A Chance to Save Surviving Green Areas



Shubh Enclave Site Owner's Association (R)

The Governor Karnataka State Raj Bhavan Bangalore

To Your Excellency

Sub : Saving the remnants of green catchment areas in Bangalore

We are a small community living in one of the few areas in Bangalore that is still open and green. Our layout Shubh Enclave is a residential layout bounded on two sides by 2 lakes and a mini forest.

In the few pages here, we have described why we need to act to protect these areas from the invasive tendencies of builders whose only aim is profit at any cost.

Here is a chance to take a wholistic view and ensure that urban planning and "development" is far more than just glossy buildings. In this case buildings and homes without the basics : water !

If you read through these pages it would seem that these hasty plans approved in the CDP is quite like the blueprint for the international airport with no plans for a road to take the passengers there !

We look forward to a response from you. We will be more than willing to come forth for a discussion of what we firmly believe in.

Thanking you, Yours sincerely,

Rajeev Manikoth President Gita Pillai Secretary

Shubh Enclave Site Owners' Association (R) Harlur Road, Off Sarjapur Road, Bangalore - 560 102

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Is this Really in tskirts of ess than s largely ls, water

We live in a layout on the outskirts of Kormangala called Shubh Enclave. Less than five years ago this was a belt that was largely agricultural, with villages, open fields, water bodies, etc. Within a short span, this whole belt has witnessed uncontrolled growth that has been steadily altering the nature of this locality.

We, like a lot of others had consciously sought to find place to build our homes that would have some degree of serenity and a semblance of what Bangalore was supposed to be : a green paradise.

Shubh Enclave, spread over 120 acres, is a private residential layout that has two large lakes on its periphery and a small forest belt adjoining the lakes. This small "haven" is probably one of the last surviving bit of green areas with water bodies and its attendant flora and fauna. Winter brings an astounding number of incredible migratory birds, for whom this is also a transient home. The topography of this area is such that all the rainwater flows down to the lakes, keeping this belt very green most of the time.

Must We Destroy that

This is one of last few remaining areas in Bangalore that has retained bits of natural area like an oasis..

Isn't it amazing that we can have a rainfed lake here, but no groundwater ? But that is no surprise, since the network of canals that feed our lake system have been steadily destroyed by the unrelenting building activity around Bangalore.

We can still restore this network if we have the will to do so. Catchment areas for collecting rain water must be saved.



Everything We have been blessed with ?

We the residents of this area sincerely hope that we will see the wisdom of not losing this to the builders lobby.

Let our children not ask us why we let this happen. And who was responsible. While development happens, let us also save some areas for the migratory birds and the numerous small creatures that has this as their home.



Water is the issue





As we are all well aware, there is an acute water shortage in this whole belt off Sarjapur Road. Communities like Trinity Acres and Trinity Woods which has been here since the 1990's have been getting water supplied by tankers. The official authority BWSSB has not to date been able to supply water.

Last summer has seen a severe drought like situation. In Trinity Acres & Woods, (about 240 familiy units) water had to be on a strict rationed regime. Springfield apartments (13 floors with penthouses) had the housewifes coming down to collect their share of water in buckets.

A Total Environment project here on Harlur Road had to stop construction work for a few months, due to water shortage.

The tanker water suppliers found that their borewells were running dry and had to source their supply from far away places. With that came an increase in prices, which we all had no choice, but to pay. In our discussion with BWSSB, it was clearly told to us NOT to expect any supply through water lines for the next 10 years.

We would have to raise the query as to why are we in such a dire state ?

If the BWSSB is no position to guarantee supply of water, why are Authorities like the BDA, BMRDA sanctioning large housing projects ?

It is a fact that almost 40% of built up residential apartment projects are vacant and have no takers.

What are we 6 hoping for

Sanctions for high rise projects are being granted, irrespective of the requirement of minimum width of access roads. Norms are being openly flouted in connivance with builders and sanctioning authorities. The builders do not seem to care of the "debris" they leave behind before they head for another area in the hunt for huge profits. High density projects bring with it the huge increase of traffic. Accentuating a situation that is already a nightmare in Bangalore. It has also brought in it's wake, the land mafia with its attendant problems that have started making normal life for us in these areas very difficult..

We sincerely believe that some areas of Bangalore need to be retained as breathing spaces for a randomly developing city. Bangalore has lost too much. This is a chance for us to do the right thing. Leave catchment areas free of intrusion from builders & developers. Allow only low density development like independent homes. We are stakeholders for whom this is our home and not just a business proposition. We are not against development. All that we are hoping for is a sustainable model that would ensure some peace of mind. And at least enough water for our families.

