/beauty salon.	0.17% 1	5.47% 32	28.38% 166	19.49% 114	8.89% 52	37.61% 220	585
Using the pharmacy.	2.34% 14	33.89% 203	41.57% 249	9.52% 57	7.68% 46	5.01% 30	599
Visiting the surgery.	0.51% 3	3.90% 23	12.03% 71	20.51% 121	25.42% 150	37.63% 222	590
Visiting the dentist.	0.52% 3	0.69% 4	3.44% 20	10.33% 60	33.56% 195	51.46% 299	581
Using local trades people (electricians, builders, plumbers, gardeners etc)	1.37% 8	4.97% 29	13.89% 81	20.41% 119	39.28% 229	20.07% 117	583
Community activities and village events.	0.85% 5	14.68% 86	22.35% 131	20.82% 122	25.77% 151	15.53% 91	586
answered							608
skipped							12



9. What would encourage your household to spend more at Lavenham businesses?

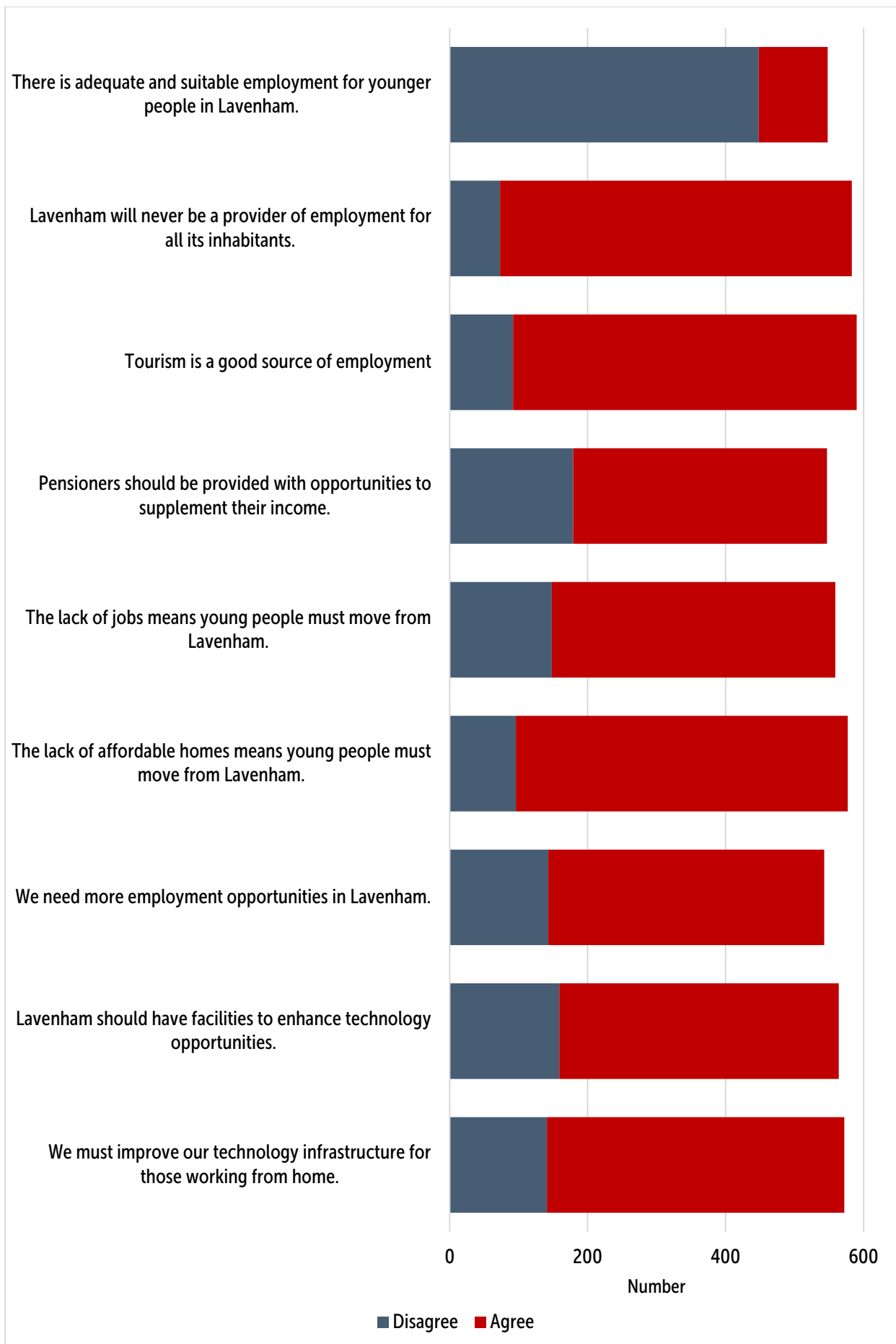
Please tick all that you wish:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Discounts (when appropriate) for residents.		56.07%	314
2	Better parking.		35.00%	196
3	Home delivery.		20.36%	114
4	Greater variety of shops.		51.25%	287
5	Greater variety of eateries.		49.46%	277
6	More competitive prices.		51.79%	290
			answered	560
			skipped	60



EMPLOYMENT

10. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please tick one box per row			
Answer Choices	Disagree	Agree	Response Total
There is adequate and suitable employment for younger people in Lavenham.	81.75% 448	18.25% 100	548
Lavenham will never be a provider of employment for all its inhabitants.	12.52% 73	87.48% 510	583
Tourism is a good source of employment	15.59% 92	84.41% 498	590
Pensioners should be provided with opportunities to supplement their income.	32.72% 179	67.28% 368	547
The lack of jobs means young people must move from Lavenham.	26.48% 148	73.52% 411	559
The lack of affordable homes means young people must move from Lavenham.	16.64% 96	83.36% 481	577
We need more employment opportunities in Lavenham.	26.34% 143	73.66% 400	543
Lavenham should have facilities to enhance technology opportunities.	28.19% 159	71.81% 405	564
We must improve our technology infrastructure for those working from home.	24.65% 141	75.35% 431	572
		answered	605
		skipped	15



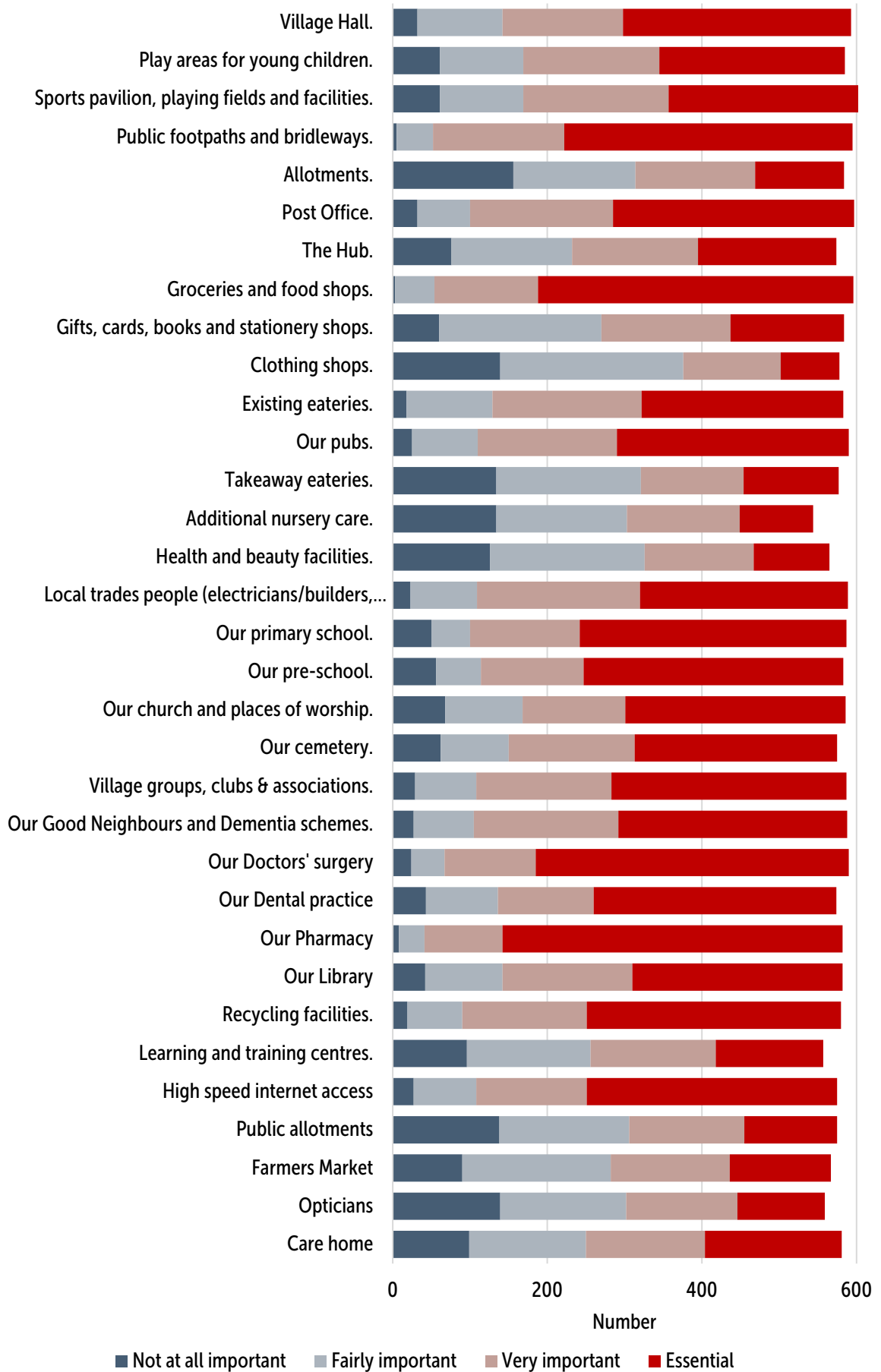
WELLBEING AND LEISURE

11. How important to you, individually or as a family, is preserving or providing the following village facilities/ amenities? Please tick one box per row:					
Answer Choices	Not at all important	Fairly important	Very important	Essential	Response Total
Village Hall.	5.40% 32	18.55% 110	26.31% 156	49.75% 295	593
Play areas for young children.	10.43% 61	18.46% 108	30.09% 176	41.03% 240	585
Sports pavilion, playing fields and facilities.	8.66% 51	17.49% 103	31.92% 188	41.94% 247	589
Public footpaths and bridleways.	0.84% 5	7.90% 47	28.57% 170	62.69% 373	595
Allotments.	26.71% 156	27.05% 158	26.54% 155	19.69% 115	584
Post office.	5.36% 32	11.39% 68	30.99% 185	52.26% 312	597
The Hub.	13.24% 76	27.18% 156	28.40% 163	31.18% 179	574
Groceries and food shops.	0.50% 3	8.56% 51	22.48% 134	68.46% 408	596
Gifts, cards, books and stationery shops.	10.27% 60	35.96% 210	28.60% 167	25.17% 147	584
Clothing shops.	24.05% 139	41.00% 237	21.80% 126	13.15% 76	578
Existing eateries.	3.09% 18	19.04% 111	33.10% 193	44.77% 261	583
Our pubs.	4.24% 25	14.41% 85	30.51% 180	50.85% 300	590
Takeaway eateries.	23.22% 134	32.41% 187	23.05% 133	21.32% 123	577
Additional nursery care.	24.63% 134	31.07% 169	26.84% 146	17.46% 95	544
Health and beauty facilities.	22.30% 126	35.40% 200	24.96% 141	17.35% 98	565
Local trades people (electricians/builders, plumbers, gardeners etc.)	3.90% 23	14.60% 86	35.82% 211	45.67% 269	589
Our primary school.	8.52% 50	8.52% 50	24.19% 142	58.77% 345	587
Our pre-school.	9.61% 56	9.95% 58	22.81% 133	57.63% 336	583

11. How important to you, individually or as a family, is preserving or providing the following village facilities/ amenities?

Please tick one box per row:

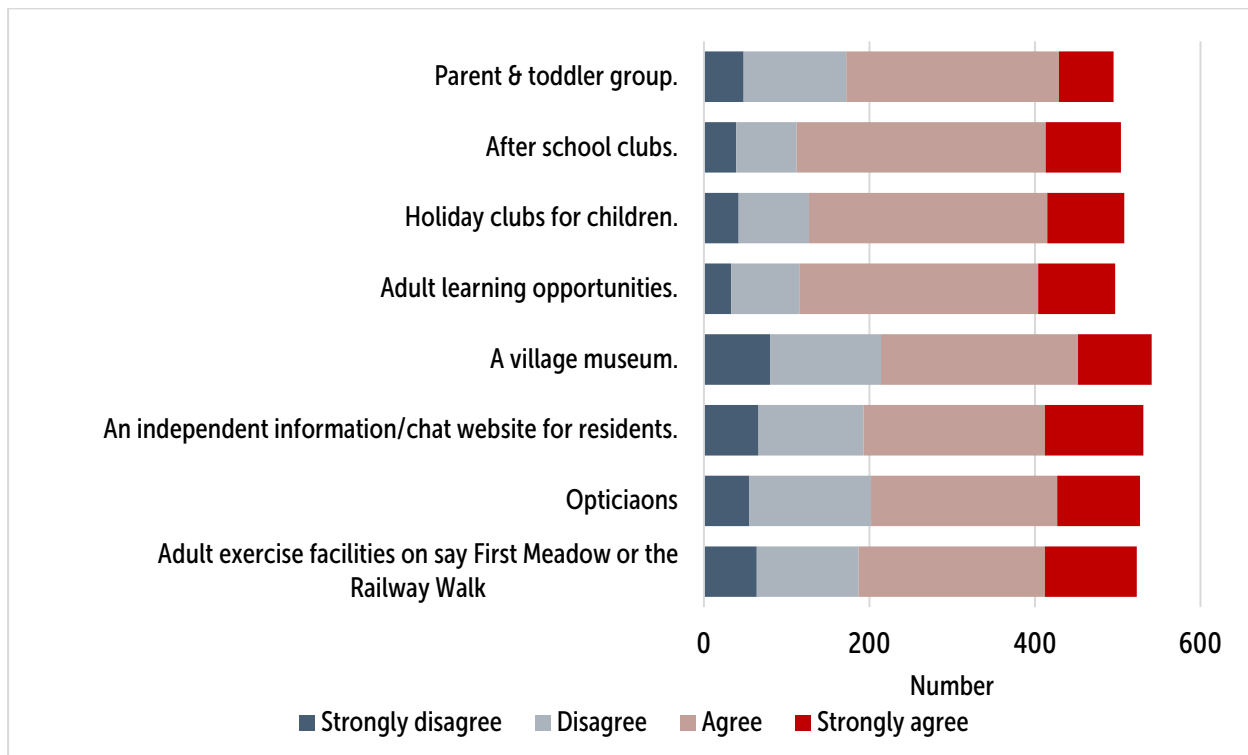
Our church and places of worship.	11.60% 68	17.06% 100	22.70% 133	48.63% 285	586
Our cemetery.	10.78% 62	15.30% 88	28.35% 163	45.57% 262	575
Village groups, clubs & associations.	4.94% 29	13.46% 79	29.81% 175	51.79% 304	587
Our Good Neighbours and Dementia schemes.	4.59% 27	13.27% 78	31.80% 187	50.34% 296	588
Our Doctors surgery.	4.07% 24	7.29% 43	20.00% 118	68.64% 405	590
Our Dental practice.	7.49% 43	16.20% 93	21.60% 124	54.70% 314	574
Our Pharmacy.	1.37% 8	5.67% 33	17.35% 101	75.60% 440	582
Our Library.	7.22% 42	17.18% 100	28.87% 168	46.74% 272	582
Recycling facilities.	3.28% 19	12.24% 71	27.76% 161	56.72% 329	580
Learning and training centres.	17.24% 96	28.73% 160	29.08% 162	24.96% 139	557
High speed internet access.	4.70% 27	14.09% 81	24.87% 143	56.35% 324	575
Public allotments.	24.00% 138	29.22% 168	25.91% 149	20.87% 120	575
Farmers Market.	15.87% 90	33.86% 192	27.16% 154	23.10% 131	567
Opticians.	24.87% 139	29.16% 163	25.76% 144	20.21% 113	559
Care home.	17.04% 99	25.99% 151	26.51% 154	30.46% 177	581
				answered	603
				skipped	17



12. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Our village requires new or more:

Please tick one box per row:

