

Godalming Town Council



**Annual Report
2014-15**

This version of the report is published by Godalming Town Council for the Annual Town Meeting 16 April 2015

A second version including the Town Council's Accounts for 2014/15 will be published on 30 June 2015



Godalming Town Council.....

- Continues a Mayoral tradition dating back to 1575
- Has 20 elected Members
- Controls assets of £11.1 million
- Holds almost 50 council or committee meetings a year; all of which are open to the public
- Employs/retains a Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Office, Personal Assistant to the Town Clerk & Mayor, Facilities & Cemeteries Manager, Godalming Project Co-ordinator & Community Centre Manager, Community Navigator, Sergeant-at-Mace and an external bookkeeper (that is just over five full-time equivalent staff)
- Provides £55,000 a year funding to local organisations
- Manages four community spaces; the Old Town Hall (Pepperpot), the Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Broadwater Park Community Centre and the Godalming Bandstand
- Provides the land for over 200 allotments
- Together with Busbridge Parish Council owns and runs two cemeteries
- Provides Christmas Lights for the Godalming Town Centre and Farncombe Village Centre
- Runs both a Spring Festival and a Christmas Festival annually
- Facilitates eight Farmers Markets per annum
- Is one of a diminishing number of councils in the UK still to require its councillors and staff to wear robes and regalia at council meetings and civic occasions
- Organises the Town's annual Remembrance Sunday Parade
- Nominates representatives to serve on about 20 local voluntary, public and community organisations
- Comments on over 400 planning applications each year
- Runs an annual Staycation week every August
- Facilitates the planning of numerous community events



INTRODUCTION



Hello – and welcome to Godalming Town Council's 2014/15 Annual Report. Godalming Town Council has been around in one form or another since 1575. The organisation of Local Government has changed over the years and today Godalming Town Council is the third in three tiers of local government for the town. The other two being Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council. Godalming Town Council has 20 Councillors representing the five wards within the town – you can find Councillors' contact details at the back of this report (although some of these details will change after the elections to be held on 7 May this year). The Town Council has a number of roles, one of the most important of which is to foster and encourage a sense of community in the Town and to act as

advocate for the town when dealing with other local authorities, the health service and so on.

I was elected by my fellow Town Councillors to serve as Mayor for the year to May 21 2015, and like all my predecessors I have been immensely privileged to have been granted this honour and been aware of the corresponding responsibilities.

Undoubtedly the most important event of the last year, transcending all others, was the commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. On 4 August 2014 this event was marked by two services, the first held in the afternoon at St John's in Farncombe and the second in the evening at Ss Peter & Paul Godalming – Remembrance Sunday 2014 had an especial poignancy. It should never be forgotten how much anguish that conflict caused Godalming with 281 young men known to have died as a result of the war. Visits this year to the Army Benevolent Fund and British Legion occasions had great meaning for me, particularly at one when the difficulties in treating injured soldiers in Afghanistan and getting them to safety was described in some detail by a George Cross recipient.

On a lighter note, it is difficult to assess, but surely some of the ambience and the pleasure of living in Godalming comes from the surrounding countryside to which people can go to commune a little with nature and we can only hope that these green spaces can be held in respect and preserved in perpetuity. And, in the town itself, we have the Godalming Trust which does invaluable work in helping preserve our heritage, often in association with the Museum and its dedicated and innovative staff and volunteers. The Town Council is indebted to the Trust for continuing the management of the popular Heritage Days in September when buildings normally closed are open to the public. I have been very surprised and impressed by the strength and depth of the voluntary movement in the town and what this promises for the future well-being of the community which owes the participants a huge debt of thanks. There are organisations of which I had been previously totally unaware. Some do sterling work often unsung, providing friendliness and comfort to the less advantaged throughout the year with almost awesome dedication and frequently at personal inconvenience and cost. A few of these volunteers seem to work almost full time in helping others, devoting themselves to separate activities – the more they become involved, the more cheerful they seem to be. One very enjoyable visit was on Christmas Day to the Baptist Church, meeting many of those looking forward to the now very traditional lunch provided by Churches Together and renewing some old acquaintances.



INTRODUCTION

Conspicuous in the town is the Go-Godalming Association under whose umbrella many activities flourish. These include Sport Godalming which has drive and impetus and GoLo, the inspirational Godalming Lottery, which has given around £30,000 to local good causes. The Association also nurtures Godalming in Bloom whose annual competition presents a particular challenge to any Mayor as judging very different gardens and commercial floral displays is a difficult task and sometimes one wants to give prizes to all of them. Window displays also present similar problems. Music in the Park was a particular pleasure and deservedly the audiences increase because of the growing reputation, variety and quality of the performances at the Bandstand in its lovely setting.

