

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the

Ickenham Residents' Association Spring 2015

Affiliated to the Hillingdon Alliance of Residents' Associations.
Member of Herts. & Middx. Wildlife Trust, and London Green Belt Council.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly, thanks to all our faithful residents and committee members who were able to turn out both before in preparation for, and then also on the day, to show our strength of feelings about the HS2 project, on the visit by the HS2 Parliamentary Select Committee to this area.

Brian Adams especially, and with others, had worked tirelessly to ensure that the day was organised for us with military precision, and the Committee members were able to see many of the sites that would be so adversely affected. The village streets and Ickenham homes that they passed were adorned with posters and banners, and the Committee commented that none of the other visits they had made up and down the proposed route had generated such a strong reaction or such local support.

Your Residents Committee goes from strength to strength and we are delighted to welcome another new member, Maureen Pemberton, who will add a new dimension with her skills from the local council. Our planning section continues to very ably review all planning applications that are lodged with the Council, and although some seem that they will be detrimental to the village especially in appearance, we are often hampered by the rules on Permitted Development, and there is little that we can do other than write letters of observation. We are pleased when there is a planning application that we feel will positively improve the village!

Work continues to try to improve the traffic issues at the Pump junction, where there have been many accidents in the past year or so, and Dave Grimshaw is liaising with the Council, Police and other interested

AGM OF THE ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Please make a note in your diary for Friday, 17th April 2015, at 8pm, Ickenham Village Hall.

AGM Agenda plus Minutes of last AGM in April 2014 (to be approved) are attached to this newsletter.

Please bring along with you. Thank you.

parties, to find a solution so that vehicles and pedestrians can pass through in safety.

With all the problems that Tesco have been experiencing in the past few months, and their decision to close a number of stores, we had our fingers firmly crossed about the Master Brewer site. However, some of us are disappointed to hear that they do still intend to build their store there in due course.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 17th April. *Jill Dalton*



HS2

The focus this quarter has been preparing and presenting our petitions to the Parliamentary Select Committee. As yet we do not have dates for Ickenham but expect this to take place after

the election. It is possible, residents in Harefield will be the last to present petitions before Parliament closes for the election.

For most of us this will be a 'once in a lifetime' and daunting experience and it is pleasing to see how many residents are prepared to do this - we appreciate we are representing the 10,000+ residents in trying to remove or reduce the blight that HS2 Ltd plan to impose on us .

We would like to recognise the support we are getting from the London Borough of Hillingdon and our MP Nick Hurd.

The HS2 Phase One Select Committee of MPs has the power to recommend changes to HS2 Ltd's plans and Nick Hurd organised for them to visit our area on January 15. With the support of many residents we were able to cover the main construction routes with banners and posters and organise large groups to meet the MP's.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

HS2

SWAKELEYS HOUSE
FOOTPATH

ICKENHAM YOUTH
FOOTBALL CLUB

METROPOLITAN LINE

ICKENHAM MARSHES

HEALTH MATTERS

POLICE MATTERS

KEN BRAGG
OBITUARY

FESTIVE EVENING
DECEMBER 2014

Any questions you may want to raise, or if you have comments on any article in the Newsletter, we would be pleased to hear your views, and you could write to our General Secretary
6 The Chase,
Ickenham, Uxbridge,
UB10 8SR

You can also send your comments to our e-mail address: ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com

This issue edited by
Hanne Raeder
February 2015



The 'coach party' started in Denham and visited locations in the Colne Valley and Harefield, including HOAC. We then directed them towards various stops in Ickenham – Brackenbury House,



Breakspeare Road South Group of Residents 15.01.15

Breakspeare Road South, The Greenway and West Ruislip Golf Club – so they were able to experience at first hand some of the



Eric Gustavson /Brackenbury House, Breakspeare Road South, meets Robert Syms/Chairman of the Select Committee



Residents in The Greenway

roads, green areas and people who will be adversely affected by three major construction sites and the line when operational. The London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) organised a workshop on January 21 to give us an update on the Select Committee

proceedings, the work the Council are doing with their petition and how they will support us in the future. Nick Hurd has organised for our petitioners to visit Parliament to meet the Clerk of the Committee and familiarise themselves with the Committee Rooms.



