MOLEWOOD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter October 2010

Present Committee:-

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We were hoping to resume the normal OUTLOOK publication but, with no editor, this is a little difficult !
Present Treasurer Nick Gough is prepared to take up the reins if we can find a replacement for the Treasurer's duties.
COULD WE PLEASE ASK FOR A VOLUNTEER to be Treasurer?

There must be one person among the thousand or so out there who could spare a few moments a month in order that Nick can keep you up to date on current matters ... PLEASE PHONE HIM!

Allan

FAIRVIEW DEVELOPMENT

With the prospect of having a new housing development planted on the edge of our own estate, we thought that everyone would be anxious to know the up-to- date situation. Your Committee asked former chairman, Ken Lupton, to speak on our behalf at an Appeals Meeting in September. Nevertheless, East Herts District Council have *approved* the planning application for the Fairview development next to the school playing field off Sacombe Road, subject to complying with several conditions.

There have been many hundreds of objections to which your Association has added their voice, mainly on the chaotic situation they fear will arise with the increase in traffic bringing with it the possibility of serious accidents especially in Sacombe Road around Bengeo School's 'rush hours'.

Highways department has judged the situation capable of taking the additional road users and we have written expressing our amazement at their conclusions.

Councillor Sally Newton……..

is on record as saying: *"Unfortunately Herts Highways has said there are no significant problems. I have countered this by stating that they haven't really addressed the issues raised by the team working on the Hertford and Ware Transport Plan who are well aware of the problems around the school".*

There have been many near-miss incidents around school times, one when our present chairman, Brian Laming was driving carefully along The Avenue, and was overtaken by a van at great speed near the Cowper Crescent junction. The van then swerved up on to the pavement narrowly missing two mums, lurched back into the road and up on to the opposite pavement before careering off before any of the shocked onlookers could get any details of his number, etc.

Already it is dangerous passing all the parked cars in Sacombe road at school run times.

These points have been raised with the Hertfordshire Highways. but their reply to a letter from the Residents Association is not very encouraging. They will consider the introduction of additional yellow line restrictions but warn us that there probably will not be any cash to apply them, in the near future. And they point out that there has not been any injury to date and they ask us to call 0845 3300222 to report any hazardous event or obstructive parking.

Waterford Heath Development Programme

Meanwhile another local residents' group is objecting to a proposed development on Waterford Heath and also drawing attention to the number of Bengeo parents getting their children to school via Vicarage Lane, with similar dangers to those around our School, and in Bengeo Street.

New Committee Members; and Old

Elected at the last AGM, Geoff Church and Peter Docherty are a welcome addition to our depleted ranks but we are always eager to recruit more; particularly younger people, with lots of energy and ideas. Meanwhile, Janet Moy, who has been on our Committee for some time is moving away, in the new year; and we wish her luck.

Waterford Heath Local Nature Reserve

Tony Vickers (of CAGE Fame), is leading discussions of the proposed lease of the heath land to Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, which is seemingly going nowhere very slowly.

Quiz Night

Plans are being drawn up for another Quiz Night with a Fish and Chip Supper, to be held in February. Tickets will be in the region of £5. Look out for further announcements on our notice boards. Meanwhile, those interested should contact any Committee Member.

RAT RUN…Colin Underwood reports …….

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Talks and correspondence are currently going on with the Lower Bengeo Residents Association to try and find a suitable joint approach to Hertfordshire Highways that does not involve the closure of the rat run at all.

Currently systems involving technology and/or road engineering are being explored by a small group before any suggestions are investigated by H. Highways.

We hope that all our members have a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year