

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SWAKELEYS ROAD, ICKENHAM, ON FRIDAY 17th April 2015

PRESENT: J Dalton (Chairman & Treasurer), J Reyner (General Secretary), J Squiers (Membership Secretary), H Raeder (Planning Officer), B Adams (Publicity Officer), P Daymond (President). Committee Members: N Bedi, B Buckle, H Minhas, C Mountain, R Piper, V Silk and H Tizard. Co-opted Committee Members: I Phillips, M Pemberton and D Tebbutt. GLA Member Dr. Onkar Sahota. Ickenham Cllrs: J Hensley, D Simmonds, P Corthorne, B Crowe and J Riley

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: M Beaumont (Patron), Sir John Randall, Cllr Ray Puddifoot, as well as Committee Members: D Grimshaw, D Giannouloupoulos and D John. Also, H John, Mr & Mrs Farrow Smith, J Smith, J Watson, E Locke, P Cramp and D Hughes.

The Chairman introduced the Committee members on the stage and thanked Councillors J Hensley, D Simmonds and P Corthorne for showing their support for Ickenham and its residents. She also welcomed Dr Onkar Sahota (our GLA representative) and Inspector Rob Bryan (Metropolitan Police).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the last AGM held on 11 April 2014 had been distributed with the last newsletter. Minutes were approved.

Proposed: A Noad; Seconded: E Leggett. Passed with no abstentions/objections.

MATTERS ARISING: None.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Membership Our current membership stands at 3,206 households, a marginal decrease on last year of 29, of which 78 are life member households and 3,128 are member households. On our revised figures from last year, this gives approx 65 % membership. We also now have a total of 67 members in The Drive thanks to new closer links with their Residents' Association. These adjusted figures will be reflected in next year's membership totals.

Our road stewards team do an excellent job and we would like to express the committee's thanks to both them and to our area stewards, without whom we would not receive our subscription income and you would not receive your newsletters.

We are still looking for both area and road stewards for Ickenham Park to include more of the residents in our membership.

If anyone is interested in helping us in either capacity, not necessarily in the new development, could they please see either our Membership Secretary Maureen Pemberton, who we'll introduce later (subject to the election), or our General Secretary June Reyner after the formal meeting.

Communications Hanne Rader continues to publish our quarterly newsletter in print.

As every year, we repeat that we would more than welcome your suggestions of how to improve the contents of our quarterly newsletter, and whether there are any other subjects on which you would like to receive more information, but which, in your opinion, are not covered sufficiently by this Association.

Brian Adams, Publicity Officer who keeps us in the public eye through the local press.

On digital communications, June Reyner manages our email account, which has become the main means of contacting the Association members. We have a communications list of well over 200 people across the village community and are able to get information out quickly this way.

Also working in close liaison with our local Neighbourhood Watch branch, we are now circulating information on crimes in order to assist the Police. We also regularly circulate the Transport for London weekend working information as this impacts our branch of both the Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines as well as the Central line.

If you're not yet on the email list, please do sign up on the register at the back of the hall at the end of the meeting.

Brian Adams continues to master our website and member Dimitrios Giannouloupoulos maintains our Twitter account

Planning The planning sub-committee is led by Hanne Rader and includes Pete Daymond, and Harmeet Minhas.

This Association continues to seek to preserve and enhance our local environment and amenity by scrutinising every planning application relating directly to the Ickenham area, or applications, which would have an effect on our area. After all, the visual aspect of Ickenham is still a factor in attracting people to live here.

In 2014, we looked at a total of 262 applications for Ickenham (up 26 from 2013). The Association only comments on, or where appropriate, raises sustainable objections to, development proposals that it considers contrary to local and national planning control regulations.

The Association sent a total of 95 (as last year) planning letters of objection, observation or comment to the Borough, between the last AGM on 11.04.2014 and this year's AGM. This is in addition to other general letters to Councillors and residents, plus the almost daily email exchanges with various LBH departments.

Of the Total of 262 Ickenham Applications 149 were approved by the Borough 91 were refused 22 were either withdrawn or have not yet been decided

There were 18 North Planning Committee Meetings scheduled in 2014 that had Ickenham and West Ruislip Wards applications on the agenda, and we were represented by committee members at those meetings.

In 2014 the Association presented their objections at a **MAJOR PLANNING COMMITTEE** Meeting on 27.08.14 in connection with the latest two TESCO Planning Applications for the former Master Brewer Site - both were **APPROVED**

We also presented our objections in 2015 in connection with the **SIGNATURE SENIOR LIFESTYLE** proposals at the hearing on 05.03.2015 - **REFUSED**.

All 26 Appeals during 2014 were decided on the basis of written representation by the Inspectorate in Bristol or, in a large number of cases, by the LBH direct.

