





Moving forward the LNP2 Revision Group will:

- Identify key issues
- Assess and examine Policies and Projects against answers and comments in Questionnaire responses and other available evidence
- Prepare a draft of the revised Neighbourhood Plan guided by Rachel Hogger

Rachel Hogger from Modicum Planning is the consultant who guided the development of the 2016 LNP. She will ensure we are compliant with Babergh's Local Plan and the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF) and take us through the regulatory process for Neighbourhood Plans.



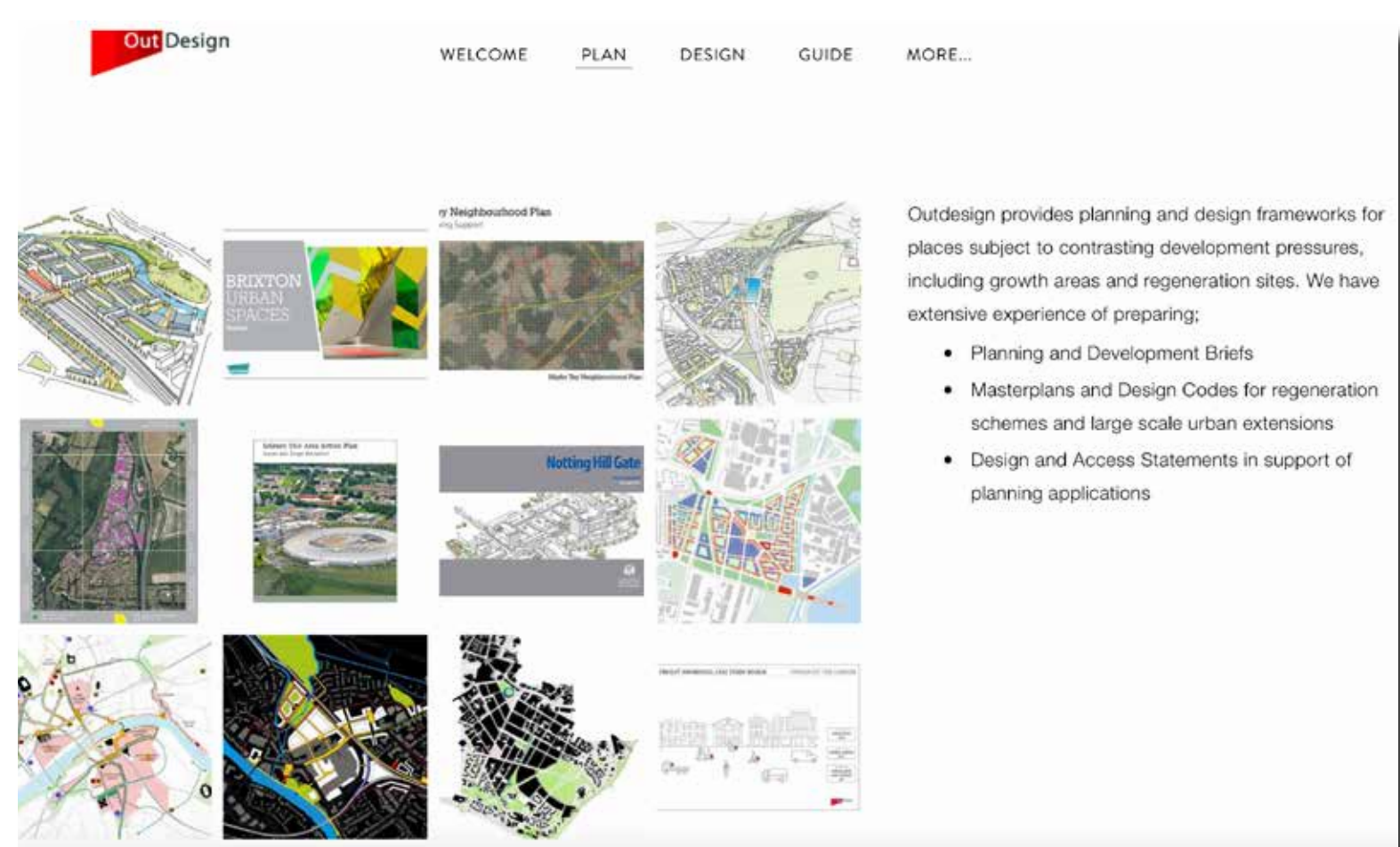
Over the next year there will be further village consultation on:

- Proposed revised scope of Lavenham's Neighbourhood Plan
- Specific policy matters
- A draft revised Neighbourhood Plan

**Design Guide**

The Village Design Guide aims to support the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out design guidelines for new development within the village. The guide addresses the aesthetic, architectural, social and historical aspects of design as well as sustainable criteria. It can be used by community members as they make alterations to their homes, and by developers. It is a guide rather than planning law, but its inclusion alongside our revised Neighbourhood Plan gives it greater weight when planning applications are considered by the planning authority.

Outdesign will be developing the Design Guide. Outdesign is a London based consultancy providing planning frameworks, masterplans, development briefs, and design codes for the public and private sector.



