

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 Derek Birch, 25 Longfields, Ongar, CM5 9BZ - 07787 279644

Cllr Christine Feetham, 56 Queensway, Ongar, CM5 0BN - 07821 646172

GREENSTED WARD

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

MARDEN ASH WARD

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

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

SHELLEY WARD

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

Cllr John Reynolds, 8 Great Lawn, Ongar, CM5 0AA - 07713 636122

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

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



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A message from Chairman - Cllr James Browning

I am pleased to write the introduction to the Town Council's Annual Report for 2015-2016.

Following the Council elections in May 2015 Ongar Town Council welcomed nine new Councillors.

The Council makes every effort to ensure its funds are used wisely and that residents receive a high level of service. It was a difficult decision to increase the annual precept but this allows the Council to continue to maintain the facilities provided for all residents.

The EFDC Local Plan will set out the necessary policies for the next 20 years and will

consider the environment, homes, jobs, transport, community and local services. EFDC has been given a quota to build 11,000 houses during the period 2011 - 2033. The Town Council will be working to minimise any impact to Ongar. Ongar Town Council will provide regular feedback to residents regarding the Local Plan.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the officers and staff, who work tirelessly throughout the year. Finally I would also like to thank all Councillors for their help.

Finally thanks are extended to all those Councillors who resigned throughout the year



for all the work they have done for the Council and wish them the best of luck in the future.

Public Relations Committee - Vice-Chairman - Cllr Christine Feetham

We have a varied and wide remit for the Public Relations Committee.

I would like to thank the staff for their help and assistance throughout the year. This was the first year that the Council was responsible for organising the Remembrance Sunday Service. A big thank you to the staff for liaising with the attendees, organising the wreaths and obtaining the

equipment for the event.

During the last year the Council has organised a best dressed Christmas Shop Window competition and a very successful Christmas picture competition which was entered by several of the local schools.

The Council has held two Chairman's Coffee Mornings at the Jubilee Park Pavilion.

The Council organises the best kept allotment award; gives out regular press releases; monthly bulletins in the Ongar News; awards grants to local organisations and a contribution towards the Christmas lights; manned a stall at the Ongar Carnival.

Ongar is twinned with Cerizay in France and visits between the two towns take place in alternate years.

Planning & Environment Committee
Vice-Chairman Cllr John Reynolds

Although Planning & Environment is labelled a "committee" it is in fact at present represented by all Councillors.

EFDC receives all planning applications and consults all interested parties which includes statutory bodies such as the Town Council.

The Planning & Environment committee looks at all aspects of an application and forwards its comments onto Epping Forest District Council which are taken into account when making a decision.

Town Councillors live locally so they often know something



which may affect, or be affected by, a particular application.

During 2015/2016 the Committee has met on 19 occasions.

The concern of this Council and residents alike is the outcome of the Local Plan. This Council has now set up a liaison group, whose objective is to keep residents informed of the planning developments.

Our thanks are expressed to Ongar Allotment and Gardening Society for their volunteers who replenish the High Street planters.

The transfer of ownership of the Nature Reserve from Essex County Council to the Town Council was completed in October 2015.

The Council has agreed to work with 'Ongar in Bloom' to provide additional planters in the High Street. Councillors are looking forward to helping this initiative develop.

The Council was awarded three certificates at the Essex Playing Fields Association AGM in October 2015 for Shelley, Cerizay and Love Lane play areas.



Residents may not be aware that the Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of the closed church yard at St Martin's church.

Councillors are glad to report that there has been very little vandalism to Council property this year.

I would like to thank all the Council staff for their help and assistance during the year.

Finance Committee
Vice-Chairman - Cllr Christine Feetham

Last year's budget set for 2015/16 resulted in a very small decrease in the Council Tax payable by each household.

The Council's 2016/17 budget continues to provide grants to local organisations as well as all our ongoing maintenance and repair commitments at the cemetery, nature reserve and Jubilee Park recreation ground.

The past year has resulted in the loss of part of the Local Council Tax Support grant and also an increase in expenditure due mainly to the Council taking over the Jubilee Park recreation ground facilities.

Although the recent internal audit showed that there were no problems with the Council's finances, it is necessary to build up the Council's reserves which have been depleted by various payments made over the last 18 months.

The old Chapel in the cemetery is in urgent need of repair. It was built when the cemetery was first opened in 1865 and is an important part of Ongar's historic heritage.

We would welcome any suggestions from the people of Ongar as to whether they consider it important for the Council to carry out these repair



works. The Council is exploring the possibility of grant funding for this project. The alternative is for it to be demolished but the Ongar Town Councillors and our District Councillors do not want this to happen.

Finally, in the past year, the Council has renewed the leases for the Castle Street Allotments site and the Greensted Road Play Area.

Open Spaces Committee
Chairman - Cllr Alison Wingfield

A new lease has been agreed for the Castle Street site which includes plots that had previously been let to the Horticultural Society. This will ensure security of tenure for the Council's tenants.

An area to the front of the cemetery has been cleared to increase the space available for cremated remains interments. There are further plans to create additional space.



Councillors were very disappointed to learn that members of the public were allowing their dogs to foul in the cemetery. The Council tried several strategies to prevent this happening and are appealing for assistance from members of the public to stop this distressing practice.

Two litter picking events were organised by the Council in the last twelve months.

	31st March 2015	31st March 2016
Operating Income		
Precept	267578	268336
General income	42809	27268
Income from property rental	17935	0
Jubilee Park	0	178097
Mini Bus	2688	2016
Other income	39619	34592
Total Income	370629	510309
Running Costs		
Staff Costs/Wages	167594	213890
Grants	300	1160
Council Buildings & Property	66437	4600
Jubilee Park		197494
Loan Repayments	16410	16410
Mini Bus	3812	3439
Public Relations	5634	4534
Environment	16442	10076
Open Spaces General	28995	18608
Allotments	1754	900
Cemetery	2144	3141
Other expenditure	80297	67840
Total Expenditure	389819	542092