

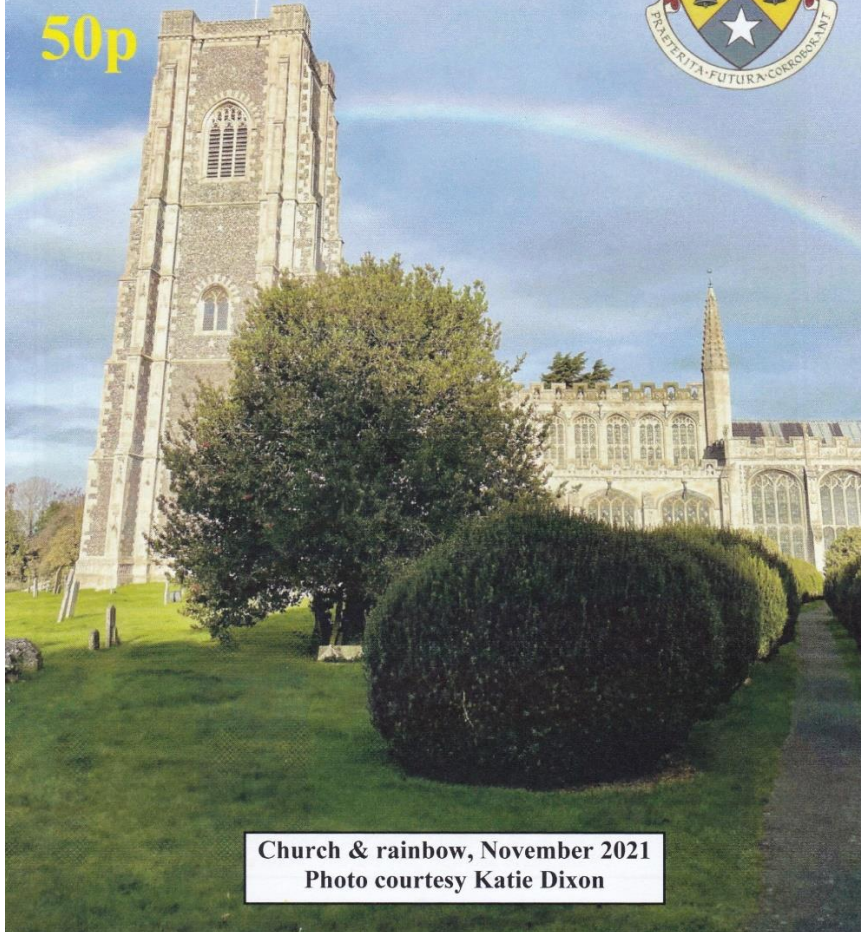
# LAVENHAM LIFE

The Parish Magazine

Jointly published by Lavenham's Christian Churches

January 2022

50p



Church & rainbow, November 2021  
Photo courtesy Katie Dixon

## Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Revision 2021/22 Update

### **We asked, you said, we listen.**

Government has described neighbourhood planning as “a revolution to hand power back to local communities” and a tool that will give people “the power to shape the future of their local area”.

Lavenham’s Neighbourhood Plan has been ‘live’ since 2016 ([bit.ly/LNPone](http://bit.ly/LNPone)) and is being reviewed to ensure that it still meets the expectations of Lavenham residents and addresses the challenges imposed by global warming.

In July 2021 residents were invited to complete a questionnaire on the Plan and contribute opinions on issues of importance to the village. An explanatory document was delivered by hand to every household in the village. All family members over the age of 16 were asked to contribute. Roughly 15% (246) of Lavenham’s adult population completed the questionnaire; no one who declared their age was under 30 years old. However over 1,000 valuable comments on various aspects of Lavenham life were collected. Predictably perhaps many people feel we have had more than our share of new developments while others feel the need for more affordable houses to rent or buy. Although somewhat peripheral to the LNP traffic and car parking also featured prominently.

We gave feedback to the questionnaire responses in the ‘We asked; You said; We listen’ drop-in meetings in the village hall on 21 and 23 November 2021 (photos on page 31). The meetings were promoted by a hand delivered leaflet to all households. 33 people attended the first event and 32

the second (including a few who attended both). The display consisted of 16 posters summarising the questionnaire responses and 4 further large posters of maps and the challenge of global warming. A booklet containing all the comments was available. Attendees were invited to leave comments on post-it notes.

The questionnaire responses have provided a focus for the revision process. This focus was summarised in Poster 16 and in the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis poster and these posters can be seen on the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan (LNP) website ([bit.ly/LNPHome](http://bit.ly/LNPHome)).

Alongside the main Plan the Lavenham Landscape Character Assessment is also being reviewed. This document that describes in detail the unique character of our surroundings and is an important reference for planning decisions. It will be included on the LNP website when finalised.

The questionnaire feedback made clear that the Plan’s building design policies are weak and need updating. Responding to this, a Lavenham Design Guide is being commissioned to support the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and set out design guidelines for new development within the village. The Design Guide will sit alongside the Plan as material consideration in the assessment of planning applications.

Visit the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan website to keep up to date with the revision progress. Type ‘[bit.ly/LNPHome](http://bit.ly/LNPHome)’ into the address bar at the top of your browser page.