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Good afternoon

Earlier today John, Lindsay, Irene and Bryan Panton and myself met with Freddie Gulliver from Suffolk County Council's Emergency Planning Office.

Tom Butler briefly outline the current work on drafting LNP2 and the companion papers on the Lavenham Design Guide. The sections of the Plan on flooding were referred to, as was the absence of any reference to the risk of fire or other emergencies. The existence of the Lavenham Emergency Plan, 2016, drafted by Bryan Panton was notes and that it was produced at the request of Suffolk County Council.

Freddie Gulliver outlined the role of Suffolk County Council in leading a coordination emergency responses with both Category 1 (999) services and Category 2 (other agencies such as Public health and the like) and in addition free training is available from the County Council as regard the operation of a 'Rest Centre'.

We discussed a number of issues including fire, power outages, chemical spillage and flood and the following actions were agreed:

1. LPC will re-visit the Lavenham Emergency Plan, 2016 and update it. The revised document will be about 15 pages and will focus on setting out the practical arrangements of identifying provision of an emergency rest centre at the village hall.
2. Updated information on contact details for key holders and other core contacts will be set out as well as the range of responses that will be provided. A second facility option will be explored and a new process will be established to periodically review the plan, undertake an exercise to test the plan.
3. All documentation must be focused on simplicity and clarity rather than discursive.
4. Other issues that will be updated include the location of fire hydrants and their maintenance as well as a list of community assets that could be used. The 2016 list will be revisited and the name and role of the different venues will be revised.
5. Following new information provided by Bryan Panton, the LPC will explore the options to provide electrical connection to external generators at the village hall in the

event of loss of power.

As regards the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan it was agreed that there should be greater recognition given to the whole issue of emergency planning over and above the work that appears in the current draft LNP2 and I suggest the following text be added to our draft plan:

“Emergency planning does not, as yet form a distinct part of LNP2. However, our Plan reviewed some specific areas of concern, notably the issue of flooding that appeared in LNP. Driven by wider changes in our understanding of the climate emergency, flooding now forms part of one of our four main themes.

However it is recognised that there are other risks to the fabric of the village and the immediate landscape that surrounds it. The nature of that risk includes uncontrolled fire and energy resilience that is significantly exacerbated by the climate change we are experiencing. Increased vigilance is necessary.

We need to go further, and we recommended that a community initiative be undertaken to look more widely at the risks to the village and what remedial action may be required. This work should be undertaken through a partnership lead by LPC, as the key link to the emergency planning system.

The purpose of this work is two-fold, first, to identify ‘emergency’ aspects of themes and their associated policies such as the resilience of our power, food and energy supply and second, to look at opportunities to ‘future proof’ their homes and make them more resilient through practical changes to homes and property to reduce the potential risk of damage to lives and property in the village, starting with an assessment of the risk and share learning on the most effective ways to reduce the risk.”

**Tom Butler**  
**1 September 2022.**