

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Modification Proposal 2023 to 2037 Consultation Statement

April 2023

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. The general approach to community and stakeholder engagement on the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2
3. Inception Stage
4. Early engagement 2021 – Questionnaires
5. Questionnaire Responses
6. Mid-way Plan Development – October 2021 to October 2022
 - November 2021 Community ‘Drop In’ Event
 - Other Events October 2021 to October 2022
7. Informal Engagement – September to November 2022
8. Regulation 14 Consultation

List of Tables:

Table 1: July/August 2021 engagement: Key issues arising and LNP2 Revision Group response

Table 2 : Key issues raised during informal engagement

Table 3: Consultation body as per Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and name of consultee/organisation contacted in December 2022

Table 4: Some key issues and objections raised by residents during the Regulation 14 engagement.

Table 5: The key issues and objections raised by statutory consultees

Table 6: The most significant changes made to LNP2 post Regulation 14 stage

Appendices to Consultation Statement are in a separate document

1. Introduction

1. This Consultation Statement has been produced on the behalf of Lavenham Parish Council to accompany the submission draft of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Modification Proposal (LNP2) to the local planning authority, Babergh District Council. The modifications proposed to the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan is set out in a document referred to as Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2 or LNP2. From this point onwards, this document is referred to as LNP2.
2. The Consultation Statement is required under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) to include information on the following:
 - Details of the people and bodies who were consulted about the neighbourhood plan as proposed to be modified.
 - An explanation of how they were consulted.
 - A summary of the main issues and concerns raised by the people consulted.
 - A description of how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in neighbourhood plan as proposed to be modified.
3. The consultation activity undertaken for LNP2 can be broken down into five key stages as follows.

NP stage	Timing
Inception	September 2020 to November 2020
Early engagement	December 2020 to September 2021
Mid-way plan development	October 2021 to September 2022
Informal engagement with key stakeholders	September 2022 to November 2022
Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation	8 December 2022 to 1 February 2023

2. The general approach to community and stakeholder engagement on the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2

1. Throughout the process, the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Revision Group has communicated information about LNP2 via the following channels:
 - The LNP2 website: officially opened in March 2021 <http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/> This has hosted all published material, including online consultations.
 - LNP2 newsletters printed and distributed to every household in the parish and published on the website <http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/newsletters/>
 - Posters printed and displayed on village noticeboards and in shops (windows or counters)
 - Social media: Lavenham Voice facebook page
 - Print media: Lavenham Life (parish magazine); Village Edition (commercial free news sheet, delivered to most properties in the parish)
 - In person drop in events
 - Regular reporting to Lavenham Parish Council meetings, via the council members in the Group.
2. In March 2021 a direct email address for the LNP2 Revision Group was set up, allowing residents and other interested parties to contact the Revision Group direct. lavenhamnp2@aol.com
3. A distinctive logo and clear design style was designed for all print and media materials, to provide instant recognition of the topic amongst the Lavenham community. Appendix 11 illustrates the approach to communication.
4. It is relevant to note that the official restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic and public concerns about 'social distancing' were dominant during the first two stages identified in 1.3 above, inception and early engagement. They still had to be taken into account when planning for drop-in meetings after restrictions had officially been [relaxed](#).

3. Inception stage

1. The Neighbourhood Plan Revision Group was assembled during July and August 2020, by invitation from the Chair of Lavenham Parish Council. The members were Lavenham residents with a strong interest in the future of the village. Although personal circumstances meant its membership changed occasionally it always included at least two members of Lavenham Parish Council.
2. All meetings during this stage were held by Zoom, using the Parish Council's Zoom account.
3. The first Group meeting was held on 27 August 2020. On 22 September 2020 our mentor and RTP1 planner Rachel Hogger of Modicum Planning outlined the requirements for modification of LNP1.
4. Initial meetings reviewed the content of the 2016 Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan (for convenience referred to as LNP1) to ensure all Group members were familiar with its details and background history. [Neighbourhood Plan 2016](#)

5. The Group determined that the best way to assess the community's evaluation of LNP1 would be by questionnaire. Online was the preferred option but to avoid excluding people without internet access paper responses were accommodated.
6. Similar questionnaires were planned for Residents and Lavenham businesses, with a separate brief questionnaire for Planners.
7. It was recognised that LNP1 would need 'reintroduction' to compensate for the five-year interval since the Neighbourhood Plan was last a major topic in the village. Supporting information was devised to remind respondents of the vision and purpose of LNP1.
8. The revision of LNP1 with its proposed questionnaire was announced in the Parish Council Newsletter in December 2020 This was delivered to every household. The Newsletter also provided a progress report on some of the policies as well as various initiatives instigated through LNP1.
<http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Newsletters/LPC-Christmas-Newsletter-2020-v022.pdf>
9. Limited and delayed by Covid-19 restrictions, news of the planned LNP1 revision was communicated to residents by newsletters in February and May 2021, hand delivered to every household in the parish. <http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/news/>
10. In addition to the residents' questionnaire, similar approaches were designed for the other principal groups of stakeholders: Lavenham businesses and Babergh Council.

4. Early engagement 2021 – Questionnaires

1. Three questionnaires were issued:
 - Residents
 - Businesses
 - Planners
2. The resident questionnaire was originally planned for late 2020/early 2021 but due to Covid-19 restrictions the revision group were only able to meet on Zoom and this delayed progress The 2021 Census was carried out in March 2021, so it was therefore decided to delay the LNP 2 resident questionnaire until mid 2021.
3. **Resident Questionnaire:** The questionnaire is available to view at Appendix 4. It comprises 48 questions and focuses on seeking community views on the appropriateness of the objectives, aspirations and planning policies in the adopted Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan (LNP1).
4. The questionnaire was compiled on software from Community Action Suffolk (CAS). Increased experience of online use during the Covid-19 lockdowns, together with the capability to complete the 2021 census online, provided reassurance that an online questionnaire would be accessible and acceptable to the majority.
5. **Resident Questionnaire process:** Residents were alerted to the forthcoming questionnaire in the Christmas 2020, February and May 2021 newsletters, delivered to every household in the Parish. During August 2021 posters were displayed around

the village to announce and encourage the consultation.

