

Winter Edition 2022

Please see our website for up-to-date information http://www.molewood.org.uk

Chairman's Report

Whilst we are enjoying the lifting of restrictions and the hope of a return to 'normal' we are conscious that COVID has still not disappeared and therefore we regretfully took the decision that it did not feel appropriate to hold our AGM in person again this year. We are hopeful that 2023 will allow us to meet with neighbours, old and new, to share our updates and catch up over pizza and prosecco as in years past.

All committee members have agreed to stand again and in addition we welcome Becky and Derek Novavi and Jess Chan. Linda has stepped down as Editor of the Outlook and I would like to thank her for all of the contribution she has made over the last few years producing an excellent publication to celebrate and inform on activities across the Molewood area.

As we head into autumn we await the results of the Byde Street consultation, anticipate a planning application from Durkan for 100 new homes, and support a local group seeking to improve the play area facilities at Sacombe Road. Lots for the committee to consider over the next few months. If there are matters that you would like us to support then do please get in contact with either myself or any of the other committee members. You can talk to us in person or email us via **enquiries@molewood.org.uk**.

Treasurer's Report 2021/22

Continuing effects of COVID-19 has prevented have prevented reporting in person again, however, the accounts have been inspected, so I can formally report on the Associationís financial affairs up to March 2022.

Income at £499 was a down on previous years. Household subs formed the main source of income, which were at the new £3 rate and for a calendar year starting in January. Thank you to those who have paid - without these we cannot support activities and projects in the area. As Treasurer I would like to urge more of you to make the modest subscription, and this is now easier using our "**Molewood Residents Donations Accoun**t"which will accept e-payments. Details of this are **Account no 18411010 Sort Code 60-10-39** and please put your house number and road as reference.

In May 2021, we got a one-off grant from EHDC which covered the 2021 cost of our newsletter and left about half to support publication in 2022. However ongoing support would be helpful. This is an important way for residents to be informed of what is happening in our part of Bengeo. Any stories for inclusion would be gratefully received as would offers of sponsorship.

In previous years we have given support to street events, Stop Bengeo Quarry and the Bengeo Area Neighbourhood Plan. This year, we joined with other organisations to provide a bench in memory of George Sandell who was involved in many projects in the area. We did also continue our successful Christmas Lights competition with £50 given to charity.

Overall the Association had a Surplus of £220 and still maintains a relatively healthy bank balance. During 2020 we had obtained a grant for professional advice on the possible sale of land forming part of Bengeo Field. So far we have not had to commit anything for advice on the sale and the £500 grant is part of the £647 Creditors on the balance sheet. The balance is the unused portion of the grant for Outlook printing referred to above.

I would like to thank again David Brooks and Colin Crannis for carrying out the inspection of the accounts and to the committee for their friendship and support to me as Treasurer and post COVID we have resumed our enjoyable committee meetings with our Secretary Kath hosting. The MRA has achieved a lot for the local area and I am sure we can continue this in the future with a new chair, the talented Emily White, and new committee members adding additional skills and enthusiasm. I do hope I will be able to report on our progress in person in the spring of 2023.

Alan Sewell, Hon Treasurer July 2022

Expansion of the Molewood Residents' Association

We have decided to expand the reach of the MRA to include Duncombe Road, Duncombe Close and Westfield Avenue. Residents of the new developments, Woodland Grove (marketed as Waterford Wick) and The Stiles, have also been invited to join. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved - **enquiries@molewood.org.uk**.

Report from our local councillor, Ben Crystall



I hope residents have had a good summer! I thought it would be helpful to give you an update on some of the changes and proposals going on in Bengeo. And I want to offer congratulations to the team at Bengeo Bereavement Café who were shortlisted for the Councillor's Special Award at Hertfordshire Public Health Excellence Awards in September.

Rat Run: As I write we are still waiting for HCC Highways to announce the results of the consultation on the trial closure of Byde St. I have asked Highways when we can expect a decision to be made, and will want to see it based on the numbers for and against (the first question in the consultation document) along with an analysis and clear reasoning to explain the decision. I appreciate that many are concerned and waiting is frustrating but I hope that once we know the result, we can come back together as a community.

