

# Outlook

Molewood  
Residents'  
Association

Christmas Edition 2018

## Chairman's message

We had a dizzy summer in Molewood this year... the long, hot and hazy days broken up by the hard work our community is putting in to preserving Bengeo's character and our quality of life.

Since our most recent newsletter Molewood residents were joined by a number of guest speakers and Councillors at the Molewood Review on Tuesday 8th May. The event generated a good level of interest amongst residents and tempted by free pizza and prosecco the atmosphere in the school hall was upbeat ahead of the Association AGM where I gave my annual report.

Due to the success of the event and residents asking for more notice, we've already booked our next AGM for **Tuesday 7th May 2019 at 7pm**. Make a date in your diary if you want to catch up with friends over a glass of bubbles and a slice of pizza or two...

Reflecting upon the hard work put in by the Stop Bengeo Quarry volunteers to fight not only the 2nd application successfully in April and then re-energise themselves and others to deliver a strong counter-argument against the applicants appeal in a public enquiry. They then had to move through the summer purposefully for the enquiry's close in October. We have much to be thankful for as the community draws together to fight for the things we believe in. Many people investing their free-time and energy to maintaining the countryside we love and enjoy.

Interestingly, we've been organising annual meetings for over 50 years now and looking at the issues today and then many of the issues remain the same... traffic on the roads; school places; quarry applications... see our first ever newsletter at [Molewood.org.uk](http://Molewood.org.uk)

**Ben Penrose**

Contact me at [enquiries@molewood.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@molewood.org.uk)

## Christmas lights competition



The Molewood Residents' Association is running its annual competition again this year. As usual there will be 2 categories: Brightest Bengeo and Majestic Molewood. You can work out what the judges are looking for in each of those!

Judging will take place on **Friday 21st December** and prizes will be £25 from Molewood Residents' Association funds that will be donated to the charities of the winners' choice.

Read about last year's competition on our website [Molewood.org.uk](http://Molewood.org.uk).

## Christmas parties

Your residents' association is keen to help you celebrate special events with your neighbours. The Drive are especially well-organised and hold regular parties in the hall on Duncombe Road. Buckwells Field held a royal wedding party on the field in May.

If you want to have a party with the rest of your street please get in touch with us and we may be able to sponsor the event if you can send us a write-up about it with some photos.

## Public Enquiry Closes – Recommendations to Follow...

The Stop Bengoe Quarry (SBQ) team felt that all the work they had put into preparing for the Public Inquiry at County Hall in May had been worth it. Then, right at the end, the Planning Inspector agreed with us that we had not been given enough time to consider an important document called the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and so closed the Inquiry until later in the year. Round 2 took place at County Hall from 23rd to 25th October. As before, SBQ was glad to see so many Molewood Residents' Association members showing their support.

**Campaign leader, Aska Wisniewska-Pickering told Outlook** "We would like to thank every single person who joined us and supported throughout the Planning Inspectorate's public inquiry.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to use the funds raised, including generous contributions from Molewood Residents' Association, to secure two excellent experts on Health, Air Quality and Hydrogeology.

We were represented by the most amazing, hard-working, and highly professional barrister, Katharine Elliot, who did everything possible to ensure our community's views were well presented in this process.

The Inspector will finalise his recommendation by **11 January** and then submit his recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will make the decision regarding



the appeal against the HCC's refusal to permit quarrying in Bengoe Field.

In the mean time there is an application with HCC to allow the extension of the Rickneys' quarry permission which expired in December 2017. It will be considered by the HCC Development Control Committee probably on 23rd January. This would allow the applicants we have been fighting to get access to Bengoe Field without building a new site access. Let's make sure this does not happen..."

## Protect your water tower

The Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan (BNAP) Homes & Development Working group are listening to residents' points of view as they consider how we use the land in Bengoe to meet future housing requirements. At the recent exhibition some residents put forward the idea of demolishing the tower and using the land for housing. Other residents have proposed listing the building due to its local and architectural significance. **What are your views about the tower?**

Longer term residents may recall our story about the water tower in the Spring 2007 Outlook. We told you that it was built in 1930 and cost £7000. Lys Hill Gardens residents will know that telecommunications company Arqiva are planning to put another tv antenna on top some time but have not been able to work out how to get their crane near enough to it.

