

2016 AGM Chairman's review of the year

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

I'm Jill Dalton the Association Chairman. Many thanks for turning out in such great numbers once again, despite the weather.

Thanks also to our MP Nick Hurd and Ward Councillors Ray Puddifoot, John Hensley and David Simmons for coming tonight and showing their support for Ickenham and its residents. We would also like to welcome Inspector Rob Bryan of the Met Police who is in the audience.

We have apologies from our patron Malcolm Beaumont, as well as Hanne and Hans Raeder, Brian and Angie Adams and Ian and Anke Phillips.

I'll now present the reports on subjects from Committee Members

Membership

Our current membership stands at 3,259 households, an increase of 1.88% despite a reduction in life membership this year. The remaining life member households stand at 72. Our membership therefore stands at approximately 67% of Ickenham households.

We continue our links with The Drive Association who also contribute subscriptions to our Association.

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 continue to seek assistance in the growing Ickenham Park area to help increase our membership in this area of Ickenham.

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, or any committee member after the formal meeting.

Communications – we have a number of means of communicating with our member households

The NEWSLETTER

Throughout the year, via the quarterly newsletter, we have endeavoured to bring your attention to general information and issues concerning and affecting the Ickenham community, which, we feel, would be of major interest to you.

As every year, we repeat that we would more than welcome your suggestions of how to improve the content of our quarterly newsletter, and whether there are any subjects, on which you would like to receive more information.

The topics, on which we reported, were again diverse and plentiful, and in chronological

order since May 2015 included the following :

- Chairman's Comments on a variety of current topics in Ickenham
- AGM 17.04.15
- Health Issues and Police Matters which appear as regular and standard features in every issue
- STOP HS2 and HS2 Effects on Ickenham
- Frays Farm Meadows
- Local Neighbourhood Plan
- Assets of Community Value
- Flooding in Ickenham
- Ickenham Marshes
- Signature Senior Lifestyle Home
- The Chapel in the High Road

Most of these subjects are ongoing issues, which we monitor on your behalf and report on developments and progress at regular intervals.

With any new issues arising, we make every effort to bring all facts to your attention at the earliest opportunity.

Any comments, information, or suggestions from our members concerning Ickenham or Hillingdon Borough matters are always welcome.

Our **WEBSITE, EMAIL ADDRESS and TWITTER ACCOUNT** are listed at the top of the front page of each Newsletter.

They are well established and well used communication facilities, with the website recording a steady number of 'hits' or visits.

As we emphasised in the past, it is always worthwhile to check out the 'Current Issues' page on our website, which is now kept up-to-date on an almost daily basis.

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

Email account

June Reyner continues to manage our Hotmail account and we continue to receive an increasing number of emails via this account. It remains the principal means of contacting the Association. We have a communications list of nearly 300 people across the village community and are able to get information out quickly this way. We send our newsletter electronically to, amongst others, our MP, Councillors, and fellow HARA members every quarter.

Also working in close liaison with our local Neighbourhood Watch branch we now circulate information on crimes in order to assist the Police. We also regularly circulate the TfL weekend working information as this is impacting our branch of both the Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines.

If anyone else is interested in being added to that email list could you add your email address to the list available at the rear of the Hall. We will only use this list for the purpose

of village and Association communications. Emails will only be sent from the Ickenham Residents' email account and your details will only be used for Association purposes and will not be forwarded to any other organisation.

Website

Our new updated website went live in mid-March. Thanks to David Tebbutt and Chris Mountain for all their excellent work in getting this off the ground. David updates the information on a regular basis including the weekly planning information.

Twitter

We also now have a much more active Twitter feed – notifying followers of matters of interest to the village community – again thanks to David Tebbutt. (He's our IT guru and Minutes Secretary as well.)

Planning

The planning sub-committee has until now been led by Hanne Rader and includes Pete Daymond, and Harmeet Minhas.

PLANNING REPORT 2016 from Hanne Raeder

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

In 2015 (from 31.03.15 to 01.04.16) we looked at a total of **322** applications (up 60 from last year) for Ickenham. The Association only comments on, or where appropriate, raises sustainable objections to development proposals -which it considers contrary to local and national planning control regulations. Some regulations and guidance are specific and easy to apply, whilst others are more subjective. As a result anyone making an application for planning permission is encouraged to obtain the advice of the London Borough of Hillingdon's planning team, seek to comply with local and national planning guidance, and to discuss plans with their neighbours.

