



View into the Church from the new Second Hand Books area
(photo courtesy John Page)

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Proposed Revision Our village – our future UPDATE and next steps

The revision of the Plan is following the National Planning Policy Framework and guidance set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. Under this process, Lavenham has just successfully completed the 'Regulation 14' consultation on the pre-submission version of the proposed Plan. To compensate for the Christmas holiday period two extra weeks were added to the required six week consultation period. The well-attended late afternoon / early evening Drop-In session was scheduled to be clear of the festive season but leaving a full two weeks before the closing date of 1 February 2023.

In addition to Lavenham residents, Reg 14 requires the revised plan to be drawn to the attention of stakeholders. These are organisations and individuals who interact with Lavenham Parish in some way, for example: Babergh District Council; Suffolk County Council; Anglian Water; National Grid; English Heritage; Suffolk Wildlife Trust; Lavenham Community Land Trust; local churches; all adjoining Parish Councils; local landowners.

We want to thank every individual and organisation who has contributed the time and effort to respond to our invitation to comment on our draft Plan.

The many comments submitted have been recorded and collated. They will be carefully considered and, where appropriate, the Plan will be amended to take account of these comments.

The statutory responses to the pre-submission version (Reg 14) have been favourable, which is a positive sign for the future of the plan. We need local government to understand and appreciate the local concerns which the Plan identifies. However we must remember that the Plan's objectives are constrained by planning laws; our opportunities to satisfy strongly held opinions may be limited.

We hope that an updated draft Plan (the submission version) will be agreed by Lavenham Parish Council when it meets on 27 April 2023. The Parish Council will then submit our Plan to Babergh District Council, who will publish the document for a further period of consultation, where residents and stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on this version of the Plan.

The Plan will continue through the formal regulated process of consultation which must be followed in order to achieve 'adoption' of the revised plan by Babergh later this year. Until this process is successfully completed the current 2016 neighbourhood plan continues to inform all Lavenham planning decisions