Ickenham Petitioners in the Clerk's Committee Room in the Commons

The focus of all our petitions is to get HS2 Ltd to extend the tunnel to beyond the Colne Valley. HS2 Ltd has always refused to consider this option quoting the potential financial and technical problems of going under the lakes - even though *their* solution for the Heathrow spurs, if they go ahead, is to put them under the Colne Valley Lakes. LBH sponsored two studies – one was to evaluate the feasibility of extending the tunnel and the other to evaluate the economic implications to the area, if there is no tunnel.

These studies have now been published and demonstrate that the extended tunnel is feasible and the costs would be no greater than a surface route. HS2 Ltd is now evaluating these reports and has stated they will respond by the end of February. LBH will be presenting their petition after the election. Based upon previous experience with HS2 Ltd we are not expecting them to approach this with any enthusiasm, but Nick Hurd, Boris Johnson and Sir John Randall are all pushing the chairman of HS2 Ltd to take this seriously.

If the tunnel extension is not agreed, LBH have also been in discussion with TfL to look at the possibility of using the West Ruislip Depot as a joint depot with HS2, thereby enabling many materials to be brought in and out by rail from day one and avoiding the need for HS2 Ltd to build a separate rail-head in Ickenham. This would eliminate 100,000's of HGV movements through Ickenham, however, we can anticipate that HS2 Ltd will show no enthusiasm for changing their plans. Our hope is that the Select Committee will be more sympathetic.

Before we present our petitions we are able to provide written evidence to the Committee. We have over 1300 signatures on our petitions – we may request as many people as possible to write letters of support (to extending the tunnel) which we can submit to the Committee. We will announce our plans at the AGM.

We do not know what form the new Government will take after the election, but we hope that they will take time out to review this project. If the Government really believe there is a west coast mainline capacity issue (and there is no evidence of this), there are many alternatives which could be introduced at far lower cost and far quicker. There also appear to be many arguments for prioritising investment in the transport infrastructure between Northern cities so they will benefit from a 'Crossrail' as we will in London.

Brian Adams



SWAKELEYS HOUSE FOOTPATH

Following several complaints and comments about the state of the footpath and the 'closed in' intimidating feeling of the footpath around Swakeleys House your committee decided to investigate.

It wasn't a pleasant experience with many deep puddles, most



Muddy perimeter footpath / Swakeleys House

of the way a 'quagmire' with only single person access in many places. One had to be very careful not to slip as there was only barbed wire fencing or prickly brambles to grab hold of each side of you.

The pictures show the extent of the encroaching brambles, the narrowing of the footpath and the boggy condition of the footway.

In view of the history of this footpath, the intent of the current Owners to make it as intimidating/

unusable as possible, in an obvious effort to deter its use, we decided one more time to try and get the Council on side.

The following is a précis of our letter to Council Officers and Councillors:

"As you know we have continuously and vigorously campaigned to keep the footpath around Swakeleys House maintained in a passable, usable and safe condition. The only work that we are aware of as having been carried out, is every attempt possible to make the path as unattractive and indeed intimidating for anyone to use. We realise that this time of the year is going to be the worst, but the attached photos indicate the unacceptable and dangerous condition currently existing.

On a walk on 16.01.15 it was very apparent that the most severe flooding (and a foul smell) is at the point where a new pipe has been laid for drainage (?) from the Grounds of Swakeleys House into Swakeleys Lake. The disturbance of the clay in this area appears to have exacerbated the situation. As we have expressed previously, everything the owner is doing by way of trees blocking views (the one and only gap in



Partly flooded footpath

Swakeleys Park, provided as part of a planning concession), high hedges around the perimeter, new barbed wire, lack of control of the brambles reducing the footpath width is in our view obviously an effort to discourage use of this once popular footpath.

We feel that the many concessions given to the developer in the course of approval of this application are very one-sided with nothing happening by the owners in respect of their obligations. The one concession given to us, that this footpath should remain open and maintained, is clearly not being complied with.