<http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/news/>

6. A 24 page Questionnaire Guide was produced with detailed information about LNP1. Great care was taken by the LNP2 Revision Group to produce an attractive and easy to read document.
7. The Questionnaire Guide was printed and, together with a letter explaining the way to access the questionnaire, delivered by volunteers to all residents in the first week of July 2021.

Online version of the Questionnaire Guide

<http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/2021-documents/QuestionnaireGuide.FINAL.pdf>

Online version of the accompanying letter:

<http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/2021-documents/Letter.FINAL.pdf>

More detailed information was provided in a Supporting Document also presented on the Neighbourhood Plan website. <http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/2021-documents/Residents-Questionnaire-2021-Supporting-Documents-FINAL.pdf>

8. Residents were provided with 3 access codes (printed on the letter) for up to three members of the household to complete the questionnaire online. A phone number and email address were provided to request additional access codes for other household members, or for a paper copy to be delivered.
9. 25 paper copies were requested and hand delivered with an envelope asking the resident to return the completed questionnaire to either the Village Hall or the Village Information Point. There was also the option to phone and ask for a volunteer to collect the completed questionnaire. The paper copy responses were input to the CAS online version by members of the Revision Group.
10. At all times the responses were anonymous.
11. The questionnaire was distributed on 12/13 July 2021, with a closing date for responses of 10th August 2021. During this four-week period a number of posts were made on the Lavenham Noticeboard Facebook page reminding people to have their say and complete the questionnaire. Posters with the same message were put up on the Lavenham noticeboards <http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/news/>
12. **Business Questionnaire:** The questionnaire was compiled using the CAS software. It had a similar format to the resident questionnaire to enable the Questionnaire Guide to be used as a reference document.
13. To establish a distinct response from businesses as opposed to residents (the two groups in some cases overlapping) the Business Questionnaire was not sent out until after the closing date for the Resident Questionnaire.
14. **Business Questionnaire Process:** The Lavenham Forum database was the first source for business contacts. Data protection rules meant Lavenham Forum were unable to provide their database, but they undertook to make contact on behalf of the Revision Group. A further list of businesses not members of the forum was compiled. An email was sent to all business contacts alerting them of the questionnaire and asking for their support. In total over 150 businesses were contacted.

15. As contact was by email rather than printed letter, and in many cases via the Lavenham Forum, businesses were asked to contact the Revision Group via email to request an access code. <http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Submission-documents/Business-questionnaire-email-1.pdf>
16. Only online responses were expected; no provision was made for paper copies. The Questionnaire Guide was made available online, with an offer to deliver a hard copy to any businesses – none were requested.
17. Emails were sent on 3 September 2021 with a closing date of 23 September 2021. At the request of the businesses the deadline was extended to 30 September 2021.
18. Twenty-seven access codes were requested. Checks were made to see who had completed and reminders were sent. A further email was sent on 17 September 2021 reminding people to complete. <http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Submission-documents/Business-questionnaire-email-2.pdf>
19. **Planners Questionnaire:** For the purpose of receiving comment and insight from both development management officers and members of the planning policy team, a short questionnaire was drafted and sent to nine officers working at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils (BMSDC).
<http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Submission-documents/Planners-questions.pdf>
20. The questionnaire was sent via email on 16 July 2021 requesting responses via email by 10 August 2021. Three responses were received from:
 - Neighbourhood Planning Officer (BMSDC)
 - Development Management Area Manager, (BMSDC)
 - Heritage & Design Officer (BMSDC)

5. Questionnaire Responses

1. A total of 246 returns were received from the **Residents Questionnaire**.
2. In terms of representation, the age profile of the respondents to the residents' survey was:
 - 59% – over 65 years old
 - 27% – 50 to 65 years old
 - 10% – 30 to 49 years old
 - 0% – under 30 years old
 - 4% – did not declare age
3. Representation was therefore disproportionately high from the over 65 age group. Information made available in early 2023, via the Census 2021 results, tell us that 39% of parish residents were aged 65 years and over.
4. A report summarising the July/August 2021 engagement was made available in the form of posters at community drop in events held in November 2021. These are also available to view online here: <http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Public-meetings-November-2021/A1-posters>

5. A detailed report of the feedback received from the residents and business Neighbourhood Plan Revision 2021 Questionnaires is set out in Appendix 5. This appendix details the following:
 - Overriding key messages
 - Summary of thematic issues arising
 - Analysis of the responses, question by question
6. The report is accompanied by a further 56 page report that logs every response made to the open questions by residents. The final few pages of this report include comments from the business community
<http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Public-meetings-November-2021/comments.pdf>
7. Generally, there was broad support for the approach set out in the adopted Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan. This is evidenced through the responses to the closed questions Q1, Q2, Q4, Q7, Q9, Q11, Q13, Q15. However, the responses to the open questions and closed questions Q5 revealed a number of issues that are reported in Appendix 5 and summarised below in Table 1.
8. The feedback to the July/August 2021 was used to inform the development of LNP2. An overview of the key messages from the consultation is set out below, alongside a note of the agreed actions and priorities by the LNP2 Revision Group.

Table 2: July/August 2021 engagement: Key issues arising and LNP2 Revision Group response

Theme	July/August 2021 engagement results. Straplines taken from page 16 (unless otherwise stated) of “We asked.. You Said” report.	Implications or action by LNP2 Revision Group
Developer-led housing	<p>“The overwhelming sentiment from this survey is that there has been more than enough development in and around the village, and that it is mostly poor quality.</p> <p><i>“The Plans’ great weakness is that it does not set a housing target. It’s a set of principles allows developers a tick box exercise to push an indefinite number of 24 unit developments without regard for the cumulative impact they have”</i></p> <p>Also, from pages 4 and 6 of “We asked..You said” report</p> <p>“Strong condemnation for design of Osier View and Indigo Fields”</p> <p>“Concerns over the ‘gateways’ into the village are being spoiled”</p> <p>Also to note response to Question 2 in the Survey “Do you agree that recent housing</p>	Inform the direction of the plan in terms of site allocations, settlement boundary review, design and landscape policies

