

**Ongar Neighbourhood Plan
Community Group**

Ongar Neighbourhood Plan Community Group (ONPCG) was set up in May 2017 to produce Ongar Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of Ongar Town Council. Ongar Neighbourhood Plan expects to be going to Consultation (Reg. 14) late Spring 2019. Ongar Neighbourhood Plan aims to be ‘made’ around the time EFDC Local Plan is adopted in order to exert its legal place in Planning Applications for the imminent proposed new development in Ongar (which will increase the housing stock by approx. 1/3rd from 2011-2033). ONPCG Reg 19 Representation and Appendices is ref: 19OTH0042.

Please find our Statement as follows:

	<p><u>Matter 2 Context, Vision & Objectives and Sustainable Development</u> Issue 1 Question 3</p>
<p>Historic Environment, Air Quality, Landscape, Healthy Living</p>	<p>The strong identity and character of Chipping Ongar and Greensted relates to their historic past and we consider that conserving and enhancing the historic environment, including archaeology needs strengthening in the local Plan’s Context, Vision & Objectives and Sustainable Development to ensure that it is not ignored, not harmed for future generations, even inadvertently through ignorance, during such widespread development.</p> <p>Furthermore, the existing economically struggling rural town of Chipping Ongar is recognised, throughout the SA (EB204) and other Reports in EFDC evidence, as not having a strong case for sustainable development in terms of its lack of local employment, poor public transport and less services/facilities than other towns in the area. Increased housing of approx. 590 in the Local Plan and another 100-150 already approved and being built, will not improve Ongar’s viability without improvements in more employment, better public transport, and strategic plans for highway improvements. i.e. its aims for air quality, protection of the landscape and healthy living will be negatively affected without these improvements. The chosen distribution pattern for the district mitigates further harm from poor air quality due to traffic away from Epping Forest and congestion spots in the south of the district. However, residential development in Ongar without nearby employment will increase commuter traffic and reduce air quality in Ongar, where there are already concerns on the A414 near the 4 Wantz roundabout and at the pinch point in the historic medieval High St at the south gate site in particular.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There have been no mitigating steps made in the Local Plan anywhere, including infrastructure delivery relating to road improvements and public transport improvements in the Ongar area to mitigate the effects of increased traffic being deliberately pushed this way due to the large % increase in housing. Furthermore, the High Street already suffers from particulate and NOx pollution from through county traffic and HGVs. This pollution is affecting the historic environment too. The Chipping Ongar Town Centre Conservation Area is marred by pollution. Further steps should be in place to reduce especially very heavy HGV traffic through this area ○ The Landscape surrounding Ongar (the four settlements of Chipping

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	<p>Ongar, Marden Ash, Greensted and Shelley) is considered to be of high sensitivity to change, but the density in the edge of settlement sites EFDC have chosen for Ongar average 40 per ha which is also not in keeping with the historic core and would harm the openness of the Green Belt. We would like this addressed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ There are no measures to enhance the historic environment on Chipping Ongar in particular. The Motte and Bailey castle remains are at risk, but its setting could be enhanced and its significance further revealed. In fact the EFDC Vision for Ongar is bland and does no justice to its important medieval town enclosure of a deliberate town plantation beside the Motte and Bailey Castle, which was one of the first Conservation Areas in Essex and now much neglected.
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