



## Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2026 Revision

Dear Friends,

The time has come where you can play a role in determining the future of our village by helping us compose our Neighbourhood Plan.

### **The Neighbourhood Plan:**

Remember a Neighbourhood Plan allows villages like ours to lay out a vision of the kind of village we want in the future. It sets out our views on how to improve our environment and deals with housing, employment, design, heritage and transport. This includes what we think about new homes and traffic and other key issues.

Before we come on to what you can do to make sure we have a plan that helps determine our future we need to point out that our previous plan, adopted in 2016, whilst having served us well, needs updating.

Any new plan must contribute to achieving sustainable development, and be based on national policy and also the plan for the wider Babergh district of which we are part.

Following the 2024 General Election Central Government has placed a greater emphasis on the building of new homes. Thus, Babergh DC now has a new homes annual target of 775 (for the whole district), up from 416 and an increase of 86%, over the 20-year plan period. The allocation for Lavenham has yet to be determined. Babergh's indicative target for Lavenham is 367 new homes over 20 years. This might change when targets are finalised. Although we may not be able to influence the final allocation number we can influence where any new homes are built, what type of houses they may be and when they are built.

We must make our voice heard. Making our voice heard means we must produce a detailed analysis of our village, its possibilities and constraints and providing evidence so that our views, aspirations, wants and needs are taken into account when these decisions are made.

### **What you can do:**

This is where you come in. Whatever we put in our Neighbourhood Plan must fully reflect the ideas of our community and in order to have these views we have to undertake a survey of all those who live in our parish and the more people who answer the better our evidence base and our chances of success.

Thus, it is absolutely vital that when the residential survey comes through your letter box that you and others in your household fill it in. We aim to get this into your hands by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, for you to return it by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

We have arranged two drop-in events where you can ask any questions you may have and obtain further information and clarifications. The first will be held at the Village Hall on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, from 11:30 until 2:30. The second will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, between 5 until 8 this time in the Guildhall. Please do come along to one or both.

### **The survey:**

The survey will provide full instructions for how to fill it in. If it has not arrived by 23<sup>rd</sup> March, please telephone 07774 561037. The more people who complete the survey the greater the chance we will be listened to. For your convenience you can also fill it in on-line and additional copies can be obtained from The Hub.

You may leave a particular question blank where necessary. You may add any additional comments of your own. No one who fills in this survey can be identified. Once analysed the result will be reported back to you. Thanks so much for your help.