The Town Council's hugely popular Staycation was yet again a success and in 2014 it was extended for the first time to Canon Bowring's Field in Farncombe where the Family Fete will become an annual attraction. Some of the year's most enjoyable events included the opening of school fairs with the children all happy and excited. Others were musical competitions with standards rising year by year – the biggest being the long established Godalming Music Festival with well over 3000 participants.

Godalming can take particular pride in three of its major cultural bodies – the Choral Society, the Operatic Society and the Theatre Group. They all perform exceptionally well as far as I am concerned; surely at professional standard. The ever popular Round Table Town Show in June was as lively as ever and, happily, the Godalming & Villages Lions Club bonfire was not vandalised this year. The recent Spring Festival, last summer's Food Festival and the Christmas Lights switch-on all attracted many newcomers – is the last-mentioned the best in Surrey?

Perhaps the strangest visit was to Waverley Abbey one evening just before dusk to find out about dowsing. How loosely holding a couple of sticks and telling them to find underground pillars was beyond me but it seemed to work.

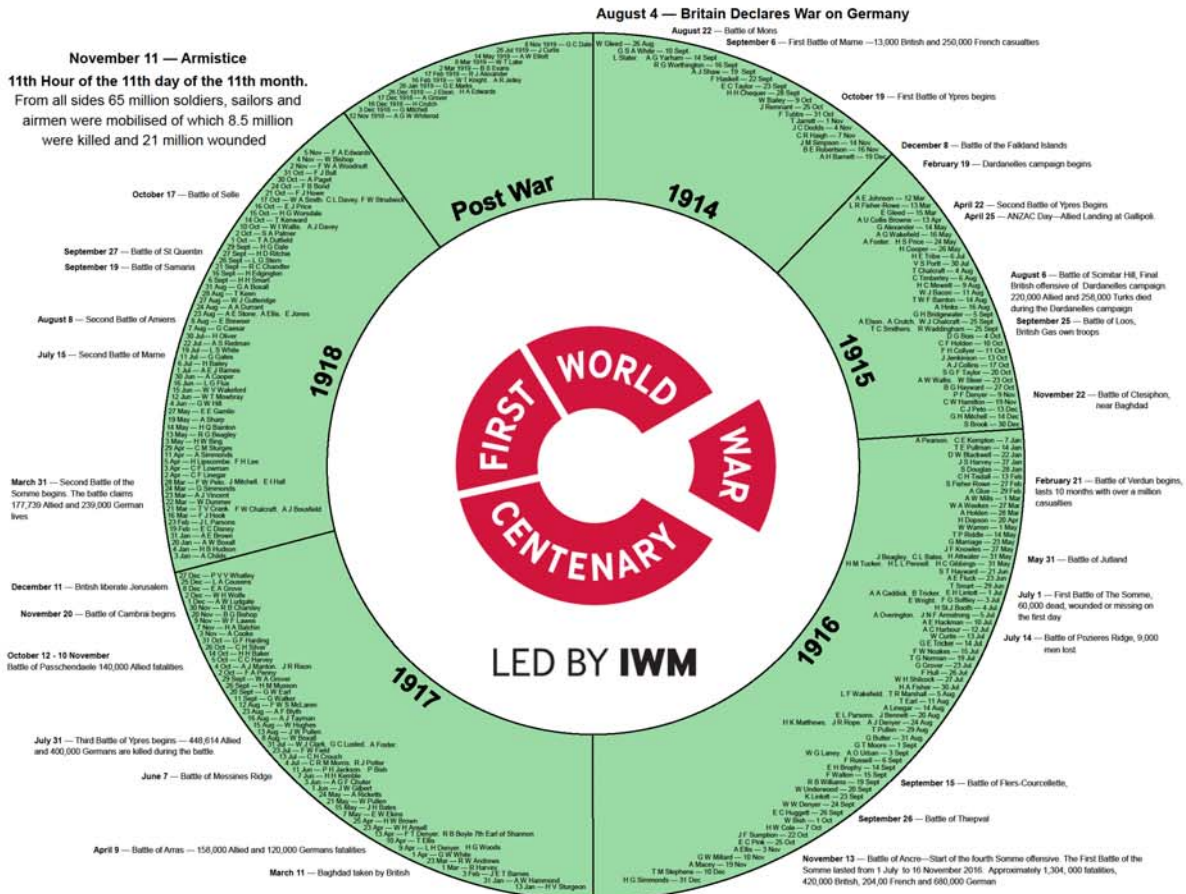
In conclusion, I have had the remarkable opportunity to find out how Godalming lives and increasingly thrives. This would not have been possible without the tremendous help from my wife Jocelyn, the Mayoress, and from the Town Council staff and I am confident that my successor will in turn also be grateful to them.

