

# **Ongar Town Council**

Report on the effects on Ongar of the proposals in Epping Forest District Council Draft Local Plan

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#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report concentrates on the Housing as proposed for Ongar in the draft Local Plan 2016. Ongar Town Council has some serious concerns about a number of the sites listed in the draft Local Plan. Having questioned the validity of some of the information used in the site selection carried out by ARUP, the council has collected evidence that suggests on several sites, certain aspects of these proposals are unsound.
- 1.2 Ongar Town Council acknowledges that EFDC has to find sites for a large number of housing in the District, despite having over 90% Metropolitan Green Belt Land.
- 1.3 Ongar Town Council accepts that there will be a need for some growth in Ongar in the future.
- 1.4 Leaving aside the issue of building in the Metropolitan Green Belt, Ongar Town Council:
  - 1.4.1 Have new evidence of inaccuracies and omissions in the site selection data used by EFDC to propose particular housing sites in the Ongar area
  - 1.4.2 Consider that the development of several housing sites in the Ongar area have been chosen in direct conflict with EFDC's own policies as well as those of the NPPF
  - 1.4.3 Consider at least one site should have been offered up for car parking rather than housing including the one next to Ongar Health Centre SR-0102 and Ongar Town Council trusts that there will be further opportunities to find car parking sites generally.
  - 1.4.4 Believe that the Fyfield Business Park employment site SR-0173 (which is in Ongar) identified in the SLAA for further intensification for employment uses, but that now has Planning permission for 100 new houses, was a disappointing loss of employment sites. However, that should reduce Ongar's need to build 100 elsewhere in our locality, and provide the opportunity to deliver more acceptable housing sites according to each site's particular characteristics.
- 1.5 Ongar Town Council would therefore request that you reconsider the following sites in the light of the evidence in this report and revise the proposed sites accordingly.

## 2 Relevant background information on Ongar

- 2.1 Ongar in the rural north east of EFDC, comprises Chipping Ongar, Marden Ash, Shelley and Greensted with a population in 2011 of 6,251 and just 5% of the District's population.
- 2.2 Ongar is a unique settlement in EFDC, so cannot easily be treated in a similar way to the other centres as explained below:
- 2.3 Ongar has also been the natural and historic centre for the surrounding rural villages and 'a significant staging-point for travellers' since the early post-medieval period. [ECC Essex Historic Towns Survey 1995-9].
- 2.4 Ongar's natural catchment area of rural settlements serves up to 12,000 population, including just beyond EFDC boundaries. This is confirmed by the registered number of patients in Ongar Health Centre in Fyfield Road, Ongar.
- 2.5 Its position as a centre for the surrounding rural settlement also explains the otherwise unusually good range of amenities and facilities for its small size such as pharmacies, educational establishments from nursery through to secondary and adult education, the Library, Community Halls, Leisure Centre and outside recreational and sports ground, a bank, pubs and restaurants, a supermarket and local retailers, professional services etc.

## 3 Sites suitable for housing development

- 3.1 When deciding on the sites suitable for housing development, Ongar Town Council does not consider that EFDC have fully understood and appreciated or applied the following factors:
  - 3.1.1 the severe physical constraints that Ongar has for growth.
- 3.2 The JSNA 2016 Profile of People living in Epping Forest relating to Shelley ward.
- 3.3 The lack of employment nearby and the lack of reliable public transport to residents' employment locations. This has resulted in an unusually high reliance on residents' own transport for commuting to work from Ongar.

