

# LNP2 Business Questionnaire comments September 2021

## Section 1. Q3 Objectives.

Any new builds must be in keeping with Lavenham's medieval history and architectural style. Also wish to avoid sprawling effect on village from more development on the outskirts

LAVENHAM IS OVER-POPULATED WITH A LACK OF SUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE TO COPE WITH MORE DEVELOPMENT

Not convinced it's possible for new housing to meet the objectives as laid out. Suspect it should be better defined, possibly with it's own distinctive character.

no new builds will add to the village's unique character by definition - but some have been better than others - at worst we have seen groups of identikit houses put up that could be anywhere and dont relate to the village at all

I think there has been enough building of new developments now.

45 words not enough

## Section 2. Q6 Housing.

New housing should be future proofed against climate change and thus exceed current building regulations

Very concerned that Lavenham will lose its unique size and character with so many new houses. Risks becoming a sprawling town

H1 is a little loose. Might be an idea to better define a zone where a new part of the village can be built with its own distinct character.

I think the housing development so far has been done well however I don't think there should be anymore. There should be a focus on safe living for the elderly.

The quality and amount of new housing is poor

## Section 3. Q8 Design Policies.

Stronger design code required and adopted by the local planning authority

Lighting is rarely mentioned in plans and should be. Xmas lighting shows Lavenham in a wonderful light. But, distinctive and beautiful lighting is not just for Xmas.

## Section 4. Q10 Heritage

20 mph across this and other villages necessary to help meet climate emergency and reduce pollution  
Didn't answer two previous answers. They are statements and not questions. We don't really understand what we are being asked. How do the shops and businesses in the village function if they cannot have deliveries from HGVs if they were to be banned? Also farmers need to travel through the village. This is a working village not a museum

We would love to see Lavenham start to use lighting to much better effect around the town. There are fabulous examples where this is being done and it would enhance Lavenham to great effect.

Limiting heavy haulage will limit supply chain to the village and remove businesses from some delivery options. This will cause adverse affects in a time where distribution channels MUST NOT be hindered anymore than they already are.

heavy goods vehicles are particularly dangerous to small children, so measures to constrain them would be helpful

## Section 5A. Q12 Community Facilities Policies.

Land based school is difficult to expand but new school has new build constraints.

Important not to move the primary school from the centre of the village - it attracts young families to live in the village and keeps them here

We applaud Lavenham for its bravery in repurposing existing community buildings if new and better ones can be built somewhere else that are better sited to the community's needs.

The primary school and pre-school should work together, and be supported by the community

## Section 5B. Q14 Policies for Infrastructure.

School options not understood by residents and needs to be explained to them. Greater use of existing school should be undertaken.

Do not move the primary school for reasons previously cited

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Policy C2. There isn't a suitable site within the village for a school

We believe that one should always be prepared to re-site facilities or open spaces if it better serves the need of the community and business. Adding to open spaces is always a good thing.

In this era of physical limitation, electronic communication is imperative. Regarding the school, I do not know enough about this as my child does not go to this school so I feel I cannot comment.

### **Section 5C. Q22 Community Facilities and Infrastructure Projects.**

There is parking stress in the village - so consideration for employees parking may be useful

We need parking very close to the building because large sums of money are moved at the beginning and end of the working day

Need for secure commercial vehicle parking - white vans etc.

Consider residents and business owner permits in the village centre for those without off-road parking as high priority

Project P2. You have re designed Prentice Street Car Park already and not increased any car parking spaces. It is now more difficult to turn around at the bottom if the car park is full. The village just needs more parking spaces and not create more spaces in one area to take them away from another area.

Parking is a huge problem for my business, we park in public car park or on the road but sometimes have to have vehicles parked near to the shop to move stock etc.

I feel that employee parking should be ones own responsibility and public transport should be encouraged, parking should be prioritised for economy gain from shoppers and visitors. I would not have agreed to rent my business property if a parking space was not available. I chose this property as 1 space was included privately off road.