The Association sent a total of **105** (10 more than last year) planning letters of objection or observation or comments to the Borough between the last AGM on 17.04.15 and now. This is in addition to other general letters to Councillors and residents plus the almost daily email exchanges with various London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) departments.

There were 17 North Planning Committee Meetings scheduled between May 2015 and March 2016 with Ickenham and West Ruislip Wards applications on the agenda, and we made every effort to be represented by committee members at the ones concerning Ickenham or West Ruislip.

Our involvement can vary from simply attending to see what decision is made, which can be an invaluable way to understand how planning legislation and guidance is being implemented and interpreted in the Borough, to presenting the maximum 5 minute petition to the committee in order to ensure that the Councillors have the benefit of local knowledge when reaching their decision. If an application is refused by the Borough or at the Planning Committee, an applicant can appeal that decision.

We have been involved in the following planning applications:

- SIGNATURE SENIOR LIFESTYLE Application/Appeal on 15.09.16
52129/APP/2014/2996 LBH Refusal 19.03.15 - Appeal dismissed 27.10.15
- Telephone Mast at junction Warren Road / Swakeleys Drive 65862/APP/2016/261 -
LBH refused on 07.03.16
- 277 Swakeleys Road – Conversion of bungalow to 4 flats
61646/APP/2015/1347 - LBH second refusal 08.06.15 – Appeal was allowed
09.03.16
- 211 – 213 Swakeleys Road – demolition of two houses for conversion to 6 x 1 bed
and 6 x 2 bed flats
70701/APP/2015/3026 - LBH approved that application on 02.02.16

We are currently engaged in discussions concerning

- Pete Cottage, High Road Ickenham, formerly Ickenham Garden Centre.
- Proposed developments at Douay Martyrs School

We have looked at all Appeals between March 2015 and April 2016 **(21)**

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

9 were dismissed, 12 were allowed.

- A total of 341 planning applications for Ickenham were submitted:
231 were approved by the Borough
88 refused
22 either withdrawn, or have not been decided yet
- Ongoing local issues causing residents and members serious concerns, which occupied the Association's time, include:
 - i. STOP HS2
 - ii. HS2 Effects on Ickenham
 - iii. Speeding in Harvil Road
 - iv. The number of accidents at the Pump Junction of Swakeleys

In short, planning, as ever, kept us busy.

Planning (Chris Mountain)

In November the Association submitted a detailed response to the Council's final public consultation on Hillingdon's Local Plan. The Local Plan maps out how our Borough will change and grow over the next 15 years. The plan will undergo a rigorous "**examination in public**" by a Government Inspector in late 2016.

Our response re-affirmed our support for the development of both Hillingdon Circus sites. (Master Brewer and Ruston Bucyrus opposite) However we strongly urged the Council to make changes to the draft policies for the sites to ensure that future developments are truly sustainable. We asked for changes on air quality, Green Belt designation, residential/commercial mix of what goes onto the site and on affordable housing.

Our response also asked for further changes or dialogue with the Council on other important issues including our conservation area, retail and green space designations, the enforcement of permitted development rights and future secondary school provision.

We also made Borough-wide observations and suggestions on climate change, Green Belt policies and called for more transparency in the deal-making process between the Council and developers on affordable housing.

As well as involvement in the Local Plan, The Association recently “kick-started” a local conversation about a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The association collected hundreds of comments about the future of the village at the Festive Evening in December, and then organised a well-attended public meeting in March to give Ickenhammers the opportunity to find out more. A new independent group has now been formed to take forward a neighbourhood plan – the Ickenham Neighbourhood Forum. The Forum is a formally constituted body – entirely separate from the Residents’ Association - which will work with local people, businesses and landowners over the next year to write a neighbourhood plan for the village. Should the final plan pass a local referendum, it would then be used by the Council – alongside the Local Plan – to decide all local planning applications.