# 4 The severe physical constraints that Ongar has for growth

- 4.1 The centre of Ongar, Chipping Ongar, is a small medieval and post-medieval market town, with a Scheduled Ancient Monument, 73 Listed Buildings, of which one is Grade I and the remainder are Grade II, dating from the 11th to the 19th century. There are two Conservation areas within the town. The street pattern is that of a medieval town with a pinch point.
- 4.2 Chipping Ongar lies in the angle between the River Roding and one of its major tributaries the Cripsey Brook, so has rivers and extensive flood plains running down both sides of the linear town, along the east and west flanks, as well as to the south, which divides Marden Ash from Chipping Ongar. Ongar has already been cut off due to flooding of the main routes from the town in recent years.
- 4.3 Ongar is surrounded by the Metropolitan Green Belt. EFDC Ongar Community Tree Strategy 2008 identifies land use in 2001 as nearly 90% agriculture, which is predominantly Grade 3 Agricultural Land Classification and 6% woodland.

# 5 The JSNA 2016 Profile of People living in Epping Forest relating to Shelley ward

- 5.1 This report states 'Shelley and Loughton Broadway wards are areas with high deprivation and health inequalities. The household profiles in these areas are totally different and therefore the approach needed to reduce inequalities is also likely to be different.
- 5.2 It identifies higher than EFDC average proportions of households (including families and the elderly) on relatively low or low income.

## 6 Lack of employment

- 6.1 The lack of employment nearby and the lack of public transport to residents employment locations further afield, results in an unusually high reliance on residents' own transport for commuting to work from Ongar [from ONS census figures 2001 and 2011].
- 6.2 As EFDC have already established, a high proportion of its residents work outside the EFDC area.
- 6.3 There are few areas of employment in or close to Ongar as identified in EFDC draft Local Plan or the 'technical' documentation and Hardisty Jones reports. One, identified in the EFDC Local Plan as SR-0173 the Fyfield Business Park, has recently been designated for a further 100 houses instead.
- 6.4 Over the last decade or so, larger employers near Ongar have closed or relocated to other areas.
- 6.5 ECC Information on Ongar and Rural county council electoral division states that most businesses in the area have 9 or fewer employees.

- Ongar's growth from 2001 to 2011 has shown that total usual residents aged 16 to 74 (i.e. working population) increased from 3,424 in 2001 to 4,407 in 2011.
- 6.7 However, the numbers working from home reduced from 270 to 140 in the same period.
- 6.8 Of those in work and travelling to work, the increase was 883 over the same period. Of those residents, 856 used their own or private road transport for the longest (in distance) part of their commute. That is an astounding 97% of the increased number of commuters since 2001, now living in Ongar. All figures are from ONS travel to work methods and population figures from the Census].

## 7 Projection of housing need for Ongar and commuter impact

- 7.1 Ongar Town Council also believes that the projection of housing need for Ongar in particular is flawed and needs to be made in conjunction with employment sites. Albeit, if there are houses, people will live in them. However, without in the region of an additional 1000 employment places for the additional 600 new houses (which should include the 100 at the Fyfield Business Park), new residents will have to commute further afield.
- 7.2 Ongar Town Council therefore would like further studies to be carried out which look at this unique Town of Ongar rather than generally across the EF District. The impact on further traffic congestion caused by not living in, or close to the same community as employment sites in particular, has not been thought through for Ongar or indeed the impact on Epping Forest District and nearby Local Authorities.
- 7.3 Furthermore the negative effects on Ongar community must be considered. If the overall % of residents commuting some distance increases, the community will be less cohesive and the strong sense of belonging that Ongar people have will diminish[Epping Forest Ward Profile: Chipping Ongar, Greensted and Marden Ash and also for Shelley ward].

In light of the above reasons, Ongar Town Council therefore would ask you to reconsider the following sites based on our evidence in this report.

## 8 Ongar Leisure Centre and car parking SR-0848

Ongar Leisure Centre and car parking site SR-0848 to redevelop for 24 new houses at a density of 48pha. Generally the decision to redevelop for housing is flawed and the density is inappropriate. Ongar Town Council would like you to remove this from the housing sites in the draft Local Plan completely.

There is considerable support from the community for The Leisure Centre to be retained and to be removed as a housing site in the Draft Local Plan.