Of those, 10 were dismissed, 15 were allowed, 1 was withdrawn

There are no **MAJOR PLANNING** applications currently under scrutiny, but we do anticipate that **SIGNATURE SENIOR LIFESTYLE** will re-apply in future.

In short, planning certainly keeps us as busy as ever! We would **VERY** much appreciate any offers of help with planning matters, if any members can spare even a little time, to help our planning team, please have a word with any committee member after the formal meeting.

Special Projects

HS2 The HS2 subcommittee has been again led by Brian Adams. He, along with the petitioners group in Ickenham has been working very hard. They also liaise with the umbrella group Hillingdon against HS2 run superbly by Keri Brennan, Lottie Jones and Christine Leonard.

A year ago, we had a unanimous vote (with one abstention) for the Association to petition to parliament against the plans of HS2 Ltd for our area. These plans include three construction sites, over 1,000 HGV vehicles a day on our already congested roads, and dumping of soil on greenbelt fields. The Harvil Road site will be there for at least 10 years, would have two concrete factories, a lorry park, and will be a major depot. Conveyor systems will be running 24/7 behind The Greenway and Hoylake Crescent. The West Ruislip site will be there for 7 years working 24/7. Also, our neighbours in Harefield have seven sites. And after all this

devastation to our environment and quality of life we would have the line running through our area with trains every 4 minutes – HS2 Ltd in their Environmental Statement recognise that there would be adverse effects from noise, pollution and congestion on many roads .

Thanks to the intervention of Nick Hurd, the compensation scheme recognised us as a rural zone and a few people in the Greenway can claim full compensation; BUT the compensation scheme does not recognise construction blight, and many people in Ickenham will be blighted once construction work starts.

The Association identified many issues with HS2 plans and it is obvious that they had not been thought through. With much assistance from LBH council officers, we submitted our petition last May. The petitioning process used archaic language and was complex, but a number of Ickenham residents worked with us and collected 1,300 signatures from their neighbours in the streets most affected. In total, we submitted 28 petitions from Ickenham which included Breakspear and Vyners schools.

The HS2 Select Committee of MPs started work in September 2014 and has almost 2,000 petitions to hear (5 times the number for HS1). Nick Hurd has supported our group and in January organised for this Select Committee to visit the Colne Valley, Harefield, Ickenham and West Ruislip. On the day, we had a magnificent turnout and the Chairman of the Committee remarked that they had not experienced such a turnout on visits to other areas.

We are now in the process of getting ready to present our petitions to the Select Committee – probably mid to late June. It is going to be a very daunting experience to be in the House of Commons in front of MPs, being televised, and we are very proud of the 'volunteers' who are working hard on their presentations and are willing to stand up and present. We are getting excellent support from the council officers – Jales Tippell, Ian Thynne and Val Beale. Unfortunately for us, Jales is retiring and we thank her for her personal commitment to get us the best support.

Our neighbours in Harefield have already presented their petitions and did an outstanding job. They have been giving us tips and hints and we thank them for their support too.

We are approx 11,000 people in Ickenham and 7,000 in Harefield – we are all going to be adversely affected by HS2 Ltd plans. But it does not stop there – thousands of people from Northwood, Pinner, Harrow, Ruislip, Eastcote, and so on, travel through Ickenham every day to go to work in Uxbridge, Heathrow and Stockley Park, and they too will be affected.

We are petitioning to get the tunnel extended from West Ruislip out to the M25. This would remove much of the damage from Ickenham & Harefield although there would still be a need for ventilation shafts and electricity stations.

The council have commissioned studies of extending the tunnel and the socio-economic damage to our area if the tunnel is not extended – the studies demonstrate that the tunnel can be extended at little additional cost. Nick Hurd, Sir John Randall and Boris Johnson all support the tunnel extension, but HS2 Ltd, once again, shows the same disregard for our community and has dismissed the council's conclusions.

LBH will be presenting their petition on June 15 and this will be crucial to the success, or otherwise, of our petitions.

Our group of petitioners will be representing you and the 11,000 Ickenham residents - as soon as we know the actual dates of our presentation, we would like as many people as possible to go to parliament and support our Ickenham representatives. We will publicise the dates, timings and how to get to the committee room in the House of Commons. PLEASE make every effort to attend and tell your friends and neighbours – this will have an impact on the Select Committee.

Green Spaces Our Committee Member, Neena Bedi, has been active on Green Spaces and Conservation Matters, as well as acting as our liaison with Ickenham schools.

Royalty visited Ickenham in October for the grand opening of the new Glebe school – though various delays have meant the builders only left the site last week. The Duchess of Gloucester was on hand to cut the ribbon and RAF Northolt sent over their trumpeters to add even more fanfare to the occasion. The Association continues to liaise with the school positively on a range of issues.

Neena continues to be the driving force behind the Friends of Swakeleys Park, whilst Chris Mountain continues his excellent management of the Marshes partnership.