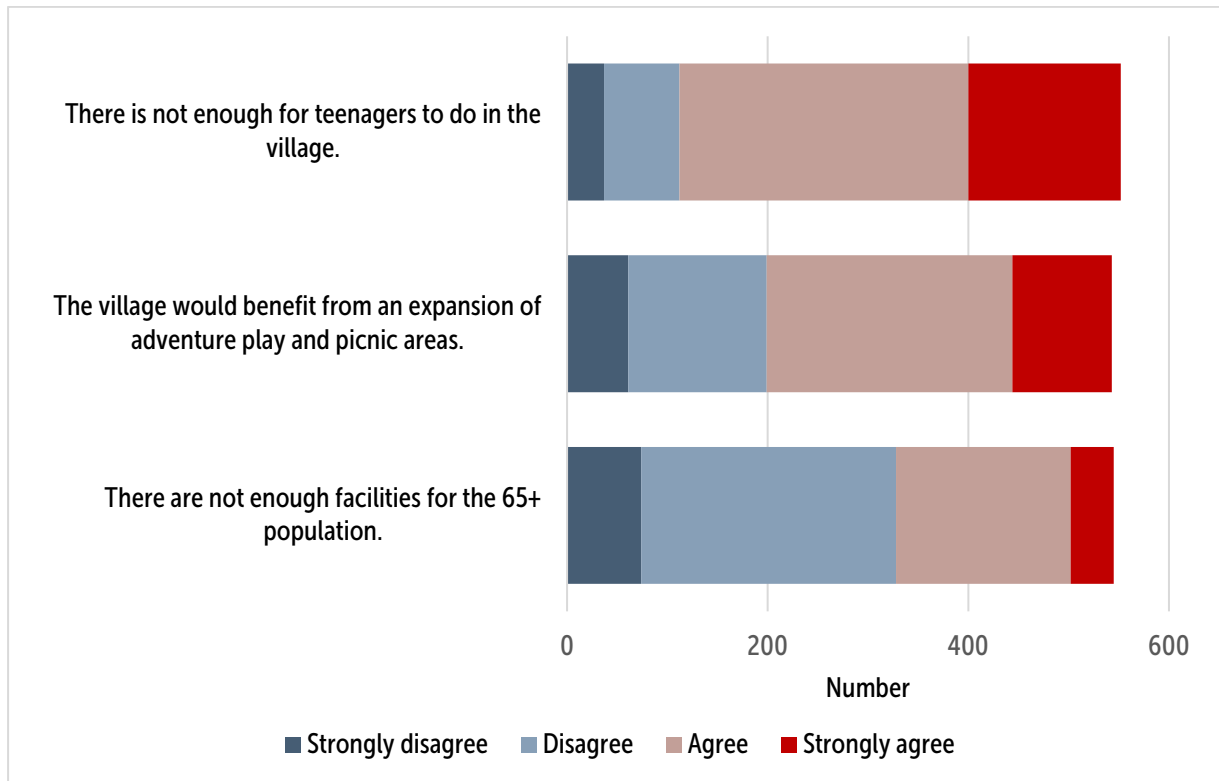
Answer Choices	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Total
Parent & toddler group.	9.70% 48	25.05% 124	51.92% 257	13.33% 66	495
After school clubs.	7.74% 39	14.48% 73	59.72% 301	18.06% 91	504
Holiday clubs for children.	8.27% 42	16.73% 85	56.69% 288	18.31% 93	508
Adult learning opportunities.	6.45% 33	16.21% 83	58.01% 297	19.34% 99	512
A village museum.	14.79% 80	24.77% 134	43.99% 238	16.45% 89	541
An independent information/chat website for residents.	12.43% 66	23.92% 127	41.24% 219	22.41% 119	531
Opticians.	10.44% 55	27.89% 147	42.69% 225	18.98% 100	527
Adult exercise facilities on say First Meadow or the Railway Walk	12.24% 64	23.52% 123	43.02% 225	21.22% 111	523
				answered	569
				skipped	51



13. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Please tick one box per row:

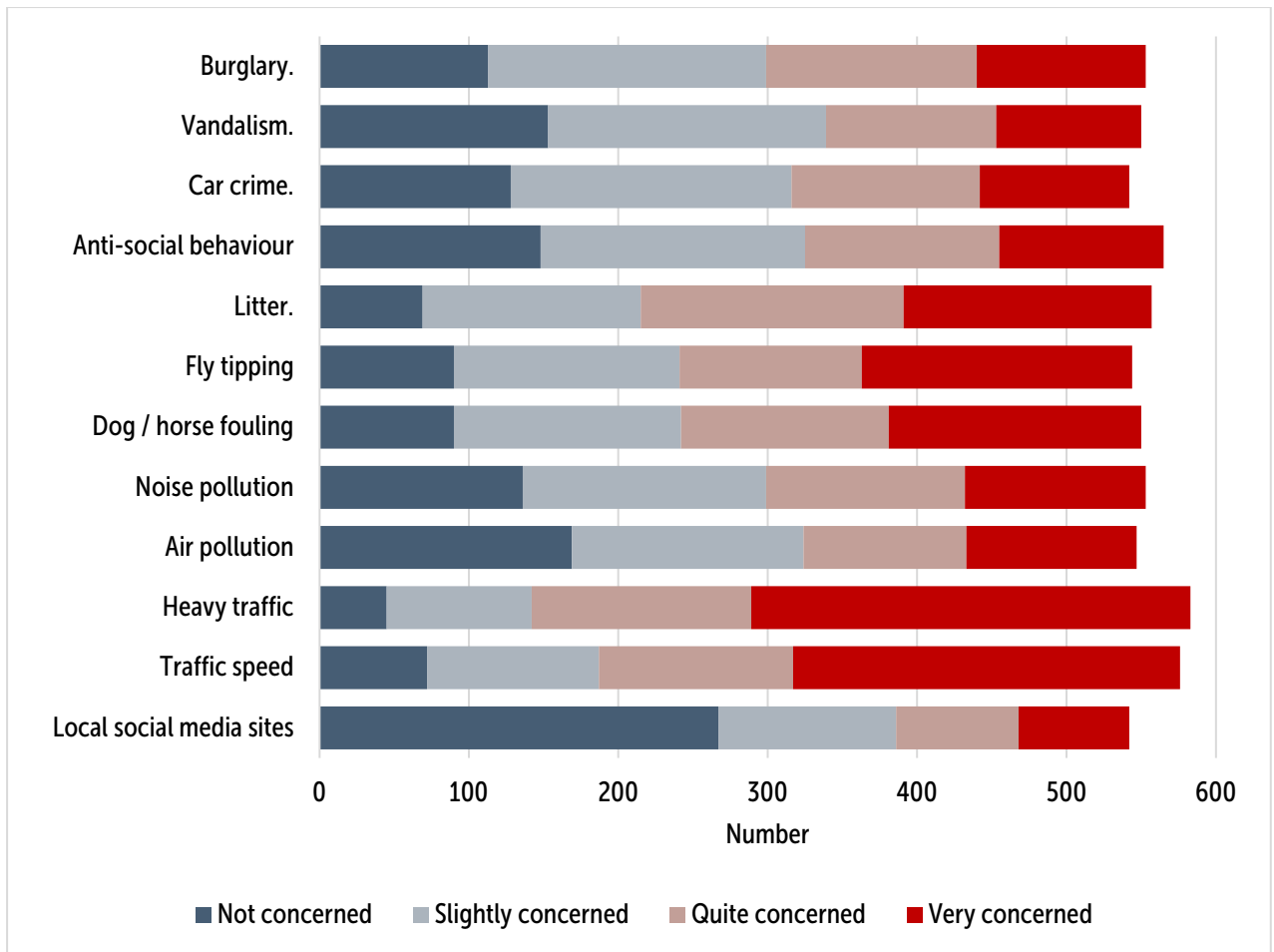
Answer Choices	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Response Total	
There is not enough for teenagers to do in the village.	6.70% 37	13.59% 75	52.17% 288	27.54% 152	552	
The village would benefit from an expansion of adventure play and picnic areas.	11.23% 61	25.41% 138	45.12% 245	18.23% 99	543	
There are not enough facilities for the 65+ population.	13.58% 74	46.61% 254	31.93% 174	7.89% 43	545	
					answered	577
					skipped	43






14. To what extent do any of the following cause you direct concern within the village?








Please tick one box per row:







Answer Choices	Not concerned	Slightly concerned	Quite concerned	Very concerned	Response Total
Burglary.	20.43% 113	33.63% 186	25.50% 141	20.43% 113	553
Vandalism.	27.82% 153	33.82% 186	20.73% 114	17.64% 97	550
Car crime.	23.62% 128	34.69% 188	23.25% 126	18.45% 100	542
Anti-social behaviour	26.19% 148	31.33% 177	23.01% 130	19.47% 110	565
Litter.	12.39% 69	26.21% 146	31.60% 176	29.80% 166	557
Fly tipping	16.54% 90	27.76% 151	22.43% 122	33.27% 181	544
Dog / horse fouling	16.36% 90	27.64% 152	25.27% 139	30.73% 169	550
Noise pollution	24.59% 136	29.48% 163	24.05% 133	21.88% 121	553
Air pollution	30.90% 169	28.34% 155	19.93% 109	20.84% 114	547
Heavy traffic	7.72% 45	16.64% 97	25.21% 147	50.43% 294	583
Traffic speed	12.50% 72	19.97% 115	22.57% 130	44.97% 259	576
Local social media sites	49.26% 267	21.96% 119	15.13% 82	13.65% 74	542
				answered	589
				skipped	31



ABOUT RESPONDANTS

15. How would you describe yourself? Please tick one box:				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male		39.28%	229
2	Prefer not to say		11.49%	67
3	Female		49.23%	287
			answered	583
			skipped	37

16. What is your age? Please tick one box:				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	16-19		0.17%	1
2	45-64		26.54%	155
3	Prefer not to say		9.08%	53
4	20-24		2.57%	15
5	65-74		24.14%	141
6	25-44		8.73%	51
7	75 and over		28.77%	168
			answered	584
			skipped	36

17. How long have you lived in Lavenham? Please tick one box:				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	All my life		11.38%	66
2	5-9 years		18.62%	108
3	20+ years		27.76%	161
4	4 years or less		14.48%	84
5	10-19 years		21.55%	125
6	Prefer not to say		6.21%	36
			answered	580
			skipped	40

18. The following list highlights some of our future challenges.

Please rank these in order of preference that are the most important to you, with 1 as the highest and 8 as the lowest.






Item	Total Score ¹	Overall Rank
Sense of village pride	3717	1
Environment and climate change	3596	2
Homes	3441	3
Growth and investment	3084	4
Getting about the village.	2836	5
Technology/Artificial Intelligence	2749	6
Opportunities for young people	2686	7
Street furniture	1851	8
Change in Local Government structure to a Unitary System.	1465	9
¹ Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.	answered	565
	skipped	55

19. How many people are there in your household? Please tick one box:

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	1	26.84%	153
2	2	54.91%	313
3	3	11.05%	63
4	4	5.96%	34
5	5 or more	1.23%	7
		answered	570
		skipped	50

20. Which of the following statements best describes your living arrangements in Lavenham?

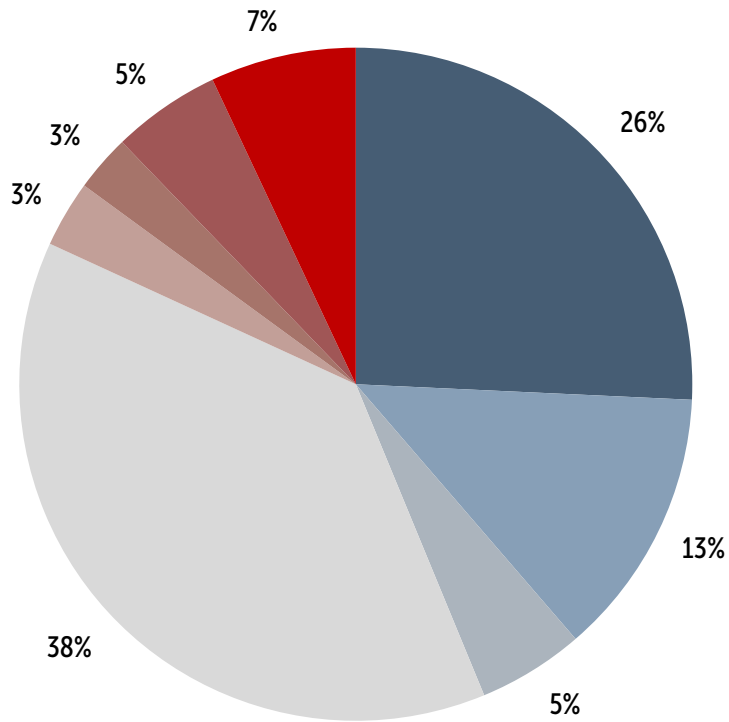
Tick however many apply:

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	I rent my property		16.15%	93
2	I occupy my property full-time		33.51%	193
3	I part-own my property		1.56%	9
4	I primarily occupy my property at weekends and holidays		1.04%	6
5	I am an owner occupier		69.97%	403
			answered	576
			skipped	44

21. What is the employment status of the persons over 16 in your household?

Please identify the number in each category and only provide one answer per row:

Answer Choices	Response Total	
Working full time (more than 30 hours a week)	217	
Not working, looking for work	43	
Retired	321	
Working part time (less than 30 hours a week)	109	
Not working, not looking for work	27	
Not able to work	23	
Full-time student	44	
Voluntary unpaid work	59	
	answered	556
	skipped	64



- Working full time (more than 30 hours a week)
- Working part time (less than 30 hours a week)
- Not working, looking for work
- Retired
- Not working, not looking for work
- Not able to work
- Full-time student
- Voluntary unpaid work



OTHER COMMENTS

Where appropriate, names of people mentioned in the comments have been redacted

1	<p>There are not enough jobs in Lavenham. your survey doesn't even deal with businesses - if you don't have successful businesses then how will you attract people to come to Lavenham.</p> <p>Why are you only interested in what teenagers and over 65s want - there is an age group of 47 years that you are apparently not interested in. It is this age group that will bring the money, life and future into the village.</p> <p>Your survey seems to be very similar to the 2016 survey - life and its needs have significantly moved on since then - it does feel the survey focus is very out of touch with the needs of the current generation and their future</p> <p>What about health & fitness? besides a suggestion about exercise facilities on a public footpath there is no mention of this. Exercise is fundamental to people's mental health</p>
2	<p>I suffer from mental health and there are no nearby facilities that help support me. I feel very isolated and need to be able to walk in the fresh air to get my MH balanced - public footpaths and open spaces are a must for me. The riverside footpath has recently been upgraded and its a lovely walk - it appears that not all the other footpaths are as easy to walk along so it would be nice to be able to walk in different places without getting muddy.</p> <p>My mental health support team have said that I should try and do more exercise but there are no nearby facilities so its difficult for me to do this as I don't drive. I have anxiety issues so having exercise equipment outside would make me embarrassed. It would be nice to have a gym - was this not a recommendation in the last LNP? - nothing seems to have come of it. In fact there is a lot of talk in Lavenham but not a lot actually happens. It makes me really depressed some days. When its sunny Lavenham is a lovely place to be in.</p>
3	<p>We need more facilities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working parents -children (play, entertainment, schooling, holiday clubs ect)
4	<p>More dog litter bins needed More street lighting needed No more homes needed to over populate and ruin the village feel about it. people clogging up thf high street and pavements already with the traffic problems</p> <p>A swimming pool would be fantastic !</p> <p>Clothes shops here sell old fashioned clothes . Could do with a hardware shop!</p>
5	<p>The village must keep up with the times. Encourage the young to stay especially families.</p> <p>We need all age groups. We need more social housing. Road and path repairs. Keep our school going.</p>
6	<p>It is important that as residents we can walk out of the village into the countryside. I am concerned about urban sprawl. Lavenham needs to remain a village and avoid big</p>