Councillor Andrew Wilson
Mayor of Godalming 2014/15



Godalming Commemorates

Shown below, in chronological order, are some of the main events of the First World War with the 281 names of those recorded as fatalities in the Godalming 'Roll of Honour' and (where different) the Memorial Plaques of St Peter & St Paul Church, Godalming, St John the Evangelist Church, Farncombe, Godalming United Church, Busbridge Church (formerly St John the Baptist), Godalming Fire Station and the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Also recorded are those who died post 11 November 1918 as a direct result of injuries received during the war. In 1919 when the 'Roll of Honour' was being created by Norah Easterbrook, a student from the Godalming School of Art, she did not have access to the records we can use today, which is why there are more names shown here than in the 'Roll of Honour'. Each month Godalming Museum will display below some further details of those who died and how Godalming was affected by the War.

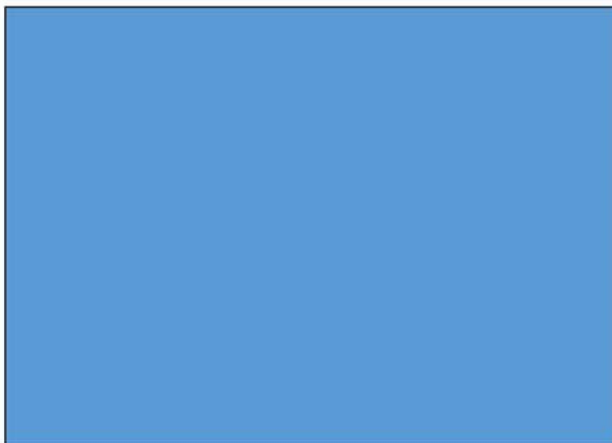


The names listed below are those who are remembered in either the Godalming Roll of Honour or on the town's Memorial Plaques, but for whom the date of death has not been discovered.
 If you can help with information on any of those listed below or you know of a Godalmingian who died during the First World War who is not listed here please do let us know.
 Henry Barker. Frederick J Brown. Henry C Clarke. Daniel Robertson. G T Thomas. H F Thompson. Frederick W A Woodford



Compiled and designed by Andy Jeffery
 Additional research by Louise Goodfellow
 Please send any comments to operations@godalming-tc.gov.uk

01483 523575



GODALMING MUSEUM



Godalming Town Council wishes to thank the curator and volunteers of Godalming Museum for the support provided to this First World War Centenary Project.

The Museum is open Tue—Sat
 10am—5pm (Summer) 10am—4pm (Winter)
 01483 426510

The First World War Centenary Partnership Programme is led by the Imperial War Museum (IWM)



For 2014/15 Godalming Town Council agreed that it had three priorities for the town:

- to support the development of services for young people;
- to enable all residents to share in the advantages of living here; and
- to preserve the town's heritage.

Bearing these priorities in mind here are some of the things that Godalming Town Council has achieved in the past year. We have:

- Made plans and secured the funding for a major refurbishment of the Wilfrid Noyce Centre to take place over the summer of 2015;
- Led and financed the Farncombe Initiative, with support from Surrey County Council, facilitating the installation of the Farncombe Village sign, new litter bins and other street scene enhancements;
- Supported numerous voluntary organisations in the town with grant aid totalling £55,000 (see the section on grants on page 10 of this report);
- Led the town's commemorations for the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War; researching and documenting all the town's known losses;
- Supported more than 60 volunteers in the ongoing process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Godalming & Farncombe
- Held the first Staycation Family Fete on Canon Bowring's Field in Farncombe
- Facilitated flood prevention works and early warning systems along Hell's Ditch, worked with Waverley Borough Council to improve the water flow of Hell's Ditch and with Thames Water to provide land for sewerage control systems that protect properties in Catteshall Road.



COMMITTEES

Policy & Management Committee

What is it?

A Committee of 19 Councillors that deals with most of the Council's business, discusses Council policy and manages all the Council's assets – its finances, staff and properties.