Theme	July/August 2021 engagement results. Straplines taken from page 16 (unless otherwise stated) of “We asked.. You Said” report.	Implications or action by LNP2 Revision Group
	schemes have contributed to Lavenham’s unique character?”, one quarter of respondents agreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, whilst three-quarters disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.	
Affordable housing	<p>“Many respondents expressed concern over the under-provision of affordable housing. There are various interpretations of what constitutes affordable housing and how ‘local needs’ are assessed.”</p> <p>Also, taken from page 5 of the report:</p> <p>“Housing for the elderly and for locals should be a priority for most people”</p>	<p>All these concerns flag up the importance of building the evidence on housing needs. Whilst it was clear that the results of the Census 2021 would not be available at the parish level for the short and medium terms. There were some avenues that could be explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build understanding of affordable housing needs in parish. Action: 1) Action: seek updates from housing team at BMSDC on number of households registered with an affordable housing need and with connection to Lavenham parish. 2) Consider a Housing Needs Survey. The LNP2 Revision Group also received confirmation that the Lavenham Community Land Trust planned to run a Housing Needs Survey in 2022. • Build understanding of the market-driven demand for housing in parish. Action: an estate agent survey was subsequently undertaken by the revision group in December 2021 and January 2022. <p>2021 Census results will provide important context</p>
Climate Emergency	<p>“There is recognition that we are in a climate emergency and that the plan needs to reflect this.</p> <p><i>“Climate change is real and we need to prepare for disruptive events (weather / flooding / food / migration etc)”</i></p>	<p>LNP2 Revision Group to explore resources to inform NP, taken into account the sensitivity of the built environment in terms of heritage. The following resources subsequently explored:</p>

Theme	July/August 2021 engagement results. Straplines taken from page 16 (unless otherwise stated) of “We asked.. You Said” report.	Implications or action by LNP2 Revision Group
		https://www.leti.uk/ www.westoxon.gov.uk/netzerocar bontoolkit https://stbauk.org/ (Sustainable Traditional Building Alliance)
Traffic and Parking	<p>“Respondents have a serious concern over traffic and parking provision the village. While there are clearly issues around heavy traffic and Water Street, there are associated issues around visitor and employee parking as well as the impact of tourism”</p>	<p>Flags up importance of:</p> <p>Liaising with County Council as the Highways Authority</p>
Heritage	<p>“There are concerns about protecting Lavenham’s character against the threats of modern life.</p> <p><i>“Heritage is important but we don’t want to live in a museum. The village must continue to thrive economically and culturally within its heritage setting”</i></p>	<p>These concerns emphasize the importance of ensuring LNP2 is informed by a Lavenham-specific design guide and an up to date Landscape Character Assessment. Both of these initiatives had been flagged up as a priority by the LNP2 Revision Group/ Parish Council prior to the 2021 engagement work.</p>
Architectural style/character	<p>“A divergence of opinion from championing modern design to wishing Tudor design.</p> <p><i>“All new buildings should be built in traditional style”</i></p> <p><i>“I don’t think we should be scared of innovative and modern designs as long as the quality is good”</i></p>	<p>These concerns emphasize the importance of ensuring LNP2 is informed by a Lavenham-specific design guide and an up to date Landscape Character Assessment. Both of these initiatives had been flagged up as a priority by the LNP2 Revision Group/ Parish Council prior to the 2021 engagement work.</p>
Tourism	<p>“There is a tension between recognising the benefits that tourism brings and the issues that occur with traffic and increased footfall “</p> <p><i>“It seems tourists attract greater priority than residents”</i></p>	
Second Homes	<p>“There is concern over second home ownership and the effect it has on the community. Some feel it means there are no affordable homes for sale.”</p> <p><i>“There are also too few houses to rent because of second homes and holiday lets”</i></p>	<p>LNP2 Revision Group considerations/actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Census data, once available will be key in informing policy approach

Theme	July/August 2021 engagement results. Straplines taken from page 16 (unless otherwise stated) of “We asked.. You Said” report.	Implications or action by LNP2 Revision Group
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday lets and second home are due to role of Lavenham as a tourist destination. It is unclear to what extent the same homes would be suitable as permanent homes. • A planning policy will be limited in that it cannot influence existing stock.
Demographics	“Some feel it is fine that the village has an older demographic, while others think not enough is being done to attract young families.”	LNP2 Revision Group considerations/actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Census data, once available will be key in informing policy approach • Look at numbers at Lavenham Community Primary School
New School	“Many respondents favour a new school building, and have expressed opinions on turning the existing building into retirement homes. There is also a strand of opinion that wants to keep the school in the centre of the village.”	Flags up importance of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Having up to date information on capacity of Lavenham Community Primary School ii. Liaising with County Council and the school itself. iii. Approach in LNP2 must be informed by this context.
Lavenham Surgery	“Respondents are dismayed by the recent service offered by the surgery and would like assurances it will continue to service the community”	Recommend that the Parish Council consider registering the Surgery as an asset of community value
Efficacy of the Plan:	“Replies pointed out that the plan has not always been successful though there is broad support”	Monitoring strategy considered for inclusion in the Plan

9. Responses from the **Business Questionnaire** are integrated into the residents responses as shown above. The final pages of the ‘Comments’ booklet are identified as coming from the Business questionnaire.
<http://www.lavenhamnnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Public-meetings-November-2021/comments.pdf>

10. Responses from the **Planners Questionnaire** confirmed the following:
- NP1 policies are used and have been helpful in decision making.
 - The development management team singled out Policies H1 and ENV 1 (settlement strategy and views) as being particularly helpful and advised that the plan could usefully be modified through the inclusion of site allocations.
 - The NP should be supported by an up-to-date Housing Needs Survey
 - Support for the development of a Design Guide
 - Support from the Heritage Officer of spatial strategy approach set out in the adopted plan “small developments integrated into the village are welcome, rather than large, unconnected blocks of housing”
 - Request from the Heritage Officer that sites that are industrial in nature should be replaced, when the opportunity arises, with a similarly industrial aesthetic but employing local materials and details in an attempt to combine the past of use of the site with geology and traditions of built form we see today.

