

Bukit Bayu folk a close-knit group

Members of this mini community make it a point to get together regularly

Residents in Action

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BUKIT BAYU in U10, Shah Alam, has only been around for two years with some 15 families living in the area.

The small group has managed to form a strong bond within a short span of time.

Its residents' association representative, Gobindran Krishna Murthy, describes the mini community as an "awesome" group of people.

"We keep in touch through a WhatsApp chat group and we gather for activities, not just during festivities."

"We have gone hiking in Bukit Cerakah in Shah Alam together, and that sometimes takes up half the day," he said.

Recently, residents gathered at one of the houses for a durian feast.

Gobindran said the group of residents are always quick to lend a hand in any situation, from keeping an eye on each

other's home to fighting for a cause together.

Last month, they teamed up with non-governmental organisations Malaysian Nature Society, Treat Every Environment Special and Global Environment Centre to stop development in the forest, after discovering activities taking place at the entrance of the forest just before reaching Bukit Bayu.

"Residents also chipped in money to organise a press conference, printed banners, engaged with organisations to help us and rented a drone to monitor the forest at the time," he said.

Bukit Cerakah is the last-remaining low land with mineral soil and is also an important water catchment area.

Residents are awaiting an update from the authorities on the development taking place in Bukit Cerakah and if the state government would intervene and gazette the forest back to a permanent forest reserve.



The Bukit Cerakah Forest next to Bukit Bayu is untouched, though the trail into it has caved in. Residents and NGOs hope no development will encroach into the area. (Left) The residents during one of their hikes in Bukit Cerakah.