Councillor Stefan Reynolds
Committee Chairman 2014/15

What has it done?

- Met nine times
- Considered 22 grant applications and awarded £54,886.00 in grants to local organisations (see page 10 of this report)
- Set up and led the Farncombe Initiative
- Entered a partnership agreement with Waverley Borough Council and employed a Community Navigator to connect vulnerable adults to sources of support within the community
- Worked in partnership with the Environment Agency and others on flood alleviation proposals for Godalming and specifically supervised maintenance of Hells Ditch
- Reviewed and recommended new Financial Regulations for the Council
- Agreed plans for the refurbishment of the Wilfrid Noyce Centre and secured borrowing approval to finance the work

Planning & Environment Committee

What is it?

A Committee of 19 Councillors that looks at and makes comments on all Godalming planning applications. This Committee also considers issues relating to the local environment and infrastructure.



Councillor Simon Thornton
Committee Chairman 2014/15

What has it done?

- Met 17 times (every 3 weeks)
- Made comments to the Planning Authority (Waverley Borough Council) on 455 planning applications
- Supervised the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Godalming



Mayoralty Committee



What is it?

A Committee of six Councillors that considers and makes recommendations to the Full Council on the selection, appointment and protocols of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Steve Cosser
Committee Chairman 2014/15

What has it done?

- Met once
- Nominated Councillor Anne Bott as Mayor and Councillor David Hunter as Deputy Mayor for 2015/16

Audit Committee



What is it?

A Committee of five Councillors that considers the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and the associated control environment, and oversees the financial reporting process.

Councillor David Hunter
Committee Chairman 2014/15

What has it done?

- Met four times
- Reviewed financial controls and risks
- Supervised arrangements for the review of internal controls and Internal Audit

Staffing Sub-Committee



What is it?

A Committee comprising of five Councillors that considers all matters relating to the appointment and management of Council staff and makes recommendations to the Policy & Management Committee.

Councillor Nick Williams
Sub-Committee Chairman 2014/15

What has it done?

- Met four times
- Supervised key staff management issues
- Supervised the recruitment of three new members of staff
- Made recommendations regarding staff restructuring and grading

JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE



Wildflower area at Nightingale Cemetery – a haven for pollinating insects and butterflies.



GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

Godalming Joint Burial Committee

What is it?



A committee with six Councillors from Godalming Town Council and two from Busbridge Parish Council charged with managing Godalming's two cemeteries – Nightingale Cemetery in Farncombe and Eashing Cemetery at Ockford Ridge.

Councillor Anne Bott
Committee Chairman 2014/15

What has it done?

- Met five times
- Interred 29 bodies and 16 sets of ashes – the highest rate of interments for 15 years.
- Sold the exclusive rights of burial for 34 plots, an increase of 21% on 2013/14
- Held a highly successful and well received exhibition at Godalming Museum on the historical exploration of Godalming's cemeteries
- Created wildflower areas within Nightingale Cemetery which have been well received by the users of the cemetery and became a haven for pollinating insects and butterflies
- Continued with the programme of repairs to memorials in Nightingale Cemetery.
- Restricted the sale of new burial plots at Nightingale Cemetery to the residents of Godalming and Busbridge only
- Identified new areas for burial plots in Nightingale Cemetery
- Engaged the Town Council's surveyors to prepare the specification for re-roofing Nightingale Chapel Buildings
- Engaged Surrey Wildlife Trust to monitor the presence of bats in Nightingale Cemetery
- Worked with St Marks Church and Green Oak School to engage pupils with the act of remembrance for those buried in war graves at Godalming cemeteries, which this year included a service of Remembrance at Green Oaks School
- Worked with our contractors to continue the eradication of bracken and nettles within Eashing Cemetery
- Appointed specialist contractors to establish a living hedgerow at Eashing Cemetery
- Conducted a full survey of the condition of the existing trees at Eashing Cemetery to enable a planned replacement scheme to be established.



GRANTS

As already stated, in the past year Godalming Town Council has supported numerous organisations in the town with grant aid totalling close to £55,000. This is an important part of the Town Council's work recognising the huge contribution that these organisations make to the quality of life in our community.

In 2014/15 the largest of these grants was to the Waverley Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to ensure the continued provision of a CAB service in Godalming; this Council has provided a significant grant to the CAB for more than a decade. The Council has also continued to provide on-going support to Godalming Museum and Hospital Hoppa. A number of organisations were also given grant aid in the form of free use of one of the Town Council's buildings for meetings or to facilitate an event (those grants are included below and a cash value put on the grant so that the support is properly accounted for).

