

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2016 Revision



Dear Fellow Resident,

We are writing to you to update you on our progress since our last newsletter in February.

To date we have:

- reviewed the Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment, and the Design Guide documents produced for the previous revision and decided that, with very little amendment, they can be carried forward to assist us and be used for future planning applications,
- appointed professional advisors to assist us in the process of producing a revised Neighbourhood Plan,
- held a number of small meetings with residents to help determine our way forward and endeavoured to review the working papers of the previous revision group,
- met and made contact with Officers and Members of Babergh Mid Suffolk District and Suffolk County Councils in order to build a good working relationship and ensure that we are kept informed of developments,
- produced a draft questionnaire which has been tested on a pilot group. The questionnaire, once approved by the Parish Council will be delivered to all households,
- produced a plan and budget to deliver the Revised Neighbourhood Plan in line with the emerging BMSDC Joint Local Plan (the 'JLP') and
- started to track the current phase of the JLP.

As you will be aware from TV and press coverage a main aim of Central Government is to build more homes across the country. This aim has been known for some time and was confirmed with last year's general election. At this time, we need to assemble a wide range of factual information in order to assess how this might impact our village. This information base will also help us to participate in the JLP dialogue as it progresses.

The Joint Local Plan has been in process for nearly ten years and our Parish Council previously participated in its 2017 and 2019 iterations of that Plan. The first stage of this Plan, known as JLP1 was adopted in January 2023 and dealt with a wide range of policies, including planning. Due to the change in Central Government that document is being reviewed. This has further delayed the second phase of the JLP dealing with spatial planning, that is what development might take place when and where. This Neighbourhood Plan group will continue that interaction with the JLP process.

We were hoping to get a residential questionnaire out to you last summer. It is now hoped to get this to you early next year, thus avoiding the Christmas period and darker nights. The process would be to hand deliver to all households a paper-based document with the option to complete it on-line (additional paper copies will be available as necessary). Around that time, we will hold drop-in events for residents to raise any points they might have.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Michael Sherman and Alison Bourne
Parish Councillors, Chair and Vice Chair of the revision steering group, November 2025.