Special Projects: HS2

The HS2 subcommittee is led by Brian Adams and recently assisted most ably by Beryl Upton. Brian, along with the petitioners group in Ickenham has been working very hard. They also liaise with the umbrella group Hillingdon against HS2 which is run superbly by Keri Brennan, Lottie Jones and Christine Leonard.

At our last AGM the motion to proceed with petitioning to the House of Commons HS2 Select Committee was approved. The Association and many other residents (on behalf of themselves and their neighbours) submitted their petitions. We had over 1200 signatures to the petitions and together with officers of the London Borough of Hillingdon we presented to the Select Committee over 5 days in the House of Commons. Our participation culminated with presentations by Ray Puddifoot, Boris Johnson and Nick Hurd.

Brian wanted to congratulate the residents who were so brave; it was a daunting experience made worse by HS2 Ltd sending out loads of papers only days beforehand changing all the traffic numbers and giving the HS2 QCs opportunity to confuse the situation. As we now know many statements made by the QCs were less than accurate.

Many thanks also to all those who came to the House of Commons to support the residents – together we presented a strong case that HS2’s plans were simply not viable – their plans to use our local roads for 1000s of lorry movements would not work with the congestion we already suffer; the pollution, safety issues and the dumping of spoil on our Green Belt were unacceptable. The noise from 3 construction sites over 10 years and the noise when the line will be operational would seriously blight our community.

The Harefield residents also have the same issues as us, so borough-wide we wanted the Select Committee to agree to extending the tunnel from West Ruislip to the M25; this was not agreed but we still believe this is the best solution both for HS2 and our communities – it would remove the construction and operational blight, save our local amenities, our golf courses, our footpaths and of course the Colne Valley.

The Select Committee however did recognise our issues and directed HS2 Ltd to provide significant interventions.

HS2's response – called Additional Provisions 4 – included a haul road across Uxbridge Golf course to avoid HGV traffic on Harvil and Swakeleys Road. However consistent with HS2's total lack of understanding of our area they overlooked that exiting the haul road on the slip road by Swakeleys roundabout would cause massive problems on the A40 and Swakeleys roundabout. Fortunately Boris Johnson – as mayor – was now involved and under his instruction Transport for London looked at the proposal and agreed with us and LBH that the proposal was not viable and was unsafe.

AP4 also included other issues such as the dumped spoil being increased up to 5 metres high and recognition by HS2 that the pollution from HGV's on Ickenham High Road would create air quality issues breaching EU levels. We proceeded with a smaller number of petitions, as by now HS2 were objecting to petitions, and we presented to the Select Committee again at the end of January.

HS2, now under pressure, agreed on the weekend before to conduct a study with LBH and TfL with the objectives to reduce the HGV traffic numbers and avoid dumping the spoil. This study is still underway and we will not know the final outcome before May.

Meanwhile the Hybrid Bill has had its 3rd reading in the House of Commons and passed to the House of Lords. As, after 6 years, we have little confidence in the competence and behaviour of HS2 Ltd we will be petitioning to the House of Lords on all the issues we originally raised. We anticipate presenting some time after mid-May. We believe there is still a very strong case for the tunnel to be extended, and in addition to our petitions, our local politicians are planning to meet the Secretary of State to present a case for the tunnel extension.

We do not believe there is any justification for this project and they have chosen a route which is the most expensive and damaging to the environment. It is unfortunate that we, with others, are the victims of indifference and reluctance by MPs to analyse the fact. We will continue with LBH and our local MPs to seek the best mitigation for our residents.

(The attendees unanimously approved a motion for the Association to petition the House of Lords on their behalf.)

Green Spaces

Neena Bedi has been active on Green Spaces and Conservation Matters as well as acting as our liaison with Ickenham schools. Unfortunately the Friends of Swakeleys Park, who had been active in making the Park such a pleasant space, are currently unable to continue without the support of LBH, and the insurance cover that provided. This follows the sad death of **Andy Boeckstaens of the Green Spaces team in May 2015 – on 12th Feb this year a Swamp Cypress *Taxodium distichum* was planted in his memory, by Green space team and Friends of Swakeleys park**

The new drainage system in Swakeleys Park is working, The central area is no longer water logged, grass has grown back and dog walkers use this area/ space regularly.