One-off grants in 2014/15 included payments to help repair the Farncombe Youth Football Club's floodlights, to provide a Scrapstore Playpod at Loseley Fields Primary Schools and to repair St Peter & St Paul Scout Hut.

Below is a full list of all grants made by Godalming Town Council in the financial year 2014/15.

Summary of Grants Awarded 2014/15

	£
Churches Together in Godalming & District	600.00
Citizens Advice Waverley	28,000.00
Community Street Team	5,000.00
Farncombe Youth Football Team	4,000.00
Friends of Broadwater Park (<i>Grant aid in the form of free use of premises</i>)	93.00
Friends of Broadwater School	545.00
Godalming & District Community First Responders (<i>Grant aid in the form of free use of premises</i>)	126.00
Godalming Museum Trust	5,000.00
Godalming Round Table (<i>Grant aid in the form of free use of premises</i>)	110.00
Godalming Together CIC (<i>Grant aid in the form of free use of premises</i>)	210.00
Godalming Trust	1,000.00
Godalming Trust (<i>Grant aid in the form of free use of premises</i>)	208.00
Go Godalming Association (<i>Grant aid in the form of free use of premises</i>)	84.00
Go Godalming Association (Godalming in Bloom)	500.00
Loseley Fields Primary School	1,200.00
Sport Godalming	1,000.00
St Johns Spring Fair (<i>Grant aid in the form of free use of premises</i>)	110.00
St Peter & St Paul Scout Group	1,300.00
The Cellar Café	800.00
Waverley Hoppa Community Transport (Hospital Hoppa)	5,000.00
	<hr/>
	54,886.00

Full details of the Council's grants scheme can be found on the Town Council's website – www.godalming-tc.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Town Clerk (contact details at the back of this report).