Additionally, its inclusion in the Local Plan is:

# a) It is against NPPF Policy. In particular Para 74 which states

'74. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss

It is a very well used Leisure Centre with Everyone Active quoted the following number of current active members (so is not 'surplus to requirements')

- 1049 registered youngsters for swimming lessons (excluding school use from local primary schools who would find it difficult to deliver the National Curriculum if the swimming pool closes or is relocated out of Ongar).
- 1243 "fitness members" who use the gym, fitness classes and the pool.
- 555 "centre members"
- Usage of Ongar Leisure Centre
- 2014-2015: A total of 252,900 visits to the centre, an average of 19,849 visits per month;
- 2015-2016: A total of 261,910 visits to the centre, an average of 21,733 visits per month;

Between the years '2011-2012' and '2015-2016' annual attendances have grown by 20,000 visits per year.

There are waiting lists for most of the Classes, sometimes even two weeks in advance, and the gymnastics club has in excess of 30 waiting to join.

b) The rumour/suggestion by EFDC that a new Leisure Centre could be provided at North Weald with better provisions would not be 'in a suitable location'. North Weald is not the natural or historic centre of the rural settlements around Ongar. The road network and rural bus services link the settlements to Ongar with its established amenities and facilities. The new Health Centre and Ongar Academy beside Ongar Leisure Centre, in Fyfield Road,

Ongar further reinforces the community hub. Additional proposed housing around the Four Wantz junction in Ongar will increase demand but also increase the number of residents who will be in walking distance of the amenity.

c) It is contrary to EFDC's own proposed Policies in the draft Local Plan such as D4 and general ethos of the Plan

Firstly, it would remove an amenity that is of great benefit for children and young people.

The EFDC 2010 key facts 2 — ward profiles for Shelley and for Chipping Ongar, Marden Ash and Greensted refers to The Place Survey of 2008 for Ongar and Shelley (where the Leisure Centre is located) which identifies as the second issue that needs improvement as 'Activities for teenagers'.

The removal of the Leisure Centre would remove the majority of Activities for teenagers in Shelley.

Furthermore EFDC has already identified in the JSNA 2016 Profile of People living in Epping Forest that Shelley is an 'area with high deprivation and health inequalities' 'The household profiles in these areas are totally different and therefore the approach needed to reduce inequalities is also likely to be different.'

Removal of the Leisure Centre, which is used by all age groups, would surely increase these inequalities.

The Draft Policy D4 Community Leisure and Cultural Facilities is explicit in its preferred approach 6.32

The Council will safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services. It will also plan positively for the improvement of existing facilities and the provision of new shared spaces and community facilities.

The Council will work with partners in the public, private and voluntary sector to achieve this'

d) Government encouragement to adopt active lifestyle to improve health. Ongar Leisure Centre offers a wide range of activities for all age groups, and consists of the swimming pool, gym and sports halls for a variety of sporting and leisure activities as well as outside space. Closing this amenity Leisure Centre would not only be against the NPPF and EDFC's own Planning policies, but also against the successive Governments' push for people to become more active to improve their general health and well-being.

Although there are some outdoor sports and recreational sites in Ongar, it is suggested that the new Academy may be able to offer use of their sports facilities outside school times. That would be very limited and would be unable to offer the same amount of facilities for as many people as the Ongar Leisure Centre does at present, nor the instructors and personal trainers, including for those people referred on medical and other health grounds. In its response to EFDC draft Local Plan, Ongar Academy also strongly opposes the closure of Ongar Leisure Centre and feels there is a benefit to the community of the two being in close proximity.

e) Ongar Leisure Centre serves a wider community than Ongar, including the Rural villages and settlements mostly to the north as previously stated, who also come to Ongar for other purposes. It has also won Matrix national flame awards for two years running in the Leisure Centre of the Year- multi use.