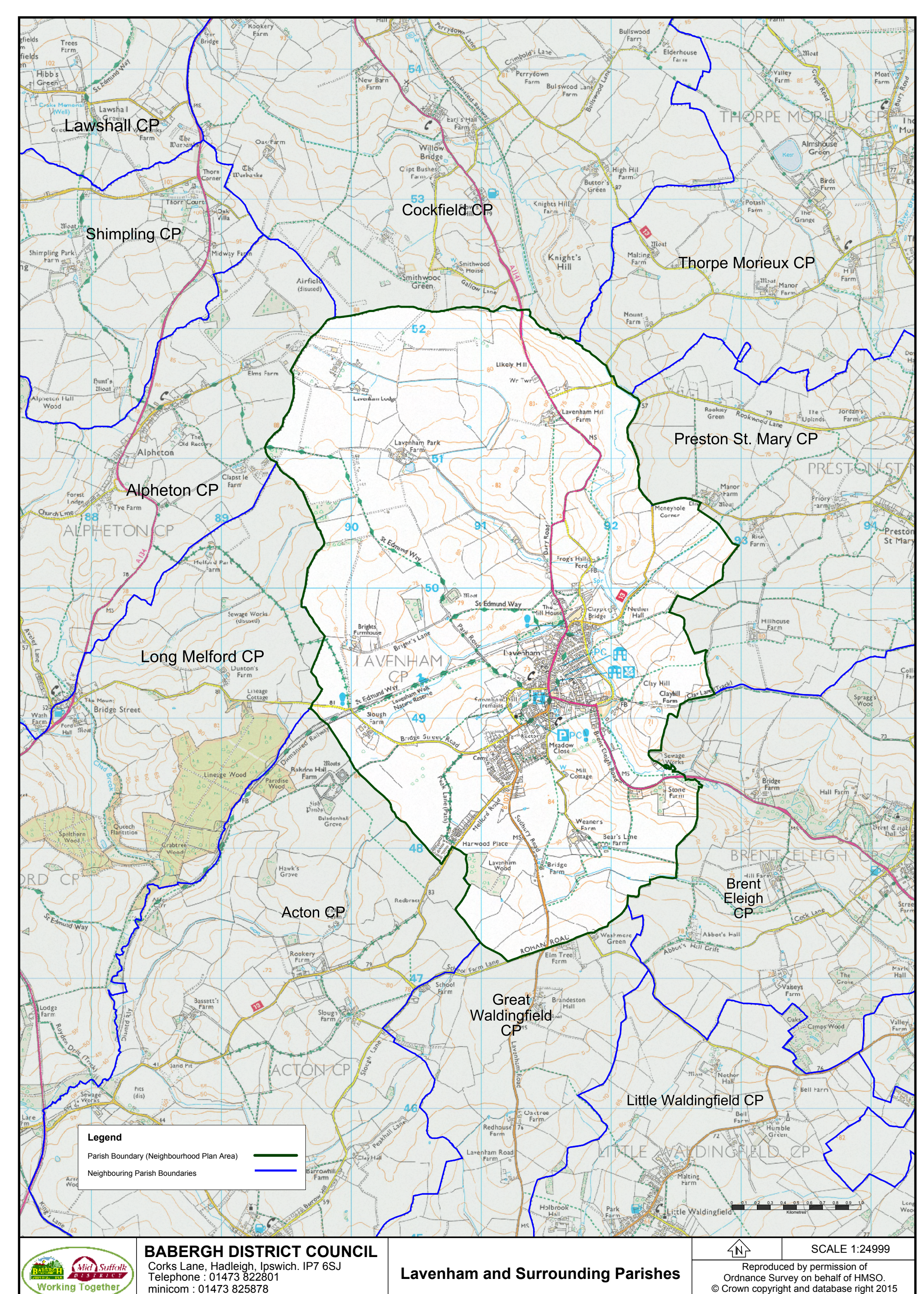
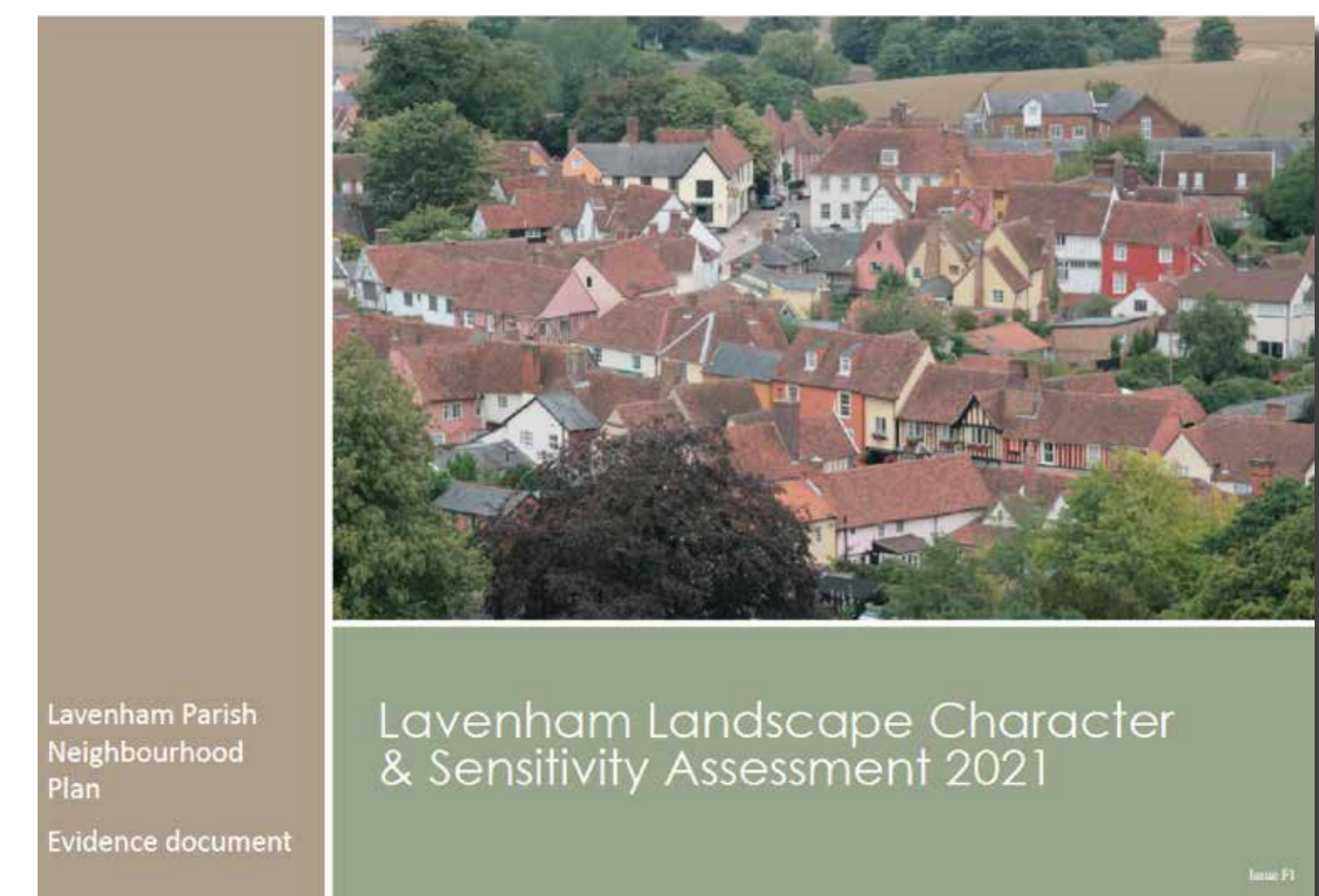
**Landscape Character Assessment**