Employee parking should not be a priority. Employee commute should either be through public transport or local car share. I chose my business rental because it included one space for the shopkeeper that day to park in. My other businesses outside of Lavenham rely on car share and bus transport. Employees should not be the priority, visitors and shoppers (economy contributors) should be the priority.

parking with good lighting near our premises is very important to our staff, who are all women

### **Section 6. Q28 Shopping.**

Commercial High Street and related areas should be preserved and policies may need to be refined to reflect

Change of use requests should be considered within context of existing business mix across the village rather than on single building basis in isolation. Welcome flexibility from gov in retail E class

Shopping in a shop is now considered a recreational activity by many. Certainly it is an important part of tourism. We would resist the number of shops being reduced and encourage more.

shops should be kept as shops if at all possible - if we lose too many we will fall below the critical mass needed to attract visitors to the village - which will then kill off the other shops and hospitality businesses

I think the village should focus on ensuring that there is a good mix of retail and service so that there isn't lots of overlap. I think Lavenham does that very well, much better than other villages where my business also operates. I do think that there aren't enough service lead businesses in the village which limits a reason for people to visit the village on a routine basis. The village is heavily tourist lead making it disproportionately seasonal. A hairdresser, a florist, a beautician these are services that create footfall to a village that are very much lacking in Lavenham. This is a creating demand and economy to be going outside the village.

Retail spaces (and other businesses) which form part of the business owner's home - and cannot be let or sold as a separate unit - should be allowed to revert to residential occupation as part of the house without a period of prior marketing

### **Section 7. Q33 Environment.**

We need to be much more prepared for climate change

Flooding and climate change should be high priorities for future-proofing the village

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Policy ENV3. It's already come up this year with Market Place proposals....leave it as it is and has been for years and years. The proposals suggested by the Parish Council were going against the policy by taking the parking spaces away from the Market Place with no suitable replacements. The new Gas work sites car park is not an appropriate alternative. Businesses on the Market Place and in the village will suffer as a result. As we said Lavenham is a working village not a museum

As "solar tiles" become available, it seems appropriate that these should be supported as an alternative, especially if they fit in well with existing tiles.

The flooding on connecting roads was unbelievably dangerous. This should be addressed as a matter of absolute priority

our pre-school children will inherit a better or worse climate, depending on our actions now

### **Section 8. Employment and the Local Economy.**

The village should encourage small business and people working from home - there are a lot more of them that people think

Year round programme of events to encourage visitors would be great. Businesses rely heavily on tourists and visitors to survive

Lavenham has always been very supportive of its tourism industry which is wonderful. With a general shortage of employees, perhaps it would be appropriate to start a local job bulletin board?

TIF less important now that people are so used to gathering all the info they need online

Many of our customers can't even gain access to the tourist information and most people use online searches. The online info and pages are outdated and not interactive. They are flat layered. If this is something that is chargeable or should be outsourced to marketing specialists not run internally.

### **Section 9. Q 38 Our Neighbourhood Plan's Overall Approach.**

The listed historic centre is generally protected - however the majority of the village is post war development and should not be forgotten

Too much development risks spoiling the unique character

We answered disagree to Q36. We did this as there are some parts of the neighbourhood plan we disagree with and some we agree with. Its is very hard to give a agree or disagree answer to this question. A neutral answer in the middle could have been provided?

Lengthening the tourist season will have the greatest impact on job creation in Lavenham as it would allow for full time jobs to be created, as opposed to part time jobs. Lighting, events and publicity are key to this being achieved.

please make the plan user friendly and accessible to Lavenham's children and their parents

### **The Last Pages Q51.**

We are all volunteers. Space is GIVEN to a Post Office with one employee (of the post office-not us)

all our people are volunteers, not employed, except a part-time cleaner

As a Lavenham resident we have already completed the first half of the questionnaire. All you are getting is duplicate answers in this section from our answers from when we completed it as residents? Also it would have been helpful if we could have completed the business part of the questionnaire at the same time as the resident version. Would have saved a lot of time looking through the guide again. It's very long winded and some parts are very complicated to understand whether they are a question or a statement. We aren't sure what is being asked in some of the questions. Also for Q52 our answer would be ones not listed. 1st Flyer or letter through the door. 2nd Face to face like a meeting or come and see us

We don't purchase a huge amount in Lavenham, neither do we supply in the traditional sense. However, we do supply 3500 visitors a year wanting two meals a day and entertainment. Thank you Lavenham!

we could not operate at all without water, electric and phones, or for long without broadband