	<p>developments which will only mean people live here but then commute to towns for work.</p>
7	<p>Do not under any circumstances build homes on our fields. The beauty of the village is that it is surrounded by countryside and there are beautiful walks and wildlife. Do not create urban sprawl.</p> <p>All the enormous sites identified for development on the edge of the village are scaring people senseless. Be bold and listen to villagers. WE DON'T WANT THEM.</p> <p>Do not build at all on Melford Road. The sites are too far from the village, nowhere near the school and those fields flood.</p> <p>Look around you. Big housing developments are going bust because houses are not selling. We don't need any more homes on the edge of Lavenham. Create 1 and 2 bed homes on existing urban sites in the village if you need to do anything at all but do not ruin our countryside.</p> <p>The Parish Council needs to stand up to Babergh and protect our lovely countryside.</p>
8	<p>Why is there no swimming pool when one was offered and it was in the original survey, and more facilities for younger people, To keep them in the village And more houses for younger people And some affordable houses</p>
9	<p>Do not build on the edge of our village. You will turn Lavenham into a urban sprawl. We don't need more homes and more people in the village. The tourists won't come if you keep building and then all the shops and businesses will close down.</p> <p>new houses belong on main roads and bus routes. don't concrete over the countryside. you'll destroy lavenham.</p>
10	<p>I am confused as to the relevance of these questions - we are now living in the 21st century - why do they not reflect the current challenges - the questions are very random and the options are just bizarre. There is nothing to do in the village and why would anyone want to invest here. the parish council or some body needs to promote the village but there are some disparate websites that contradict themselves that don't really promote anything much except a few businesses with pictures taken on a sunny day.</p> <p>Lavenham is dying and the so called people in "charge" (who clearly aren't and don't have a clue by the looks of the parish council minutes) are not promoting the village. The village can't even manage to get some pretty public blooms throughout the village like many of our neighbours - they seem more worried about stopping growth than encouraging and supporting what there is at the moment.</p> <p>Lavenham seems to want to rely on its legacy but there is no central body that has a robust way of positively and consistently promoting it. Trying googling whats on in Lavenham and you get contrary information and a whole series of different websites - why would you come here when nobody can tell you whats going on - The Hub seems to have an events calendar that is well presented but I think that is quite new and doesn't seem to be frequently promoted Surely the parish council should be leading on this - but all they seem to do is say "no" and squabble.</p> <p>Never mind about housing - you need to get yourselves in order, have a plan around developing and supporting what you have in Lavenham and then maybe people will want to move here and buy a house.</p>

11	<p>The doctors is a joke it's empty every time I happen to be in there the last time was approximately 8.30 there was 6 people drinking coffee behind the counter and no one waiting what going on there</p> <p>The bins are mostly broken /or open and full</p> <p>Its sometimes very untidy throughout the village</p> <p>Need gym equipment installed</p> <p>New school needs to be built and old site turned into a car park</p> <p>The new houses are coming! Embrace them .the Melford road and the bears lane sites is perfect if fed by the Sudbury r road with no access to bears lane</p>
12	<p>Make better use of the Market square as an actual market - reduce HGV lorries going through the village - a 20mph speed limit in the village - more traditional events, fairs for both tourists and locals (May Day, Summer Fete, Michaelmas, pageants etc)</p>
13	<p>Keep the village beautiful. Dont forget tourism</p>
14	<p>We must protect our villages and village feel at all costs.</p> <p>The sense of village feel is eroding across the country and we can not let that happen in Suffolk.</p> <p>Just because is it happening across the country and appears to be mandated, does not mean is must happen here where we live.</p> <p>We don't have to conform to the accepted new norm</p>
15	<p>No more house building especially in this wonderful place.</p>
16	<p>I love living here because of the sense of a small village community feel. My family come to visit and walk and cycle out of the village to enjoy the countryside and wildlife. I need more seats along the high street as I need to rest more. Don't spoil the village by building large sites that would stop the village being a village. We depend on tourists and cannot sustain more cars.</p>
17	<p>I am appalled that the Lavenham PC are not standing up for our community. Grow a backbone and push back on the ludicrous plans to concrete over our countryside. Protect Lavenham and keep it as it is. The Melford Road plans are especially ridiculous. Common sense is needed.</p>
18	<p>I would prefer no more houses to be built as Lavenham is an extremely special place and I am concerned its integrity will be destroyed by more new builds.</p> <p>Its current infrastructure is only enough for the current residents and new homes will put additional pressure on it.</p> <p>New homes tend to be ugly and they will feel out of place in a magical place such as Lavenham.</p> <p>I wholly object to the expansion of this historical village. It will be ruined and ruinous.</p>
19	<p>There needs to be more leisure facilities.</p> <p>There was talk of a swimming pool why can't that happen,</p> <p>Why can't we have an old peoples home</p> <p>And a Parish Council that works with the village instead of saying no all the time</p>
20	<p>The local schools could not support large housing projects surrounding lavenham.</p> <p>The village economy is based on tourism and if we loose the medieval village feel and dilute the village with large scale housing estates, expanding and blurring the edges of the jewel of Suffolk then its appeal will be lost and tourism will be impacted.</p> <p>Smaller infill development will retain the village of lavenham.</p>
21	<p>We need more affordable housing.</p> <p>We need places for fitness and well-being. And to support mental health</p>

	<p>We need the wellness centre built to help people. We need less control from the parish council and more engagement. We need the footpaths tidied up , so there is more access to the countryside for more of the village. We need more commercial enterprises and places to start businesses and run businesses to improve employment for youngsters, Last but not least, we should be building for our older generation. So that they can release the homes that they own or live in for the younger generation.</p>
22	<p>While I recognise the increased housing requirement placed on Babergh District Council, the scale of development proposed locally must be proportionate to the size, character and infrastructure of the settlement.</p> <p>Lavenham currently has around 1,150 homes. The indicative allocation of 367 additional homes over 20 years already represents a substantial increase of roughly one third of the existing housing stock. This is an unacceptable level of growth for a historic rural settlement.</p> <p>Placing around 300 homes on a single site, particularly on open land adjacent to existing properties, would effectively concentrate almost the entire allocation into one place. That is not a balanced or sustainable pattern of growth. The plan should prioritise distribution rather than concentration</p> <p>Developments in just one or two locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a dominant urban extension rather than incremental village growth Fail to integrate naturally with the existing settlement pattern Place sudden and intense pressure on local infrastructure, services and roads <p>A more appropriate approach would be to distribute development across smaller, well considered sites over time, allowing the village to adapt gradually.</p> <p>Character and setting</p> <p>Lavenham is a highly sensitive historic environment. Large scale development on open fields at the edge of the village risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eroding the rural setting and approach to the settlement Blurring the distinction between village and countryside Undermining the character that defines Lavenham’s significance and makes it so attractive to visitors and those who spend money here <p>Development should respect the scale and landscape setting of the parish, not overwhelm it.</p> <p>The proposed level of growth needs to be matched by clear evidence that local infrastructure can support it and needs it. So many building forms are going bust because existing houses are not selling.</p> <p>A single development raises concerns about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road capacity and safety Access to services and amenities Pressure on schools, healthcare and utilities <p>Without phased and supported growth, this risks placing strain on an already limited</p>

	<p>rural infrastructure.</p> <p>The issue is not whether Lavenham should contribute to housing delivery, but how that growth is planned.</p> <p>Given the village's size, character and existing housing numbers, Development of lots of houses in one or two locations would be disproportionate, poorly integrated and out of keeping with a sustainable pattern of development.</p> <p>A phased, distributed approach across smaller sites would better align with both local character and long term sustainability. And then no doubt there will be a change of government and all these ridiculous targets will be kicked into the long grass.</p>
23	<p>The paris council needs to engage more and not say no so much and be more honest and transparent, We need to give more thought to young people, we need a leisure facility for well-being and more support to employment for the village, and the businesses need to be supported by the parish Council, I also think that we don't need a full time Clark,</p>
24	<p>This questionnaire does not recognise the importance for social & community volunteering opportunities. There are a lot of opportunities but why is there not a central point someone can go to. Surely this is something the parish council could do - they don't seem to do a lot for the village but setting up a central focal website with events, places to stay, things to do & volunteering should sit within their remit of supporting the community- they don't seem to have an outward community focus - who are they anyway - i think I see a few of them using the local shops but not sure what value the others add to businesses. I think they should be visible in their support of businesses- not just the pubs. The other thing that this survey does not address Esther recent call for sites -i think the majority of the residential sites are outside the settlement boundary - how are you managing this. I think the addition of a care home is an excellent idea -but why was the press stopped? Who did that-LNP2?</p>
25	<p>Too many houses! I feel Lavenham is losing its identity. The halt and other builds are not in keeping with the village. It really upsets me that we keep building on every beautiful green space! We do not need all these houses!</p>
26	<p>Lavenham must build more homes for that young families, couples and single people can afford. Or its going to become a lifeless ghetto of £1m retirement homes.</p>
27	<p>Concerned with building requirements in our lovely, small village. Not always necessary and wouldn't want our countryside ruined with houses to be sat empty. Also, would small development numbers actually be adhered to if land sold.</p>
28	<p>The impact of cars on the roads in lavenham is already significant and not dealt with by babergh. We have already blown tyres from the village not being fit for purpose of the volume of traffic. Has a historic landmark, this volume of traffic will not go down. Increasing residential traffic will just further damage roads. Where there is already a lack of parking for residents, this causes bottle necks throughout the village. This should be more of a priority than ahead of increasing housing quotas. Housing that is built is strongly recommended to follow all future homes standards, be built in keeping with the styling of the original homes on the main road and focus on 2 & 3 bed homes where these are the properties that are most required. Three storey homes do not fit into the village style, do not sell and are too contemporary.</p>

29	<p>If there are more people coming to live in. Ew houses then traffic needs to be reduced particularly huge lorries causing problems to the fragile old buildings. Parking in the high street should be only for residents or parking reduced to one side of the street with free parking in the car parks for visitors and workers. At the moment the high street is usually congested with buses unable to navigate between illegally parked vehicles and huge trucks.</p>
30	<p>I say this as someone who has had the privilege of enjoying many peaceful years in and around Lavenham: any future building must be approached with great care and restraint. Development, if it is to happen at all, should be confined to very small-scale projects on brownfield sites; those previously used areas that can be sensitively repurposed without encroaching on the countryside.</p> <p>We must firmly resist the creeping spread of housing along the edges of the village. That kind of expansion risks eroding the very character that makes Lavenham so special. Once open fields and natural boundaries are lost, they are gone for good.</p> <p>Of equal importance is the protection of our cherished walks and the wildlife that depends on them. These footpaths, hedgerows, and green spaces are not just pleasant extras, they are essential to the wellbeing of both residents and the local ecosystem. Future decisions should place their preservation at the forefront.</p> <p>In short, thoughtful restraint, not unchecked growth should guide us, ensuring that Lavenham remains a place of beauty, history, and quiet enjoyment for generations to come.</p>
31	<p>I was happy with the last revision, shame that it was disrupted by loads of untruths being spread by a small number of individuals.</p>
32	<p>Lavenham is the jewel in Suffolk heritage and any changes that negatively impact the village has a much wider impact. I live in a neighbouring village and care about what happens so please draw views from outside the village residents too.</p> <p>Many people care for our countryside heritage and village environments, we all need to protect what we have because continued erosion can never be turned back...</p>
33	<p>No new housing should be built beyond the current boundaries. Building on green belt land is not acceptable. Only filling in between existing properties, on brown field sites, should be allowed. Further expansion should not take place because the core of the village cannot support a larger population, and the loss of fields and rural habitats is short-sighted. The centre of Lavenham cannot cope with any more traffic - getting through the village by car is a nightmare.</p>
34	<p>Small leisure centre/swimming pool, could be used by primary school maybe discount for Lavenham residents</p>
35	<p>Leave Lavenham alone. Stop building unwanted houses. The English population has fallen...stop housing immigrants on tax payers money! Keep the fields for our food.</p>
36	<p>I have to say the survey seems to be outdated as are the views of the parish council.</p> <p>The only facilities Lavenham are offering are for preschool and retirees.</p> <p>No care homes for the local community.</p> <p>No decent or affordable local exercise facilities. Having to drive to Sudbury is tragic.</p>

	<p>Apart from the riverside public footpath, the other footpaths tend not to be well maintained restricting walking and outdoor exercise</p>
37	<p>Why won't the parish council do more for the village instead of their selves There needs to be a centre for wellbeing I believe the parish council turned it down and were very unsupportive which is part of the government's policy Foot paths could be looked after and I believe the parish council turned that down as well We need a new parish council</p>
38	<p>I only have a question why we need more houses when the developments locally are not selling. I feel at home in this village and would love to stay here but not looking to move from where I am</p>
39	<p>I am writing as a retired resident who has lived off Melford Road for many years, and I feel compelled to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed development of sites HE23133 and HE23138.</p> <p>I am not against sensible development in principle, but these particular sites are simply not suitable. The idea of placing a large housing estate here makes little practical or social sense. This is open countryside, not an extension of a village. The sites sit well outside both Acton and Lavenham, with no proper services, no walkable access to shops, and no realistic public transport. Anyone living there would be entirely dependent on cars, which goes against everything we are told about sustainable development.</p> <p>There is also the question of local infrastructure. Schools in both villages are already limited in capacity, and yet a development of this size would bring significant additional demand. It is hard to see how this has been properly thought through.</p> <p>I also hear from my neighbours that these fields flood. The land has already caused serious flooding to nearby property on multiple occasions, with water running directly off the fields and into homes. To build over land like this, covering it with hard surfaces, would only make matters worse. It feels like common sense is being ignored.</p> <p>What troubles me most, however, is the loss of what makes this area special. This stretch of countryside, with its historic cottages, open views, and wildlife, is part of the character of this place. Once it is gone, it is gone for good. The presence of wildlife and the importance of the landscape are not abstract ideas to those of us who live here, they are part of daily life.</p> <p>At my stage of life, I had hoped for a quieter time, not the stress and uncertainty that proposals like this bring. It is difficult not to feel that the realities on the ground have been overlooked in favour of numbers on a page.</p> <p>For all of these reasons, I urge the Council to dismiss these sites as unsuitable for development. If you have to build anywhere, stick to repurposing existing brownfield sites. DO NOT CONCRETE OVER OUR FIELDS PLEASE.</p>
40	<p>Strongly object to the new housing proposals on the outskirts of the village.</p> <p>The traffic and the parking in the village, particularly near the church is terrible. There should be yellow lines here and managed better.</p>

	Pot holes are just awful all around the village.
41	<p>I would say there's not enough volunteering in the village keeping it tidy. I guess this is because the chair stoped it, and its such a shame could this be started again, could the councillor who started it be asked to do it again, When is the wellness centre going to be approved, When are you going to allow small houses for youngsters. When are you going to allow an old peoples home, When are we going to loose the control from the parish Council. Why do we pay the Clark so much money. When is [REDACTED] going to leave the parish Council. Their behaviour is very unbecoming.</p>
42	Why was the last revision reflected. As a household we agree with it.
43	Lavenham is a village rich in history and charm, offering a strong sense of community and cultural heritage. However, it currently lacks a dedicated wellness centre, which represents a valuable opportunity for growth. Establishing such a facility would not only enhance residents' access to health, fitness, and wellbeing services, but also contribute positively to the village's social infrastructure. A wellness centre could serve as a welcoming space for people of all ages to focus on physical and mental wellbeing, fostering a healthier and more connected community.
44	Some items were not relevant to us eg using village shops as we are still shielding as my husband has a compromised immune system. However, Heeks, Howletts , and the Pharmacy have been incredibly helpful to us as well as local tradespersons. I also did a no contact home home delivery with Liz Gash. We would do more if we could.
45	A fitness and wellness centre would be good
46	<p>I am writing to express my deep frustration and opposition to the proposed housing developments in Lavenham.</p> <p>These plans are far too large in scale for a village of this size and character. Lavenham is not, and has never been, an appropriate location for significant expansion. It is a historic village with limited infrastructure, and forcing large-scale development upon it risks eroding everything that makes it unique.</p> <p>If additional housing is truly required, it should be directed toward established urban centres such as Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich, where there is already the infrastructure, transport, and services to support growth. Expanding towns makes far more sense than overwhelming a small village.</p> <p>It is also unrealistic to suggest that such developments serve the needs of young people. Lavenham functions largely as a quiet, retirement-oriented community. Younger residents are far more likely to seek opportunities, amenities, and connectivity found in larger towns, not in a rural setting with limited prospects.</p> <p>Pushing ahead with oversized developments here shows a disregard for both the character of the village and practical planning considerations. I strongly urge you to reconsider these proposals and adopt a more sensible, balanced approach to housing allocation.</p>
47	<p>Please keep the country side around Lavenham has it is . This is a very special place and should be protected for the next generations. It part of the village. The shop are very important to</p> <p>The community of the village should be helped. Car on the high street should be less</p>

	so visited can see the beautiful buildings better and less Traffic would be nice. Think the parking in the village square should go and make it a square you could walk round and have sitting and make it walking only. it's so beautiful. When at times no cars are parking.
48	We are definitely in need of houses
49	Since 2019 I have seen plans to address parking, improving the village square and providing planters to protect sightlines at junctions. I would suggest these are self evident and modest changes - but nothing has been carried forward. Electric vehicle charging provision has similarly misfired due to connectivity issues (suggesting a lack of planning rigor) My confidence isn't high that anything will change as a result of this survey - except for it's use as a tick box exercise to support house building approvals without the required infrastructure spending.
50	Where is the concern about our built environment? Absolutely nothing in this document raises concerns about our heritage and buildings- the very things that make Lavenham special and unique. The question about a museum is obsolete-we already have one- The Guildhall- which very few local people support. Restrict new housing!!!! We DO NOT have the infrastructure to support it!
51	We need to know WHERE there will be new housing
52	Parking needs to be carefully considered with regards to any new housing. ALL new housing needs to have adequate parking facilities. Most homes have at least 2 cars.
53	To be honest I'm sick of retired professionals moving here infiltrating position of power like the parish councillors making important decisions for their own gain with absolutely no regard for local residents. It's of vital importance to ensure proper amenities are provided locally. More diverse fitness facilities, Healthier cafes etc. Providing the village with a true sense of diversity, community and real business support. Expansion will benefit the village financially. Creating more amenities for teenagers and young to middle ages adults. It's absolutely disgusting that on one hand villages pride themselves with green spaces and fresh air, while on the other hand we are deprived from a descent infrastructure of essential facilities forcing us to drive miles polluting the environment
54	There is no questions about how we feel about our parish council, maybe there's a reason for this ??
55	Prohibit dogs on playing/recreation spaces and provide protective fencing around childrens play areas. Reduce parking on Church Hill and High Street to ease traffic flow.
56	The parish council said no to public benches, no to looking after the footpath, the parish council is not fit for purpose. The parish council (some of them) are bullies. We need to build a leisure centre, said it was going to happen and was in the final LNP. The wellness centre would be a great idea. Why did the parish council stop the volunteers?
57	As a working parent in my 30s I honestly don't recognise my life or my needs anywhere in this survey. It feels like it was written for teenagers and retirees, with nothing for the people who