6. Mid-way plan development (October 2021 to October 2022)

1. Following the July and August 2021 resident and stakeholder engagement work, the LNP2 Revision Group worked closely with a RTPI planner (Modicum Planning) to review the need for changes to the adopted Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 1. The work considered four broad and important elements:
 - a) Feedback from the community and resident engagement work
 - b) The requirements of Neighbourhood Plans to meet the basic conditions.
 - c) Review of the planning policy context provided both at the national level (primarily through the NPPF 2021 and online planning practice guidance) and at the district level through the adopted and emerging Local Plan. With respect to the latter, Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Councils submitted the Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Joint Local Plan 2018 to 2037 to the Secretary of State in March 2021.
 - d) Technical evidence and changes in circumstances since LNP1 was adopted in 2016.
2. With regards to the fourth element, it was recognised at an early stage that several evidence “gaps” existed which needed to be addressed in order to inform LNP2. As discussed in Table 1, this included information on housing needs, affordable housing needs as well as a priority to develop a Lavenham-specific Design Guide and a priority to update the Lavenham Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment so that LNP2 can be informed by its findings. Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 provide further information.
3. The LNP Review Group held two workshops with Modicum Planning, on 15 October 2021 and 22 October 2021. Current and some former Parish Councillors were invited to participate in the workshop.
4. An important starting point for the review process was building a broad consensus on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities facing the parish. The workshops resulted in the drafting of a SWOT analysis.
<http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Submission-documents/SWOT.pdf>

[November 2021 Community Drop in Events.](#)

5. The LNP2 Revision Group reported back to the community on the findings from the engagement work, initially via Newsletter 3. This newsletter was delivered to every household in the Parish.

<http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Newsletters/NEWSLETTER3.Yellow.pdf>

- The newsletter announced two drop-in community events to be held at the Village Hall during the afternoon on Sunday 21 November and during the evening of Tuesday 23 November 2021.
- The Revision Group prepared and printed a total of 21 posters for display.
- After a welcome poster at the entrance, 16 posters covering the responses to the Questionnaire were on display boards on tables, numbered to enable visitors to follow the process and responses in the sequence presented in the Questionnaire Guide. <http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Public-meetings-November-2021/A1-posters> Copies of the Guide were available as a reference.
- Four larger posters were presented separately and included a map showing the proposed Settlement Boundary and recent developments; the SWOT analysis; Next Steps, including an updated Lavenham Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment and the preparation of a Design Guide for Lavenham. The final poster expanded on the key theme of Climate Change. <http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Public-meetings-November-2021/Supporting-documents.pdf>
- All the posters presented at the workshop were published on the website.
- 65 people attended over the two meetings. Visitors were encouraged to comment using post it notes provided. A transcript of these notes is available to view here: <http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Public-meetings-November-2021/Post-it-notes-from-meetings-on-21-and-23-November-2021-.pdf>

These comments were fed into the plan review process.

Other events October 2021 to October 2022

6. 14 January 2022 Design Guide Workshop for Revision Group lead by Paul Dodd, Out Design, commissioned to develop a Design Guide for Lavenham.
7. To encourage attention from the 'missing' age group of young parents, the Revision Group commissioned a banner for display at the Recreation Ground on Bridge Street Road, in support of Lavenham Youth Football Club. This was installed in December 2021, with an option for renewal after one year. <http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Newsletters/Poster-football-ground-December-2021.JPG>
8. Informal meeting with Suffolk County Council Emergency planners and Chair of LPC to discuss 'risk' issues around fire and flooding in the village and how the plan would reflect these topics. 01 September 2022. <http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Submission-documents/Emergency-planning-1.9.2022.pdf>

9. Participation in Zoom conference to share learning: AHRA 2022 Convening: Building Ground for Climate Collectivism. Revision Group members made a presentation to a drop in session. <http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Submission-documents/AHRA-conference-email.pdf>
10. South Suffolk constituency MP, James Cartlidge, attended informal Revision Group meeting on 21 January 2022. <http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Submission-documents/Appendix11-communications.pdf>

7. Informal engagement (September to November 2022)

1. By August 2022, the LNP2 Revision Group had progressed the following:
 - Completion of first draft of the Lavenham Design Guide
 - Completion of first draft of updates to the Lavenham Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment
 - Completion of first draft of LNP2
2. On 8 September 2022, the LNP2 Revision Group started a process of informal engagement with the following key stakeholders:
 - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council
 - Suffolk County Council
 - Lavenham Parish Council
 - Lavenham Community Land Trust
 - Lavenham Society
 - Environment Agency
3. The stakeholders were given until 5 October 2022 to provide comments.
4. Stakeholders were generally very supportive of the content of LNP2, the Design Guide and the updated Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment. A wide range of comments were received on plan detail as well as the visual presentation of the plan. Table 2, below documents a handful of the more fundamental concerns, alongside a report as to how the LNP2 Review Group responded.
5. A follow up meeting was held between LNP2 Review Group and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council on 10 November 2022. The meeting was held virtually.

Table 2: Key issues raised during informal engagement

Stakeholder comment	LNP2 Review Group response
A request by BMSDC for the NP to include a policies map	It is agreed a Policies Map would be helpful at the end of the process. But in the meantime, it is important that every policy with a site specific implication is accompanied by a map.

Stakeholder comment	LNP2 Review Group response
<p>BMSDC raised concerns regarding Policy LAV 16, which had been brought forward from LNP1 but introduces specific criteria to define what is meant by a strong local connection.</p> <p>While this cascade approach might be acceptable on a Rural Exception Site or a Community Land Trust scheme, it should not be applicable to all other types of affordable housing that may come forward in Lavenham.</p>	<p>This was discussed in a follow up meeting with BMSDC in November 2022. Some issues were identified during this meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unclear how Policy H4 in LNP1 is being implemented. The wording is open to interpretation as to whether it applies a parish-specific local connection criteria to all affordable housing. • It is agreed that affordable housing being delivered as part of S106 should include a parish-specific local connection criteria • It is agreed the policy needs to be reviewed.
<p>BMSDC queried the evidence underpinning the 12 unit cap on Policy LAV 13 and LAV 18</p>	<p>It is agreed to be clearer on the rationale supporting the proposal to lower the development size preference from 24 units to 12 units.</p>
<p>A range of comments regarding the layout and readability of the document</p>	<p>Key issues acknowledged and to be addressed prior to Regulation 14</p>

Lavenham Press Site

6. In October 2022, the LNP2 Review Group were notified of a significant change in circumstance in relation to a key site in the heart of the Lavenham Conservation Area along Water Street. Land at 47 Water Street had been subject of a planning application since June 2021. The proposal was for the demolition of existing unlisted buildings and structures and the erection of retirement living accommodation to include amenity space, landscaping, parking and vehicular access.
7. The application was refused on 19 October 2022.
8. The LNP2 Review Group subsequently included a new policy into the NP, focusing only on the Lavenham Press Site. Policy LAV 31 seeks to retain employment uses on the site although to help with the long term viability of the site the policy allows small scale residential development as part of an employment-led mixed use scheme.