Landscape Character Assessment is the process of identifying and analysing variation in the character of the rural landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features - characteristics - that make landscapes distinctive from one another.

*“The information in this Character Assessment can be used in various situations. Its primary purpose is to continue to support the preparation of the updates to the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan (LNP) and support the parish planning team in their dealings with planning applications in assessing the potential impacts of development.”*

(Lavenham Character Assessment Draft revision 2021)

Lucy Batchelor Wylam is the Landscape Architect who prepared the Landscape Character Assessment used alongside the 2016 LNP. She is undertaking a revision of the LCA which will reflect the potential impact of Climate Change and include emphasis on the 12 Defined Views included in the 2016 LNP.







## Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats.

SWOT Analysis is a simple tool to help us look at Lavenham as it is now, and to devise a successful strategy for the future.

The LNP2 Revision Group prepared this draft SWOT analysis following the conclusions we identified in Poster 12. It will help shape our progress as we review the key issues and aspirations for the Plan, together with the policies and projects to support these.



## STRENGTHS

- Heritage**
  - An important example of a medieval village. Over 300 listed buildings.
  - Local specialised knowledge of historic built environment e.g. Suffolk Preservation Society
- Landscape**
  - Unique landscape that contributes significantly to the setting of the historic settlement
- Built Environment**
  - A strong built environment character
  - Historic and attractive buildings line the main routes in and out of the village core. Modern housing tends to be located behind this frontage.
  - Strong rural backdrop to settlement
- Education**
  - Pre-school plus primary education
  - Lavenham Forest School
- Housing**
  - New homes are and have been built in the village in line with district requirements (subject to success of Local Plan at examination this could mean less pressure for more locally)
  - Peek close – an example of successful community-led housing
  - Sheltered housing stock
- A core village providing, shops, services and community infrastructure for parish and hinterland villages beyond.**
- Local economy**
  - Strong tourism market
- Neighbourhood Plan and the Lavenham Character Assessment**
  - Neighbourhood Plan 1 which has the broad support of the community
- A vibrant and dynamic Community**
  - A strong volunteer sector (although lower representation from families and younger generation)
  - A diversity of clubs and interest groups
  - Churches (providing a spiritual function plus social and community function (concerts, play groups, volunteers))
  - The salvation army

## WEAKNESSES

- Demographics**
  - Imbalanced parish demographics with an increasingly older population
- Housing**
  - Cost of housing out of reach of many
  - Lack of smaller homes suitable for downsizing and younger families (to be confirmed through up to date evidence)
- Traffic**
  - Problematic traffic volumes
  - Conflict between different users (parked cars, HGV vehicles, coaches)
  - Difficult for vehicles to pass each other safely in village centre
  - Lack of off-street parking available for business owners and residents. Many on street spaces occupied all day by business owners.
  - Lack of off-street parking to serve both residents and visitors on busy days
- Built Environment**
  - Some completed housing developments are considered to adversely impact rural backdrop to historic village, landscape character, views and actually created new hard edges directly onto open farmland (not in line with Policy ENV1, D1 and D2)
- Development standards**
  - Lack of a strong design code to apply specifically to Lavenham parish
  - Too many recently completed schemes are considered generic in their appearance (could be built anywhere) and lack distinctiveness.
  - Recently completed schemes have failed to respond adequately to the climate change challenge
- Infrastructure**
  - Primary school on constrained site
  - Not a fully functioning GP surgery?
- Poor public transport provision**
  - Infrequent bus service
- Flooding**
  - Flooding of roads and footpaths near and adjacent to River Brett
- Neighbourhood Plan**
  - Not 100% successful at stopping insensitive development. Need to explore the reasons why.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Lavenham to become a LEAD PLAYER in addressing climate change at the LOCAL LEVEL
  - Increase the use of environmental features in new build and infrastructure (e.g. solar panels, SuDs that meet four sustainability pillars i) reducing water consumption ii) protecting/improving water quality in waterways iii) deliver biodiversity benefits iv) providing amenity
  - New build to exceed building regs, future proofed against climate change
  - Work with local stakeholders (EA, Suffolk County Council), landowners to develop a flood management plan specific to the parish.
  - Potentially a Lavenham specific policy on Green Infrastructure
- Heritage**
  - Lead the way in addressing climate change challenges specific to the historic environment
  - Compile a list of non-designated heritage assets (plus stronger policy approach on design and landscape see below)
  - Increase access to knowledge and resources on local heritage
- Environment**
  - Local action to conserve existing countryside hedgerows and small areas of woodland
  - Engage with EA to encourage regular maintenance of River Brett
  - Work more closely with local farmers
  - Improve recycling infrastructure in main car park
  - All new development schemes to deliver net gains in biodiversity
- Landscape:**
  - Review NP1 policies, explore how policies are referenced in planning applications and strengthen approach accordingly
- Built environment**
  - Provide clearer and stronger design guidance (including how to build more sustainably and achieve ambitious sustainable design and construction standards) to help applicants and local authority planners
  - Lavenham specific design and landscape policies tied strongly to guidance
- Infrastructure**
  - New infrastructure alongside new development e.g. allotments
  - Amenities alongside new development e.g. street furniture, improved street scene signage
- Strengthen the role of the core village, providing shops, services and community infrastructure for parish and hinterland villages beyond.**
  - Increase access through provision of reserved disabled parking e.g. in the Market Square
  - Support continued maintenance and improvements of public toilets, street cleaning and other services
- Traffic**
  - Increase electric car charging infrastructure (private and public provision)
  - Introduce 20mph speed limit
  - Limit access to heavy goods vehicles in Lavenham (outside scope of planning policies)
  - Introduce residents parking permits
  - Liaise constructively with local businesses to seek mutually beneficial car parking solutions
  - Continue NP1 Projects 2, 3, 4 and 5 and improve outdoor recreation facilities