Bengeo Field: You are probably aware of the proposal to build a further 100 homes on Bengeo field behind The Stiles. Durkan, the developer, has already held a public consultation and has used this to gather feedback and potentially adjust its plan. We expect them to submit a planning application to East Herts Council soon. All three of your East Herts District councillors (myself, Peter Ruffles and Sally Newton) are on the committee which considers planning applications and obviously you can contact us if you have concerns. But please be aware that by law we must keep open minds about the development until the meeting to consider the application, otherwise we will be ineligible to vote, so our responses will be limited. However, when Durkan's application is submitted, we advise residents to write to East Herts Planning team, using the application's reference number, to express your views and reasoning clearly to the planning officers.

Highways: We are still waiting for the implementation of the 20mph zone east of Bengeo Street, scheduled for this autumn. In addition, a new SIDS (smiley face) device should be put in on Bengeo St to help slow drivers coming in from Wadesmill Rd by the end of the financial year. We are also expecting a new zebra crossing to be built on Sacombe Rd by The Stiles and I am working with Highways to see whether we can extend the existing School Safety Zone with flashing lights on The Avenue onto Bengeo St and Sacombe Rd, with an advisory 20mph speed limit implemented in those areas. After residents contacted me with concerns, I have also asked Highways to look at how we might improve pedestrian access and safety along Bengeo St itself. I hope to share details later this year.

Molewood Millrace: It is encouraging that consultants have written a report offering a number of options for action, including some that could see water from the river Beane flowing into the Millrace once again. We now need more details to appreciate the full impact of each option and the work (and funds) required to implement them. All credit to those from the community who continue to drive this forward.

Funding: So far this year, funds allocated from my locality grant have gone to Hertford Running Club, Bengeo Church Hall, Citizen's Advice East Herts, Hertford Climate Café, St Andrews Church, Hertford Arts Hub, CHIPS, the Bereavement Café and Save Beane Marshes. If you have a local community project that could benefit from some funding, please get in touch.

I always appreciate a chance to hear your opinions and discuss local issues: please call 0300 123 7551 or email me on **ben.crystall@hertfordshire.gov.uk.**

Bengeo Field Development

In August Durkan Homes held a public consultation on the 100 new homes they would like to build on Bengeo Field. The plans are available to view at **www.bengeowadesmillroad.co.uk**. Durkan received 233 pieces of feedback in August, which included many objections, including inappropriate development of the area, pressure on infrastructure, traffic congestion, loss of Bengeo Field,etc.

A second exhibition was also held by Durkan on 19th October. Unfortunately residents were not given much



notice of this one (less than a week). A second consultation began then and is available until 11th November at **www.bengeowadesmillroad.co.uk**. Durkan have indicated that they intent to submit their planning application for the site later this year (Nov/Dec). Some residents have set up a campaign group on Facebook (Save Bengeo Field) to object to the proposed development. You can email **savebengeofield@gmail.com** for more information on the campaign and to get involved or visit **www.savebengeofield.org.uk**. There is also a petition on the EHDC site (**www.tinyurl.com/bengeofield**) which runs until 15th November.

Neighbourhood news

Queen Elizabeth II

Following the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, local residents were invited to sign a parish Book of Condolence at Holy Trinity Church. The White Lion also commissioned a beautiful mural to commemorate the Queen's life, which can now be seen on the side of the pub. This followed some very joyful celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, where neighbours got together to put on some fantastic events for their local communities. The MRA was able to contribute to a number of these events and it was wonderful to see people coming together to celebrate.



Sacombe Road Playground

Local residents have started a project to enhance the Sacombe Road play area, making it a safer, more attractive and fun place to play and exercise. Conversations about what is possible are at an early stage and East Herts District Council have been very supportive of initial proposals, which include painting fencing, making the playground gates safer, widening the range of play equipment, extending the path for access across the field and putting down new surfaces to make it less muddy over the winter months. In addition to council funding, the organisers hope to fundraise to purchase additional equipment or facilities that can be enjoyed by all ages. If you would like to be involved or have views on what you would like to see included, please email **enquiries@molewood.org.uk** or drop a line to Angela directly on **angela.moore85@hotmail.co.uk.**



Mobile Phone Mast

In May 2022, CK Hutchison put in an application for a new 5G phone mast on the Avenue. The plan was to place the phone mast on the green opposite The Avenue parade of shops. The MRA put forward several objections to this plan and in June East Herts Council refused the new mast. Further details on this can be found on our website – **www.molewood.org.uk**.

Stiles Play Trail



The play trail at the back of the Stiles development has now been put in and provides a small new area for children to play, including a climbing frame and other wooden play equipment.