8. Regulation 14 Consultation

1. LNP2 was approved by Lavenham Parish Council for Regulation 14 consultation at its meeting held on 1 December 2022.
2. The Regulation 14 consultation ran from 8 December to 1 February 2023.

Who was consulted and how were they consulted?

3. **Lavenham residents and other stakeholders:** Every household in the parish received a leaflet advising them of the consultation. The leaflet provided the following information:
 - Details of how to access the Neighbourhood Plan
 - The start and end date of consultation
 - How to respond to the consultation
 - Information regarding the planned community drop-in sessions
<http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Newsletters/NEWSLETTER4.DEC2022-2.pdf>
4. Parish residents and local stakeholders were also notified in the following additional ways:
 - Posters were put up at the Parish Noticeboards
 - A Facebook post announcing the consultation and directing visitors to information on the website
 - Additional Facebook post announcing the consultation and the drop-in information session to be held on Tuesday 17 January 16.00 to 19.00
 - Announcements in Lavenham Life December 2022 and January 2023 issues
<http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/news/>
5. The Neighbourhood Plan Review website <http://www.lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/> was updated to include the following:
 - Announcing the Regulation 14 consultation on Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2 including the start and end date of the consultation
 - Information on how to access the plan and how to make comments
 - The Regulation 14 documents, specifically:
 - The Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2 Pre-submission Version (Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan)
 - The Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2 Modification Proposals Regulation 14 Statement
 - Key supporting documents to the Neighbourhood Plan, specifically:
 - Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan 2 Design Guide 2023
 - Lavenham Landscape Character & Sensitivity Assessment 2023
 - Open spaces assessment
 - Announcing a community-drop in session to be held at the village hall on 17 January 2023.
6. Consultees were invited to respond to both the Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan and the supporting Design Guide and Lavenham Landscape Character & Sensitivity Assessment.
7. Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation in the following ways:
 - a. Completing an online questionnaire via the website
 - b. By email to lavenhamnp2@aol.com
 - c. By letter to the Village Information Point, 2 Lady Street, Lavenham CO10 9RA, or the post box outside the Parish Office at the entrance to the Church Street car park.
 - d. Attendance at the Drop In session scheduled for 17 January 2023.

8. A paper copy of the Neighbourhood Plan, together with its supporting documentation including the Regulation 14 Modification Statement, was made available in Lavenham Library, which is located in the Village Hall. Lavenham residents facing mobility issues who wished to view a paper copy of the plan, but were unable to access Lavenham Library were given the option of contacting the Parish Clerk so that alternative provision could be made.
9. On 17 January 2023, the Neighbourhood Plan revision group hosted a community drop-in session. This took place between 16.00 and 19.00 in the Village Hall. The earlier posters were displayed again, and paper forms were provided for people make immediate comments. Copies of LNP2, Design Guide and Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment plus supporting documentation were all available. Revision Group members discussed issues with the visitors and invited written comments. The meeting was attended by over 40 people, many of whom stayed for 30 minutes or longer.
<http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/Submission-documents/Comment-Form.JAN2023-1.pdf>
10. **The questionnaire:** The questionnaire was available online and could be made available in paper format, although none requested. It comprised 12 questions including 5 closed questions seeking the level of support for LNP2 as a whole, for the vision, the themes and objectives, the planning policies and for the community initiatives. Consultees were also invited to provide open comments on these separate components of LNP2. In addition, respondents were invited to respond to the Lavenham Design Guide 2023 and the Lavenham Landscape Character & Sensitivity Assessment. <http://lavenhamnp2.onesuffolk.net/assets/pre-submission-consultation-dec-2022-feb-2023/SmartSurvey-questionnaire-reg-14-consultation.pdf>
11. **Statutory Consultees:** Regulation 14 b) of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations stipulates that the qualifying body, in this case Lavenham Parish Council, should consult any consultation body set out in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan.
12. Accordingly, the statutory bodies listed in Table 3 were notified by letter (sent principally via email) of the consultation and were invited to respond to the plan. The letter included the following information:
 - Announcement of the consultation and consultation period
 - Link to the LNP2 website
 - Details of how the Neighbourhood Plan can be accessed and details of how to respond to the consultation.
13. Additionally, the letter sent to the landowners of the land proposed in LNP2 as Local Green Spaces were given an explanation of the Local Green Spaces policy.

Table 3: Consultation body as per Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and name of consultee/organisation contacted in December 2022

Babergh & Mid-Suffolk District Council our Local Planning Authority
Two planning officers contacted including the neighbourhood planning team. Two District Councillors: margaret.maybury@babergh.gov and clive.athey@babergh.gov
Suffolk County Council
Neighbourhoodplanning@suffolk.gov.uk

Lavenham County Councillor robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov
Neighbouring County Council
Not applicable
Neighbouring Local Planning Authority
Not applicable
Parish clerks to all the neighbouring parish councils
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cockfield - Preston - Thorpe Morieuz - Brent Eleigh - Great Waldingfield - Alpheton - Acton - Long Melford
Lavenham MP
- james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk
The Coal Authority
- planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk
Homes and Communities Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eastsoutheast@hca.qsi.gov.uk - infogove@homesenlgand.gov.uk
Natural England
- consultations@naturalengland.gov.uk
Environment Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Customer Contact Centre PO Box 544 Rotherham S60 1BY enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
eastplanningpolicy@historicengland.org.uk
Historic England
24 Brooklands Road Cambridge CB2 8BU eastofengland@historicengland.org.uk
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
Not applicable
A strategic highways company part of whose area is in or adjoins the neighbourhood area
planningee@highwaysengland.co.uk
Where the Secretary of State is the highway authority for any road in the area of a local planning authority any part of whose area is in or adjoins the neighbourhood area, the Secretary of State for Transport
not applicable
Marine Management Organisation
not applicable
Any person

i) to whom the electronic code applies by virtue of a direction given under section 106 (3) (a) of the Communications Act 2003; and
ii) who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of the area of the local planning authority