## THREATS

- Climate Change**
  - Local flooding
  - Dry summers and Wet winters
  - Cost of energy and fuel poverty
  - New development coming through that does not adequately address climate change through appropriate design, adaptation and mitigation measures
- Environment & Biodiversity**
  - Run off causing pollution into River Brett
  - Poor water quality in River Brett
  - Increase in wood-burning stoves and local air pollution
  - Farming practices in the parish potentially exacerbating problems created through local flooding
- Heritage**
  - Heritage assets could be harmed as a result of insensitive development including damage to the rural interface to historic village edges.
  - Heritage assets could be harmed as a result of traffic movements.
- Landscape**
  - Removal of Special Landscape Area policy from Local Plan as emerging plan comes to fruition.
  - Insensitive development that adversely impacts important views and landscape character
- Built environment**
  - Poor or inappropriate design diluting and undermining Lavenham's unique character
  - Village gateways into the village being spoiled
  - Village "sprawl" spoiling setting of historic settlement in the landscape
  - Erosion of the rural backdrop to the village
  - Fragmentation of village morale and community spirit
- Local economy**
  - Damage to Lavenham's uniqueness could damage the tourism market
- Community infrastructure**
  - Demographics (imbalanced parish demographics with an increasingly older population) could lead to unviable schools, in turn leading to school closures.
  - Cutbacks and centralisation (by facilities/services providers) leading to withdrawal of schools, GP surgery, post office, pharmacy, dentist, bus service, hairdressers, laundry.
  - Slowness in payment of CIL charges (by developer to Babergh) following commencement of development proposals.
  - Slowness in release of CIL monies from Babergh to Lavenham
- Growth in electric charging points**
  - Whilst good in principle, there is a need to manage delivery especially in light of businesses and residents without off street parking facilities.
- Uncertain policy context at national and local level**
  - Current delays in Local Plan examination
  - 2020 Planning White Paper proposes radical reform to the planning system in England.



# LAVENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVISION

## WE ASKED..YOU SAID

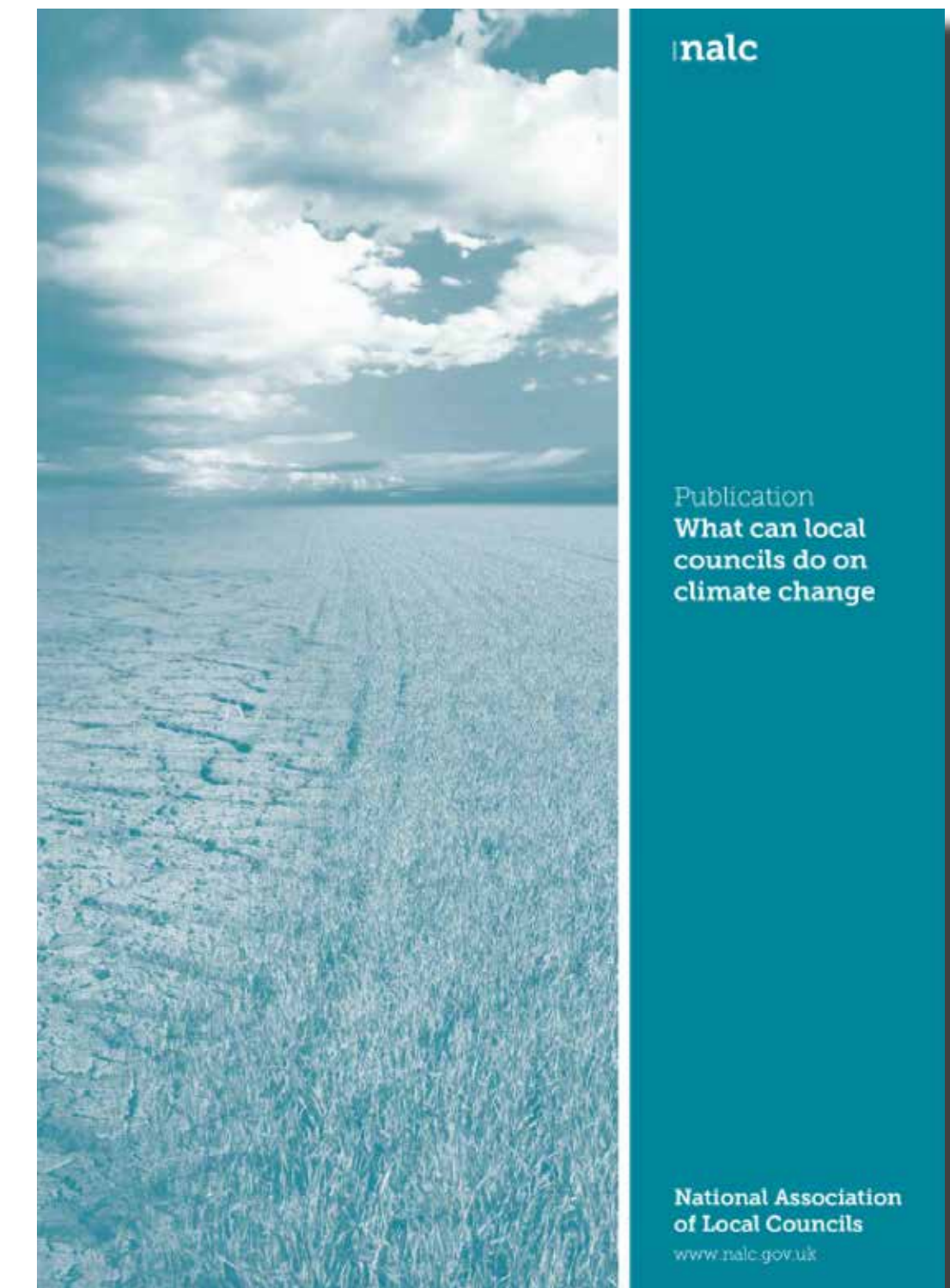