We would ask for a definitive answer as to ownership and also whether this footpath can be adopted by compulsory purchase, or any other means, on behalf of the Council.

It is noticeable that the albeit minimal amount of work carried out under Chrysalis funding by the Green Spaces Team has held up very well for a short section at the northern end of the path. It just goes to show that a minimal effort goes a long way when done efficiently.

We know from personal experience that over many years at the time of each Ickenham Festival members of that committee personally went round to chop back the brambles and undergrowth from the footpath.

Of course, now with the restrictions enforced by the owners on the Ickenham Festival, making the organisation of the Festival in the Grounds impossible, even this work is not carried out with the result as shown on the attached photos, which now is beyond the ability and scope of individual residents.

With regard to ownership of the lake various Council officers at various times have either indicated that ownership is unclear or indeed that part of the lake is owned by bordering neighbours. It is a strongly held local view that this lake, endorsed by works previously carried out, i.e. clearance of the lake, maintenance of surrounding and island vegetation and the installation of the aquifer pump clearly imply ownership by the Council.

We ask on behalf of this Association and its many members that this situation be looked at and taken seriously with pressure applied on the owners to comply with the letter and spirit of planning conditions placed upon them".

(Copied to Jean Palmer, Ray Puddifoot, David Simmonds and John Hensley)

We are pleased to say we have had responses from Council Officers, acknowledging our letter and our stance – (though no definitive answers or actions yet) - together with a positive, supportive, response from one of our Councillors seeking further information on our behalf. We will keep you advised of any outcome to our efforts

Pete Daymond

STOP PRESS:

We have now received a very legalistic response from the Council couched (from our perspective) in very negative terms. It appears there is little the LBH can do as they confirm the path is a 'permissive pathway' on Private land.

Although having tried over many years to keep this footway open and available for public use your Association appears to have reluctantly reached the end of the road, and our fear now is that in time 'nature' will take its course until it is completely impassable, which we believe is the intent of the current owners. If we see another opportunity or avenue to pursue our objective of keeping this path open – we will take it.

However, although we as an Association take on these situations on your behalf, it would help considerably if interested members could let us or the Council know your feelings.

Pete Daymond – President

ICKENHAM YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

LBH's Strategic Planning Committee in November decided not to grant the club a lease and licence of land for its proposed development of pitches, changing rooms etc. at Hillingdon House Farm. The main reasons given by Head of Estates (LBH) related to Green Belt concerns and alleged risks from the fact that at least part of the site is, apparently, contaminated. The Association is always eager to protect the Green Belt but believe that the application was in accordance with planning guidelines and are frustrated with the decision after a long period of time, as it leaves unresolved the question of how IYFC can be expected to go on meeting the needs of 350+ Ickenham children without even the most basic facilities. We have written to Cllr. David Simmonds as Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services as well as an Ickenham Councillor to enlist his further support in finding a solution.

Richard Piper

METROPOLITAN LINE

The User Committee comprising of residents' associations and groups across all parts of the Metropolitan Line met with the line management in January.

Although there were major operational problems in December the trend overall is that performance is improving and there are significantly less 'customer lost hours' - this is the management's key performance indicator.

The weather issues in December causing amongst other things an 'extended leaf fall' prevented the implementation of the new timetable until January 5. All Uxbridge trains should now be going to and from

Aldgate.

The contract for the new Thales signalling system is still being negotiated and will not be operational on our line before 2020. The new system will replace a very ancient system thereby avoiding some of the current failures; it will allow faster train speeds and better customer communications – we will have train schedule displays at Ickenham station.

North Harrow Station is celebrating its 100th birthday on 26 March and there will be a ceremony at the station on 20 March commemorating this milestone.

The new line to Watford (called the Croxley Link) is still being finalised – the costs have increased considerably, but as the lines into Euston will be badly affected for many years by HS2 construction, it is felt that it will certainly happen. Current outlook is that it will be operational in 2018.

There will be major works at Neasden over Easter affecting the Metropolitan Line, Jubilee Line and Chiltern Railways.

