



Spring Edition 2018

A welcome message...

Hello residents and welcome to our first edition of Outlook for 2018. The newsletter produced by Molewood Resident's Association to keep you all informed on the stories and issues in your local area. Since our last edition in August our committee members have been busy on a variety of projects and tasks including supporting the Stop Bengoe Quarry Campaign Team; working on the Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan and collecting your £2 donations. All of this work is under-taken voluntarily and the Association on behalf of our residents would like to thank all our volunteers for putting their energy into making Molewood a strong and friendly community.

On the subject of donations the £2 that you provide us with is an incredibly important part of supporting what we do... with your support in the last 12 months we've been able to part-fund a community notice board with Herts Town

Council on The Avenue, support community events and to make a donation to the Stop Bengoe Quarry campaign for £500.

Concluding our introduction we ask again for your time and your interest in local issues. We would welcome more supporters and committee members than we currently have. Your support could be limited to distributing leaflets in your road or collecting donations through to leading a local project or simply representing the thought and concerns of your street on our committee. Whatever you can support us with we'd welcome your involvement - please make your interest known through enquiries @molewood.org.uk or contact a committee member directly to share how you can help (details on the back)

Enjoy this edition and we'll speak again soon... Ben

Pizza & Prosecco



Put a date in your diary and make plans with your friends for **7pm on Tuesday 8th May at Bengoe Primary School to enjoy FREE Pizza and Prosecco** courtesy of Molewood Residents Association as we celebrate another year and reflect upon our achievements from the last 12 months.

**LET OUR CHILDREN
BREATHE**
PROTECT HERTFORD'S COUNTRYSIDE

www.stopbengoequarry.org.uk



Important SBQ update inside

Stop Benggeo Quarry team would like to thank all the residents for their incredible support and involvement against the applicant's latest attempts to gain approval to quarry in Benggeo Field. We would like to thank you all for your letters and emails to Hertford County Council and Planning Inspectorate, and for your generous donations.

What next?...

The new quarry application is currently being considered by the Herts County Council (HCC) Planning Officer, and relevant specialists including Landscape, Highways, etc. The case will be under considerations in the next HCC Development Control Committee on **26th April 2018 at 10am** at County Hall (as before in March). We really hope that you can join us, as it will be important to demonstrate to new members of the deciding Committee, the strength of local opposition against this new plan. The HCC Planning Officer's recommendation to the Committee will only be announced 2-3 weeks before their meeting.

The appeal against HCC's decision to refuse the previous application is currently being considered by the Planning Inspectorate. We are working with our legal and expert representatives on our Statement of Case, as we managed to secure rule 6 status, which means SBQ effectively becomes a third party in the appeal. We believe it is important to do so, as the issue of water supply pollution remains a huge concern. The appeal public hearing is scheduled for **1st - 4th May 2018** at County Hall and again – we invite all those who can to join us, especially on the first day, so we can show in our numbers how much this issue matters to the local community.

HCC recommends that the **draft Minerals Local Plan** should no longer include Benggeo Field and Rickneys as a preferred area in the future. We are very pleased with this recommendation and HCC's recognition of the key issues identified by our campaign. If approved, this will be of immense importance for stopping the development of quarries in this area for at least 15 years.



Keep visiting Benggeo Field. We believe that the Benggeo Field is now visited even more than before by cyclists, families, joggers, ramblers... Currently we are particularly interested to hear from any groups (formal or informal) who use/visit Benggeo Field. Even if you or your group have only visited the field a couple of times in the last year your input is still helpful and relevant.

A recent petition to protect the footpath across Benggeo Field garnered 580 signatories calling upon HCC to protect the footpath across the field at all costs – adding another disruptive consideration for any planning application.

Aska Pickering, Chairperson, Stop Benggeo Quarry

The strength of community feeling about the quarry applications is illustrated by the huge support the SBQ campaign has received. SBQ has been very organised, exploring every facet of the issues, and this is important. A quarry this close to an urban area is simply unacceptable. I fully support SBQ and will continue to work with them in my capacity as County Councillor to oppose these applications.

I urge everyone who has not already done so to email your views to the County Council and the Planning Inspectorate. I will read through every submission and summarise the points made in my own submissions to the Planning Inspector and to the Development Control Committee. I will endeavour to reply to everyone in due course.

County Councillor Andrew Stevenson

How you can help:

- Display the SBQ logo
- Follow our updates on www.stopbenggeoquarry.org.uk or social media
- Contact us with any ideas and suggestions on info@stopbenggeoquarry.org.uk
- Join us on **26 April and 1-4 May in County Hall** to show the decision-makers that we really mean to stop this quarry.