- f) The swimming pool is one of only three in EFDC and is well used, by individuals, local schools (National Curriculum) and a swimming club and triathlon club. With a considerable increase in population expected across the District, EFDC should perhaps be considering opening additional swimming pools but certainly not removing this amenity from Ongar.
- g) While understanding that sometime over the next few years the corrosive nature of Chlorine will necessitate expense in renewing the pool, Ongar Town Council feel very strongly that a Swimming Pool should be retained in its present location. According to local Ongarians, the original cost of the swimming pool was met or partly met by a benefactor for the benefit specifically of a swimming pool for Ongar. Also:
  - i. Ongar is the natural centre of the rural area for nearly 12,000 residents at present.
  - ii. Ongar and the rural settlements are expected to grow between now and 2033 producing more demand.
  - iii. The siting of the new Ongar Academy is next door, and is also hoped to share some of its proposed new sporting facilities (although the timings will be limited) so that it will become a larger natural community hub.
  - h) The loss of the car parking within the Ongar Leisure Centre site if redeveloped for housing (or even some of the car parking) would adversely affect patients' ability to visit the Health Centre, which only has 18 car park spaces for patients (with 12,000 registered) and a number of doctors and clinics occurring throughout the day and early evening. At times, members of the Leisure Centre have missed their classes quite simply because they could not park. Even a local school could not park with a minibus of primary school children booked in for swimming lessons. There is nowhere else to park in the locality and inadequate bus services.

# In fact more car parking is actually needed here (such as SR-0102) and more generally in Ongar

i) The suggestion has been made by some of EFDC members or officers to close Ongar Leisure Centre and Epping Leisure Centre and build a new Leisure Centre located in North Weald instead. This would be against National Policy in taking away facilities from two communities. Relocating to North Weald which is not the natural centre for the Ongar and its Rural area (as also defined by the road network) nor Epping can have no merit. North Weald, even after proposed growth by 2033 has no adequate bus service linking to Ongar and all the rural areas, and does not have a planned secondary school.

By contrast, Ongar Leisure centre is within walking or cycling distance for a proportion of residents and if the proposed housing sites are developed around the Four Wantz and A414, it will be in easy reach of many more.

#### 9 Greensted Rd Site SR-0390

- a) National Grid have confirmed that there is a high pressure (7bar) gas pipe running across the site and sent a map showing its position. There is also a medium gas pipe (3bar) around the perimeter of the site along Greensted Road itself and the usual low pressure ones feeding the local housing. Ongar Town Council considers that this will make at least part of the site unusable and would resist any increase in density for the remaining site. In addition, the National Grid response to EFDC draft Local Plan questioned the viability of building houses on such sites.
- b) The proposed increase in numbers of houses feeding onto firstly Greensted Road and then Ongar High Street at The Two Brewers, contrary to the ARUP site selection report WOULD cause congestion
  - a. based on the number of car ownership in Ongar being 2 + per household.
  - b. and that a very high percentage of Ongar households travel by own/private road transport to work (based on ONS census 2011 statistics).
  - local car journeys would be required to travel to the secondary school and the relocated health centre to the Fyfield Road north of the A414.

## Therefore this number of houses would:

- a. cause problems south east at the junction with the High St in turning right or left, particularly during peak times. EF Local Plan Essex Highways Impact Assessment technical note 3 –early stage forecast modelling May 2014 showed for 'Junction 13 (Coopers Hill to Marden Ash, Ongar) already has 0.96 capacity going South in the morning peak and expecting to exceed 1.0 by 2026 The report states' should a large volume of proposed development in Ongar be realised (a proportion of which is included in Scenario One) capacity improvements will be likely'.
- b. it will also significantly increase traffic onto the country road where the Primary School is located and beyond towards Epping and the A414. Greensted Road is very narrow in parts and has no pavement west past the school and there have been successions of complaints /requests for traffic calming and road safety to Essex County Council, but a solution has not yet been found.
- c) There is no nearby employment site despite site selection statement (except a 4x4 car showroom and Jewsons building merchants, both of whom have a long serving small workforce only.
- d) Ongar Town Council considers that the number of houses on this site should be considerably reduced for the above reasons.