The London Underground is pushing ahead with its plans to close all ticket offices. Uxbridge, Hillingdon and Ickenham offices will be closed by May 2015. The management has committed that all stations will remain 'manned' and the new ticket machines will be comprehensive and easy to use. A new area manager will be appointed as part of this plan and their territory will be Ruislip to Uxbridge. When we have contact details these will be put up on our website

Brian Adams

ICKENHAM MARSHES

Ickenham Marshes
Partnership 

The potential HS2 impacts on the Marshes were clarified in January. The possibility of building a new London Underground depot on the northern section of the Marshes was publicly announced for the first time. HS2 have been asked to consider the option of using the existing depot in the construction phase. This option has considerable local support because it would massively reduce the traffic and construction impacts by allowing tunnel spoil to be transported by rail instead of road.

The exact size of the proposed new depot remains unclear, as do the decision-making timescales. Our best estimate is that the most northerly nine fields would be needed -

accounting for around 20% of the total area of the Marshes. There is currently no public access to these fields - TfL turned down a request to establish footpaths on them last year. Links to all the relevant documents can be found on www.ickenhammarshes.wordpress.com.



Other news is that fencing contractors have been busy throughout January. They have installed the gates and fences to contain the cows that are expected to arrive on the Nature Reserve section this summer. The fences look very smart and it appears that the cattle will have access to the Yeading Brook for refreshment and perhaps recreational bathing. The photo shows work-in-progress. You can see more recent snaps on the Marshes Facebook page: facebook.com/ickenhammarshes - or pop down and have a look!

Summer events on the Marshes are being planned with the help of local groups. Ruislip Gardens school are particularly keen to get pupils out and about on the Marshes as part of the Forest Schools initiative.

Please get in touch via the Residents' Association or the Marshes Facebook page if you have any ideas for Marshes activities this summer. Around 60 people took part last year - this year we are hoping to reach 100.

Owls seem to be more common on the Marshes recently. Residents near the Marshes have reported night time hooting. A muntjac deer has also been a frequent visitor and the trends towards more visitors and fewer motorbikes are thankfully continuing!
Chris Mountain

HEALTH MATTERS

NHS Dentistry:

There may be some confusion in your minds about what dental treatment should cost and what is available on the NHS. Charges for NHS treatment were introduced in 1951 to help cover the cost of providing treatment.

The NHS spends around £3.4 billion on dental care a year, and patients only pay in charges £653 million of this. We are well off in our area with dental practices that provide the full range of dental care under the NHS. This is a great advantage to us, because in some areas of the country, patients do find it difficult to find an NHS dentist.

To give you an idea of what you should pay for your treatment on the NHS, there is a menu of the dental charges. There are three standard NHS treatment bands: Band 1 (£18.50), Band 2 (£50.50), and Band 3 (£219.00).

Band 1 includes examination, diagnosis (including x-rays), scale & polish (if needed), application of fluoride or fissure sealant and preventative advice.

Band 2 includes everything in band 1, plus further treatment, such as non-surgical gum treatment, fillings, root canal work and tooth extraction.

Band 3 includes everything in bands 1 and 2, plus treatments involving the use of a dental laboratory for the making of crowns, bridges and dentures.

If you need treatment you should not be expected to pay privately, although your dentist should explain suitable private options you may wish to consider. You only pay one charge for a course of treatment even if you visit the dentist a few times. An example might be; three fillings, root canal work, and a crown, recommended on the same treatment plan, this would be covered by the £ 219 charge (band 3). Certain people get free dental care, including those who are pregnant; those under 18, (or 19 in full time education); and those entitled to certain income related benefits.

The NHS dental system is different from other NHS services, in that dentists can mix NHS and private treatment. Most practices do this, however the onus is on the dentist to explain what NHS and private treatments offer and how they may differ. There should be clarity on charges, including whether the treatment provided would be covered on the NHS. It would be of benefit to patients, if there were a prominent display of prices in the reception area of the practice, and to give a treatment plan to each patient entitled to one; (i.e. bands 2 & 3) Private treatment does not have a set of charges, so costs vary from practice to practice. Make sure you agree the cost with your dentist before treatment starts.



The cost is usually based on the time you spend in the surgery, the work being done and the types of materials being used. Always get a written treatment plan and an estimate of charges beforehand.

