

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Revision Group 2025

Steering group meeting 24th November 2025

Agenda and minutes (2 pages)

Attending: Michael Sherman, Danielle Twitchen, Tracey Brinkley, Jack Norman, David Theobald and Carroll Reeve.

Apologies: Alison Bourne, Savannah Bourne and Charles Posner.

Minutes of previous meeting: agreed.

Matters arising: none.

Emerging residential survey further drafting:

Following discussions with the Parish Council the revisions are:

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Reinforce instructions to read;

Please follow the instructions given for each question. Please try and answer all the questions. Should you not be confident in answering a question please leave it blank. If you have any additional comments to make, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

The comment box at Q7 will therefore be removed to avoid confusion.

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HOUSING

Suggested revision to read as:

“What is now apparent is that Central Government has placed a greater emphasis on the building of more homes. Thus, Babergh DC 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. However, Babergh’s indicative target for Lavenham is 367 over 20 years. This might change when targets are finalised. We do know that, between 2001 and 2021, an additional 137 homes were built in Lavenham. There are currently some 1,150 homes in the Parish.”

Q2 Re-wording -

Housing Adaptable for people with special needs and older people.

Q3 Change of Should to Because -

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

Q4 Consider re-wording 7th bullet to – Building density to reflect locality of any development.

Add Provide a site for a care home.

Q5-Remove square brackets [] at 5th bullet.

Q6 Add two bullets -

On-street parking spaces for disabled people should be provided.

On-street parking should be re-configured.

Q8 Add:

-Community activities and village events.

Q11 Add

-Opticians.

-Care home'

-Beauty and wellbeing facilities.

Full stops after all comments/bullets.

An issue relating to the survey was whether to include a question relating to the legal status of Lavenham as a village or a town. It was considered that this topic would require greater exploration and should be best left to the Parish Council to pursue.

The survey document can now be finalised. This survey will now be issued to residents just before Easter 2026, with accompanying drop-in events.

Timetable

The Babergh Mid Suffolk District Councils continue to work on a Joint Local Plan (JLP). Although the first part of this plan has been adopted: it is currently being reviewed. The second part of the plan dealing with spatial issues and the allocation of proposed development sites is still under wraps.

The NP revision will continue to work in line with the JLP timeline and its outcomes. It follows, however, that we should assemble a factual base and address issues as they arise, such as any further call for sites. We can then react to any consultative process emanating from the JLP in a timely manner.

The aim is for our final revised NP to be completed as the JLP is adopted by the district councils.

Call for sites

The second call for sites has been brought forward by at least three months. It is now underway and ends on 6th January. And this illustrates the need to work in parallel with work on the JLP. Further sites coming forward from this will augment the existing list.

Our landscape architect has been asked to look at and report upon any call for sites. We and the Parish Council need this evidence-based approach to help in safeguarding the village from inappropriate housing targets.

Base line data: this will take the form of a Demographic and Socio-Economic Review carried out by our consultant in this field. Instruction to be issued in April. This could be advanced to January, but is out of line with the budget.

Budget: this is with the Parish Council and has not received any adverse comments. The Secretary will be available to deal with any questions at the forthcoming Parish Council meeting.

Newsletter: The second Newsletter has been agreed with the Parish Council Chair and has gone to the printers for distribution in early December.

AoB: The chair thanked the Secretary for his recent efforts in clarifying matters with the Parish Council.

Next meeting: to be arranged.