## 10 Sites East of Four Wantz towards High Ongar SR-184

- Ongar needs a by-pass to protect our 73 Listed Buildings and improve traffic flow. However,
  Ongar Town Council understands that the economic climate may not enable this to occur for
  some time.
- 2. Ongar Town Council has been shown Essex Highways former plans for a by-pass for Ongar, which was to have been built by 2010, but was shelved. Although the Council realises that this project will not be top of Essex Highway's priorities, Ongar Town Council are insistent that the previously proposed route must be kept clear of housing and other development. Although there is no money for this in the present economic climate, EFDC should keep this route open for possible road building in the future. If this housing goes ahead, it would be very difficult indeed to ever find a satisfactory by pass route. Therefore <u>SR-0184 should be removed from the housing site lists</u> because this site would involve building over Essex County Highway's proposed by pass route.
- There are added concerns that residents near this site also experiences regular flooding.ARUP quotes risk 1, so if correct there may be other drainage issues causing the problem.

## 11 Site SR -0102 beside Ongar Health Centre

- 1. This site was originally part of the land of the old Ongar Memorial Hospital. The new Health Centre has no more land for car parking.
- Although the Health Centre land is now NHS property services, Ongar Town Council believes the community would be better served if this site is reallocated for car parking for Ongar Health Centre instead of housing.
- 3. The registered patient numbers have increased to approximately 12,000 following the closure of another Doctor's Practice.
- 4. The Health Centre has a large number of Practitioners including Nursing staff and those from clinics for Diabetic, including eye screening, Blood tests, Antenatal etc. etc.
- 5. The Health Centre has 40 staff and only 18 car park spaces) and 1 for the emergency Doctor) and there is no roadside parking on Fyfield Road.
- Should the existing site remain for housing, it would cause serious overshadowing on the adjacent property to the North, and there would be other valid material planning considerations for objections which would make it unfavourable.

## 12 Stag Public House Site SR-0842

- Because of its location, the car park is vital to the pub's economic viability because, most customers will travel by car. There is no on street parking available.
- If the car park is built on, the pub/restaurant would not be viable and would close, resulting in a loss of amenity to Marden Ash and Ongar. Ongar Town Council therefore wants this removed as a site for Housing.

## 13 Densities of the residential sites proposed

Ongar Town Council believes that the densities are unrealistic for most of the individual sites and furthermore, the density levels would not retain the Character of the Rural Town as per EFDC's draft policy and the NPPF and would cause more harm to the Green Belt than if they were lower density as they are at the edge of a rural settlement rather than an existing densely populated urban area.. The figures have been suggested without detailed analysis of individual sites.

Other concerns are often addressed in a Neighbourhood Plan, which at the present time Ongar does not have such as enabling cycle tracks and footpaths from new developments into the town centre, open spaces within a development etc., all of which would reduce the overall density of the site in question, or reduce the overall ground made over to houses within the site. The Council would like the densities to be more flexible and lower where possible.

#### 14 Community Land Trusts

It has just come to our attention that some sites in the first phases are now offered by the Landowners to the Town Council Free of Charge for a Community Land Trust (a non-profit corporation) with 40% affordable housing in perpetuity for local people. Housing for local people is another of the main issues raised by residents in the Places Survey. The scheme proposed by the Land donors also has an imaginative design of more individual housing and density more in character with our small rural town and footpaths and cycle ways into the centre.

Before the draft Local Plan is finalised, Ongar Town Council would like the opportunity of exploring the idea of a CLT further and whether the sites being offered (FOC for the community) would satisfy the selection processes that EFDC has undertaken.

#### 15 Sewage capacity and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Ongar Town Council welcomed The Environment Agency's response to the draft Local Plan relating to sewage capacity. Ongar Town Council has evidence of residences in the High Street and near some of the suggested sites in Ongar near the A 414 already having repeatedly reported problems with sewers. Any further development is likely to have more adverse effects.

The Environment Agency also identified the need for a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment if the Council continue their current allocation of sites partially within Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b in its response (as is the case in Ongar).

