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Facilities provided by Ongar Town Council

Allotment sites – Castle Street & Moreton Road

Bus Shelters – High Street (Opposite nature reserve)
High Street (Outside nature reserve)
High Street (Outside Zinc Arts)
High Street (Outside Bowes House)
Moreton Road

CCTV - Chipping Ongar Library, Ongar Bridge Motors, Love Lane play area, Shelley play area

Cemetery – Love Lane

Jubilee Nature Reserve – High Street (southern end)

Play Areas – Cerizay (behind Chipping Ongar library)
Greensted Road (next to Chipping Ongar school)
Shelley Park (St Peter's Avenue)
Skatepark at Basons Lane

Noticeboards – Fyfield Road, Greensted Road, High Street (southern end)
Love Lane, Pleasance car park, Basons Lane car park, St Peter's Avenue

Planters – Manor Square, High Street

QEII Jubilee site, Love Lane – Play area, Outdoor gym, recreation field,
sports field, zip wire, Jubilee Park Pavilion

Street Lighting – Approximately one hundred street lights in the area

Your Town Councillors

CHIPPING ONGAR WARD

Cllr Janet Bicknell, 45 Onslow Gardens, Ongar, CM5 9BQ – 01277 363880

Cllr Christine Feetham, 56 Queensway, Ongar, CM5 0BN – 07469 639152

Cllr Sheila Jackman, 5 Shakletons, Ongar, CM5 9AT – 01277 363740

Cllr Lyn Hawkins, 4 The Coach House, Norton Lane, High Ongar, CM5 9RR – 01277 362411

GREENSTED WARD

Cllr Nathan Fletcher, 38 Turners Close, Ongar, CM5 9HH – 07825 098916

Cllr Diana Roberts, 36 Millbank Avenue, Ongar CM5 9HL – 01277 364006

MARDEN ASH WARD

Cllr Patrick Bolden, 18 Longfields, Ongar, CM5 9BZ – 01277 363203

Cllr Jane Devonald, 12 Jacksons Close, Ongar, CM5 9HU – 07950 312486

Cllr Andrew Kaye, 7 Glebe Road, Ongar, CM5 9HW – 01277 363440

Cllr Janice Rushton, 41 Kettlebury Way, Ongar, CM5 9HA – 01277 362536

SHELLEY WARD

Cllr Bruce Freeman, Croft Cottage, High Street, Ongar, CM5 9AE – 01277 364694

Cllr Peter Gode, 109 Queensway, Ongar, CM5 0BS – 01277 366302

Cllr John Reynolds, 8 Great Lawn, Ongar, CM5 0AA – 01277 362577

Cllr Alison Wingfield, 70 Queensway, Ongar, CM5 0BN – 01277 364783

Cllr James Browning, 23 Bowes Drive, Ongar, CM5 9AU – 07983 571843

Information on your local ward councillors: www.ongartowncouncil.gov.uk https://twitter.com/ongar_town



an official publication of www.ongartowncouncil.gov.uk

A message from Chairman – Cllr Diana Roberts

It has been a very busy year. We have taken back the running of the Love Lane sports facilities and have started the much needed refurbishments under the supervision of manager Angus McKenzie. We also hosted visitors from Ongar's French twin town of Cerizay and held a successful French Market.

You will be pleased to learn that our precept has not increased this year.

We also held our twice yearly Chairman's coffee morning which brings together the various voluntary sectors and two successful litter picking events.

The Council has followed the example of Essex County Council and banned the use of Sky Lanterns on its land as they are a potential hazard to wildlife

and property.

The majority of councillors did not claim their allowances for the fourth year running so the monies once more went into the pot for the yearly grants the Council gives to local organisations.

We have had one member of staff retire this year. Marie Hatch has been a great asset to the Council and she will be missed. Marie's replacement, Amanda Laws, joined us in April.

The Council is very proud to have achieved the Foundation Status of the new Quality Councils Scheme.

Finally I would like to thank councillors, our Clerk Aimi Middlehurst, office staff Judith Cook and Eileen Gough, our new Jubilee Park manager Angus



McKenzie and outside staff Sean Calver, David Sweeting and Bean Oliver for their help and support over the year.