The Association continues to support improvements on the Ickenham Marshes - the collection of fields between the village and Ruislip Gardens. Working parties and fun events were well attended last summer - and again good progress has been made towards all our objectives for the area:- on access, local engagement and management. We are expecting cattle to arrive on the Marshes soon, under the management of London Wildlife Trust. Interest from other local groups and schools is on the up and The Council have continued to provide valuable support. It's now very much a question of keeping the ball rolling, and you can be sure that the Association will continue to champion the marshes as an important environmental and leisure asset for Ickenham.

Police Vic Silk continues to attend the quarterly Ward PANEL meeting and the neighbourhood watch meetings. His quarterly report in Ickenham Calling keeps us up to date with crime and crime prevention in the village.

Health David John monitors this, a particularly important role with the current state of the NHS locally. We are members of "The Hillingdon Community Voice" which is essential in keeping up to date with local news and challenges in the Health Service.

Sports Clubs Richard Piper has been supporting local clubs, in particular Ickenham Youth Football in their efforts to find facilities for their growing membership since March 2014. We advised them regarding their presentation to the council about the proposed use of the Hillingdon House Farm site, though this proposal was subsequently rejected by the council. Due to a lack of communication between the council and the club, we were again asked to see if we could make some progress. As a result of a direct approach to the leader of the council, we have received this following communication.

"This first came to my attention some years ago and whilst I am both impressed by and generally supportive of this club I made it clear at the time that the use of Hillingdon House Farm would not be possible for a number of reasons:

- *The first is that we have plans drawn up to remodel the old ski slope and make a feature of it with walks to the top where there will be a vantage point.*
- *The second is that the site will not cope with the car parking that the scheme would generate.*
- *The third is that I am not supportive of building a clubhouse / changing facilities on this site.*

I would suggest that the club look at sharing some of our existing facilities utilised by other sports clubs which is something that we are actively trying to encourage even down to assisting with the financial costs of any adaptations/ alterations required."

Other activities:

We are also represented on **HARA** (Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations) and the London Green Belt Council by Pete Daymond who, with June Reyner, also attends the **RAF Northolt** Community Liaison meetings.

We have held two **events** this past year, admirably organised by Barbara Buckle. She was almost solely responsible for organising our 90th anniversary celebrations in September 2014. We were delighted by the turnout and interest shown by all who attended. We managed to coincide with the open day at Swakeleys House so managed to drag in a few non-locals including some who used to live in Ickenham and found the exhibition fascinating. We are investigating how to keep the records displayed on the day safe for posterity.

We were sad to say farewell to our Minutes Secretary Sian Vanderplank during the year, when she moved closer to her fiancée and we wish her well for her wedding later this year and future life together. Not only did she produce excellent minutes for us, she also dramatically reduced the average age of the Committee.

We were lucky to gain a volunteer David Tebbutt who has stepped into the breach and produces very timely minutes of our monthly meetings. We have also been fortunate to gain two further committee members – Ian Phillips who is beside me here and is being proposed for Treasurer and Maureen Pemberton who is being proposed for Membership Secretary.

The latter is because John Squiers is standing down both from the position and from the Committee after an involvement which has lasted 21 years. John's involvement with the Association began in 1988 when he became road Steward for Breakspear Rd South. He joined the committee in April 1994 becoming Membership secretary in 2004, holding that post ever since. He has been an enthusiastic and diligent member of the committee. His courteous, smiling, presence was always to be seen supporting us at AGMs, Festivals, Festive evenings etc in all weathers. He has organised several Road Stewards evenings as well as other social occasions. He has been area steward for Brackenbury for many years and plans to continue in this role for the foreseeable future. We would like to thank him for all he has done in his many years of involvement. We would also like to thank his wife Brenda for her staunch support of John and this Association (as long as nothing clashed with the tennis!) and for all her work with the kitchen team over the years helping to prepare the food which you will be enjoying later.

[Gifts were presented and both expressed their thanks.]

As you can see, your committee has been as always very active this year. Each member has his or her responsibilities delegated by the committee and has fulfilled those responsibilities with aplomb.

We would also like to put on record our huge appreciation for our former MP, **Sir John Randall**, who stood down at the end of the last parliamentary session. John was elected after the death of Michael Shersby who had the smallest majority in that particular election. John through his attitude, professionalism and interest in LOCAL issues turned that into a very safe seat. Unfortunately, he was unable to accept our invitation for the evening as he had a prior engagement. Your Committee has written a letter of thanks to him and he has replied as follows:-

Dear June

Thank you and all the officers and committee of the Ickenham Residents' Association for your most kind letter of appreciation. It was so kind of you to write in the way that you did.

I am sorry that I am unable to join with you on Friday for your AGM. I am sure it will be lively as usual.

