

PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM PARISH
COUNCIL MEETING 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026.

Adult Social Care

With the aim of creating a new National Care Service, an independent commission is reviewing the provision of Adult Care services. Entitled 'The Big Conversation' on Care and led by Baroness Casey, all residents are invited to take part and can do so by googling 'The Big Conversation.'

Switch Together Schemes

The group buying operation, Switch Together continues to help growing demand from residents to reduce energy bills with solar and battery installations. This can be coupled with another initiative to help residents move away from ageing and inefficient heating systems. Via the Govt's Boiler Upgrade Scheme residents can combine a £7,500 or £9,000 grant depending on current heating fuel, with group buying savings on installation. More information can be found at the Switch Together website.

Coach Parking/Tourism in Lavenham

Following last month's meeting where the downturn in coaches visiting Lavenham was raised. The Council have responded that takings for coach parking is marginally up by 12 coaches to 83 visits Mar-Aug 2026 v 2025. Therefore I would suggest that we look to substantiate the large volume of anecdotal evidence provided. If possible, it would be interesting to know y-on-y coach visits for Long Melford. The officer in question has said that previously when speaking to coach operators the charge didn't seem to be a problem. While evidence is assimilated, it appears that BDC could look at free coach parking for limited hours. This would have the benefit of acting as a 'control' for comparison and open the door to contacting the coach companies identified as no longer visiting Lavenham. The same Babergh Officer would deal with siting of the banner at the entrance of the Church St car park.

Self-Build Register

Anyone interested in building their own home should register their interest on the Council's Self-Build Register. This will help planners and the housing team look to create opportunities in the correct locations.

Spring Street Fire

Further to the first statement that further to loss adjustor agreement the estimate to rebuild the middle bungalow in the Spring St fire would be 2.5 months, we have now learnt that it will be at the least one year before the property is fit for rehabilitation. This is because the worst affected bungalow needs to be demolished and the party wall made secure. We are working with the Housing dept to help find the tenant suitable alternative accommodation in the meantime.

New NPPF guidelines

The new guidelines have substantially changed and therefore any work on Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans may have to be substantially reviewed. One of the key areas is that settlement boundaries will no longer be a significant consideration in determining the acceptability of new developments. They will be considered 'de minimis'. Each new development will effectively extend the boundary area. This is from Govt direction and advice should be sought from NP consultants.