Public Relations Committee – Chairman – Cllr Sheila Jackman



Our remit is wide and varied and some of our activities during the year have included;

- The circulation of our regular newsletter – Ongar Voice
- The reception for our Cerizay visitors combined with a French market at the Jubilee Park
- The Christmas shop window competition
- The Best Kept Allotment competition

- The Remembrance commemorations at the Ongar War Memorial Medical Centre
- The Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards
- Grants to local organisations
- The Annual Town Meeting
- Regular press releases
- Two Chairman's Coffee Mornings

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Planning & Environment Chairman – Cllr Brian Surtees

This has been a busy year for members of this committee as it has the heaviest programme of meetings. For the third successive year all meetings have been quorate and effective.

Environment brief has seen the committee raise a number of issues relating to street lighting, traffic problems, road markings and matters to do with the state of the town.

An increasing number of residents have attended meetings and on occasion addressed the committee on matters of immediate concern. Some of these have a direct link to the other main function of the committee which is to prepare the Council's response to all planning applications registered in Ongar.

The world of planning law and regulation is constantly changing and although there has been an increase in the number of applications recently the Council is not yet seeing the numbers rise to pre-recession levels.

Changes include the removal of consultation rights for our level of councils where the new, more flexible permitted development rights are used as a basis for development.

During the last 12 months the committee considered 83 planning applications and of these has objected (often strongly) to 9 and 4 have subsequently been granted planning permission.

When the Council objects, the application is heard by the planning sub-committee of EFDC and it is the Council's practice to attend and represent the views of residents during the decision making process.

The committee has responded to various surveys and consultations and taken a keen interest in Green belt and other matters to do with the new District Plan.

The preparation process for the plan has been lengthy.

In contrast to the preparation process the consultation period is short and it will be crucial for this council and other voices in Ongar to study the plan and make representations in the best interests of our community.

Finance Committee Chairman – Cllr Brian Surtees

At this time last year the Council had to plan for both expected and unexpected developments. Last year's budget allowed for the work of the Council to continue while allowing sufficient contingency to cope with what might reasonably be expected at a time when the end of the lease for the Love Lane sports site was approaching and ongoing expenditure could be substantial. Despite this and because of very prudent spending decisions by the Council and its committees the budget set for 2015-16 resulted in a very small decrease in the amount of council tax payable by each household.

Smaller councils do not have vast reserves and try to keep money entrusted to them working for the good of the community. The Council's 2015-16 budget continues to provide for grants to local communities and the continuance of all our ongoing maintenance and repair commitments at the cemetery, nature reserve, playgrounds and the Jubilee Park recreation ground. The set budget does not give freedom for any new or innovative projects. We recognise that melding together the different aspects of the Jubilee Sports and recreation facilities will take time and some money and have set that as the main priority for the current year.

All single items of expenditure over £500 are reported regularly to the Full Council and published on the Council's website. The Council is always happy to respond to enquiries but it is best to make these and wait for a response before resorting to things like Freedom of Information Requests which you have a perfect right to pursue but are time consuming, costly to the Council and may in many cases delay the transmission of the information you require.

Staff have seen great benefits from the computerized accounts system replaced some 18 months ago to replace a package that was no longer supported.

Open Spaces Committee Chairman – Cllr Alison Wingfield



SKATE PARK

Lease for the skate park in Basons Lane has been renewed.

JUBILEE PARK RECREATION AREA

A new piece of play equipment 'Rock Stakz' has been installed. The lease for scout hut in Jubilee Park recreation ground has been renewed.



CERIZAY GARDENS

A new bench has been installed by Ongar Town Council in conjunction with the Twinning Association.

GREENSTED ROAD PLAY AREA

A new fence has been erected to enclose this play area.

PLAY IN THE PARK AND SPORTS IN THE PARK

Epping Forest District Council and the Town Council provided taster sessions of outdoor play and sports for children of all ages at Easter.

The sessions will continue during the summer school holidays.

	2013/14	2014/15
Band D figure per	£90.80	£102.56
INCOME		
Precept	£229,782	£267,578
LCTS Grant from EFDC	£22,770	£20,889
Other Income	£29,885	£33,342
Capital Grants	£37,079	£33,210
Jubilee Park	-	£15,955
TOTAL	£319,516	£370,974
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	£215,246	243,262
Planning & Environment		
Open Spaces	£79,590	£56,940
Public Relations	£1,316	£4,984
Community Grants	£2,018	£950
Other services	£3,595	£3,812
Capital Expenditure	£16,168	£16,410
Jubilee Park -	-	£47,289
TOTAL	£333,884	£390,089*

Members Allowances 2014/2015 -Three councillors claimed a total of £566 net.

*figures may vary due to rounding