Open Reach

Newsitereceptioneastofengland@openreach.co.uk

Mobile Operators Association

info@ukmoa.org.uk

Where it exercises functions in any part of the neighbourhood area:

- A clinical commissioning group established under section 14D of the National Health Service Act 2006
- The national health service commissioning board
- A person to whom a license has been granted under section 6 (1) (b) and (c) of the Electricity Act
- A person to whom a license has been granted under section 1(2) of the Gas Act 1986
- A sewage undertaker
- A water undertaker

Anglian Water

spatialplanning@anglianwater.co.uk

planningliaison@anglianwater.co.uk

National Grid

Matt.verlander@avisonyoung.com

Nationalgrid.uk@avisonyoung.com

UK Power Networks

Jim.whiteley@ukpowernetworks.co.uk

Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit all or any part of the neighbourhood area:

- Lavenham Woodland Project
- Suffolk Preservation Society Little Hall, Market Place, Lavenham CO10 9QZ
sps@suffolksociety.org
- Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service Martin.sanford@suffolk.gov.uk
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust: ellen.shailles@suffolkwildlifetrust.org
- Lavenham Community Land Trust: Lavenham.clt@gmail.com
- Lavenham Good Neighbours Scheme
- Love Lavenham Committee:
- RSPB Norwich Office, Stalham House, 65 Thorpe Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 1U
- The Woodland Trust Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL.
- Lavenham Lawn Tennis Club
- Lavenham Rambling club
- The Lavenham Society
- Lavenham Community Council, Chairman, Lavenham Village hall.

Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the neighbourhood area

- British Horse Society enquiry@bhs.org.uk
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust info@suffolkwildlifetrust.org
- Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings 37 Spital Square London EC1 6DY info@spab.org.uk

Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the neighbourhood area

- Church of St Peter & St Paul, Lavenham: Reverend Graham Naylor
- Major Debbie Nield Salvation Army The Common Lavenham CO10 9RL Lavenham@salvationarmy.org.uk [01787 247 712](tel:01787247712)

Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the neighbourhood area

- Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary: C/o Lawson Planning Partnership Ltd jameslawson@lppartnership.co.uk
- Primary school contact:
- admin@lavenham.suffolk.sch.uk
- Lavenham Library

Specific Buildings:

- Guildhall: National Trust EE.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk
- Suffolk Preservation Society, Little Hall: director@suffolksociety.org
- Lavenham Guild Hall, Mrs Josephine Waters at the Guildhall, National Trust.

Lavenham shops and services:

- GP The Long Melford Branch Practice, Lavenham Surgery, 36 Church Street, Lavenham, Sudbury, CO10 9SA
- Lavenham Village Hall: lavenhamvh@btconnect.com
- Suffolk Chamber of Commerce: info@suffolkchamber.co.uk

Developers:

- Agent for Osier View: Strutt & Parker
- Strutt & Parker (agent for Marden Homes Ltd):
- Howlett: Hopkins & Moore
- Land off Norman Way: Agent: Phil Cobbold Planning Ltd

Key Landowners:

- Landowners of The Hall, Milden, Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9N
- Lavenham Press, 47 Water Street, Lavenham CO10 9RN enquiries@lavenhamgroup.co.uk
- Landowners of the pastureland around the church, recreation ground and down Park Road to the Lavenham Railway Walk crossing.
- Brights Farm landowners
- David Brooks Land Agent at Brooks Leney db@brooksleney.co.uk Responsible for LA069
- Landowners of land either side of the Preston Road from Nether Hall Bungalow.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owners of the pasture behind the British Legion <p>Local Green Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All owners of the proposed Local Green Spaces
Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the neighbourhood area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lavenham Good Neighbours Scheme & Dementia Alliance • Suffolk Coalition of Disabled People: enquiries@scodp.org.uk

The Responses and Key Issues raised.

- Forty-two residents responded, a further local resident who did not live in the parish responded and twelve statutory consultees responded to the consultation.
- In addition, a further twelve residents left written comments during the community drop-in session held on 17 January 2023.
- A schedule of all responses received from residents is available to view at Appendix 6, alongside a report of Neighbourhood Plan revision group response and, where applicable, a note of a change made to LNP2 in response to the comment. Appendices 7, 8 and 9 do the same but with respect to the comments from the statutory consultation bodies, the comments made at the community drop-in session and the comments from the local (non-parish) resident.
- Responses received by all consultees generally fall into the following categories:
 - Supportive, endorsing LNP2/Design Guide/Landscape Character & Sensitivity Assessment with no action required.
 - Minor comments and requests of changes to the Regulation 14 version prior to the submission stage. Many of these have been readily accepted.
 - Objections to individual components of the plan
- The most significant issues or objections raised by residents and the statutory consultees are summarised in Tables 4 and 5 respectively.

Table 4: Some key issues and objections raised by residents during the Regulation 14 engagement.

Key issues and concern	Response
One resident raised concern with respect to the strongly preferred maximum size of 12 units for rural exception housing.	Many other residents have expressed the view that there should be no more residential development schemes at all.
Another resident raised concerns with respect to allowing new schemes of up to 12 units in the Lavenham Settlement Boundary	National planning policy does not allow our neighbourhood plan to restrict residential development completely. LNP2 provides a clear strategy for restricting development outside the proposed settlement boundary, for restricting the size of developments (both inside and outside the proposed boundary), and for requiring high design standards to be met on all developments.
Three residents attending the 17 January 2023 drop-in session expressing concerns with respect to any development coming forward, with one commenting that no more should come forward until after 2037, referring to the amount of development that had already taken place	