This is a chance to do the right thing. Let us try and retain some of the very qualities that have drawn people here.

On behalf of the registered members of the Shubh Enclave Site Owners' Association (R)

A.S. Prasad & A. Sujatha A.V.S.Murthy Abhay Baheti Adi Naranayan ReddyAshmit Reddy Adity Roy & Vineeth Nair Ajay & Lyeza D'souza Ajay Kabre Alex Samuel Ameeta Patel Anand Shankar mall Anantha Bhat & Anuradha Anita Malikariun Anupama Wamsi Rao Arunava Banerjee Arvind Gunju Ashish.S.D'souza Ashokan Ashvin J.Dsouza & Malini D'souza Ashwat Reddy Ashwin Vinod B. Malleshwari B Renu Balachandran Sreekandath Bani Surapur Bharat Patel Bhavini Bhawani C. Harish Kumar Chandrashekar Pritama Harish Choudhary Thejaraj D. Derarkanath D. Rajagopalachary Damodar Naidu Deepak Dinesh & Kadambari Dinesh & Kadambari Dr Sudipta & Mahesh Dr. Kamalender Kumar Dr. Latha John Dr. Muni Reddy Dr. Naveed Dr. Vidya Shankar Dushyanth Naagar & Priya Shankar Floyd and Adeline G.R.Reddy Gulshan Chaddha (Kitty) Gilbert D'souza Gopal Reddy Govinda H.V.Khandelia Harish Kumar Hitesh C.Patel Hitesh ShahBhavini J.C.Ashmit Reddy Jacob Chandy Jagadish. H. Patel Jaideep & Renjana Javid Jayant Bheda Javashree John Philp Shema John Joseph Alenchery K. L. Suresh Chandra

K. Padma K. Srinivasan K.Kranti K.L.Prasad Kamesh Patel Kiran Jain Kishen Agarwal Krishna Baji & Arathi Baji Krishna Murthy Lakshmaiah Shetty Lalith Morda Lancy John Liza Allenchery M. G. Abraham M. N. Naheed M. Nurulla Shariff M.R.Vanaja Raghavan Madhu Velegar & Arun Krishnan Mahendra Kumar.R Mahesh Bihani Mahesh Dusane Mallige Satya Murthy Manohar Manohar Rao Suhsila David Manoj Agarwal Manoj Pillai Martin Maruthi Plastics Mathew George Michael Flavia D'souza Mike Rathnaswamy Mini Devi mall Mini Devi mall Mohammed Farook Mohan Abraham Mohit Arora Mona Teresa Mr. Aail Pargal Mr. Jaaved Mr. Vijay Krishnan Mrs. Rajeshwari Karanth Mrs. Rose Marrie Muniswamyh. N N. S. Nagraj N. Thomas N. Venugopal Nandini Vallath Narendra Babu Neelam Singh Neeraj Chabria Nirmal Bafna Nirmal Bothra P. K. Swamv P. R. Maheshwari P.T. Jose Tommy Padmini Vasudevan Pais Pargal Anil Pavan Agarwal Poovaiah Poulose Prabhakar Pratap Reddy Prem Kumar Dega Prince David Pushparaj Maheshwari

Raia Reddv Rajan & Usha Sanklecha Rajeev Manikoth & Alaknanda Rajendra Rao Rajesh Rathod Rajesh Singh Rajshree Malpani Ramachandra Mission Rangarao Raghavendra Ravi Reddy Ravi Agarwal Ravinder Rao Rishab Kothari Rocky Rai Rohini Rao Rukumini. M S. Babu S. C. Jain Sachin Verma Sagarmal mall Sagarmal mall Sanjay & Rajeshwari Malpani Sanjay Gulgalia Sanjay Jain Santosh Khanje Saroja Nadeeq Satbir Bakshi Satish C.Jain Shaju Nair Shalabh Mishra Shameer Ayyappan & Sowjanya Shetty Sharath Hegde Shashank Shashi. S. Kumar Shiva Kumar Shivakumar. K. V Siby Thomas Sita Surapur Smitha Vishwanathan & Shyam Sundar Srinivas & Satish Srinivasan Srivatsa Anees Chamaria Sudhakar Devi Setty Sukumari Sunny Muthappa Suresh Bajaj Suresh Desai Suresh Pichoomari Suresh Singh Sushil Teja Sushma Thomas Thomson, P. Koshv Vani Pawan Vani Pawn & Pawan Kumar VasanthRao Venu Vetri Selvi Rajamanickam Vinay Patchisia Vineet Nair Vinod Mishra Vivek Khanna