You can look back at back numbers of the Outlook on our website [www.molewood.org.uk](http://www.molewood.org.uk). If you have any old copies dating from between 1969 and 1976 we would love to borrow them to copy for our electronic archive.



# Housing at the plant nursery

Developers are making plans for the next phase of new housing to the north of our estate.

Residents were invited to an exhibition on the proposal for 50 flats and houses on the Bengoe Nursery site held at the Bengoe Parish Church Hall, in Duncombe Road on Wednesday 25th July. Members of the developer's technical team were on hand to listen to people's views and try to answer their queries. Parking is a major worry with people concerned that Sacombe Road is already very busy, especially at the start and end of the school day. In this case development of the nursery would mean the loss of parking for parents when dropping off and picking up Bengoe Primary children.

The Sacombe Road site is identified as the first phase of a housing allocation in the emerging East Herts District Plan to deliver about **50 houses** by 2022, as part of a wider site intended to provide **150 homes overall**.

You may recall that we campaigned successfully to stop Bovis getting planning permission for 58 flats and houses on the nursery in March 2013. Read more in the winter 2012 and spring 2013 Outlooks, [www.molewood.org.uk](http://www.molewood.org.uk).



# Secret Garden re-opens

Florists, the Secret Garden recently re-opened as a coffee shop - serving delicious coffee, cakes and bacon butties. Jo was keen to champion her fellow shop-owners highlighting that "our residents can get a pint of milk, a hot coffee, a haircut, medical prescription or a check-up for their family pets all in one place."

Molewood Residents' Association encourage our residents to shop locally. We are very lucky to have some great services and some great shop-owners on our doorstep. Please support them when you can.



# Hertfordshire Health Walks

Starting from the shops on The Avenue, the East Herts programme of Health Walks includes walks from Bengoe to Waterford Marsh. The walks are part of a county wide programme of free, volunteer-led walks which aims to help people get outdoors and get more active.

# Molewood Noticeboard

**Looking for more recent developments or new news in Molewood, including information on Hertfordshire Health Walks?**

You can find it all on our noticeboard outside the shops on The Avenue.

## Your Association

Molewood Residents' Association was formed in the late 1960's and represents residents of the Molewood estate, Bengoe. This is the area north from The Drive and west of Sacombe Road to the north of Hertford.

The aim of the association is to support Molewood residents and enhance their enjoyment of the Molewood neighbourhood. The association organises events and contributes to community events arranged by residents. The Association issues 4 Outlook newsletters each year. If you would like to read about the early days of the estate our website has copies of newsletters of the time.

Annual membership of Molewood Residents' Association costs £2 per household a year and will be collected door to door by committee members starting in June. This gives people the opportunity to discuss how the committee is doing and how it can work best to represent residents.

If you would like to pay in advance or if it is more convenient you can drop the payment along with contact details through the letter box of our treasurer, Alan Sewell, 16 The Avenue.

### Your Committee

#### Chair

Ben Penrose 104 Cowper Crescent

#### Treasurer

Alan Sewell 16 The Avenue

#### Secretary

Kath Richardson 126 Cowper Crescent

### General Members

Nick Gough 11 Lys Hill Gardens

Marie Archer 55 The Wick

John Edwards 8 The Wick

Emily White 27 The Drive

Colin Broomfield 73 Buckwells Field

Website Manager Paul Ogier

Outlook Graphics Richard Wykes

## Supporters Required

We have a small but active group of volunteers who deliver leaflets, collect annual contributions and attend committee meetings.

We're looking for additional volunteers to join us as we have a number of residents who will be unable to support us in the new year.

If you can support delivering leaflets 4x a year or attend a committee meeting every 6 weeks then please contact us at [enquiries@molewood.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@molewood.org.uk) and let us know your interested in helping us out.

### Proudly supported by



*Looking for a fresh interior this New Year?  
Then contact local mums, Julie and Gemma  
who are providing quotations for interior  
painting work from January onwards...*



see our work on Facebook  
- Gems and Jewels Interior Painters



To join for 2019 complete the slip and put it through the letter box of our treasurer, Alan Sewell, 16 The Avenue.

I/ we want to support the Molewood Residents' Association for 2019. I enclose my £2 per household payment for this year's subscription.

My/ our name is .....

and I/ we live at .....

I/ we would be happy to be contacted by email about local issues by the residents' association so here is my

email address .....