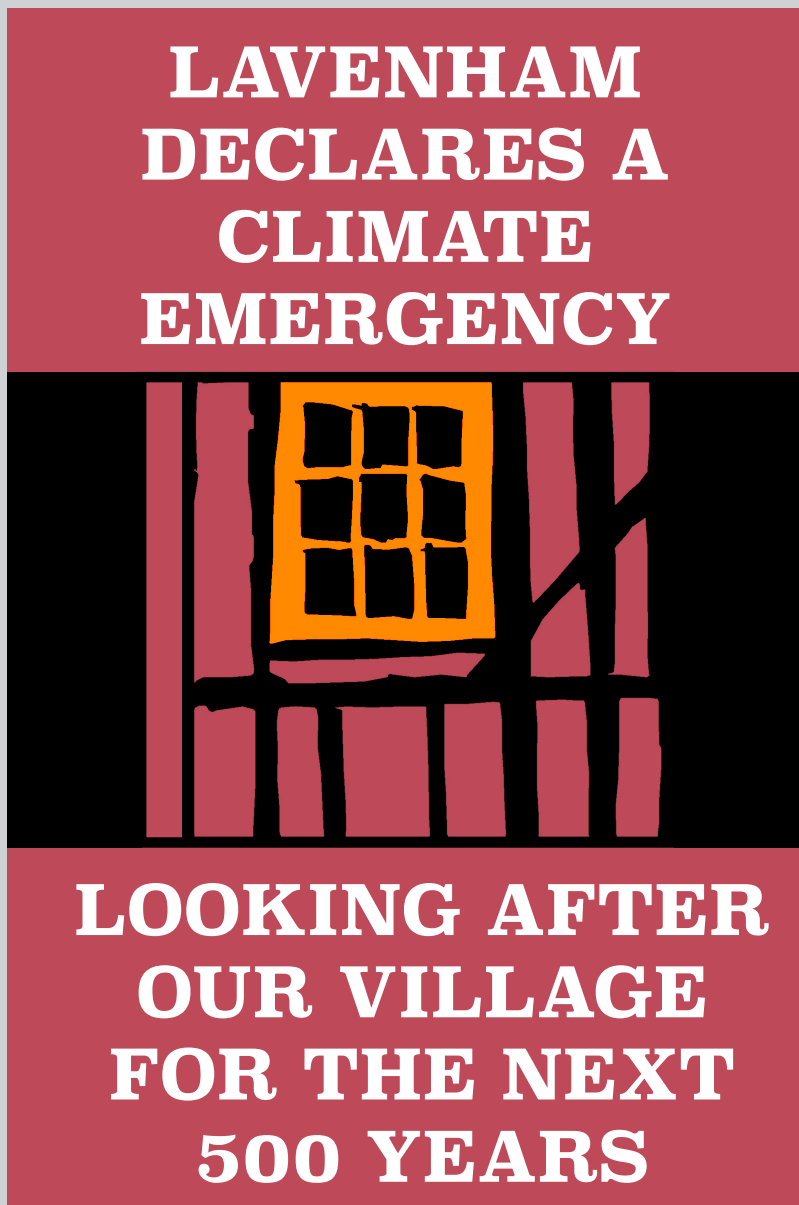


DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

AHRA 2022
CONVENING: CLIMATE
COLLECTIVISM

VILLAGE VOICES: WE DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

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**Session Number, Type,
and Theme**

We invite you to the medieval village of Lavenham, England; the cinematic birthplace of Harry Potter!¹ This session aims to share on the ground know-how and the often difficult process of community consultation in order to open up a wider conversation around the power of community action in the age of the climate and ecological emergency. We will make a 15 minute presentation on our two year journey re-writing the village Neighbourhood Plan² culminating in the Parish Council declaring a Climate Emergency. There will follow an open discussion in which we will encourage exchanging stories and strategies for effective action. How can we learn from each other? What narratives and tools are useful? How can legislation translate into new modes of living? What is the role of the architect in grass roots action?

In 2020 a group of volunteers, commissioned by our Parish Council, began work on revision of the 2016 Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan which is about the way we live, now and for the future, as individuals and in communities. This piece of legislation acts both as a development control tool as well as collecting together a range of opportunities and projects. It has been developed through extensive consultation with the local community; we received around 1,000 written comments which has formed the basis of our plan and design guide.

Our proposal will open up discussions around the role of Neighbourhood Planning in the UK, using our shared experience of re-writing our own village Plan by declaring a Climate Emergency. While recent Government policy proports to champion the voice of local people, it is critical to find ways of framing a consensual high-level vision.

Learning Outcomes:

Declaring a Climate Emergency: Our plan recognises and anticipates the stresses of climate change and aims to be a beacon of good practice for sustainability and resilience. We will identify the mechanisms and process culminating in the declaration.

Listening to Many Voices: As part of our consultation we created a questionnaire and received almost 1,000 comments that were collated and gathered thematically. We will explain how this fed into a public exhibition which generated further feedback and data.

Collecting the Evidence: Working with our planning consultant we spent time translating the feedback into key themes and policy. We will evaluate our experience of best practice.

Making a Design Guide: We commissioned a Design Guide which speaks to the aesthetic and construction questions around new build and retrofit. It shows how future development could contribute to Lavenham's distinctiveness, respecting the existing built form and delivering high quality design which will be protected for future generations. Our conversation appraises the relationship between policy , planning and design.

1. "Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: The UK Film Locations." BBC News. BBC, November 20, 2021. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-59321020>.

2. "Home. Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan". Accessed August 19, 2022. <http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/>.