

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Revision Group

Steering group meeting 9th March 2026

Agenda and minutes

Attending: Michael Sherman, Alison Bourne, Savanna Bourne, Danielle Twitchen, Tracey Brinkley, Jack Norman, David Theobold, Charles Posner and Carroll Reeve. **Apologies:** None

Minutes of previous meeting: agreed, subject to change of date of next meeting to 9th March, due to other commitments arising.

Matters arising: None

Parish council feed-back: Need for declarations of interest by members of this group called for by a parish councillor. Authority to be clarified.

Open Spaces and related issues:

Suffolk County Council has provided guidance and advice to parish councils and local communities wishing to designate Local Green Spaces as part of the neighbourhood plan process. This is contained in a paper issued by them in late 2025.

The designation of Local Green Spaces can provide a variety of advantages. Ecological benefits, habitat conservation, and biodiversity net gain/enhancement can be achieved through the protection offered by any designation. Local Green Spaces are a flexible and multi-use provision of: • public realm; • local amenity and leisure; • a place for sports, exercise and activity, recreation and relaxation; and /or, • access to nature.

As previously reported four members of the group undertook an initial review. Tracey presented their report. This centred upon the Lavenham map and reference schedule previously circulated. The evidence basis for identify village open and green spaces was sourced from the 2016 NP, NP2, the Landscape Character Assessment, Lavenham Definitive Map and Babergh DC working papers. This was augmented by a walking survey of the village. The criteria adopted was that contained in the Suffolk CC open spaces consultation document.

The outcomes map and list will be digitised and shared in due course.

JLP and second call for sites:

This document has recently been released by BDC without any preliminary desktop review. This has caused some consternation and confusion with residents. Until the outstanding review is completed the document is of little value.

AoB:

A mapping system using locally sourced data (BDC, SCC etc) has been procured for the use of the group and our advisors.

Phasing of development and infrastructure delivery is key to the success of any NP. The need for such an approach has been levelled at BMSDC officers and Cabinet members. Officers are now to investigate this further. This relates to any NP and the JLP.

Next meeting: 14th April 2026