	<p>actually keep the village running day to day. No questions about proper leisure facilities- I have to drive to Sudbury just to go to the gym. How can a neighbourhood plan be taken seriously when it ignores the entire working age population???? I am very upset and feel like moving away!</p>
58	<p>I'm living on Green Willows where I am raising my 2 children. We chose to live here because it is safe, quiet and surrounded by open countryside. The views, the wildlife and the sense of space are part of our everyday lives and part of what makes this a special place to bring up children. The thought of a large housing estate being built across these fields is honestly upsetting. It would completely change the character of the area and take away something that cannot be replaced. Day to day life here depends on the area staying manageable and connected. These sites are not close to schools, or shops and services that you can easily walk to. That means more cars, more traffic on already narrow rural roads, and less safety for families like mine. It is hard enough navigating these roads with children as it and accidents on the bend near Stamp House. There is also the pressure this would put on local schools. There is not enough places nearby to support the number of children a development like this would bring. As a parent I want to know that my kids will get a place at the local school. What matters most to me is the environment our children are growing up in. They see hares in the fields, hear owls at night, and have space to explore and feel part of nature. Losing that to an ugly disconnected town/housing development would be awful for Lavenham. I understand the need for housing. We need small starter homes only, not the big urban sprawl you are going for.</p>
59	<p>The biggest issue- the fact that almost all new called for sites are outside the settlement boundary. So is the lack of affordable housing and the absence of employment opportunities for younger people. If the survey won't even acknowledge these realities, how can it possibly help shape a plan for the future? It feels like the difficult topics have been avoided. How are you going to increase employment opportunities, encourage and support businesses and provide affordable accommodation? I think the survey should recognise the truth about Lavenham and then the question should be looking to find input and feedback around how to make a change. Are you not interested in people that are older than teenagers and younger than 65? These are the people that are working and will be paying for things to come, they are the future of Lavenham so why are you not interested in what they need? I have to travel by car to my gym- why is there no question around what sort of exercise facilities people would want? I think that there is a very expensive personal trainer in Lavenham and outside exercise facilities in a common space isn't a great idea as it rains so much and is cold in England. Who would look after these anyway?</p>
60	<p>We have lived here for decades and I filled in the last neighbourhood plan survey with hope. Years later almost NOTHING in the plan has been delivered. Now we're being asked the same questions all over again. Why should anyone believe this will be any different? There is no explanation of who will implement anything. NO accountability. No evidence of progress. It feels like a tick box exercise, rather than a genuine attempt to improve the village. Also, why can't we have a swimming pool which was asked for before?</p>

61	<p>There needs to be a strong focus on that which makes this village special- it's historical core.</p> <p>Large developments will distract from this.</p> <p>Further housing developments should be situated near towns which have the infrastructure to support them, Lavenham does not.</p> <p>The village needs smaller started homes and the facilities to support them including a larger primary school.</p> <p>I believe that a number of trees could be planted in the market place without compromising the parking. The shade would helpfully keep the cars cooler in the summer and make the area more attractive.</p>
62	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There should be a 20mph speed limit in the village. 2. Prioritising parking has turned the magnificent medieval market place into a parking lot- shame on you Lavenham.
63	<p>This survey feels like a re-run of the one from years ago, rather than something that reflects the village as it is today.</p> <p>So many important topics are missing- green energy, volunteering, biodiversity, affordable housing, employment opportunities.</p> <p>It's hard to see how this can produce a meaningful neighbourhood plan when the questions don't match the real issues Lavenham is facing. It needs a complete rethink.</p> <p>Questions to be answered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are you going to deal with all the majority of the call sites being outside the settlement boundary? 2. What about green energy options- what is the village's approach to those- with the rolling countryside wind turbines could be a possibility but you haven't covered this topic, so you don't know what people's views are. 3. What about volunteering options- there is no mention of these, and they are really important in a small community. 4. What about supporting Lavenham in Bloom- why are things like this not discussed or supported? 5. Why is there no plan on making affordable housing happen- there were a few houses several years ago but these have all been taken- so they are no longer affordable, and there is no mention of how to address this issue in a sustainable way moving forwards. I don't doubt that most people will agree that most people will agree that there is not enough employment or housing for young people, but the survey doesn't have any suggestions around how to resolve this. 6. What is that random question about social media? Are you proposing that people can't post what they think? 7. Who will be implementing these proposals- I can't see that anything particularly that people wanted from the LNP has actually been well implemented and adopted. So, what is the point of having a survey if no-one does anything with the results. 8. Other nearby villages have proactive parish councils but ours just seems to try and block things, spend money unwisely and there seems to be a lot of disagreements. If this is to succeed you need a new parish council with a community focused Chair who gets their teeth into making things happen. 9. In Lavenham, nothing seems to be cohesive or supported- who should be leading on that?
64	<p>It's hard to take this survey seriously when so little from the previous neighbourhood plan was ever implemented. There's no explanation of who will deliver any of this, or how?</p> <p>I don't really understand those questions in 5- can these be worded more clearly please?</p> <p>Of course, we must have more affordable housing- but how are you going to do this when there is no appetite to build in Lavenham?</p> <p>How are you going to increase employment opportunities for young people when</p>

	<p>you make no reference to supporting or encouraging growth of the businesses? How many people in Lavenham actually really support and use the lovely local shops? I try to go and use them at least twice a week, but the village is very dead during the week so how do the businesses survive? I am worried that in 10 years, with the approach that seems to be seen in Lavenham, that there will be nothing to do and the place will just end up full of elderly people and no shops.</p>
65	<p>I am sorry but you are trying to shut the door after the horse has bolted. Such a shame that the village was misled about the last revision and there was a NO vote in November 2024. That revision only allowed development inside the settlement boundary unlike the current plan that allows development on the boundary, meaning the boundary can 'creep' as in Bears Lane, Indigo Fields etc. Look at the most recent call for sites, Lavenham is absolutely surrounded. As far as we are aware rules have since changed and you will not be allowed to have the strict development requirements as in the November 24 version.</p> <p>We smiled at your question re social media, since a certain councillor arrived in the village there has been so much abuse on FB.</p> <p>We do hope that there will be no further activities re a Wellness Centre on Second Meadow but suspect as the owners of Second Meadow have now purchased the Poultry Farm we haven't heard the last of it, so much money wasted by the council!</p>
66	<p>Why is there no support for the younger people Why can't we have a Wellness Centre it was promised Why do the parish council just keep saying no Why can't we have more business or a business park to bring in proper jobs and employment wasn't Lavenham one of the biggest employment villages/ towns Why can't this be made to happen</p>
67	<p>Traffic speed: this remains a significant issue with a high percentage of cars exceeding the 30mph speed limit at all exit points of the village. It is particular problem on the Bury Road (at the Bury St Edmunds end) with many vehicles exceeding the speed limit in both entry and exit to/from the village. We would fully support the introduction of speed calming measures such as speedbumps or visual activated speed signs on all entry points into the village. More frequent police speed checks also need to be introduced.</p> <p>Parking: Inconsistent and dangerous parking, also parking on the pavements in the village has got steadily worse over the last few years, particularly since the introduction of parking charges. There is now much greater risk for pedestrians when trying to navigate around those parked cars and also when trying to cross the road. The impact on the high street is significant, and there are bottlenecks caused by parked cars which prevent the normal flow of traffic. Much more rigorous enforcement of pavement parking needs to be adopted, particularly once the department for transport new regulations are introduced during 2026.</p>
68	<p>The starting point for any improvements must be with the parish council. However they are a law unto themselves - they never engage and always seem to be saying no to everything that is being positively promoted for the benefit of the village. Why can't we have Lavenham in Bloom? Why can't we have volunteer litter picking? Why can't we have tidier footpaths. They have been supporting the allotments but that only benefits 12 people and seems to be spending a disproportionate amount of money of just 12 people. A few years ago when [REDACTED] was the leader of the parish council - things were so much better. You could talk to him and you felt he was listening and trying to support. There is no point even trying to talk to the current chair - I don't even know who they are as they are never seen in the village</p>

	<p>supporting shops or events. Even if all these priorities are going to be agreed - how will they be implemented, monitored or delivered when the parish council can't even agree amongst themselves what is important. How can you justify the clerk getting paid so much when there is so little being delivered by the parish council - what do they do for their money?</p>
69	<p>The heavy good traffic in the Village is of serious concern and don't seem to be addressed here. The Heritage buildings are being routinely damaged by collisions and the vibrations caused are also a concern to the fabric of the buildings. The roads through the village are narrow with car parking taking up a considerable amount of space. These heavy goods vehicles and even the buses have to resort to mounting the narrow pavements to pass traffic which can be seen at least once every day.</p>
70	<p>Roads and pot holes need to be fixed desperately. More lighting in areas of high volume of cars parking. What is being done around high volume of vans and sheds being broken into ? Too much on street parking, especially when events are on causing traffic jams and high risk to pedestrians</p>
71	<p>Lavenham should not be overpopulated, as it may lose its charm and appeal. If housing will need to be built it should be for a variety of ages but not large estates which have houses all on top of one another and look like concrete jungles. More bungalows would be good as I feel this type of property is slightly lacking in Lavenham. Lavenham also has some amazing wildlife and scenery and this should not be lost to the need for houses. If more houses are built then the parking in the high street will need to be reviewed as when it is busy especially at weekends and school holidays with tourism, getting from one end of the high street to the other can be difficult and at times dangerous as people feel they can park where they like, making it unsafe, with more houses and people this will only get worse.</p>
72	<p>The traffic is becoming unmanageable in Lavenham, there is simply inadequate parking. Most days the high street is a challenge to get through, let alone trying to park.</p> <p>Water Street is being damaged by the heavy lorries all following their GPS, it should really be classed as a B road. Most days there are significant traffic jams along the road. One day the Tudor culvert will probably collapse.</p> <p>The fireworks were a fantastic event, however, there were only about 20 spots available by the tennis courts, after that it was mayhem.</p> <p>Although the park by the Brent Leigh road is essential for kids and families, perhaps on major events it could be used as a temporary car park. This can bring its own challenges because of the play equipment. Perhaps some of the equipment (for example the frame, table tennis table & basketball hoop) could be moved / utilised by the tennis courts as people are more familiar with that area, as opposed to the bottom park which isn't utilised fully as it's out of the way.</p> <p>Also light pollution is an issue, by Barn Street the light for the staff accommodation is so bright, and really should be motion sensed, it's not very environmentally friendly either. In the quieter streets there should be motion sensor lighting. The lighting is very intrusive.</p>

	<p>The Lavenham Christmas fair is very much missed. Such an excellent event for the village.</p> <p>I love Lavenham but the traffic is almost as bad as the M25! 😊</p> <p>Definitely affordable housing for all, but not by big corporates, they'll be no greenery left soon.</p> <p>Post office is essential as are the shops, schools, library and village hall.</p> <p>There should be a 'pub' pub here, perhaps serving traditional affordable food, i believe this would be a life line for some residents. The others are very expensive.</p> <p>Thank you reading my gripes!</p>
73	<p>80% of the population of Lavenham live alone or with one other person. Houses remain in the market longer than they ever have in the last 20 years. Avoid building new estates and convert existing buildings or use brownfield sites only. Lavenham is beautiful in large part because it is surrounded by nature. Let's keep it that way.</p>
74	<p>I'm surprised that the survey doesn't align with Suffolk County Council or Babergh's priorities. There's almost nothing on wellbeing, on supporting businesses, biodiversity action, or sustainable travel. These are major themes for our area, yet the survey barely touches them. It comes across as narrow and inward-looking rather than strategic.</p> <p>In summary - these are SCC's & Babergh priorities</p> <p>Suffolk County Council</p> <p>To promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to strengthen our local economy - to protect and enhance our environment - to provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer <p>There is no mention of really supporting health and wellbeing - just some crazy suggestion about exercise machines in a playing field.</p> <p>No mention around supporting business or encouraging growth.</p> <p>A tiny bit around hedgerows - what about wildlife, BNG, how to encourage bees, birds, butterflies.</p> <p>Lavenham doesn't have a clue about value for money - did I hear that the last LNP2 failure cost £90k and the parish council is always wasting money.</p> <p>Babergh</p> <p>Housing - homelessness reduction and rough sleeping, tenant engagement</p> <p>Communities - wellbeing, leisure, sport and physical activity</p> <p>Environment - Carbon reduction management, biodiversity action, sustainable travel, parking</p> <p>Economy - culture, heritage and visitor economy</p>
75	<p>I write as a long standing resident of this area, and as someone who has taken the trouble to complete the survey and engage with the Lavenham Plan. It is, I must confess, increasingly wearying to find that such care is not always reciprocated.</p> <p>The proposed inclusion of sites off Melford Road for development is, quite simply, indefensible. What is being proposed is not a modest extension of an existing settlement, but the creation of a detached suburban estate in open countryside, physically and functionally disconnected from both Lavenham and Acton. It would sit awkwardly between the two, belonging to neither, and eroding the character of both. This is precisely the sort of speculative sprawl that neighbourhood plans are intended to prevent, not enable.</p> <p>Equally troubling is the complete absence of local infrastructure. There are no services within walking distance. Residents would be forced into car dependency for</p>

	<p>even the most basic daily needs, in direct contradiction of the Councils own sustainability commitments. One begins to wonder whether the policy is being taken seriously at all.</p> <p>The pressure on local schools is another point that has been set out clearly and, again, seemingly overlooked. A development of this scale would generate well over one hundred primary pupils, for which there is simply no capacity within a reasonable distance. This is not a marginal issue. It is fundamental.</p> <p>Then there is the matter of heritage and landscape. The sites sit within a setting that contributes directly to the rural identity of Lavenham, Acton and the wider area. The ecological impact should give any reasonable council pause. The presence of protected and declining species, and the acknowledged biodiversity of the land, place a clear obligation on decision makers. Where harm cannot be avoided, policy is unambiguous: permission should be refused.</p> <p>Taken together, the inclusion is inescapable. The large sites proposed off Melford Road are unsuitable for development by any reasonable planning standard. The evidence is clear, comprehensive, and already in your possession.</p> <p>What is less clear is why it has not been acted upon.</p> <p>I urge the Parish Council , in the strongest possible terms, to represent the interests of its residents with proper diligence and resolve, and to oppose the inclusion of large sites unequivocally.</p> <p>We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for basic competence, consistency with policy, and a willingness to listen.</p>
76	<p>This is what I think should be focused on:</p> <p>Affordable housing and a plan to keep ensuring there is an on-going strategy.</p> <p>Encourage small businesses to come the village - craft units are nice, but they do not bring in the higher employment of income.</p> <p>Campaign to proactively support existing businesses - having a website that charges to do this (Love Lavenham) is not logical or inclusive method - maybe work with the Hub to do this.</p> <p>Actively promote the post office and hub.</p> <p>A decent gym and/or leisure facility for all ages.</p> <p>Footpaths need to be better maintained and fully accessible - have an LCWIP strategy.</p> <p>Volunteering to be actively promoted and support - look to create a central place for people to go to - perhaps at the library or hub.</p> <p>Establish a sustainable energy opportunities group - I think this was set up but what happened to it - this is very relevant now.</p> <p>Planting of more trees, hedgerows and actively promoting biodiversity and encouragement of wildlife.</p>
77	<p>More public toilets</p>
78	<p>Running a buissness in lavenham is already tough, and this survey makes it clear that economic reality weren't even on the radar.</p> <p>There's nothing about supporting local shops nothing about encouraging new local shops nothing about encouraging new businessess, nothing about creating</p>