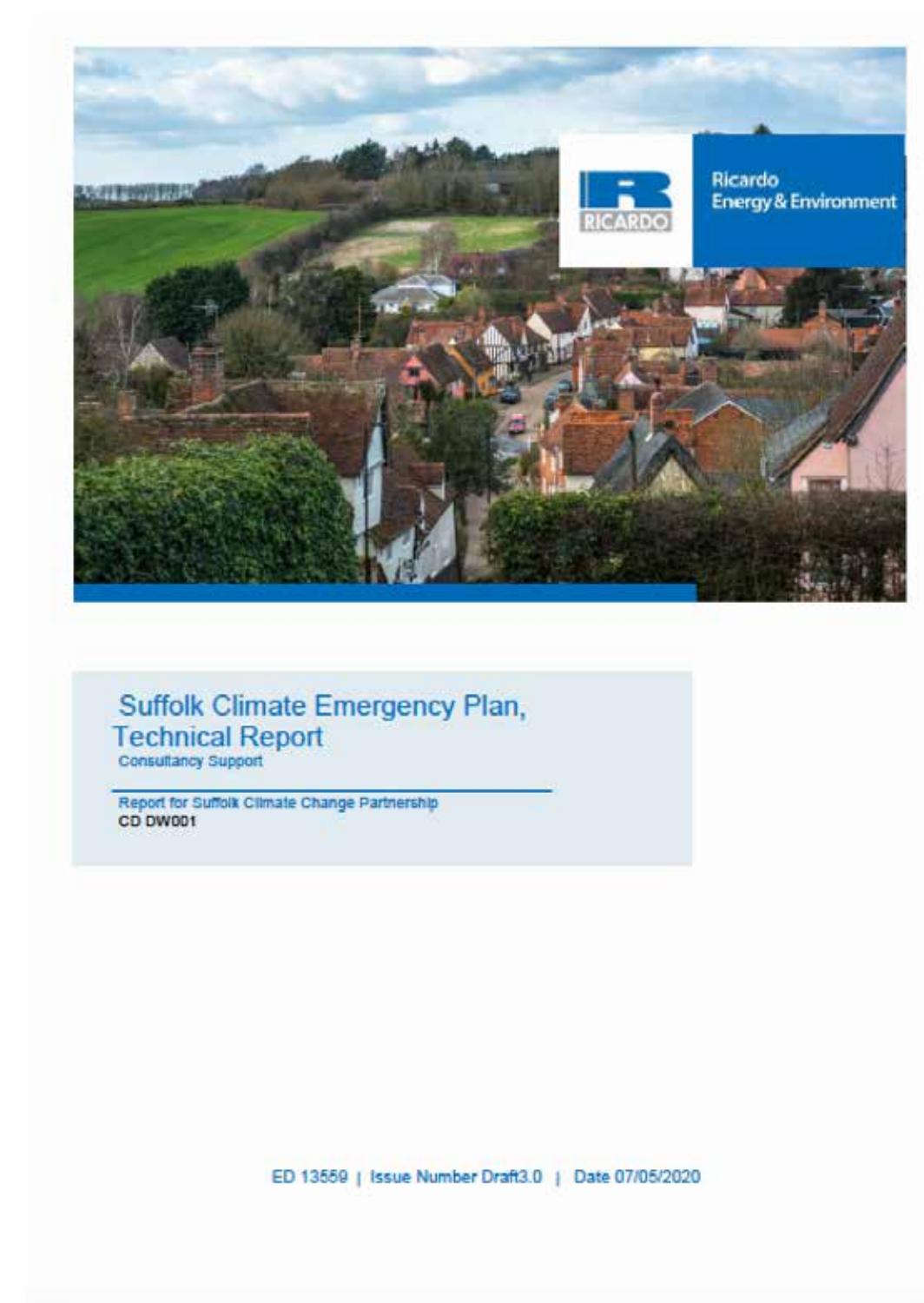
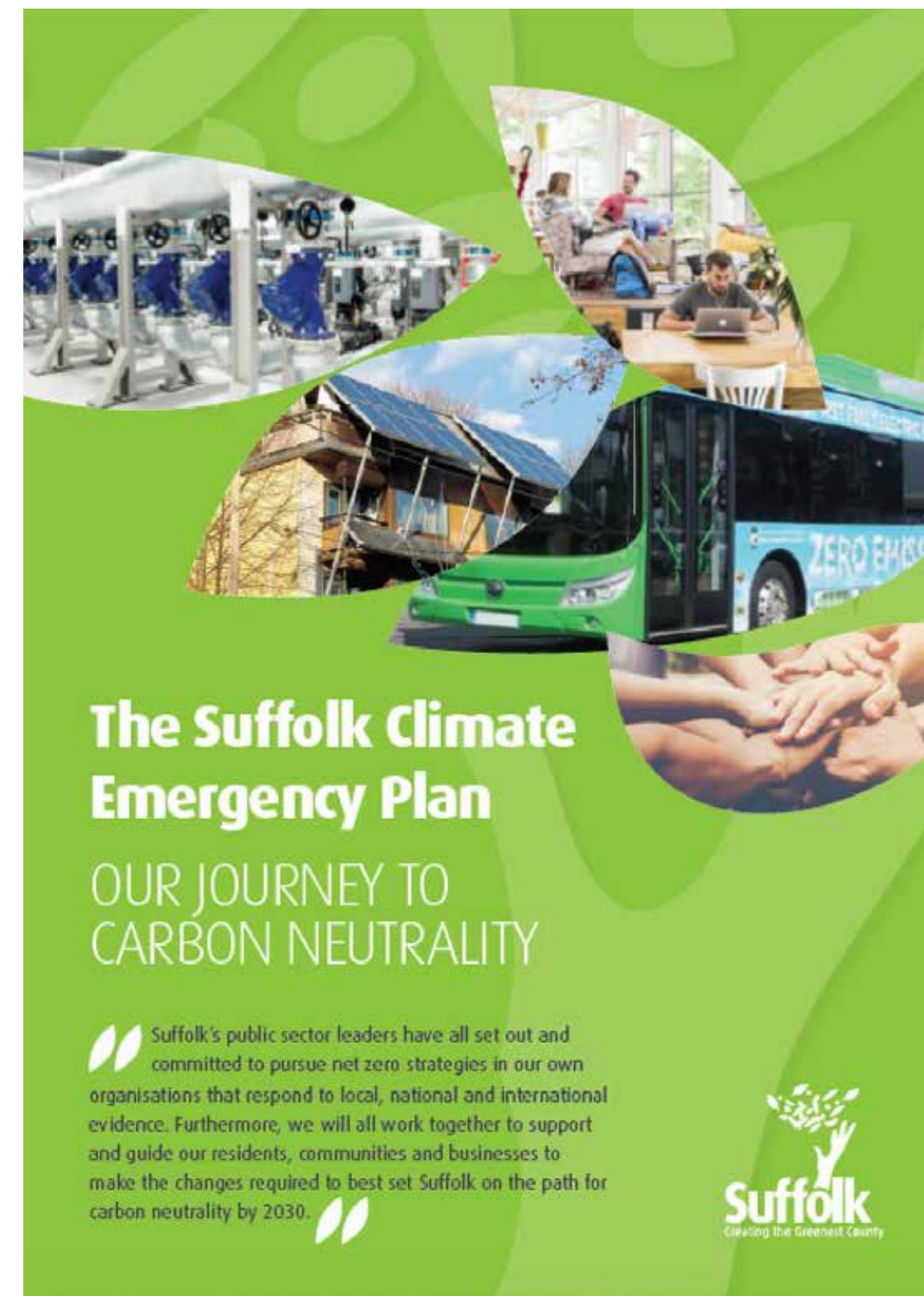
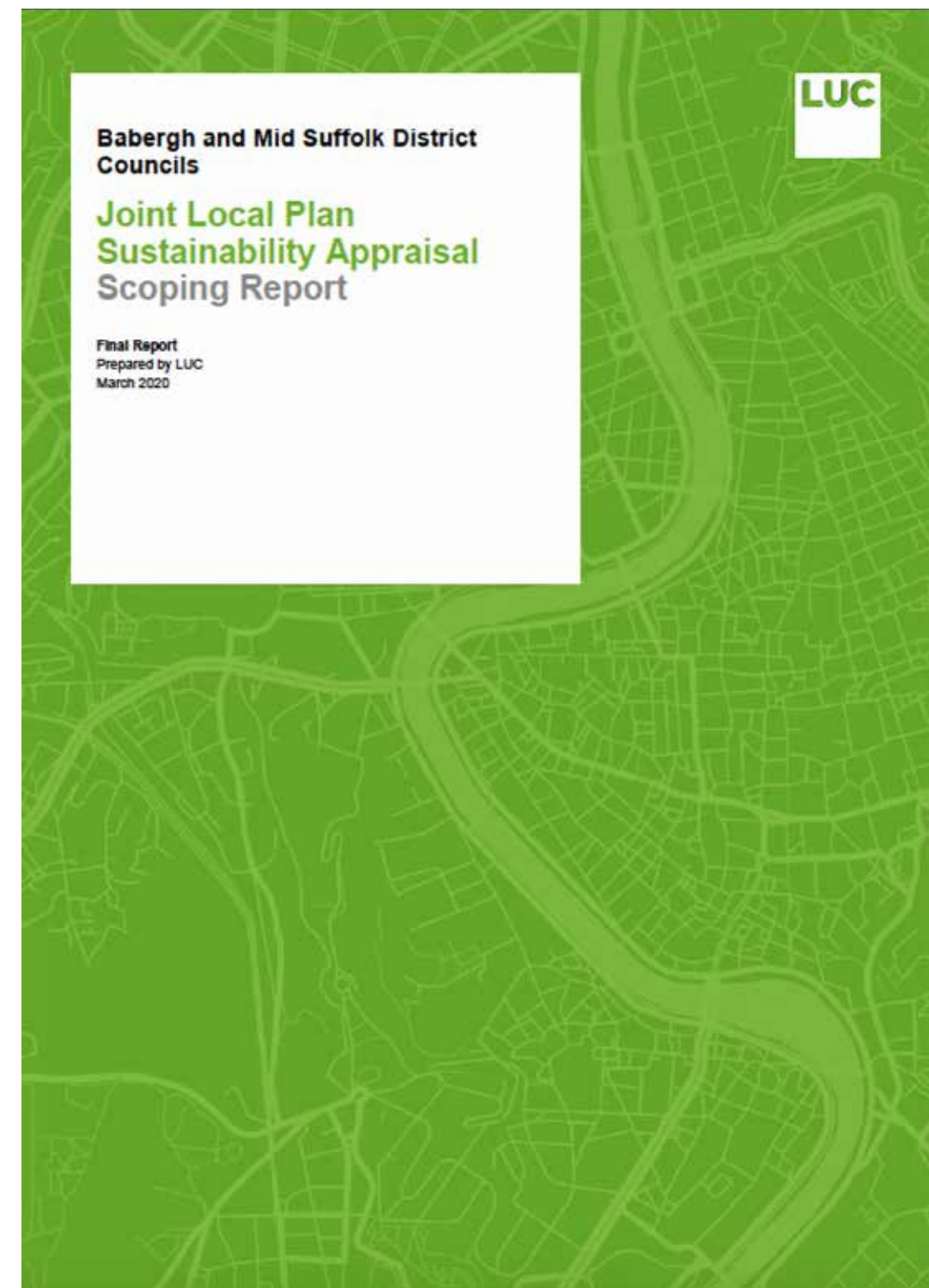