Hertford Town Council in partnership with local residents is developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Hertford Bengoe Ward. Molewood residents are representing our community in the working groups that cover the following areas: Culture & Communities; Natural Environment & Green Spaces; Housing & Development; Transport and Business/Employment.

The Neighbourhood Area Plan has recently undertaken a Survey of residents to assess how the community feels about key issues that the working groups have identified. More news on that to follow in future editions. For now we share some of the ambitions of our working groups

BNAP Culture & Communities Working Group

This working group aims to encompass a very broad view of "culture" and include all community groups such as the churches, youth organisations, arts organisations, community centres, leisure and recreation initiatives amongst others.



The lower part of Bengoe has been identified in the Hertford Urban Development Strategy as Hertford Arts Quarter. There are plans to regenerate the Old McMullens Brewery and Old British School as Hertford Arts Hub, with support from the University of Hertfordshire, Hertford Town Council and Arts Council England.

A community with a strong set of cultural activities is a healthy community and this is especially important for young people – for whom there is too little provision in Bengoe and Hertford generally.

Three key aims are to:

- Encourage and develop all cultural activities within the BNAP area by developing a community portal of the Love Bengoe website and engaging with local cultural groups.
- Ensure access to the widest possible variety of activities for all age groups and abilities by promoting existing premises and activities and encouraging fresh initiatives.
- Improve communication amongst current cultural activity suppliers.

This working group will explore:

- The types of activities and event spaces that might be made available by the redevelopment of the Old British School.
- If there is a desire for a dedicated community centre within Bengoe and where that might be located.
- The development of a heritage trail through Bengoe with key sign-posting and/or permanent notice boards.

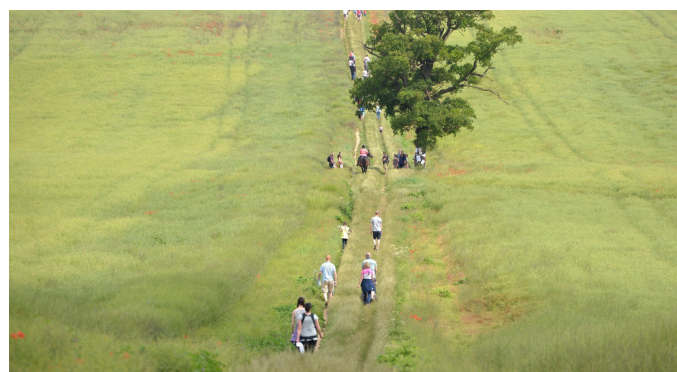
Natural Environment and Green Spaces Working Group

This group aims to look at every type of green space within Bengoe Ward including woodland, farm land, nature reserves, Hartham Common, allotments and Children's Play areas.

So many people in Bengoe love the area because of its semi-rural location and open spaces. It is a key characteristic of our ward. Whether it be looking after an allotment or walking out on a pleasant afternoon across one of the many country walks that surround the area. The sense of openness and mixed land use is key to the area's identity.

Our key aims are to:

- Promote and protect rights of way around Bengoe including cycle tracks, walking routes and common land.
- Enable sustainable use of bengoe green spaces
- Maintain and protect wildlife habitats within Bengoe ward
- Promote use of our natural environment for recreational activity for all ages
- Protect Bengoe ward from poor air quality by protecting and increasing green lungs and corridors



This working group will explore:

- Including a photo library and detailed use of mapping to optimise conservation opportunities.
- Using the disused railway land in lower Bengoe as a cycleway and footpath
- Having a community garden and or aviary amongst other ideas.

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
Catie Geering	46 Buckwells Field
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

Xmas Light Competition

Another closely thought competition for the 3rd Annual Xmas Lights Competition in Molewood. Standards had definitely improved on the previous year as The Drive, The Avenue and Desborough Close presented some strong entries. From a strong top 5 the winners were:

Brightest Bengoe - Andy White
(18, Desborough Close) - £25 to NSPCC

Majestic Molewood - The Stevensons
(5, The Avenue) - £25 to Isabel Hospital.

Desborough take the **Brightest Bengoe** award for the 3rd time in a row and sustain the benchmark for future entries.

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 and let us know your interested in helping us out.

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Reduced selling fees for members of Molewood Residents' Association!



To join for 2018 complete the slip and put it through the letterbox of our treasurer, Alan Sewell, 16 The Avenue.

I/ we want to support the MRA for 2018. 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

web: www.molewood.org.ukemail: enquiries@molewood.org.uk