Key issues and concern	Response
<p>Three residents raised concern with respect to the number of second homes and holiday lets in Lavenham.</p>	<p>Census 2021 data was not available at the time of the Regulation 14 consultation, and it has since become available. This tells us that 8.3% of dwellings were not permanently occupied on Census day in 2021 whereas in 2011 this was 10.4% and in 2001 this was 8.0%.</p> <p>A planning policy in the LNP2 could only influence new build development and could have no effect on existing properties.</p> <p>The rate of second homes and holiday homes in Lavenham is acknowledged but the rate is not as extreme as in other places such as in Southwold. Furthermore, second homes and holiday home do play a role in supporting tourism in Lavenham. Given the limited effect a neighbourhood plan can have on this matter, and given the problem is not extreme, it is considered reasonable that LNP2 does not place a restriction on new build properties.</p>
<p>One resident raised concerns with respect to the preferred limit of 12 units on supported housing schemes in the settlement boundary, commenting that this is inflexible.</p>	<p>LNP2 does not support large residential/nursing homes. But housing schemes where occupants are regarded as residents (which is consistent with the NHS agenda to move towards integrated care systems) are supported.</p>
<p>One resident queried why land in his ownership was proposed as a Local Green Space, while other nearby areas of land were not also proposed to be given this designation.</p>	<p>In response to this comment, the area concerned was removed from the proposed list of Local Green Spaces and added to Policy LAV 20 as an 'Other open space of value'. It is considered the other areas of land referred to would not qualify as Local Green Space when using the criteria set out in paragraph 102 of the NPPF 2021.</p>
<p>Policy LAV 22 Market Place. Six residents raised concern/objections with respect to Policy LAV 22. Particular objections were raised with respect to the approach on parking and tree planting.</p>	<p>Concerns noted. Supporting text to policy amended to reflect the intention of the policy more accurately. Policy LAV 22, brings forward a policy from LNP1 with minor changes. LNP2 also includes Community Initiative 2.4, which is about bringing forward environmental improvement plans for Market Place, to create a high-quality public space that is commensurate with the quality of its historic landscape. To be adopted, such plans will require the widespread support of Market Place residents and businesses.</p>
<p>One resident considered it unfortunate that the plans do not include moving the school</p>	<p>No change. Local government responsibility for children's services, which</p>

Key issues and concern	Response
to a more suitable site. A modern building with playing fields and room to include the very latest teaching facilities would be an immense draw to aspiring parents and an asset to the village. Education, Education, Education should be foremost in our aspirations for our youth. State schools could be built in open countryside offering the best opportunities for education and sport, as enjoyed by private schools	includes schools, rests with Suffolk County Council. It has told us that, based on the current forecast which includes all approved housing in the catchment area, Lavenham Community Primary School is projected to have a small number of surplus places at the end of its most recent five-year forecast period, based on 95% capacity.
Policy LAV 29. One resident commented on the restrictions on occupiers in the Retail Core created by Policy LAV 29.	LAV 29 applies only to the ground floors of relevant premises. It seeks to protect (and wherever possible to enhance) the Retail Core, so that a retail and services offer continues in the historic village centre. This policy is restrictive, but It would be difficult to relax until residential and commercial capital values are more closely aligned.
The local but non-parish resident provided a lengthy response detailing objections with respect to lack of detail in LNP2 on existing biodiversity assets in the parish and lack of solutions to conserve and enhance parish biodiversity.	The submission LNP2 includes more information on species in the parish. In addition the Policy Map supporting the policies defines the Lavenham Brook Corridor as an important existing ecological corridor and the submission plan includes references, via the supporting text to Policy LAV 10 and newly inserted Appendix 6, to the extensive network of hedgerows in the parish.

Table 5: The key issues and objections raised by statutory consultees

Statutory consultees	Key issues and concern	Response
Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Council	Policy LAV 13: BMSDC queried the justification for the strong community preference for the 12 unit cap (as opposed to 24 unit in the adopted LNP).	<p>No change.</p> <p>The justification for the cap is written in the supporting text to Policy LAV 13 and paragraph 4.12. A report titled Maximum Size of Residential Schemes is also included as a LNP2 submission version supporting document.</p> <p>As reported earlier in this Consultation Statement, schemes of approximately 24 units have attracted considerable criticism from the community for not integrating well with the existing Lavenham street scene and landscape character. Furthermore, the spatial</p>

Statutory consultees	Key issues and concern	Response
		strategy set out in LNP2 will comfortably accommodate the housing requirement figure for the plan period. As at March 2022, 113 of the 118 required homes have been delivered or are in the development pipeline (consented not commenced or under construction).
BMSDC	Policy LAV 16: BMSDC objected to the application of the proposed local connection criteria to all affordable housing in the parish (including affordable housing being delivered under Section 106). <i>“This policy would prioritise those with any sort of connection to Lavenham over those with the highest housing needed, including those from immediately neighbouring villages. A parish connection requirement should be left to rural exception sites (as in LAV17) and community land trust schemes (such as at Peek Close). For that reason, we recommend that this policy be deleted.”</i>	<p>Even though this policy was brought forward from the adopted LNP1, the comments made by BMSDC are accepted. Furthermore, as found during the discussions with BMSDC, there were different ways in which the policy could be interpreted (does the policy apply a local connection criteria with respect to the District or does it apply a local connection criteria associated with the parish and local area only?).</p> <p>The comments on LAV 16 have therefore been accepted with the exception of First Homes. Affordable homes delivered on First Homes should prioritise local connection. Evidence on housing costs and household incomes justifies this.</p> <p>LAV 16 has therefore been redrafted so that Lavenham specific criteria cover only First Homes (and LAV 17 Rural Exception Sites/CLT schemes</p>
BMSDC	Policy LAV 17. BMSDC queried the evidence supporting the 12 unit cap and queried how the policy would work if the need was greater or more units were required to make the site viable. BMSDC also objected to the terminology used in defining the local connection criteria	The 12-unit cap has been retained in the policy. However, the text setting out the local connection criteria has been worked on to address the concerns raised by BMSDC
BMSDC	Policy LAV 18. BMSDC queried the 12 unit cap and stated <i>“the need for economies of scale means that this will greatly restrict the types of specialist housing which could come forward. It could</i>	The policy wording has been amended to focus only on supported housing. And includes a strong preference for schemes being no larger than 12 units.