# CLIMATE CHANGE



Visit the LNP2  
website  
[bit.ly/LNPHome](http://bit.ly/LNPHome)

How can our Neighbourhood Plan address the Climate Emergency? Below are some recently produced documents that we have been studying. They offer vision and leadership on what we can all do today.

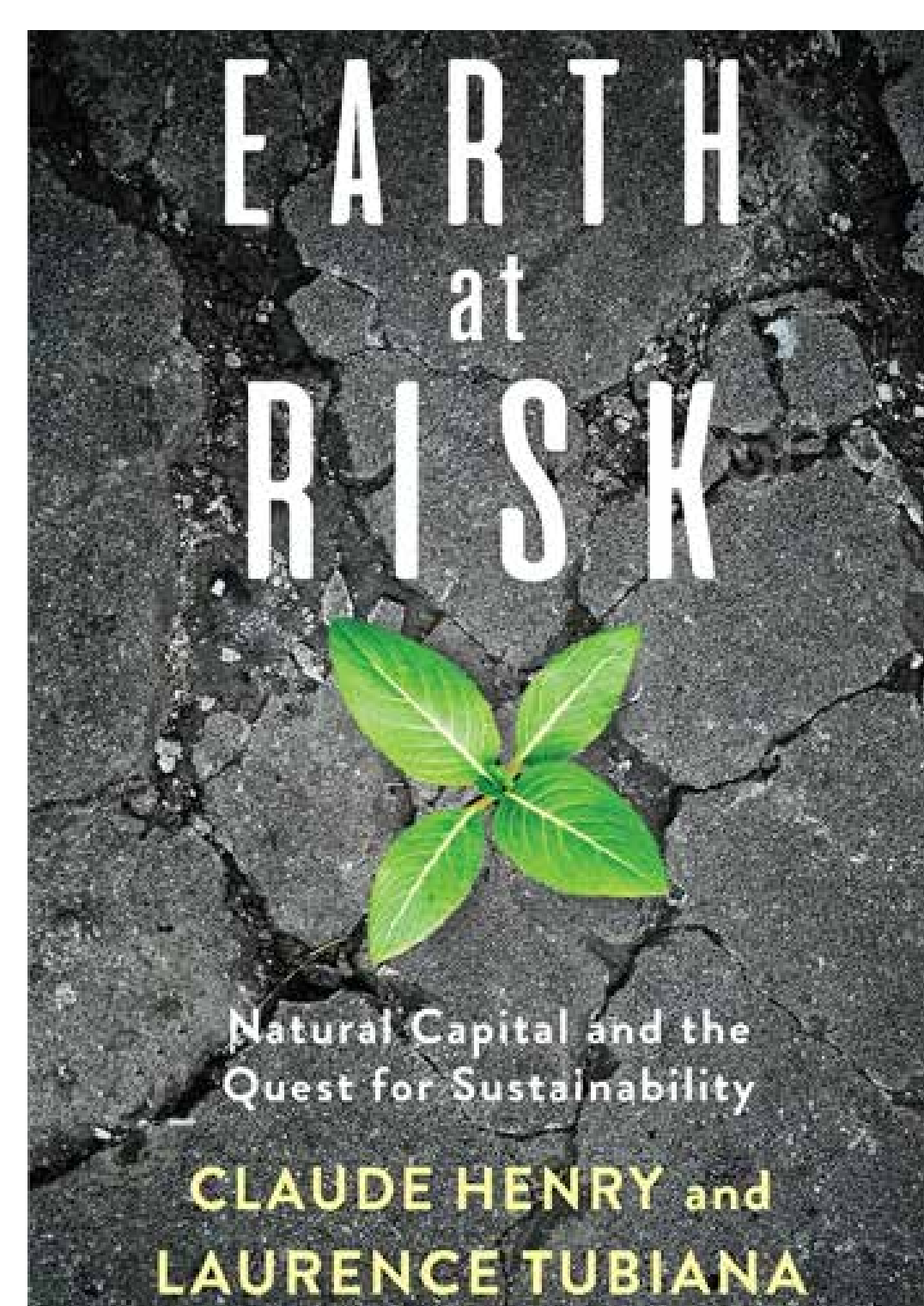


We have 28 million energy inefficient homes in the UK. 80% of the buildings we will have in 2050 have already been built.

