

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 16 NOVEMBER 2022

(A) PETITION – “SAVE BENGEO FIELD LANDSCAPE”

A petition has been submitted by Aska Pickering, on behalf of 431* signatories, seeking that the Council protect the landscape of the area north of Bengoe, known locally as Bengoe Field and reject any further residential development. Signatures have been collected via an e-petition on the East Herts Council website. The petition states:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to protect the unique and outstanding landscape of the area north of Bengoe, known locally as Bengoe Field, for the whole community of Bengoe and Hertford. We ask that the East Herts District Council reject any further residential development, which would also place further stress on the local infrastructure with regards to highways, wastewater drainage, local health services, and schools.”

“We believe Bengoe Field needs to be protected from further development to prevent the destruction of a beautiful landscape that is much loved and utilised by the community. This area provides a much valued amenity thanks to the highly popular Byway 1. The pathway through Bengoe Field, which passes by the Lonely Oak, is extremely popular and surveys provide evidence that increasing numbers of people use it for a variety of activities. The unique views it offers to walkers across Rib Valley makes it imperative that we preserve this locally important landscape, which was described as having exceptional value by the Landscape Officer of Hertfordshire County Council. The landscape was also found to be of outstanding value by the Planning Inspector at the Planning Inquiry which rejected minerals extraction: "These landscapes are especially important as a foil to urban settlements [...] I consider that the appeal site is a landscape resource and visual amenity of considerable importance because of its proximity to the urban area. It seems

contrary to that finding to allow residential development to destroy the same landscape.”

**The petition remains open until 15 November 2022 so an updated number of signatories will be provided at the meeting.*