	<p>employment opportunities.</p> <p>Other villages have thriving business network and proactive Rarish Council there we get a survey that avoids the subject entirely.</p> <p>If you want Lavenham to have a future you need to start asking the right questions.</p>
79	<p>What about the wellness centre that needs to be approved. It would bring employment for young people and great facilities to the village.</p>
80	<p>Why are the parish council so toxic. Why do they say no all the time Why are we paying the Clerk so much money Why can't we have more activities in lavenham so we don't need to drive to sudbury /Bury/Colchester If there were more activities it would give lavenham more employment and then the younger people would not have to move away or drive to work,</p>
81	<p>We need more leisure facilities which will give more employment and lavenham needs to get rid of the parish clerk (who is paid too much) and get carol back because he did listen to the village I hate having to drive to sudbury or Colchester if I want to go swimming Lavenham also needs cold water swimming, which i believe was suggested at second Meadows, Please let lavenham have something nice for everyone to enjoy, and employ more younger people,</p>
82	<p>Lavenham needs more parking and free parking, Lavenham needs more employment for the young people Lavenham needs an affordable gym Lavenham needs different business and not more coffee shops Lavenham needs the speed sid's moved around and not left in the same place for years Lavenham needs a less controlling parish Council, And a parish council that would engage they now will not support volunteers. Why is the Clerk paid so much money when other parish Councils only have Clarks that do two to three days a week</p>
83	<p>The parking needs to be sorted and it needs to be free.The young need jobs to stay in the village. There is to many tea rooms and not enough proper jobs. Lavenham should have more full time jobs. The parish council has to much control And why did they stop the volunteers, Please get the parish council to support the volunteers like Acton does, and other parish Councils. Brent Eleigh road needs a SID</p>
84	<p>These questions are so similar to the last questionnaire & you did nothing about implementing that so why should I bother with these questions- we live in the 21st century - bring something useful that reflects the concerns & demands of modern living & people with jobs & challenges may feel that you are interested enough that we may answer. Lavenham is only interested in old people for old people- wasn't there a TV programme about that.....it ended!</p>
85	<p>I cannot see why We can't have more leisure facilities for every age. And more work opportunities for the younger person Lavenham needs a small industrial site to bring in different employment opportunities. The SID's are never moved. They need to be moved around the village. As the law</p>

	<p>requires, they should not be left in the same place. The footpaths around the village need to be enhanced and added too and maintained. The parish council needs to stop saying no and help more</p>
86	<p>The recent call by Babergh for landowners to put forward land is concerning as brownfield sites and those already partly developed i.e the Lolls should take priority through smaller developments over large developments on prime agricultural land and still allow active travel by bike or on foot into the village facilities Of major concern is the potential for development in other parishes bordering the Lavenham boundary within their own neighbourhood plans such as the recent discussions around a large development on the Melford Road which is in the Acton parish. This would have a massive detrimental impact on the village infrastructure and surrounding wildlife in Lavenham not Acton as residents would not travel to Acton which is miles away. People would use cars to get into the village which goes against Babergh policy of promoting active travel by foot or cycles causing even more congestion and the road is not even wide enough to have a central road markings. The new plan must address this issue to protect Lavenham from taking on the housing requirements of other villages by proxy because of the development location being miles away from the originating village (such as Acton) but closer to Lavenham.</p>
87	<p>New housing is important for our village and it is better to have a single larger development if it comes with attached local amenities as lots of smaller builds will just stretch the surgery, school etc even further.</p>
88	<p>Please try to keep the beautiful open fields around our village as they are now.</p>
89	<p>We do need affordable homes for families, to help those who want to stay in the village and not to be just a retirement village. Past new builds have often brought in those taking early retirement, instead of families</p>
90	<p>Housing development should depend on the existing roads a layout - there are plenty of locations with access to main roads where housing could be built. It is important that all new developments have easy, walking, access to the centre to keep the heart of the village alive. It would be useful if we had parish councillors who care about areas other than the historic centre.</p>
91	<p>Some of these questions are very difficult to answer with answering options available. Would have liked to have seen more housing concentrated questions as opposed to asking about things like would I like to see an Opticians in Lavenham?? Overall I would just like to see a Lavenham that is grateful for what it has got now rather than one desperate for change.</p>
92	<p>I know that we will need add housing, and to be clear it should be well build, well insulated, and using the best of alternative energy and heating systems. Also we need to be sure that all necessary social services are available per x amount of village residents, that is schools, medical care, as well as entertainment and eatery sites. One area we need is clothing shops for men.</p>
93	<p>lavenham needs a leisure center of some description and a cheaper gym Needs more free parking SID on Brent Eleigh Road Needs something different from coffee shop for new employment maybe try to bring in different business Better jobs for the younger people The parish council to listen to the village</p>
94	<p>I would like to have seen more emphasis on traffic calming, parking and pedestrianisation. Market place would be transformed as a social space without vehicles.</p>

95	<p>I am horrified by the development areas highlighted on Melford Road, particularly given its position on the border with Acton. New houses here would drain resources in Lavenham but help Acton's housing targets.</p> <p>Flooding on Melford Road is a real issue so it is deeply concerning that such significant risks appear to have been overlooked or downplayed.</p> <p>Lavenham is a community where around 80% of households are one or two people, many of them in retirement. There is no evidenced need for large numbers of new three bedroom or larger homes of the type being proposed.</p> <p>If we have to build at all, infill where houses already exist. It is fundamentally misaligned with both the environmental realities of the sites and Lavenham's actual housing needs to even consider more houses off Melford Road.</p>
96	Better disabled parking
97	<p>Pointless set of questions what about the real priorities? health employment buisness growth exercise protest completion!</p>
98	Add a new indoor facilities so we dont have to go to sudbury
99	<p>Cars etc to be stopped from on the pavements especially on the brent eleg road outside the houses speed restrictions to be upheld on roads coming into the village some places you take your life with your hands to get across the road very dangerous for older people, children and people with dogs also an extra dog poo bin on the playing field by the footpath going behind polltry farm as the only poo bin is the other end</p>
100	fix pot holes
101	Please do everything possible to retain the essential nature of a small historic settlement
102	<p>i volunteer in several local groups, im shocked that volunteering isnt even mentioned. no questions about community involvement , no interest in how to support local groups, no thought about how to bring people together. lavenham has so much potential, but nothing feels joined up theres no central hub of information, no leadership, no cohesion, you talk alot about houses, but why would anyone want to move here if the neighbourhood plan doesnt address community life, then its missing the heart of what makes a villiage thrive</p>
103	play area should be fenced, dog foul in play area!! dogs should not be permitted or it should be fenced off in play area
104	feel it would have been a good idea to have a column for not really "qualified" to answer or maybe one could define with a * not a tick as not truly able to judge
105	<p>having not lived in lavenham for very long, it can be difficult to comment on some issues ie. childcare and their facilities, so i have tried to comment fairly on how i see things</p> <p>everyone understands the need for free housing as long as it is balanced both private and social with infrastructure able to support what they are building. lavenham is well known in the world and that showed always to be the forefront of any developments</p>

	<p>housing or otherwise, it has to keep the reputation and design as it is and has been, for hundreds of years, so many historic areas have been developed so they lose their character to modern ideas, new improvements must be intergrated cleverly to enhance the area to make lavenham even better with a solid core of services we can be proud of</p>
106	Better provision needed for disabilities scooter users
107	<p>Build indoor exercise facilities or a swimming pool</p> <p>Why do the parish council keep saying no to concerns within the villager</p>
108	<p>Lavenham is a small village and there have been several housing developments over the last 10 years.</p> <p>It is a village not a town.</p> <p>There is no space to make additional comments</p> <p>Pointless increasing houses that the school, EP surgeons are unable to cater for.</p> <p>The school cannot manage the current amount of children with people having no use neighbouring villagers such as acton or great waldingfield.</p>
109	<p>I grew up in lavenham, I'd love to stay but this survey makes it clear that people my age aren't even being considered.</p> <p>No affordable housing, no job oppurtunites, no support for young adults, no vision for keeping younger people in the village.</p> <p>If nothing changes lavenham will become a place only retires can afford.</p> <p>Lots of words but no solutions of how to stop this from happening.</p> <p>There are no young people on the LNP group - that is obvious from the content of the survey.</p>
110	<p>Its 2026 and the survey barely mentions biodiversity, green energy, sustainable travel of climate resilience.</p> <p>No questions about wind or solar, no mentions of wildlife corridors, no thought about hedgerows, trees of pollinators.</p> <p>Other councils are miles ahead on this.</p> <p>Lavenham seems stuck in the past, pretending these real issues no don't exist.</p> <p>A neighbourhood plan that ignores environmental priorities is not fit for purpose.</p>
111	<p>Bus Service:</p> <p>Good services but buses are dirty, time table often not followed buses need cleaning, outside and in (underneath it)</p> <p>Windows need cleaning as one cannot see out of them and difficult especially in dark to see where one is.</p>
112	<p>it is of great concern, to read that barberghs indicitive target for lavenham is building of 367 homes over 20 years. so, if it is the same amount/target for neighbouring parishes eg. acton, which have their boundaries so close to lavenham population, it would realistically be more like 600 homes dumped onto our parish councils door!! if they agree to building of new homes along the melford rd, on farmland near green willows.</p> <p>we urge you to find a way of including, in the LNP, so that neighbouring parish councils cannot agree to housing being built, within so many miles from the lavenham parish boundary? thankyou for undertaking this mammoth task, on behalf of us lavenham residents</p>
113	<p>question 12 and 13 - we have no young mothers or teenagers living near us and have no knowledge of the state of these existing facilities, so cannot give a rating in fairness</p> <p>like many surveys, giving a 'tick a box' or 'yes/no' answer to a straight question gives no scope to expand on or develop an answer</p> <p>we can give a YES (we need everything of varying degrees) or a NO simply because of</p>

	<p>the lack of detail in the question or having no knowledge of the subject for instance giving ticks on questions relating to housing, type, style, density etc. so much depends on location but cannot be answered meaningfully but must be vague because they are just general questions and not site related as to suitability etc etc etc.</p> <p>all i'm saying is that these type of surveys with the 'tick the box' or 'yes/no' type of decisions do not necessarily allow for an individual (should they so wish) to give expanded answers, bearing in mind the influence that they carry having said all of this i do acknowledge that it is not easy to construct and format these types of 'views and thoughts' surveys.</p> <p>we are grateful that in our democracy we endeavor to engage with the thoughts of the people when making decisions that affect us all</p> <p>we look forward to further detailed discussions in due course</p> <p>thankyou</p>
114	We need more housing for our young and we need a gym and a leisure centre and more businesses for more employment
115	Why can't we have more leisure or a swimming pool even a little industrial estate for more employment
116	<p>we need supporting notes of reference so that we can understand the options available regarding for example areas considered for development</p> <p>We are a unique village with great history on the outskirts of BSE and Sudbury - good transport to these areas is important to access their facilities old and young</p>
117	<p>Having lived in Lavenham for nearly 30 years, i feel able to comment on the current revision survey of the neighbourhood plan</p> <p>Lavenham is a unique village and to 'upgrade' to current aspirations would change it into a town, losing character and personality</p> <p>when we moved here, Lavenham was busy, lively village and had community spirit of striving to support and maintain its uniqueness through many social events and supporting local business</p> <p>housing here was, and is, expensive so people coming here had made a conscious choice of a different lifestyle and to were able to renovate and refurbish the many listed buildings and support local community</p> <p>tourism is Lavenham's life blood and needs to be promoted via different media channels for the historical and hotel aspects. parking has always been a problem and always will be and is accepted as part of village life with enough signage not to be more obstructive</p> <p>the current build of new housing over the past few years has been absorbed but the infrastructure cannot support more without changing the character of the village totally</p> <p>thankyou to all those working on this review to keep Lavenham 'special' and hope you see these comments as a positive contribution</p>
118	<p>The character, beauty and amenity of Lavenham has been hugely degraded over the last 15 or so years as a direct consequence of a total failure to maintain the roads, pavements and street signage in and around the village in this period, or even to hold the various private sector utilities to account for their contribution to this state of dereliction</p> <p>Whilst recognising the countrywide and national nature of this problem, every pressure should be exerted on government, the relevant authorities and private sector</p>

	<p>utilities to reverse unacceptable level of environmental decline. in the absence of this, the best intentions of a neighbourhood plan that seeks to promote and support economic growth, the provision of good quality housing, tourism, environmental amenity and village pride etc. will have, at best, only a limited prospect of success</p>
119	<p>I have completed the revision survey but only to the extent that i have some insight regarding the spread and complexity of the questions asked, many of which seem trivial within the context of lavenhams heritage. Unless ive missed it, residents are nor being asked about their views on the importance of protecting the visual appeal of our historical assets within the adjacent to the conservation area, nor is there any mention of national trust guild hall, market place, little hall, church and the fact we area thriving tourist village mainly because of these and the surrounding medieval houses. The first visual impression of our village from the sudbury road entrance is already tainted by unattractive, overcrowded housing by howletts garage. If there must be more cheap/social housing it should not be infill within the village nor further mar the scene when entering, as is the case with many villages ed woolpit and acton. Lavenhams much lauded claim to being the best preserved medieval village in the uk, surrounded by countryside walks, should be used to our advantage to stop housing creep, yet it barely merits a mention in your survey.</p> <p>A bone of concentration for many is pavement parking and our main public asset, the market place, allowed to be used as a storage facility for cars, when there are official parking sites with empty spaces. Inappropriate parking throughout the village is a major concern yet there is only a jumble of questions on this under 'getting around and about'. Parking should have a seperate category and the appropriate questions asked to elicit strongly held views.</p> <p>I have concerns regarding the possibility of duplicate surveys being submitted. i picked up two from the hub without having to identify myself and what checks are in place to control authenticity of on-line surveys? Please address these questions on your websites</p> <p>With this in mind, it is unfortunate that many residents were encouraged, by diverse methods, to reject the previous revision. These included very questionable tactics like 'vote NO' posters attached to lampposts and multiple derisory comments on social media including the postings on facebook - disgraceful behaviour in a supposedly civilised village. In summary, we residents would not now be spending substancial amounts of money and time responding to this inept new revision had the previous one not been rejected because of malign influencers anxious to have their way in over-ruling revisions with which they do not agree</p>
120	Accessibility for disabled people
121	Lavenham is priceless medieval village. LEAVE IT ALONE.
122	Thank you to everyone who has put in the time and effort to produce the plan, much appreciated.
123	<p>I found the survey to be very limited in being able to give a true opinion due to the tick boxes. It also felt that it was for a much larger town and not for a unique historic rural village. I did not like the way "under environment" the "historic setting" question was framed.</p> <p>I feel that Lavenham should be treated as an exception when it comes to planning targets. Being the most preserved mediaeval village in England, in a beautiful rural setting, Lavenham should be protected and treasured.</p> <p>Lavenham is under more pressure than many similar sized villages. Not only does it cater to those that live in and around the village, but it is also used frequently by</p>

residents in the wider surrounding region. This is due to the lack of facilities in many Suffolk villages, many of which are themselves expanding, thus creating more pressure on traffic and parking in Lavenham.

On top of this, it experiences high levels of tourism, especially when events are being held or in holiday seasons. Yet more building in the village will bring even more traffic and congestion to vulnerable mediaeval streets.

Lavenham is an English gem and brings tourists to the region, it should be protected as villages in the Cotswolds may be. It is a place of relaxation, general safety and is conducive to the positive mental health of both residents and visitors. With so many towns now becoming run down, we need places like Lavenham.

This is not a normal village/town and should be respected as such.

I should also add that Lavenham as a rural village will always have limited employment and it is completely reasonable for people to commute to work, as they have done for decades. I also feel that teenagers have more to do here than in other villages. There is also Bury and Sudbury close by.

Some people feel that Lavenham's population is too old but as a younger person, I have no issue with this. It is that population that run the committees and invest in the very expensive to run old houses. Lavenham is beautiful in part due to the investment of the current population. County councils don't look after these houses, it is their owners that do, often at great expense. The deal is however, that Lavenham is a safe and very pleasant place to live. If that were to change, that investment may leave too. It is because it is nice that is priced accordingly.