The UK has the oldest housing stock in Europe. In England, about 20% of homes – nearly 5 million – were built before 1919. While only a small proportion of these are listed buildings (at least 320,000, of which 125,000 date partly or even wholly from before 1700).

Lavenham has over 300 listed buildings.

**92% of respondents agreed we should be concerned about flooding in the village**



### Comments from the Residents Questionnaire

“The effects of global warming are already visible in our small village and will need to be carefully managed to prevent real difficulties which may lie ahead.”

“Revision of the Plan needs to take into account the changing nature of our care for the environment, energy conservation and protection from pollution.”

“The environment, nature and wildlife now need to receive proper focus from the plan as a policy directive.”

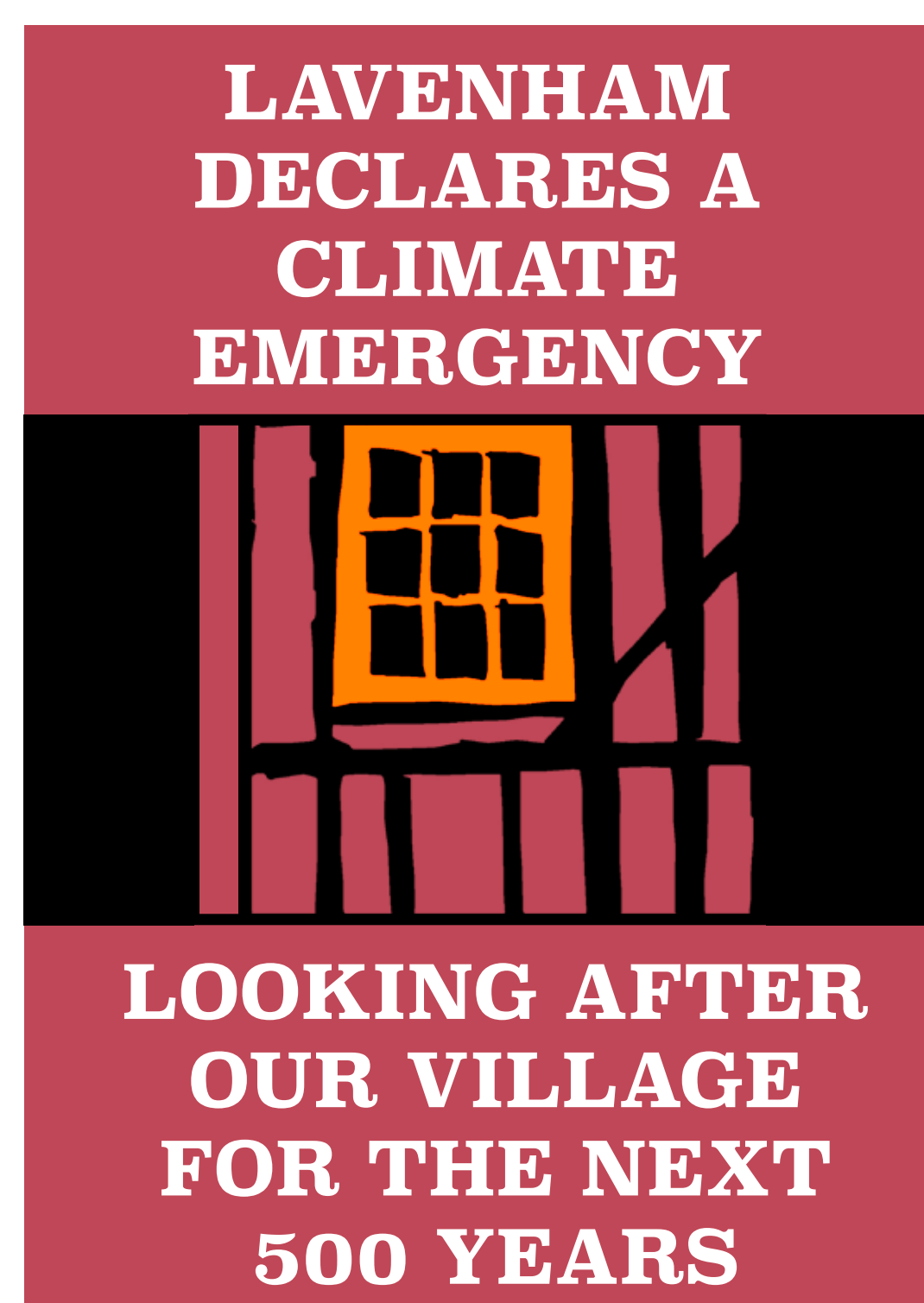
**We’ve produced more CO2 in the last 33 years than in all of human history before**  
(Bill McKibben)

### Comments from the Residents Questionnaire

“In view of climate change and storms damage seen this year, Lavenham should prioritise plans for a potential flood. Most properties in Lavenham have little or no foundations - ditches and culverts should be regularly drained as part of an overall flood plan.”

“We have to face reality. Solar panels should be allowed in the conservation area.”

“Landscape policy needs to be stronger, need to protect the Brett Valley Special Landscape Area.”



Lavenham could declare a Climate Emergency. This may give us access to funding to upgrade the fabric of our heritage buildings and will strengthen our claim as a unique Tudor town.

**“Developing a neighbourhood plan offers a unique opportunity for your community to proactively set out a positive and ambitious vision for the future and increase your community’s resilience in the face of the challenges associated with the climate emergency”**

From Neighbourhood Planning in a climate emergency, 2020

**Don't just imagine change – make it happen!**