The Lake will now be the focus of attention to clear branches that have fallen into the water.

The footpath along the lake and Wayfarers Tennis court is retained under S106 as a Permissive footpath, as part of the planning permission agreement for Swakeleys House. It is the owner's responsibility to maintain it, keeping it free from brambles and overgrowth.

Marshes \ Frays Farm Meadows

Chris Mountain continues his excellent management of the Marshes Partnership.

The Association continues to lead the work of the Ickenham Marshes Partnership, with much-valued support from the Ruislip Gardens Residents Association, Ickenham Horticultural Society and several other local groups. Visitor numbers were up again last year, and we hope this trend will continue in summer 2016. Planning for summer projects, events and working parties is well underway - the most significant of which is an ambitious plan to re-connect three lost meanders on the Yeading Brook. London Wildlife Trust is leading this work and, with our support, new fish breeding areas will be created.

The Association has less positive news about our other local nature reserve – Frays Farm Meadows which lay beyond The Drive and Golf Course. In the absence of the tunnel extension for HS2 between West Ruislip and the M25 it was with a heavy heart that the Committee felt it had to support the creation of the mitigating proposed haul road through the village's only Site of Special Scientific Interest. The temporary haul road would hopefully avoid irreparable damage to the ecology of the area.

Other activities:

Traffic

The road junction at the Pump is still a problem, with the revised layout causing a number of accidents over the last couple of years. We continue our long running correspondence with LBH, and await sight of an analysis that is not yet in the public domain.

Low Emission Zone

Thanks to Dr Sahota for arranging a meeting with Transport for London to discuss our request for an extension to the Low Emission Zone to include more of Ickenham – we are in ongoing communication with TfL and hope to arrange a further meeting in the near future.

Police

On police matters 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 Health matters, 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.

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

We were delighted to welcome Beryl Upton as a co-opted member with responsibility for HS2 – this is hopefully helping to lighten Brian Adams's load.

TREASURERS REPORT for Year to 29 February 2016

Our Treasurer, Ian Phillips, is unable to be with us this evening, and so I'm afraid you've got me again, presenting his report on his behalf.

You should all have a copy of the 2016 end of year accounts on your seats.

Overall total income for the year decreased from £6,653 last year to £6,375 this year, the result of lower levels of other income and the timing of subscription receipts from the Drive. Our bank interest received shows a small increase on that earned last year.

The total costs of running the association amounted to £5,848 as compared to £6,061 last year. Our main expense is for printing the regular newsletter which totalled £2,299 this year. The cost of 3 issues have fallen into 2016 hence the reduction compared to last year's cost of £3,067 for 4 issues.

We continue to support local Associations, the Herts. and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Community Voice, London Green Belt Council and Federation of Met Line Users as well as the National Organisation of Residents Associations.

We spent £837 supporting the campaign against HS2 compared to £376 in the previous year. This was to support the very considerable efforts of the Association and its members in activities such as the petitioning the Select Committee.

The committee remain diligent in keeping administrative costs down wherever possible. In this regard we benefited in the year from a reduction in insurance costs and a recovery of VAT. That was thanks to Ian for being very diligent.

Our surplus this year therefore amounted to £527 compared with £592 last year.

We continue to hold a reserve of funds which is essentially there to give the Association and therefore the village, a fighting fund. This would support us in case of need, such as a challenge to a major planning application that would otherwise have a detrimental effect on the village.

I'd like to thank the Committee members for all their support, and the area and road stewards for their dedication in collecting subscriptions that are the "financial life blood" of our association.

Finally I would like to thank our independent examiner, David Thorpe, for diligently checking the books again this year. David has kindly confirmed that he will continue as our independent examiner for next year.

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes Ian's report. Thank you for your kind attention and I am happy to pass on to Ian any questions you may have, unless I happen to know the answer.

I have much enjoyed another year as chair of the Association even though it has its challenges from time to time – but I am eternally grateful for the commitment, time and expertise of the willing band of volunteers who make up the Committee.

You've heard enough from us. Thank you for coming, please enjoy the refreshments and a drink.