I feel that Lavenham already had a large number of social houses. My fear with public housing is that with such national demand, Lavenham could be a dumping ground and although may be used for local needs initially, will later be exploited. As explained above, Lavenham is a sensitive area.

Younger people may need to move out of the village or find work elsewhere, however, broadening one's horizons is no bad thing. This is the norm for many towns and cities, especially London, where prices are elevated. I myself couldn't afford to live where I was brought up but I built a career gradually and got to experience different parts of the country before settling back.

Summing up, I believe we should fight to keep Lavenham special and keep development to larger towns and cities. If building is absolutely necessary, then it should be to the highest standard and fit in with the surroundings. Bungalows are favoured by older residents.

124 There should be no new housing until the existing badly maintained infrastructure is capable of being fit for purpose, improved and developed

125 Lavenham is a beautiful village, let's not spoil it's character with over development and turn it into a 'town' environment.
It would be sad to lose the lovely surrounding countryside, views, walks etc.
I was born here and have returned to live here for the more relaxing and friendly atmosphere. It is so much better for mental health and quality of life.
I could not afford to buy here when I was younger and would support more affordable housing for young people, especially those with family connections to the village, just not large developments.
This would have a negative effect on traffic, noise and air pollution, wildlife and the benefits of village life as mentioned above.

126	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to attach comments to the LNP3 Questionnaire.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The questionnaire shows no understanding of the historical importance of Lavenham. The only reference to its past appears in Question 7: "too much emphasis is placed on Lavenham's historic setting." This framing is fundamentally misguided as it seeks a 'YES' response. The Guildhall was built in the time of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth I, and the Market Place is one of the best-preserved medieval examples in England. Yet the questionnaire treats this heritage as if it were irrelevant. It frames Lavenham's historic character as a problem rather than an asset, which is the opposite of how many residents and visitors understand the village's identity. A community that takes no pride in its past risks losing the very soul that defines its identity and guides its future. 2. Q3 - The four infill options, includes 1-9 infill adjacent to existing housing within the village. The option of zero infill should have been included. 3. Omissions consequent to a significant increase in new building <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If hundreds more houses were built close to the village, the centre would be overwhelmed by traffic unless a radical approach to traffic management and parking was included in the planning stages. Ideally, when autonomous vehicles become the norm, parking could be removed from the town centre and surrounding roads altogether, with vehicles circulating to designated peripheral hubs rather than occupying scarce historic street space. b. The existing school premises would be unable to accept a significant increase in pupils. It should be closed and a new school built in one of the new developments. 4. On a more philosophical note, the village community could be divided into those who have lived here for years, and those who have moved here in their retirement to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this marvellous village. An influx of people who have never lived here could destroy the equilibrium which we all currently enjoy. 5. I am not opposed to the Community Land Trust off Melford Road.
127	<p>To Whom it may concern:</p> <p>I am writing this letter with a few points to accompany my questionnaire as I feel that the questions asked are designed to point the public into going the way the Labour government want us to go.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can these questions be asked when there are no areas, apart from farmland around our village to destroy. 2. Building the numbers of houses around our village with ruin beautiful unspoilt rural land, destroy ancient fields and with certainly take the character away from our village. 3. This planning idea from the government will ruin countless villages up and down our country. 4. Regarding the number of homes proposed recently, our village does not have the infrastructure to cope, the High St barely manages now. 5. If Acton is anything to go by, as it is now linked with Sudbury, the hundreds of homes proposed to go ahead around Lavenham will in a couple of years will be linked with Acton. Sudbury can't cope with the traffic now. <p>I am opposed to the mass building projects going ahead under this government as we all know that the houses wont be for our young families and 1st time buyers, they will be built for the mass immigration levels that our government is allowing to</p>

	<p>happen which they are trying to disperse from the cities.</p> <p>Lavenham Residents</p>				
128	<p>While appreciating the effort and hard work which has gone into devising this questionnaire and recognising the fact that Lavenham must play its part in meeting our externally imposed target, I do not consider that sufficient weight is being given to the special - indeed, unique nature of Lavenham, in terms of both its history and its rural setting.</p> <p>The second item at question 7 is certified in terms which suggest a complacent, if not dismissive, attitude to its preservation. The pre-dominant demographic which currently prevails serves the village's conservation very well, with the historic properties being bought in the main, by an older, more affluent generation with sufficient resources to meet the higher maintenance costs which such buildings require.</p> <p>The current balance between generations seems broadly right. There is therefore no focussing need for more social housing or additional facilities for young children; current provision of both is perfectly adequate. There is a risk that creating further capacity would simple fuel settlement from such further a field and, so in doing, thus alter the character of the village.</p> <p>I stress again preservation of Lavenham in its historic and rural setting should be paramount in any decisions affecting its future.</p>				
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AI Summary of comments

1. Strong concern about overdevelopment

Typical summarised comment:

- "Lavenham is a small historic village and should not be significantly expanded; development should be minimal, carefully controlled, and preferably limited to brownfield or infill sites."

Evidence:

- Repeated objections to large housing estates, especially on greenfield land
- Calls to "leave Lavenham alone" or avoid turning it into a town

2. Protect the historic character and setting

Typical summarised comment:

- "The village's medieval character and heritage are its greatest assets and must be protected; new development should be in keeping with existing style."

Evidence:

- Emphasis on Lavenham as a "unique medieval village"
- Concern that modern building styles or expansion will erode character

3. Infrastructure cannot support more housing

Typical summarised comment:

- "Existing infrastructure (roads, schools, healthcare, drainage) is already under pressure and cannot support further development without major improvements."

Evidence:

- Concerns about school capacity, flooding, roads, and services
- Statements that infrastructure "cannot support more" housing

4. Traffic, parking, and congestion are major issues

Typical summarised comment:

- "Traffic congestion, poor parking, and heavy vehicles are already serious problems and would worsen with additional housing."

Evidence:

- Complaints about High Street congestion and pavement parking
- Calls for better parking management and traffic control

5. Desire for affordable housing for local/younger people

Typical summarised comment:

- "Some new housing is needed, particularly affordable homes for young people and local families, but not large-scale developments."

Evidence:

- Concern village will become "retirement-only" without affordable housing
- Requests for smaller, 2–3 bed homes

6. Split opinion: need for housing vs opposition

Typical summarised comment:

- “While many oppose new housing, some residents accept or support limited development, especially if it meets local needs and includes infrastructure.”

Evidence:

- Some comments explicitly say “we do need housing”
- Others strongly oppose any expansion

7. Need for better facilities (especially leisure & wellbeing)

Typical summarised comment:

- “The village lacks leisure, fitness, and wellbeing facilities (e.g., gym, swimming pool, wellness centre), especially for working-age residents.”

Evidence:

- Repeated calls for gym, pool, or leisure centre
- Complaints about having to travel to Sudbury

8. Lack of focus on working-age population

Typical summarised comment:

- “The survey and planning focus too much on retirees and children, neglecting the needs of working-age residents.”

Evidence:

- Explicit frustration from people in their 30s–50s
- Comments that this group “keeps the village running”

9. Need for jobs and local businesses

Typical summarised comment:

- “There are insufficient employment opportunities; more support for local businesses and job creation is needed.”

Evidence:

- Statements that lack of jobs drives people away
- Suggestions for business growth or small industrial space

10. Environmental and countryside protection

Typical summarised comment:

- “Open countryside, wildlife, and green spaces are vital and should not be lost to development.”

Evidence:

- Strong objections to building on fields and green spaces
- Emphasis on walks, wildlife, and views

11. Tourism is important but adds pressure

Typical summarised comment:

- “Tourism is vital to the local economy but increases traffic and pressure on infrastructure.”

Evidence:

- Tourism described as “lifeblood”
- Concerns about congestion during busy periods

12. Dissatisfaction with parish council / governance

Typical summarised comment:

- "There is a lack of trust in the parish council, with concerns about transparency, decision-making, and responsiveness."

Evidence:

- Direct criticism of council actions and decisions
- Calls for better engagement and leadership

13. Survey design criticised

Typical summarised comment:

- "The survey is too simplistic, outdated, or poorly structured, and does not allow residents to express nuanced views."

Evidence:

- Complaints about "tick-box" format
- Concerns it ignores key issues like heritage, business, and wellbeing

14. Desire for better maintenance and basic services

Typical summarised comment:

- "Roads, pavements, signage, lighting, and cleanliness need improvement."

Evidence:

- Complaints about potholes, signage, and maintenance

15. Community, cohesion, and volunteering

Typical summarised comment:

- "There is a need to strengthen community life, volunteering, and communication within the village."

Evidence:

- Calls for better coordination and central information hub
- Concern about declining community cohesion



Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2026 Revision

Feed-back from the Household Survey – June 2026

Introduction

As part of gathering evidence to draw up a Revised Neighbourhood Plan a questionnaire was distributed to all households. These were distributed by hand by on 23rd March 2026, to be completed by 13th April and were supported by two drop-in events on Sunday 29th March and Wednesday 1st April. All 1,147 properties in the village received a paper copy and were given the option of completing the questionnaire on line. In total 620 questionnaires were completed. Some households may have completed more than one. In addition, we have 90 properties in the village that are either second-homes or rental properties. Thus, we cannot come to an exact return rate, but can safely assume to have achieved a completion rate in excess of 50%.

The report on the results may be viewed on the Lavenham Parish Council website xx

Below is a synopsis of the comments made by Lavenham residents. These have been organised into clusters. As we explain below some areas of concern are outside the remit of any Neighbourhood Plan. This is largely due to the constraint of needing to comply with central and local government policies and plans.

1. Strong concern about overdevelopment

Typical summarised comment:

- “Lavenham is a small historic village and should not be significantly expanded; development should be minimal, carefully controlled, and preferably limited to brownfield or infill sites.”

Evidence:

- Repeated objections to large housing estates, especially on greenfield land.
- Calls to “leave Lavenham alone” or avoid turning it into a town.

2. Protect the historic character and setting

Typical summarised comment:

- “The village’s medieval character and heritage are its greatest assets and must be protected; new development should be in keeping with existing style.”

Evidence:

- Emphasis on Lavenham as a “unique medieval village”.
- Concern that modern building styles or expansion will erode character.

3. Infrastructure cannot support more housing

Typical summarised comment:

- “Existing infrastructure (roads, schools, healthcare, drainage) is already under pressure and cannot support further development without major improvements.”

Evidence:

- Concerns about school capacity, flooding, roads, and services.
 - Statements that infrastructure “cannot support more” housing.
-

4. Traffic, parking, and congestion are major issues

Typical summarised comment:

- “Traffic congestion, poor parking, and heavy vehicles are already serious problems and would worsen with additional housing.”

Evidence:

- Complaints about High Street congestion and pavement parking.
 - Calls for better parking management and traffic control.
-

5. Desire for affordable housing for local/younger people

Typical summarised comment:

- “Some new housing is needed, particularly affordable homes for young people and local families, but not large-scale developments.”

Evidence:

- Concern village will become “retirement-only” without affordable housing.
 - Requests for smaller, 2–3 bed homes.
-

6. Split opinion: need for housing vs opposition

Typical summarised comment:

- “While many oppose new housing, some residents accept or support limited development, especially if it meets local needs and includes infrastructure.”

Evidence:

- Some comments explicitly say “we do need housing”.
 - Others strongly oppose any expansion .
-

7. Need for better facilities (especially leisure & wellbeing)

Typical summarised comment:

- “The village lacks leisure, fitness, and wellbeing facilities (e.g., gym, swimming pool, wellness centre), especially for working-age residents.”

Evidence:

- Repeated calls for gym, pool, or leisure centre.
 - Complaints about having to travel to Sudbury.
-

8. Lack of focus on working-age population

Typical summarised comment:

- “The survey and planning focus too much on retirees and children, neglecting the needs of working-age residents.”

Evidence:

- Explicit frustration from people in their 30s–50s .
 - Comments that this group “keeps the village running.”
-

9. Need for jobs and local businesses

Typical summarised comment:

- “There are insufficient employment opportunities; more support for local businesses and job creation is needed.”

Evidence:

- Statements that lack of jobs drives people away.
- Suggestions for business growth or small industrial space.

10. Environmental and countryside protection

Typical summarised comment:

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Evidence:

- Strong objections to building on fields and green spaces.
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Evidence:

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12. Dissatisfaction with Parish Council / governance

Typical summarised comment:

- “There is a lack of trust in the Parish Council, with concerns about transparency, decision-making, and responsiveness.”

Evidence:

- Direct criticism of Parish Council actions and decisions.
- Calls for better engagement and leadership.

13. Survey design criticised

Typical summarised comment:

- “The survey is too simplistic, outdated, or poorly structured, and does not allow residents to express nuanced views.”

Evidence:

- Complaints about “tick-box” format.
- Concerns it ignores key issues like heritage, business, and wellbeing.

14. Desire for better maintenance and basic services

Typical summarised comment:

- “Roads, pavements, signage, lighting, and cleanliness need improvement.”

Evidence:

- Complaints about potholes, signage, and maintenance.

15. Community, cohesion, and volunteering

Typical summarised comment:

- “There is a need to strengthen community life, volunteering, and communication within the village.”

Evidence:

- Calls for better coordination and central information hub.
 - Concern about declining community cohesion.
-

In summary

Residents value Lavenham's historic character and rural setting and are deeply concerned that overdevelopment, traffic, and inadequate infrastructure will damage it; while some support limited, well-planned housing (especially for younger people), there is strong demand for better facilities, local jobs, and more responsive governance.

Constraints

The survey document and Newsletters sought to set-out the need, scope and parameters of any Neighbourhood Plan and the drop-in events gave the opportunity for residents to learn more.

Some Lavenham residents for many of the reasons highlighted above reflect on our heritage, an inadequate infrastructure and would much prefer that the target set by Babergh be significantly reduced. Responses emphasise the lack of provision of schooling, traffic management, road maintenance, car parks and on-street parking, street lighting cleaning etc services provided by the county the district and the parish. All need to be addressed, but many fall outside the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Neighbourhood Plans as defined by central government are concerned with land usage and housing and we are constrained by these rules and regulations. Without a Neighbourhood Plan we would have very little influence as to the future development of our village.

Central government policy is to build more houses across the country. District Councils, like Babergh, must set housing targets within that scheme. Babergh has been instructed that it must significantly increase its target for building houses over the next twenty years. In the case of Lavenham our quota is provisionally 367 new homes during the next two decades.

What we can do through the Neighbourhood Plan is to influence the decision-making process. We can emphasise the concerns expressed and help determine what kinds of houses are built, for whom and where.

Moreover, a housing target and policy that does not take into account local priorities for new homes could undermine the uniqueness of our village and its main source of employment, tourism.

Drop-in events to discuss the way forward have therefore been booked for xx in the Guildhall from 4:30 until 7 pm and in the village hall on between 10:30 and 1 o'clock.

Michael Sherman and Alison Bourne,
Chair and Vice-Chair Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Revision Group

Invitation to Community Groups to apply for Grants

Background:

Council has included £6,000 in its budget for 2026/27 for Grants to Community Organisations.

Council policy is that applications for Grants are invited each May and November.

The Grants Policy was reviewed and approved at Council's Meeting held February 5th 2026.

There has been no deterioration in Council's financial position since the Budget was prepared.

Council is under no legal obligation to make such Grants.

The Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 expenditure limit for Parish and Town Councils in England for the 2026/27 financial year is £11.60 per elector. This discretionary power allows local councils to spend money on community benefits when no other specific statutory power is available.

Motion:

The Clerk is instructed to invite application from Community Groups for consideration by Council at its July meeting. Community Groups to submit their applications by Monday 15th June.

Section 137 Local Government Act 1972

Bullying and Harassment Policy

Background:

On 22nd April 2026 the Clerk wrote to all Councillors saying 'In response to a request from Cllr I said that I would, well in advance of the May meeting, prepare a draft Bullying and Harassment policy for comment and feedback well before sending out the Working Papers. Please find attached'

Recent Events:

On 6th May 2026 Cllr Mawford responded:

'I am grateful to the author(s) of the draft Bullying and Harassment Policy, attached to your 22/04 email below. It is much easier to suggest redrafting changes to a draft document than to prepare an initial draft Policy. Having carefully read the previously circulated draft Policy, I wish to propose the attached redraft. This draws heavily on the earlier draft, but I hope provides greater clarity to some aspects of the Policy.'

The Clerk prepared Draft and the Cllr prepared 'Redraft' are attached as Appendices.

Motions:

1) Council approves the draft Bullying and Harassment Policy prepared by the Clerk.