Furthermore the EFDC 'Issues options' Consultation in 2012 flags up that further flood risk management would be needed. For Ongar it was also acknowledged that 'further development was restricted by flood zones on the east and west sides of the town.' This is the Roding and its main tributary. The development sites 'up river' of the Historic rural town in close proximity to the rivers and their flood plains will cause more run-off into the flood plains. This will arguably alter the existing flood zone in that region and further down river of both the Cripsey and the Roding. This would certainly be the case for site SR-0120 which is adjacent to a field with an existing flood risk zone 3.

# 16 Flawed housing and population need for Ongar

OTC considers that the general approach over EFDC does not fit Ongar's unique position.

- There are few identified employment sites nearby for new residents of Ongar, who
  would need to travel to work by road. This will add to the pollution, traffic congestion
  and related issues. The employment sites are now further reduced since the Fyfield
  Business Park in Ongar has been given Planning permission for houses instead.
- 2. If the majority of new residents have to commute away from the Ongar rural area, it will harm the cohesiveness of the community.
- 3. The present infrastructure is inadequate and will not cope including:
  - a. School vacancies are inaccurate, there are no vacancies in Chipping Ongar Primary or Ongar Academy (except a few in year 8 which was their first year of intake) ...
  - b. The Health Centre already serves the wider rural community with almost 12000 registered patients, so has limited room for growth in terms of numbers of doctors and other practitioners but is severely restricted by its lack of car parking.
- 4. Despite being the centre of a rural area, there is no rail transport (main line or TfL) and only limited bus services, so residents use their own transport. This is contrary to the NPPF sustainability of new developments.

## 17 Conclusion

Ongar Town Council asks that EFDC please address these discrepancies before making their final Local Plan ready for submission.

The Council would particularly like to see:

1. The Ongar Leisure Centre and car park SR-0848 site retained for Ongar residents and immediately taken off the housing sites offered in the draft Local Plan.

- The 100 new houses on the Fyfield Business Park (originally in the draft Local Plan as employment SR-0173) acknowledged as part of the proposed 600 houses for Ongar and other sites reduced accordingly to provide sites more in character with our historic rural town which has a medieval street plan.
- 3. Site SR-0184 to the NE of the Four Wantz immediately taken off the housing sites offered in the draft Local Plan and reserved for part of a future By pass for Ongar route (as per the Essex Highways Plans.
- 4. Greensted Road site SR 0390 reduced in numbers significantly or removed from the housing sites offered because of the position of the 7bar High Pressure Gas pipes going across the land (as per National Grid maps), and access onto a road that within a few hundred metres to the west becomes a dangerous and narrow country road to Epping and A414 and to the east will add to congestion at the junction with the High Street/Coopers Hill.
- 5. Change site SR-0102 from Housing to car parking which is badly needed for the adjacent Health Centre.
- Remove the Stag Public House car park SR-0842 from the housing sites to prevent the loss of amenity for the growing community.
- 7. EFDC to look at sites now offered by landowners to Ongar Town Council Free of Charge but within a Community Land Trust.
- 8. EFDC to carry out the Environment Agency's recommendations relating to existing sewer capacity and further Flood Risk Assessments in the Ongar area.
- 9. EFDC to make further studies relating to projected housing needs in accordance with the nearby employment opportunities and public transport relating to the specific neighbourhood of Ongar in line with the Housing White Paper February 2017 'fixing our broken housing market ' which says 'We need to plan for the right homes in the right places...employees should be able to move easily to where jobs are without being forced into long commutes'. The white paper will stipulate a new 'standard' methodology for calculating objectively assessed need and further clarification for protection of Green Belt land. These developments need to be explored before the Local Plan is finalised.