In the case of out of hours emergency care, when you think you need urgent treatment, contact your usual dental practice. There should be an answer phone message with advice and a contact number to phone, to help deal with your problem, and hopefully obtain treatment at an emergency care practice. If you do not have a regular dentist, another option would be to go on line and contact "Hillingdon NHS Choices Local Area Team" or call NHS on 111.

David John

POLICE MATTERS

I have four things to write about in this issue. Some you may have heard about before, but a reminder could be useful.

Firstly the perennial topic of burglary. An analysis of burglaries, in the north of the Borough, over the Christmas and New Year festive season, showed that the preferred point of entry was rear patio doors. Even the recent ones can be jemmied open, then you have the damage to contend with, in addition to any stolen items. This leads to making access to the back of the house as difficult as possible. Some houses still do not have a side gate that can be locked, or there is a low one that can be easily climbed over by an agile thief. This is the first thing to consider. Fit a lock to the gate and if it has a flat top add a foot or so of flimsy trellis, that will break and splinter if climbed on. Then look at the rear boundary. If it is adjacent to public open ground, or a quiet, dark lane or footpath, make it hard to get over. Put spikes on top of any rear gate and reinforce the back fence, again, initially with trellis, if a wooden fence; then plant rambler roses, as nature's barbed wire, to grow up and hang over the fence.

Then, as I have advised before, plant berberis, holly or pyracantha inside the fence.

The second topic is cashpoint security. You may have seen the alert, issued by the Police in January, concerning the fitting of a miniature camera from a mobile phone to an ATM to record your PIN number, combined with a device in the cashcard slot to grab the card and prevent it being ejected after the transaction. When you walk away to report the matter, the thieves collect the card and are in possession of the PIN to make hay with before the card is cancelled. The advice is to carefully inspect the machine and refrain from using it if anything looks odd. Being cynical, it is not a bad idea only to use a machine that you have seen someone use successfully just before. Personally, I try only to use ATMs that are situated within bank branches, as these are unlikely to have been tampered with.

A recent (at the time of writing) reported scam involved an elderly lady receiving a phone call pretending to be from Hammer-smith police, saying that they had a relative of hers in custody and requesting an immediate payment, by card, of £400 bail money.

Luckily the lady had a visitor who realised that this was almost certainly fraudulent and thus she lost no money. This is a rather crude attempt at fraud, but typical of the many out there that target the elderly. The moral of this tale is that almost any call

that comes out of the blue and wants money on any pretext is almost certainly fraudulent. Finally, I have just heard that Harefield has been troubled by moped riders acting in an anti-social manner. If we have the same problem, report it to 101 immediately and let Neighbourhood Watch know too. The Police have powers to confiscate the bikes.

Vic. Silk

KEN BRAGG



It is with great sadness that this Association has to inform you that Ken Bragg, Area Steward; Committee Member; and Officer of the Association, passed away in January at his home in Nantwich, Cheshire.

Ken had been an active and enthusiastic member of the Association over many years from 1992 until he and Dorothy moved up to Cheshire in the Autumn of 2001. He had served as an Area Steward covering several different areas before joining the Committee. In his capacity as a Committee member he covered various aspects of the Association's work, including, Planning, Central Railways, NATCRAG and Northolt Airport, before 'specialising' in Planning as part of the Planning Team.

He finally became Vice Chairman - Planning in April 2001. He was a valuable asset to the Planning function of the Association and particularly to me personally. His planning records formed the basis of our current planning system used today.

Our condolences go to his wife Dorothy and the rest of his family.

Pete Daymond – President

FESTIVE COMMUNITY EVENING FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2014

Another well organised and successful event from the Festival Committee.

Despite the biting wind, the Village Hall and centre were busy with everyone enjoying the evening. There were even more things than ever going on in both Swakeleys Road and Glebe Ave including music and carols. The Association had a table in the Hall and received generous and complimentary feedback from our members. The main queries were again the impact of HS2.

We also gained another 20 subscribers to our email updates list. Should you wish to be part of this growing list please e-mail: ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com and we will be happy to add you to the list.

June Reyner