Godalming in Bloom at Loseley Fields Primary School

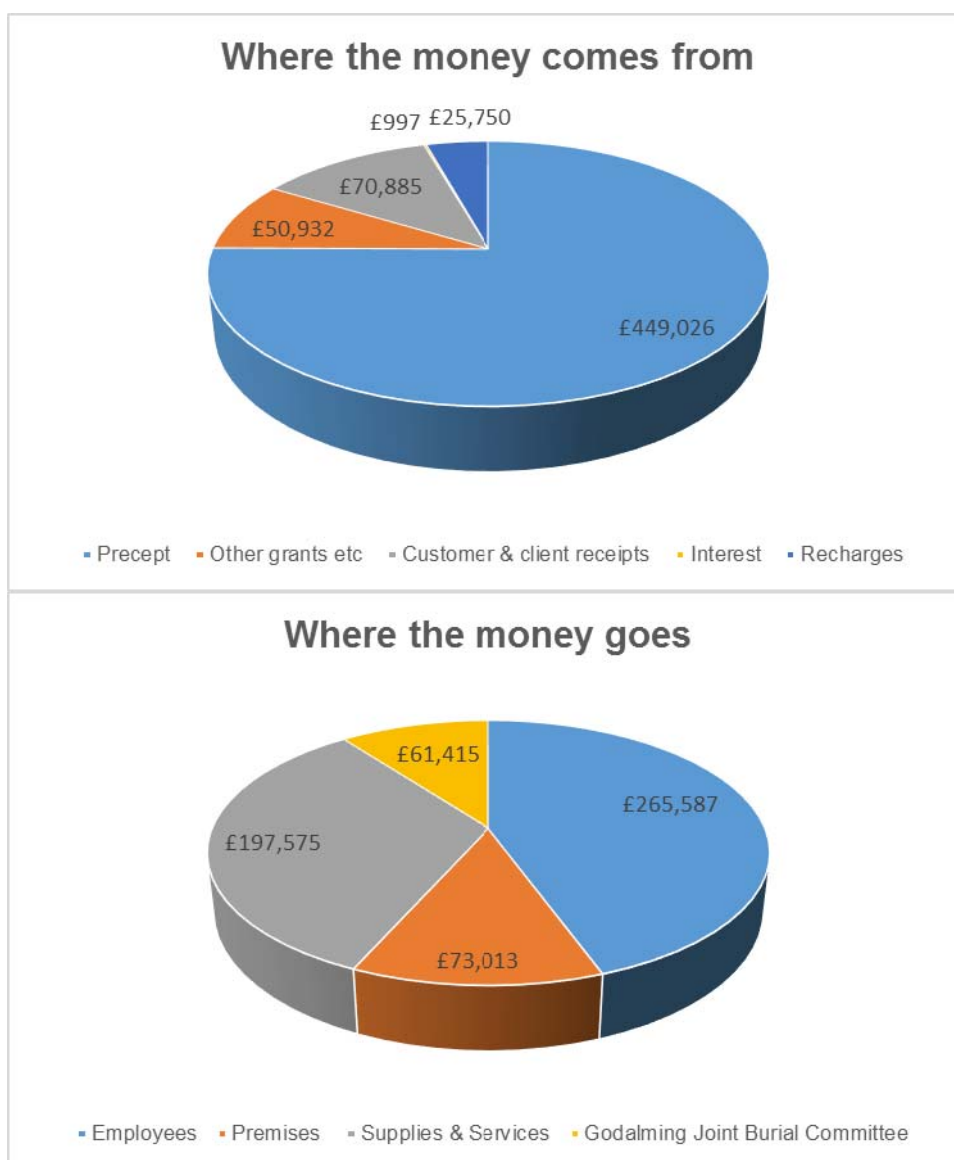


MONEY

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014/15

The Council's accounts are prepared in accordance with the Account & Audit Regulations 2011. They are subject to internal audit (by an independent auditor appointed by the Town Council) and to external audit (by an independent auditor appointed by the Audit Commission). Every year local government electors are given an opportunity to examine the Council's accounts and financial records and the accounts will be published on the Town Council's website.

Below is a summary of how the Council's budget (including overheads) was spent in 2014/15. Note that these figures are based on the latest estimates of expenditure, not actual figures because, at the time of writing, the 2014/15 accounts had not yet been finalised.





CONTACTS

Godalming Town Council
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Bridge Street
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Surrey GU7 1HT
Tel: 01483 523575
Fax: 01483 523077
E-Mail: office@godalming-tc.gov.uk
Web: www.godalming-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Louise Goodfellow

Your Town Councillors

BINSCOMBE WARD

Cllr S Bott, Acorns, The Fairway Godalming, GU7 1PG	01483 420014
Cllr DM Hunter, 86 Furze Lane, Farncombe Godalming, GU7 3NP	01483 421231
*Cllr L Wheatley, 1 Sol-Y-Vista, Frith Hill Road, Godalming, GU7 2EF	01483 423492
*Cllr A Wilson, 8 Dean Road, Godalming GU7 2PJ	01483 417607

CENTRAL & OCKFORD WARD

Cllr PJ Robinson, 39 Bargate Rise, Godalming, GU7 2LR	07515 891750
*Cllr JR Thomson, The Garden Flat, 9 Shadyhanger, Godalming, GU7 2HR	01483 428266
*Cllr S Thornton, 38 Old Barn View, Godalming, GU7 1YR	01483 425733
Cllr JE Woodham, 5 Twycross Road, Godalming, GU7 2HH	01483 420310

CHARTERHOUSE WARD

⁰ Cllr S Cosser, 3 Hillside Way, Godalming, GU7 2HN	01483 414035
*Cllr RA Gordon-Smith, 15 Nightingale Road, Godalming, GU7 3AG	01483 424483
Cllr JM Poulter, 27 Nightingale Road, Godalming, GU7 2HP	01483 417051
*Cllr SN Reynolds, Brooklands, Red House Lane, Elstead, GU8 6DR	01483 421601

FARNCOMBE & CATTESHALL WARD

Cllr AK Lister, 13 Woodmancourt, Mark Way, Godalming, GU7 2BT	01483 419574
Cllr JE Noyce, 19 Overbrook, Godalming, GU7 1LX	01483 429815
*Cllr R Welland, 19 Elm Road, Farncombe, Godalming, GU7 3SW	01483 527445
*Cllr N Williams, 26 Town End Street, Godalming, GU7 1BH	01483 239997

HOLLOWAY WARD

Cllr AM Bott, Acorns, The Fairway, Godalming, GU7 1PG	01483 420014
Cllr CM Gordon-Smith, 15 Nightingale Road, Godalming, GU7 3AG	01483 424483
⁰ *Cllr PJ Martin, 18 Windy Wood, Godalming, GU7 1XX	01483 425644
*Cllr TE Martin, 17 South Hill, Godalming, GU7 1JT	01483 416237

*Waverley Members

⁰Surrey County Council Members