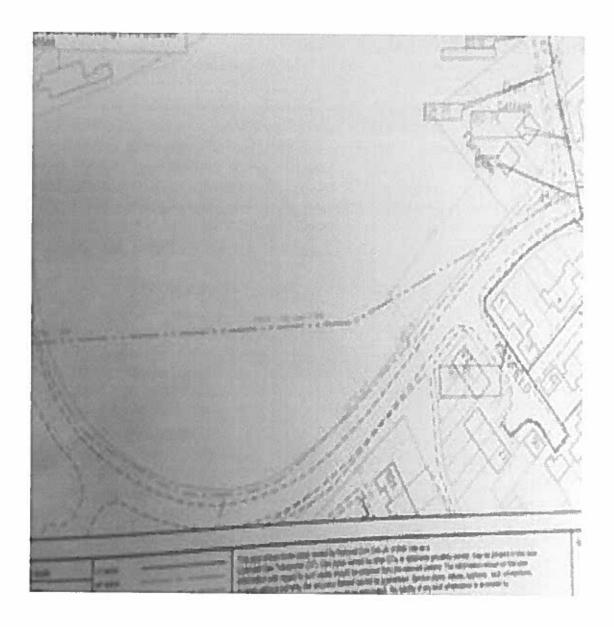
Ongar Town Council is happy to meet with Planners and/ or Portfolio Holder Councillors to take this further and can provide more statistics and evidence.

The above will enable EFDC to deliver a more acceptable future development for our community in Ongar, and more in character which would enable us to have more flexibility.

# Appendix 1

Greensted Road site SR-0390 – National Grid map showing High Pressure Gas pipe. Medium Pressure gas pipe.

High Pressure Gas pipes across Greensted Road site [source National Grid}



## Appendix 2

Reliance of private or own transport to commute to work statistics from ONS.

Ongar's growth from 2001 to 2011 has shown that total usual residents aged 16 to 74 increased from 3,424 in 2001 to 4,407 in 2011.

However, the numbers working from home reduced from 270 to 140 in the same period. Of those in work and travelling to work, the increase was 883 over the same period.

Of those, 856 used their own or private road transport for the longest (in distance) part of their commute.

That is 95% of the increased number of commuters now living in Ongar. [all figures are from ONS travel to work methods and population figures from the Census. See Appendix 1] people aged.

Rural bus services have long been threatened with reductions because of viability.

Chipping Ongar, Greensted and Marden Ash both report that The Place survey of 2008 found that the issue most in need of improvement was Public Transport. Furthermore, their travel to work methods (for 16-74 year olds) for the longest part, by distance, of the usual journey to work from ONS 2001 showed:

Method of travel to work	Chipping Ongar, Greensted & Marden Ash	Shelley
On foot	8%	11%
Public Transport (including TfL)	13%	11%
Car or van (inc as passenger)	66%	67%
Work from home	10%	9%
Bicycle	1%	0%
Other (Motor bike, scooter, moped, taxi,	2%	2%

2.1 The above figures show an over reliance on residents using private road transport for journeys to work. The changes in population and use of cars and vans between 2001 and 2011 from ONS source (Method of travel to work) for Ongar (Chipping Ongar, Marden Ash, Shelley and Greensted show:

Variable	2001 Census data	2011 Census data
Total Number of usual residents aged 16-74	3,424	4,407
No. Works mainly from home	270	140
No. Not in employment	1,526	1,456
Total Number of usual residents travelling to work aged 16-74 calculated from the figures above from ONS	1,628	2,511
No. using Underground, or light rail*	15	270
No. using Train*	15	57
No. Driving or passenger in car or van, taxi or motorbike, scooter or moped calculated from the above figures from ONS	1286	2142
% of workers known to use private road transport to travel to work calculated from ONS figures	79%	85%
% increase of actual numbers of workers using private transport to travel to work from Ongar % of additional residents from 2001 to 2011 travelling to work		67% increase relating to commuter traffic from Ongar between 2001 and 2011 97%
using own/private road transport		

<sup>\*</sup>As there is no Underground or train within 5 and 7 miles of Ongar respectively, these people would have to use road transport (probably own transport) to reach Epping or Brentwood.