I certainly enjoyed representing Ickenham for nearly 13 years and as I have often remarked not only is your village a very beautiful place, the residents contribute greatly to that feeling that this is indeed a special part of Middlesex.

Your Association is a model of what a residents' association should be. I wish you well in all your endeavours and I shall not be far away and I hope that I can still contribute to preserving the best of the Borough.

I feel that the wheel has turned full circle as I return to the body of the kirk or more accurately to become once again a proud resident of Hillingdon.

With best wishes.

Yours ever

John

TREASURER'S REPORT:

I Phillips, as understudy for J Dalton, presented the report. Revenue is up by £121 this year, thanks to book sales, donations and the residents of The Drive. The Committee keeps costs low with the biggest expense being the newsletter. We also pay various fees and subscriptions such as London Wildlife Trust, Community Voice and NORA. This year we report a surplus of £592, compared with last year's loss of £2257. This helps with our fighting fund for major planning applications and, especially, the ongoing HS2 campaign.

Accounts Proposed B Cable; Seconded D Fenton passed with no objections/abstentions

J Dalton then stood down as required by the constitution, expressing her enjoyment of her first year as Chair of the Association "despite the steep learning curve."

P Daymond praised J Dalton's work as chairman and proposed she continue for the coming year – unanimously approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: As required by the constitution, all the current members of the committee must stand down and in addition to Maureen Pemberton, Ian Phillips and David Tebbutt they have all, save John Squiers, agreed to put their names forward for re-election. We thank them all, as well as our very hard-working President Pete Daymond who does not need to be re-elected, for committing their support again this year. So the committee members seeking election are as follows:

General Secretary - June Reyner

Planning Officer - Hanne Rader

Membership Secretary - Maureen Pemberton

Publicity Officer - Brian Adams

Treasurer - Ian Phillips

10 Committee Members:

Neena Bedi

Barbara Buckle

Dave Grimshaw

David John

Harmeet Minhas

Chris Mountain

Richard Piper

Vic Silk

David Tebbutt

Humphrey Tizard

Co-opted Members:

Simon Taylor

Dimitrios Giannouloupolous

We have received no other nominations for election.

Proposed: J Squiers; Seconded G Douglas. Passed with no objections/abstentions.

ELECTION OF HONORARY INDEPENDENT EXAMINER to serve for one year. J Dalton thanked our independent examiner, David Thorpe for diligently checking the books this year and he has agreed to continue serving. Independent Examiner Proposed J Coombe; Seconded A Noad. Passed with no objections / abstentions.

INVITED SPEAKERS

Cllr D Simmonds expressed his pleasure at working with the Committee and Ickenham's residents. He mentioned **HS2** and **Football** in particular. He appreciated the way that Committee's arguments are so clearly set out. This helps Councillors present to their superiors. He described the business case for an HS2 tunnel as 'compelling' and that this position is supported by local politicians.

Dr O Sahota congratulated J Dalton on her year as Chair. He also noted the high attendance. He spoke on **HS2** and the **Low Emission Zone (LEZ)**. He agrees that the HS2 tunnel is needed and noted consensus among politicians too. He said LEZ should be extended to the western boundary of GLA . He said, "We will press for the tunnel and for better air quality as will B Johnson if elected."

H Tizard sought the agreement of the audience to attend Select Committee meetings in late June (estimated) in order to support the petitioners trying to prevent ten years of misery and the rest of our lives with trains running past our houses. The tunnel question hangs in the balance; our presence will influence the outcome. (A substantial show of hands supported his request; no-one rejected it.)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS/QUESTIONS

1) **B Cable** Select Committee require more than one Ickenham visit. Letters of unstinting support to petitioners would strengthen their hand. Write to the petitioners but send to the Residents' Association. He also praised the amazing efforts of B Adams, "Without him, we'd be in a bad place now."

2) **L Gardener** asked if the Tesco proposal was proceeding. P Daymond said it would proceed as soon as it is able.

3) **C Rule** said Ickenham Youth Football Club is still looking for a new site (after three years). He sought assurances from Councillors. D Simmonds explained the constraints, assured them of his support and agreed to talk with them.

4) **A Owen-Thursfield** wanted to know what local youth facilities are planned. D Simmonds explained the constraints and suggested that working together to find a solution would be better than the council imposing one would. He urged interested parties to find a location and submit a proposal to him. J Hensley pointed out that school playing fields are available out of hours. An IFYC representative pointed out that academies rent out the fields.

5) **D May** introduced the work of Neighbourhood Watch and invited audience members to support its work and to make contact if they feel their own road still needs covering.

6) **M Howard** asked what's happening with the Barclays Bank property. Coopers, the estate agent, submitted two planning applications in December – both rejected. This is a watching brief for the committee.

J Dalton thanked everyone for attending and participating. All were invited to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

David Tebbutt 22.04.15