George Sandell



A commemorative bench has been installed on Waterford Heath for George Sandell, a well-respected and valued member of the community, who died aged 94. George was the Chairman of the CAGE (Campaign Against Gravel Extraction) campaign and an active supporter of Stop Bengeo Quarry. He worked hard for his community in many endeavours and was Awarded the MBE in 1996 for his community service.

Bengeo Community Garden



Next year Bengeo will open a new community garden space on the small corner site between Tower Street and Duncombe Road. Supported by a grant from East Herts District Council and by funds raised by The Coffee Pot, they are aiming to create a path, flower beds, bird boxes and install benches. The garden will be wildlife friendly and open to all to enjoy. There will be a community clear up on Sunday 20th November between 11am and 12pm. Come along with gardening gloves, a spade or loppers to help or just come along for a chat to find out more.

Christmas Lights Competition

The Christmas Lights Competition is running again this year and the MRA will make a donation to a charity of your choice if you win. There are two categories – general and children's display. Committee members will be walking around the area in December and choosing their favourites, so if you'd like to be in with a chance of winning, get working on those displays!

Local businesses – snippets

Good News: 6.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, 7.00am – 5.00pm Saturday and 8.00am – 12.00pm Sunday.

The Secret Garden Café: not open on Sundays and Mondays, but from 8:00am - 2pm on other days of the week.

Headlines: is open from 7am on Tuesdays – Fridays. Check their website for more details **https://headlineshertford.co.uk/**. Headlines have recently been able to restart their weekly hairdressing service to Isabel Hospice Inpatient Unit (which had temporarily stopped due to COVID-19). They donate a stylist to the Hospice to do the hair of not only patients, but also their primary carers. This service provides a much-needed morale boost to people during their most difficult times.

Walton Lodge Vets: is open 9am - 5pm Mondays to Fridays and shut at the weekend.

The Avenue Pharmacy: is open 9am - 6pm every weekday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday; booked flu vaccinations available. COVID-19 vaccinations available here for those eligible. Book through **www.nhs.uk**.



MRA Committee meetings

Our next two committee meetings are at 19:30 on Thursday 12 Jan and Thursday 16 March. If you are concerned about something local and would like us to discuss it at a meeting, please use the 'contact us' section on the MRA website. Names and addresses are to the right for those without internet access.

Your Outlook is printed by:
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Hartham Lane, Hertfordshire, SG14 1QN

Your Association

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

We need an injection - of new members - to keep the residents of Bengeo informed of local news/concerns! Are you Interested in local affairs and want to find out more about what is happening in Bengeo?

Can you spare a few hours every 6-8 weeks to attend a meeting with like-minded residents? We have just the opportunities for you, enquiries@molewood.org.uk.

The aim of the association is to support Molewood residents and enhance their enjoyment of the Molewood neighbourhood. The association contributes to community events arranged by residents and to community projects. The Association issues 2 or 3 Outlook newsletters annually.

Copies of old newsletters are on our website. If you have any old copies, documents or photos of the estate, we'd love you to share them.

Annual membership of Molewood Residents' Association costs £3 per household a year.

How to pay for your subscription

Account name: Molewood Residents Donations Account
Sort Code: 60-10-39 **Account no:** 18411010
Reference: your name and house number

Committee details

Chair: Emily White, 27 The Drive
Treasurer: Alan Sewell, 16 The Avenue
Secretary: Kath Richardson, 138 Cowper Crescent
Editor: Rebecca Novavi, 1 Butterfield Drive

General Members

Nick Gough, 11 Lys Hill Gardens
Marie Archer, 55 The Wick
John Edwards, 8 The Wick
Rachel Ogier, 23 Trinity Grove
Aska Pickering, 168 Sacombe Rd
Jess Chan, 124 Cowper Crescent
Mark Harley, 76 Buckwells Field
Chris Simmons, 6 The Wick
Linda Pryor, Lys Hill Gardens
Catie Geering, 46 Buckwells Field

Website Manager:
Paul Ogier

Outlook Graphics:
Jim Martin

If you want to support MRA complete the slip and put it through the letter box of our treasurer, Alan Sewell, 16 The Avenue.

Please tick appropriate boxes below

☐ I/we want to support the Molewood Residents' Association for 2023.
☐ I/we have paid our subscription by online banking *(details highlighted above)* or
☐ I enclose my £3 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

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