OR

2) Council thanks the author(s) of the earlier drafts for their contributions but:

a) **Adopts** the redrafted Policy.

b) **Notes** that the Councillors' Code of Conduct says to all LPC Members –

[It] applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor, which may include when:

- *You misuse your position as a councillor*
- *Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public, with knowledge of all the facts, that you are acting as a councillor'*

As part of any consideration of when the second bullet point above applies to LPC Members, **the Babergh District Council Monitoring Officer is formally requested by LPC** to include situations where the Code would apply, when the LPC Member is:

- (a) attending and participating in a Lavenham local event; or
- (b) speaking/corresponding (by letter, email, WhatsApp, etc.) with a Lavenham resident; or
- (c) communicating via his/her personal social media or any Lavenham local business social media (such as *Lavenham Business & Community Hub* and *Lavenham Suffolk* Facebook pages); AND

The subject matter of the interaction(s) has relevance to LPC.

This is because Lavenham is a small and well-integrated village, which suggests the likelihood would be high that a reasonable member of the public, with knowledge of all the facts, would recognise a LPC Member as acting as a (parish) councillor – always providing that the subject matter of the interaction(s) has relevance to LPC.

1. Introduction

All Councillors, staff, contractors and volunteers should be able to work in an environment free from harassment and bullying and be treated with dignity and respect.

For Councillors behaviour according to this standard is mandated by the Code of Conduct.

The Parish Council does not tolerate bullying or harassment. This is the case for events on Council property or elsewhere, whether the conduct is a one-off act or repeated course of conduct, and whether done purposefully or not.

The Council does not tolerate retaliation against, or victimisation of, any person involved in bringing a complaint of harassment or bullying.

2. Culture and behaviour

Whilst both staff and Councillors jointly determine what the working culture is like Councillors are key in demonstrating what is and isn't acceptable behaviour.

It is important to recognise that conduct which one person may find acceptable, another may find totally unacceptable. All must, therefore, treat their colleagues with respect and appropriate sensitivity.

Bullying in accordance with the ACAS Bullying and Harassment at Work Guidance (June, 2014), may be characterised as: offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, or an abuse/misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate, or injure the recipient.

Harassment as defined in the Equality Act (2010), is unwarranted conduct related to a relevant, protected characteristic which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment for that individual. A 'reasonable person' test applies, which means that an objective person would reasonably consider the conduct in question to be severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, degrading, or offensive work environment. This means that, whilst offensive comments cannot be justified by a defence of being "banter" or "only a joke", there is also protection against spurious or over-sensitive complaints.

Examples of bullying and harassment include (but are not limited to):

- Physical conduct ranging from touching to sexual advances and serious assault.
- Verbal abuse or offensive (including lewd or suggestive) comments.
- Jokes or pranks related to age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, race, religion, belief, sex or sexual orientation.
- Comments about a person's appearance.
- Unwanted nicknames, especially related to a person's age, race or disability.
- The use of obscene gestures.
- Treating someone differently because they have, or are perceived to have, a 'protected characteristic' or are associated with someone who does.
- Spreading malicious rumours or insulting someone.
- Subjecting a person to humiliation or ridicule, belittling their efforts.
- Picking on someone or setting them up to fail.
- Encouraging others to engage in any of the above activities

Bullying does not include appropriate criticism of behaviours or proper performance management.

You should also be aware that if a court or tribunal finds that you have bullied or harassed someone, in some circumstances this may be a crime punishable by a fine or imprisonment.

The Council will take appropriate action if any of our staff or volunteers are bullied or harassed by staff, Councillors, Members of the Public or suppliers.

This policy and procedure should be read in conjunction with the Parish Council's Complaints Policy which is on the Parish Council's website. <https://www.lavenham-pc.gov.uk/the-council/procedures/>

3. Informal resolution

If you are being bullied or harassed you may be able to resolve the situation by explaining to the perpetrator(s) that their behaviour is unacceptable, contrary to our policy and must stop.

An attempt at informal resolution is not required from those who feel that they are being bullied or harassed. If all parties agree Council may consider organising mediation. The trained mediator will help the parties have an open and honest dialogue with the aim of identifying a mutually acceptable outcome. If this is the case, the mediator will encourage parties to draw up an agreement.

If informal resolution is unsuccessful or inappropriate, you can make a formal complaint about the harassment or bullying if the behaviour was not from a Councillor.

If the behaviour was from a Councillor you will need to raise your concerns with the Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer, not the Clerk or other Councillors, is responsible for assessing Councillor behaviours. The 2018 Ledbury case makes it quite clear that local councils cannot use internal grievance procedures to sanction councillors for bullying or harassment. Such matters must be handled strictly under the formal, statutory Code of Conduct framework.

It must be recognised that the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Clerk have no powers concerning the behaviour of Councillors or Members of the Public that are not held by any person beyond the steps that the Chair can take to ensure the orderly conduct of Council Meetings.

Should an issue be resolved informally that will usually be the end of the matter but in exceptional circumstances, should Council become aware of the issue, the Council may decide to investigate further and take more formal action.

4. Formal Resolution

The Complaints Policy <https://www.lavenham-pc.gov.uk/the-council/procedures/> states that:

- a) A Formal Complaint, using the Complaint Form, must be submitted to the Clerk or Chair.
- b) The Formal Complaint should cover as much detail as possible and enclose any relevant supporting documentation.
- c) The Clerk, in consultation with the Chair (or in the absence of the Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair) of the Parish Council, will ascertain the category of the complaint and take the relevant action detailed in Table 1 of the Complaints Policy.

Table 1

	Complaint	Action
A	Criminal activity	The Clerk should refer the Complainant to the Police.
B	Councillor Conduct	A complaint against an individual Councillor is not covered by this Complaints Policy. See the 'Making a complaint about a Councillor' policy. Note the Monitoring Officer can only deal with complaints about the behaviour of a Councillor. The Monitoring Officer will not deal with complaints about matters that are not covered by the Councillors Code of Conduct, complaints that are about people employed by the Parish Council, incidents that happened before a member was elected or chose to serve on the Council, incidents that happened before the authority adopted its Code of Conduct, the way an authority conducts or records its meetings, the way an authority has or has not done something, a decision of the authority or one of the services it provides.
C	Employee conduct	As an internal disciplinary matter. The Complainant should contact the Chair this will be dealt with under the council's disciplinary procedures. A complaint against a member of the Council's staff could result in disciplinary action or in cases of gross misconduct, dismissal from the Council's employment. The Council, will not under any circumstances, enter into any correspondence or discussion with any complainant about any action taken, formally or informally against any member of staff. This is expressly to protect the employment rights to which all employees of the Council are entitled.
D	Planning Recommendations	The Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications within the Parish and decides whether to recommend Approval or Refusal to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). There are strict timescales for comments on each application. The Parish Council will not respond to complaints on its recommendations for planning applications, as it is not the decision-making body and would not be able to offer a timely remedy or redress.
E	Council decisions	The Council recognises that there may be occasions when the public disagree with the consequence or impact of a decision reached by the Council. Decisions will vary from setting a precept through to frequency of grass cutting. The Council cannot investigate complaints about the content of its decisions as mostly they cannot be reversed. The Council will however, investigate complaints <i>of how it reached those decisions</i> which are covered in Category F.
F	Other	Complaints which are expressions of dissatisfaction about the Council's services or procedures and administration. These will be heard at stage 1 by the Panel.

If you feel you are being Bullied or Harassed by a Member of the Public or supplier (as opposed to a colleague) please raise this with the Clerk or a Councillor in the first instance. They will then decide how best to deal with the situation, in consultation with you.

5. Disruptive behaviour at Council Meetings

Councillors can vote to exclude the person and the Chair can terminate the meeting if they refuse to leave.

6. Victimisation

Employees and others who make allegations of bullying or harassment in good faith will not be treated less favourably as a result.

7. False allegations

False accusations of harassment or bullying can have a serious effect on innocent individuals. Staff and others have a responsibility not to make false allegations. False allegations made in bad faith by staff may constitute a disciplinary offence.

8. Disclosure and confidentiality

We will treat personal data collected during this process in accordance with the data protection policy. Information about how data is used and the basis for processing data is provided in the employee privacy notice.

9. Use of the disciplinary procedure

Harassment and bullying constitute serious misconduct. If, at any stage from the point at which a complaint is raised, we believe there is a case to answer and a disciplinary offence might have been committed Council will establish a Disciplinary Panel. Any employee found to have harassed or bullied a colleague will be liable to disciplinary action up to and including summary dismissal.

10. Complaints against Councillors

It is critical to ensure that where an employee of the Council has made the complaint, that the Council agrees with the employee reasonable measures to protect their health and safety. Such measures may include a temporary change in duties, change of work location, not attending meetings with the person to whom the complaint has been made etc.

LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY CLLR MAWFORD DRAFT

1. Introduction

Lavenham Parish Council (LPC) deplores Bullying and Harassment. All Council Members, staff and volunteers should be able to work in an environment free from these behaviours and should be treated with dignity and respect.

LPC also deplores retaliation against, or victimisation of, any person involved in bringing a complaint of harassment and/or bullying.

2. Description of Bullying and Harassment

ACAS Bullying and Harassment at Work Guidance (June 2014) says these behaviours may be characterised as: offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, or an abuse/misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate, or injure the recipient.

Harassment, as defined in the Equality Act (2010), is unwarranted conduct related to a relevant, protected characteristic which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment for that individual.

A 'reasonable person' test applies, which means that an objective person would reasonably consider the conduct in question to be severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, degrading, or offensive work environment. This means that, whilst offensive comments cannot be justified by a defence of being "banter" or "only a joke", there is also protection against spurious or over-sensitive complaints.

Examples of bullying and harassment include (but are not limited to):

- Physical conduct ranging from touching to sexual advances and serious assault.
- Verbal abuse or offensive (including lewd or suggestive) comments.
- Jokes or pranks related to age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, race, religion, belief, sex or sexual orientation.
- Comments about a person's appearance.
- Unwanted nicknames, especially related to a person's age, race or disability.
- The use of obscene gestures.
- Treating someone differently because they have, or are perceived to have, a 'protected characteristic' or are associated with someone who does.
- Spreading malicious rumours or insulting someone.
- Subjecting a person to humiliation or ridicule, belittling their efforts.
- Picking on someone or setting them up to fail.
- Encouraging others to engage in any of the above activities

LPC also recognises that bullying and intimidation are no longer confined to face-to-face interactions and may increasingly occur through digital and social media platforms. This may include:

- Repeated publication of provocative commentary
- Targeted criticism, filming or recording individuals without their consent
- The sharing of audio or video material online in a manner perceived to be intimidating or inflammatory
- The use of social media to publicly undermine councillors, staff, or members of the community.

LPC's Social Media Policy [[link to LPC Website](#)] provides guidance about behaviour on social media. It states that Councillors must avoid:

Engaging in personal attacks, online fights and hostile communications as these may constitute bullying or harassment and could bring the Parish Council into disrepute.

Whilst transparency and freedom of expression remain important principles, these must be balanced with dignity, respect, privacy, and the wellbeing of all members of the community. Behaviour which creates fear, distress, humiliation, reputational harm, or a hostile working environment should not be tolerated in any form, whether in person or online.

If a Court of Law or Tribunal finds that someone has bullied or harassed another person, in some circumstances this may be a crime punishable by a fine or imprisonment. But Bullying does not include appropriate criticism of behaviours or proper performance management.

3. Lavenham Parish Council and its interactions

LPC is a Parish Council with 11 Members and (currently) one member of staff (the Parish Clerk). Other people may also be undertaking voluntary tasks for LPC. Regular interactions take place between these people.

As a democratically elected body, LPC Members, the Clerk and volunteers similarly have many interactions with Lavenham residents and other members of the public.

In addition, LPC as a corporate body has interactions with other organisations. These include other parish/town councils, local authorities, central government agencies, and other public, private and third sector bodies. These as well include bodies which supply goods and/or services to it, and bodies to which it provides goods and/or services.

All these interactions should take place in a dignified and respectful manner. But, if an interaction has involved bullying and/or harassment, the victim of this behaviour should generally be able to make a formal complaint. Although the route by which complaints are processed is not the same in all cases.

4. Bullying & Harassment Complaints against LPC Members

All LPC Members are required to abide by the Councillors' Code of Conduct [\[link to LPC Website\]](#). They are also required to follow the LPC Standing Orders [\[link to LPC Website\]](#).

The Code of Conduct addresses Bullying and Harassment in its Section 1 (Respect) and Section 2 (bullying, harassment, discrimination).

Standing Order 2 (disorderly conduct at meetings) and Standing Order 3 (meetings generally) address the conduct of all the people present at formal meetings (LPC Members, the Parish Clerk and members of the public). Disorderly conduct could include bullying and/or harassment.

The Code of Conduct is operated by the Babergh District Council Monitoring Officer, to whom formal complaints should be made [\[link to BDC website\]](#).

5. Bullying & Harassment Complaints against Members of the public

LPC has no powers over the actions of Lavenham residents and other members of the public, except in relation to disorderly conduct at LPC meetings. These very limited powers are derived from LPC Standing Orders (see above) and apply to everybody present, including LPC Members and the Parish Clerk.

At such meetings, the Chair and LPC Members have powers to ask a disorderly person to improve his/her conduct, to exclude that person from the meeting, and to take further steps to restore order. In particularly difficult circumstances, the meeting could be suspended or closed.

Formal complaints about the application of these powers will be dealt with as set out in the Council's Complaints Policy and Procedure (Category F) [\[link to LPC website\]](#).

6. Bullying & Harassment Complaints against LPC Staff

All formal complaints against LPC staff will be dealt with as an internal disciplinary matter, as set out in the Council's Complaints Policy and Procedure (Category C) [[link to LPC website](#)].

7. Bullying & Harassment Complaints against LPC as a corporate body

Such formal complaints are expressions of dissatisfaction with the Council's services and/or procedures and/or administration. This dissatisfaction could be because Council actions were perceived as bullying and/or harassing. Such complaints will be dealt with as set out in the Council's Complaints Policy and Procedure (Category F) [[link to LPC website](#)].

8. Bullying & Harassment Complaints against Other Organisations

Any such formal complaints should be directed to the other organisation(s) concerned.

9. Informal Resolution

An alternative to formal complaint and resolution is informal resolution. If (and only if) all parties involved with a complaint agree to adopt this approach, the Council (at its sole discretion) may consider mediation.

A trained mediator would help the parties to have an open and honest dialogue, with the aim of identifying a mutually acceptable outcome. If this is the case, the mediator would strongly encourage the parties to draw up and sign an agreement.

10. False Allegations and Victimisation

False accusations of harassment and/or bullying can have a serious effect on innocent individuals. Everybody in any way associated with LPC has a responsibility not to make false allegations.

Conversely, complainants who make allegations of bullying or harassment in good faith should not be treated less favourably as a result.

11. Disclosure and Confidentiality

LPC will treat any personal data collected during the application of this policy in accordance with its Data Privacy Policy [[link to LPC website](#)]. Information about how data is used and the basis for processing data is provided in that Policy's Privacy Notice.

Funding for Buses

At its 2nd April 2026 meeting, the Council unanimously passed the following Motion:

The Clerk is instructed to advertise an invitation to people living in or near to Lavenham to send him – by letter or email no later than 30th April 2026 – their ideas for improving local bus services. Those responding to this invitation are asked to say whether they live or work in Lavenham parish – and, if not, the area where they live.

Response to Invitation

I am pleased to report that our invitation was well responded to by Lavenham residents, who have shared some interesting ideas about bus service improvements. These are summarised below (not in any priority order):

1. The quality of information about services and the quality of the bus vehicles used were both heavily criticised, including –
 - a. The failure to replace many bus stop timetable boards showing the Chambers services that operated until August 2025, with Konnect Buses services that have operated from September 2025
 - b. The failure to provide any information at some bus stops
 - c. The inaccessibility of 'real time' service information at bus stops or online
 - d. Dirty old buses, with no onboard service information

These failures were compared with some First Bus services currently operating in Essex, which featured clean new buses, featuring 'real time' service information on board, online and at bus stops. Why can't our services in Suffolk be more like those First Bus services in Essex?

2. The service is unreliable with too many disruptions. And, for those would-be passengers who have the Konnect App, notification of a service cancellations which should have been made beforehand is often only provided after the bus was due! Why can't we have enough drivers to provide the timetabled service, and to cover problems like staff sickness?
3. Why is there not a more frequent service between Sudbury/Long Melford and Bury St Edmunds via Lavenham, at something like weekday/Saturday daytime 'clockface' hourly intervals – with extra buses at peak periods, a continued evening service, and more buses on Sundays?
4. Why do pupils from Lavenham Primary School, when they move on to secondary education, have to pay to travel to/from their feeder school, which is Thomas Gainsborough Academy and is where they have guaranteed places?
5. Could we have an additional bus stop in High Street, at its junction with Roper's Court/Spring Street? This is near to the highest point in High Street. It would specifically serve passengers from the Spring Street estate, Trinity Guild and Roper's Court. It would also help other passengers who would otherwise have to walk up/down High Street to reach the bus stops at its junction with Preston Road, which are near the lowest northern point in High Street.

LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL:

6. Could we have additional bus shelters at bus stops in Sudbury Road, southbound at the Whitegates junction and northbound at the Melford Road junction? These are well-used stops with space for a shelter to be erected.
7. The Konnect Buses timetable introduced in September significantly improved our bus service connections in Sudbury southwards towards Colchester. Could improvements be made to our service connections at the Bury St Edmunds end?
 - a. Could some services to/from Lavenham be extended to terminate at Bury St Edmunds train station?
 - b. Alternatively, could connections be timetabled for our services between Bury St Edmunds bus station and Lavenham with services to/from the bus station and train station?

This could provide connections for our bus service westwards towards Cambridge, northwards towards Ely, and eastwards towards Ipswich.

Central Government's Local Authority Bus Grant

As noted in my report to the 2 April 2026 meeting (see Appendix), Suffolk County Council (our local transport authority, LTA) has been awarded £27m of funding for bus services from the Government's Local Authority Bus Grant (LABG). This funding has been spread over three financial years 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.

The Grant includes both revenue and capital funding, And, in the Government's own words: *The money represents a consolidated allocation that LTAs can spend however they want on buses.* So, it could apparently be used to implement any of the ideas listed above.

Next Steps

I propose that the Council should contact our neighbouring parish and town councils along the bus route between Sudbury and Cockfield, to ascertain whether they have submitted their own LABG bid. We should ask:

- If they have submitted a bid, how is it progressing, and can we learn things about bidding from them
- If not, would they be interested in working with us in a joint bid (which might be more successful than separate bids from individual town/parishes)

We should also remain open to further ideas from Lavenham residents and workplaces, develop initial draft proposals, and make initial contact with the County Council about bidding. The results of these contacts and draft proposals should then be brought back to a future Council meeting, for further consideration.

Motion:

The Clerk is instructed to progress this matter, as set out above in Next Steps

Proposed: Councillor Roy Mawford

Funding for Buses

Lavenham can benefit again from government grants for bus service improvements. County Councillor Robert Lindsay reported to the 8 January 2026 Council meeting:

Suffolk has been awarded £27m of funding for bus services from the government's Local Authority Bus Grant (LABG), this can be used for routes, ticketing or improving infrastructure like bus stops and shelters. Previously known as the Bus Services Improvement Grant, communities in Suffolk will be able to suggest improvements in their area and 'bid' for funding. Because funding is spread over three years, there is no deadline as such.

Previous funding rounds in past two years were far smaller - of the order of only £5m – but, as you know, it secured extra services on the route between Sudbury and Bury via Lavenham and now a new daily peak time route between Hadleigh and Stowmarket is in the offing thanks to the earlier round of money. Our area is still very underserved by bus routes so worth thinking about what extra services or extra bus stop facilities would best serve Lavenham residents.

Given our area is still very underserved by buses, we should be taking up this further opportunity to improve all aspects of our bus services, including:

- Bus Timetable Improvements
- Bus Shelters
- Accurate Service Information Boards
- New/relocated Bus Stops

To gather suggestions from members of our community about improvements that the Council should be seeking on their behalf, I suggest we should invite people to write or email our Clerk with their ideas by the end of this month. These can then be worked up into draft proposals for the Council to consider at our next meeting on 14 May 2026.

Good bus services improve people's lives:

- They are particularly important for households that have no private motor vehicle (car or van). The figure for Lavenham is 16% of households overall, but this rises to 26% and 31% in the areas where social housing predominates.
- They are also important for households that have only one private motor vehicle. The figure for Lavenham is 46% of households – and, where such households include more than one driver, vehicle availability to each driver is likely to be limited.
- They help residents to travel for work, education, pleasure and accessing other services. They can be the difference between being able to hold down a job or not – and between getting to appointments at a particular time or not.
- They also help people who work or shop in Lavenham but don't live here, as well as tourists and other visitors, to get here.

Motion:

The Clerk is instructed to advertise an invitation to people living in or near to Lavenham to send him – by letter or email **no later than 30 April 2026** – their ideas for improving local bus services.

Those responding to this invitation are asked to say whether they live or work in Lavenham parish – and, if not, the area where they live. (This is to help us to understand the routes and locations where ideas for service improvements are concentrated.)

Proposed: Councillor Roy Mawford

Purchase a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for installation on the existing post on the Bury Rd.

Background:

Council has long had three Speed Indicator Device Posts.

- a) Bury Rd



Below is view away from Lavenham



- b) Brent Eleigh Rd. On the west side of the street 80m south of the T junction Water St and Lower Rd
- c) Preston Rd



Considerations:

- a) The last Speed Indicator Device purchased was a Messagemaker item at a cost of £3,500 plus VAT.
- b) Traffic volumes
- c) Natural slowing of vehicles due to approaching junctions and restricted visibility
- d) Desire to maintain at all times reminders on the two main approaches to Lavenham of the need to observe speed limits in the context of Lavenham being a place where many drivers are not regulars and so seeing these signs will be new to them.
- e) The difficulty of moving the signs especially in winter. A stepladder has to be placed on the roadside and then climbed.
- f) Guidance that all people moving the signs should have done the appropriate course about working on the Highway. The Bury Rd site is the most difficult to work on.
- g) Data from a two week trial in London.

Table 9.2: Mean traffic speed before, during and after SID operation at loop2

Site	Mean speed (mph)		
	Before	During	After
B – King Henry’s Drive	35.4	32.5	34.9
C – Manor Road	28.4	26.9	28.3
D – Welling Way	34.9	32.5	34.8
E – Bromley Hill	31.7	29.6	31.6
F – Parkhill Road	32.3	30.0	32.1
G – Malden Road	30.7	29.3	30.8
H – Kings Hall Road	33.2	32.5	33.6
I – Shooters Hill Road	28.6	27.8	28.7
J – Beddington Lane	31.9	31.3	Missing data
K – Brownhill Road	30.4	30.5	30.7

Table 10.3: Overall effect of SID operation on mean speed at loop2 by week

Site	Change in mean speed during week 1		Change in mean speed during week 2		Change in mean speed during week 3	
	Effect (mph)	Confidence interval	Effect (mph)	Confidence interval	Effect (mph)	Confidence interval
All sites ¹⁵	-1.5*	(-1.54, -1.46)	-1.5*	(-1.55, -1.47)	Data unreliable/not collected	
All sites weekdays ¹⁶	-1.9*	(-1.92, -1.82)	-1.6*	(-1.67, -1.58)	Data unreliable/not collected	
B – King Henry’s Drive	-3.0*	(-3.10, -2.86)	-2.5*	(-2.58, -2.34)	-2.5*	(-2.64, -2.40)
C ¹⁷ – Manor Road	-1.1*	(-1.23, -1.03)	-1.6*	(-1.72, -1.52)	-1.0*	(-1.12, -0.96)
D ¹⁷ – Welling Way	-1.6*	(-1.66, -1.44)	-2.2*	(-2.24, -2.05)	Data were unreliable	
E ¹⁷ – Bromley Hill	-2.0*	(-2.10, -1.93)	-2.0*	(-2.12, -1.95)	Week3 was not collected	
F – Parkhill Road	-2.2*	(-2.26, -2.08)	-1.9*	(-2.04, -1.85)	Week3 was not collected	
G – Malden Road	-1.9*	(-1.93, -1.77)	-0.8*	(-0.92, -0.77)	Week3 was not collected	
H ¹⁷ – Kings Hall Road	-0.8*	(-0.92, -0.66)	-0.4*	(-0.52, -0.22)	Week3 was not collected	

* indicates a statistically significant result at 95% (i.e. the probability of no effect is <5%)

Motion:

That the Clerk order a Messagemaker device at a cost of £3,500 plus VAT.

The Highways Act 1980 section 274A confers on Parish Councils the power to contribute towards the cost of traffic calming measures and the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 section 72 confers on Parish Councils the power to provide traffic signs and other notices.

First Meadow Gate

Background:

The Clerk reported to the April Meeting of Council that:

Suffolk PROW will shortly reply concerning the chicane or similar arrangement which will need to be built to enable safe use of the new entry point as a gate is unacceptable.

Suffolk Highways have been asked what will need to be constructed to enable safe access to the proposed new entrance from the pavement on the other side of Brent Eleigh Rd.

The aim is to bring a costed proposal for Council to consider in the light of the £25,000 unspent amount and other possible projects.

Other projects which received significant Cllr Support were:

- 1) Tree Work but Council voted not to use NCIL for tree work at its December 2025 Meeting.
- 2) Additional Speed Indicator Devices
- 3) White Village Entry Gates
- 4) Additional or replacement First Meadow Play Equipment.

Subsequent Events:

PROW have explained that a gate is generally not acceptable and wrote::

‘Given the location and parish councils desire to ensure the definitive alignment is available and in line with the current gates access we would be agreeable to the below very rough drawing using fencing to create a staggered point of entry with minimum 1.2m gaps at all points to ensure accessibility is suitably covered. I would recommend the installation of surfacing and that you review potential supporting signage at the discretion of the parish council as the landowner. I believe the works suitably comply with the Natural England under “create or widen existing unsurfaced or loosely surfaced footpaths” as well as reference to existing boundary works.’



LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL:

'If you do not believe this is a suitable option, you will need to investigate support for a gate or similar under section 66 of the Highways Act 1980 which would in order for us to potentially accept require a road safety audit.

We have contractors who could assist in the delivery of what I have outlined.'

Highways Have responded:

'My colleague has been out to site and reviewed the visibility distances, the layout of the highway, existing vehicular accesses, and the presence of parked cars

Based on this, the current situation does not provide an ideal or safe scenario to move or place an uncontrolled dropped crossing at the point where the footpath finishes. Consideration has also been given to the pedestrian desire line coming down Water Street toward the playground.

The best way forward would likely be to meet on site to discuss the proposal in more detail. Please could you let me know if you are open to meeting and, if so, provide some dates and times that would be convenient for you.

The Clerk and the Chair have suggested dates to meet with Suffolk Highways,

Allotments

Background:

On 5th February 2026 Council passed the following motion:

'The Clerk is instructed to work with the relevant parties and obtain legal advice to finalise the agreements, up to a maximum cost of £1,500 and to return to Council with final draft documents for Council to consider. Additionally, before formally instructing the Solicitor, the Clerk will contact PROW (Suffolk County Council Public Rights of Way) to explain that the PC is proceeding with the legal handover of the allotments and follow up on their 2018 letter to clarify their requirements, if any, concerning legal documentation'.

Subsequent Events:

The Clerk approached the Councils retained legal advisors who have now responded:

We will be very pleased to carry out this work for the Parish Council and I have set out below the work which is likely to be involved and an estimate of our fees, which is based on our discounted rates for public sector clients:

- High level title review and report to you, including review of the headlease held by Tiller Properties
- Assisting with any formal landlord's consent required under the headlease (if applicable)
- Negotiation/Completion of a lease, including support with agreeing terms
- Management Agreement with Lavenham Allotments Association – we will tidy up the drafting, ensure the drafting reflects the position in the lease, and provide comments on any red flag issues
- Post-completion formalities, including Land Registry filings

We have assumed you will not require any advice on the following:

- Review of access arrangements re Railway Walk.
- Review of allotments licences/tenancies – you mentioned on our call that we might need to review the Tenancy Agreement. We suggest that we come back to this point and decide the best approach when we start working on the Management Agreement
- Due diligence on the land, including searches or enquiries of Tiller (although we can discuss your due diligence requirements)

If you do require support on additional matters we will be pleased to assist but we have not factored these in to this fee estimate.

On the basis of the above, at this stage I estimate our fees on a time-incurred basis might be in the region of £3,000 - £4,000 plus VAT and disbursements. Please note that this fee estimate does not include work relating to the Management Agreement. As this element of the work cannot be carried out until the lease is substantially agreed, we will provide a separate fee estimate for work relating to the Management Agreement at that point.

LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL:

The estimate we have given is based on the information we currently have, our experience of similar matters (assuming things proceed smoothly and without material delay arising from third-party approvals or negotiations), and is intended to help you budget. It is not a fixed or capped fee. The actual fees may be higher or lower depending on the amount of work required. We will keep you updated on fees incurred and projected, and we will let you know as soon as possible if additional or unexpected work arises which may affect the original estimate.

These are our substantially reduced hourly rates for public sector clients.

Our Post-Completions team also charge a fixed fee of £150 plus VAT for dealing with Land Registry filings.

In terms of disbursements, I would estimate Land Registry official copies and registration fees will be in the region of c.£150. The cost for any searches will depend on the nature and extent of the searches you require, which we can discuss with you separately; these tend to range from £500-£1,200 approx.

If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to be in touch. Otherwise, if you are happy to proceed, **please confirm by return.**

The above fee proposals will remain valid for acceptance before 28 August 2026. If you tell us that you wish to proceed after this date, we reserve the right to revisit any fee proposals and will advise you accordingly.

Motion:

The Clerk is instructed to engage the Councils retained solicitors to a maximum cost of £5,000 to progress matters.

Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908.

The Duty to Provide: Under **Section 23** of the 1908 Act, if a written representation is made to the parish council by **six or more** registered parliamentary electors or local residents, the council is legally required to take those representations into consideration. If unsatisfied demand exists, the council is under a statutory obligation to provide a sufficient number of allotment gardens.

Acquisition of Land: Under **Section 25** of the 1908 Act, a parish council has the power to purchase or lease land, by agreement, for the purpose of creating allotments.

Footpath and Bridleways Working Group

Background:

Email from Cllr Robinson to the Clerk of Lavenham Parish Council:

I would like to put the following motion forward for discussion at the June 2026 Lavenham Parish Council Meeting.

Motion

That Lavenham Parish Council establishes a Working Group to lead on safeguarding, maintaining, and improving the network of public footpaths and bridleways in and around Lavenham

Background

The Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan (LNP) sets out clear commitments regarding the protection and enhancement of the parish's footpath and bridleway network. It states that development proposals should "utilise opportunities to link into the wider footpath and bridleway network where applicable."

The LNP also includes a specific project:

- Project P10: Footpaths – *"The Parish Council will ensure that the extensive network of statutory footpaths... is adequately signposted, regularly inspected and maintained... and will use its best endeavours to ensure continuity of safe access for the public."*

This is an explicit, adopted commitment of the Parish Council.

The recent LNP Revision Survey again identified footpaths as a community priority, confirming that public expectation remains aligned with the LNP's stated aims.

Recent decisions by the Parish Council — including facilitating access over the Railway Walk to support allotment users — further demonstrate the Council's recognition of the importance of accessible routes within the parish.

There are several known issues relating to access, maintenance, and condition across the existing network. Addressing these is necessary to uphold the commitments already made in the LNP and to meet the expectations expressed in the recent survey.

Proposal

I propose that a Working Group is established, ideally chaired by a parish councillor with a strong interest in the maintenance and improvement of Lavenham's public footpaths.

While landowners are responsible for maintaining footpaths on their land, the Parish Council has a defined role in:

- Liaising with landowners and reminding them of statutory responsibilities

LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL:

- Coordinating with Suffolk County Council's Public Rights of Way and Highways teams
- Supporting community involvement, including volunteer groups
- Seeking funding or resources where appropriate
- Providing assurance that the network is safe, accessible, and aligned with the LNP's commitments

As a statutory body, the Parish Council is also better placed than individual residents to escalate issues to the relevant authorities where required.

The following resources provide useful clarification of roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for community involvement:

- Open Spaces Society: <https://www.oss.org.uk/need-to-know-more/information-hub/what-to-do-about-overgrown-paths/#parish>
- Government guidance on landowner responsibilities: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-rights-of-way-landowner-responsibilities>
- Suffolk County Council Rights of Way information:
 - <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/rights-and-responsibilities>
 - <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk>
- Ramblers Association: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/>

Conclusion

Given that:

- the LNP commits the Parish Council to proactive footpath maintenance and inspection,
- the recent LNP survey confirms footpaths as a community priority, and
- the Council has recently demonstrated support for improving access to local routes,

the establishment of this Working Group represents the practical mechanism for delivering the Council's existing commitments.

I therefore request that the Parish Council accepts this motion and appoints a councillor to lead the Footpath Improvement Working Group.

Motion

That Lavenham Parish Council establishes a Working Group to lead on safeguarding, maintaining, and improving the network of public footpaths and bridleways in and around Lavenham and appoints a Councillor to lead the Footpath Improvement Working Group.