Statutory consultees	Key issues and concern	Response
	<i>inadvertently prevent provision of specialist housing for those in need being viable.”</i>	
BMSDC	BMSDC requested that a policies map that brings together all the key elements is prepared	NP Review Group/Parish Council is happy for a Policies Map to be included but this can be prepared once plan has been completed. In the meantime, all the policies with site specific implication are accompanied by a Policy Map.
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	The Suffolk Wildlife Trust supported the biodiversity policies in the plan but recommended that more information on the existing biodiversity assets and sites is provided in the plan prior to submission. “We recommend also considering what other opportunities to enhance biodiversity exist within the parish, such as potential opportunities to improve habitats along the river Brett corridor. We also recommend highlighting key species within the parish, which habitat creation and enhancement could be targeted towards. Several red and amber listed bird species have been recorded in the parish, including skylark, swift, greenfinch, bullfinch and dunnock. Other protected and Priority species recorded in the parish include several bat species, reptiles including slow worm, common lizard and grass snake, hedgehog, and water vole along the river corridor (Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service).”	The submission LNP2 includes more information on species in the parish. In addition, the Policy Map supporting the policies defines the Lavenham Brook Corridor as an important existing ecological corridor and the submission plan includes references, via the supporting text to Policy LAV 10 and newly inserted Appendix 6, to the extensive network of hedgerows in the parish
Suffolk County Council	Overall, Suffolk County Council were very supportive. Key comments included: - A request for more information to be provided on the importance of addressing archaeology in	As with the vast majority of comments from Suffolk County Council these were accepted.

Statutory consultees	Key issues and concern	Response
	<p>the development management process including in relation to Policy LAV 31: land at 47 – 48 Water Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A suggestion that more data on biodiversity assets in the parish could usefully be provided - 	
Lavenham Community Land Trust	<p>Overall, the LCLT support the approach in the LNP2 and its accompanying documents. However, the CLT expressed concern with respect to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There having been only two community engagement meetings 2. Concern that LNP2 should “address not only the physical environment but also the village’s population and demographic structure and the need of the local community for truly affordable housing is not adequately addressed” <p>The CLT recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further engagement to take place (post Regulation 14 stage) 2. The evidence should be strengthened in particular with respect to the need for affordable housing 3. LNP2 should comply with the Local Plan 	<p>The LNP2 website lists all the consultation events and process’ that have been undertaken. We note the first 18 months of the process were during Covid Lockdown.</p> <p>The 2021 Census data was only made available in early 2023 for parish level information. The findings of the Housing Needs Survey prepared by the LCT has been reflected in LNP2.</p> <p>In addition, further 2021 Census data analysis of housing markets and affordability has been commissioned, and has been used to support revisions to the submission version of LNP2.</p>
Savills on the behalf of Lavenham Press Ltd.	<p>Strong objections were received from this consultee to Policy LAV 30: Land at 47-48 Water Street. Comments are summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The owners and operators of the site have been excluded from the process of plan formulation since the Parish Council commissioned a group of 	<p>All businesses, including LPL, were invited in 09/2021 to comment on the draft</p> <p>In addition, LPC were directly written to at the start of Regulation 14 consultation stage.</p> <p>Policy LAV 31 was subsequently amended to shift towards a policy which safeguarded the site for employment use as opposed to a policy primarily</p>

Statutory consultees	Key issues and concern	Response
	volunteers to revise the existing Neighbourhood Plan in 2020. - Policy LAV31 is not in accordance with national planning guidance or the strategic policies of the Development Plan. - Policy LAV31 will restrict or prevent the introduction of improvements to the premises of the type set out in the LNP2 in order to respond to environmental change	focused on setting out expectations in the event of a planning application coming forward proposing a residential led scheme.

19. With respect to statutory consultees, the Neighbourhood Plan Revision Group arranged follow-up meetings with Babergh and District Council, with Lavenham Press Ltd and with members of Lavenham Community Land Trust. The purpose of these follow-up meetings was to understand more clearly the concerns and to explore an appropriate way forward.
20. In addition, the Revision Group liaised with Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service as a way of following up comments raised by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk County Council and from a local but non parish resident. This resulted in further information on sites and species being made available to inform the content of LNP2.

Changes to the LNP2, the Design Guide and Lavenham Landscape Character Assessment post Regulation 14 consultation

21. In addition to editing and typographical changes, just over 70 changes were made to LNP2 following with Regulation 14 consultation and before the submission stage. These are all documented in Appendix 10. In addition, changes were made to the Design Guide and the Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment.
22. The most significant changes made to LNP2 between Regulation 14 stage and Regulation 15 stage are noted in the table below:

Table 6: The most significant changes made to LNP2 post Regulation 14 stage

LNP2 Policies	Key changes post Regulation 14 stage.
Policy LAV 9 Policy LAV 10	Adding the Lavenham Brook Corridor as site of local biodiversity value in the Map supporting Policy 9 Adding a list of species known to be present in the parish.

LNP2 Policies	Key changes post Regulation 14 stage.
	Adding reference to the importance of the Lavenham hedgerow network as an important current ecological network but one with good potential for improvement.
Policy LAV 16	<p>Substantial rewording of this policy that had been carried forward from the adopted NP. The policy now only applies a local connection criteria to any First Homes which may come forward in the parish.</p> <p>The policy change is supported by evidence on the gap between average house prices and average incomes in the local area.</p>
Policy LAV 17	<p>A re-working of the local connection criteria set out in the supporting text to the policy. This change was made in an attempt to address concerns raised by the housing strategy team at BMSDC.</p> <p>Further evidence on local affordable housing needs in the parish has also been provided in the supporting text to the policy.</p>
Policy LAV 18	The policy was amended to apply only to proposals for supported housing with care. Clause 2 was amended to clarify the community strongly support schemes of no more than 12 units.
Policy LAV 19 Policy LAV 20	Removal of pasture land north of Park Road from the list of proposed LGSs and the addition of this land to Policy LAV 20 (other open spaces of value ...)
Policy LAV 31	A reworking of this policy to address the concerns raised by Lavenham Press Ltd during the Regulation 14 consultation.
Policy LAV 38 Policy LAV 39	Addition of clauses to ensure that residential amenity of existing and future occupiers in proposed development and neighbouring buildings are fully considered at the planning application stage.