

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Spring 2016

Affiliated to the Hillingdon Alliance of Residents' Associations.
Member of Herts. & Middx. Wildlife Trust, and London Green Belt Council.
The Community Voice — monitoring the NHS in NW London and SW Herts.

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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 2016

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

YOUR CHANCE TO HELP TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ICKENHAM – you may remember my comments in the summer newsletter that the Committee had listened to a presentation on the Neighbourhood Plan that had been written for Chalfont St Peter, and the benefits that were already being seen to many aspects of village life, including planning. At the Festive Evening last December, many Ickenham residents expressed an interest in furthering the project, so PLEASE read the report later in the newsletter and COME ALONG to the planned meeting on 19th March at the Village Hall. As Chris Mountain notes, a Neighbourhood Plan could help us to guide future development of Ickenham – but it will need commitment from many, and input to a greater or lesser extent from everyone in the village. It is an exciting opportunity that we feel should not be missed.

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE – also see Chris Mountain's report, and let us know of any buildings which would merit being included in such an application for listing.

Update on the plans for Douay Martyrs School – the Association have received and are considering revised plans from the owners of the land to the south of Clovelly Avenue/west of Burnham Avenue, who are keen to engage with the community in their proposals. We hope to arrange a further meeting to understand more about the logistics, but basically there would be no housing on that site, a new and much larger, expanded school on the northern part of the fields replacing the two school sites in Long Lane which would then be developed. The remaining land to the south would be offered for community use. Inevitably there would be a loss of Green Belt, and traffic and access issues amongst others, but no doubt the school would be improved by a single site location and new facilities, albeit of value largely to pupils from outside Ickenham.

Lastly, our police matters report reminds us to watch out for the scams and fraud that are becoming more sophisticated.

We hope to see you all at our AGM on 22nd April.

Jill Dalton

AGM of the ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Please make a note in your diary for Friday, 22nd April 2016 at 8pm, Ickenham Village Hall.

AGM Agenda plus Minutes of last AGM in April 2015 (to be approved) are attached to this newsletter.

Please bring along with you. Thank you.

**STOP
HS2**
(HIGH SPEED RAIL 2)

**No business case.
No environmental case.
No money to pay for it.**

HS2 UPDATE

21 February 2016

The HS2 Select Committee has now wound down and heard the last of the petitions. The Association, the London Borough of Hillingdon, Nick Hurd MP, Harefield Residents, local residents and The Drive Associations (including Uxbridge Golf Club) presented their latest petitions on 25 January. The HS2 Select Committee will



now develop their report and we believe present it to Parliament in March. The Hybrid Bill will then be passed to the House of Lords for final review. We will have opportunity to petition to the House of Lords Committee, if we believe HS2 has not sufficiently improved their plans.

At this time HS2 Ltd have committed to work with LBH and TfL to significantly reduce the dumping of spoil and traffic movements in Ickenham. We hope that they can achieve this by using rail rather than extending the period of construction activities. They have also committed to move (slightly) the power station which was going to impact residents in Harefield. An alternative site for HOAC has been found.

It is still our view that extending the tunnel would have been a more sensible option for both HS2 Ltd and all the residents in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Any use of our local roads for their workers and HGV movements will result in more congestion and air pollution for us and project delay for them.

Their idea to have a haul road which exits onto the A40 Swakeleys Roundabout can only cause serious issues for our local economy and commuters. We must not forget also that, if this project ever becomes operational, parts of Ickenham will be blighted by noise.

We are expecting an update on the progress of this joint work in March. If this does not yield significant improvement we will be petitioning to the House of Lords.

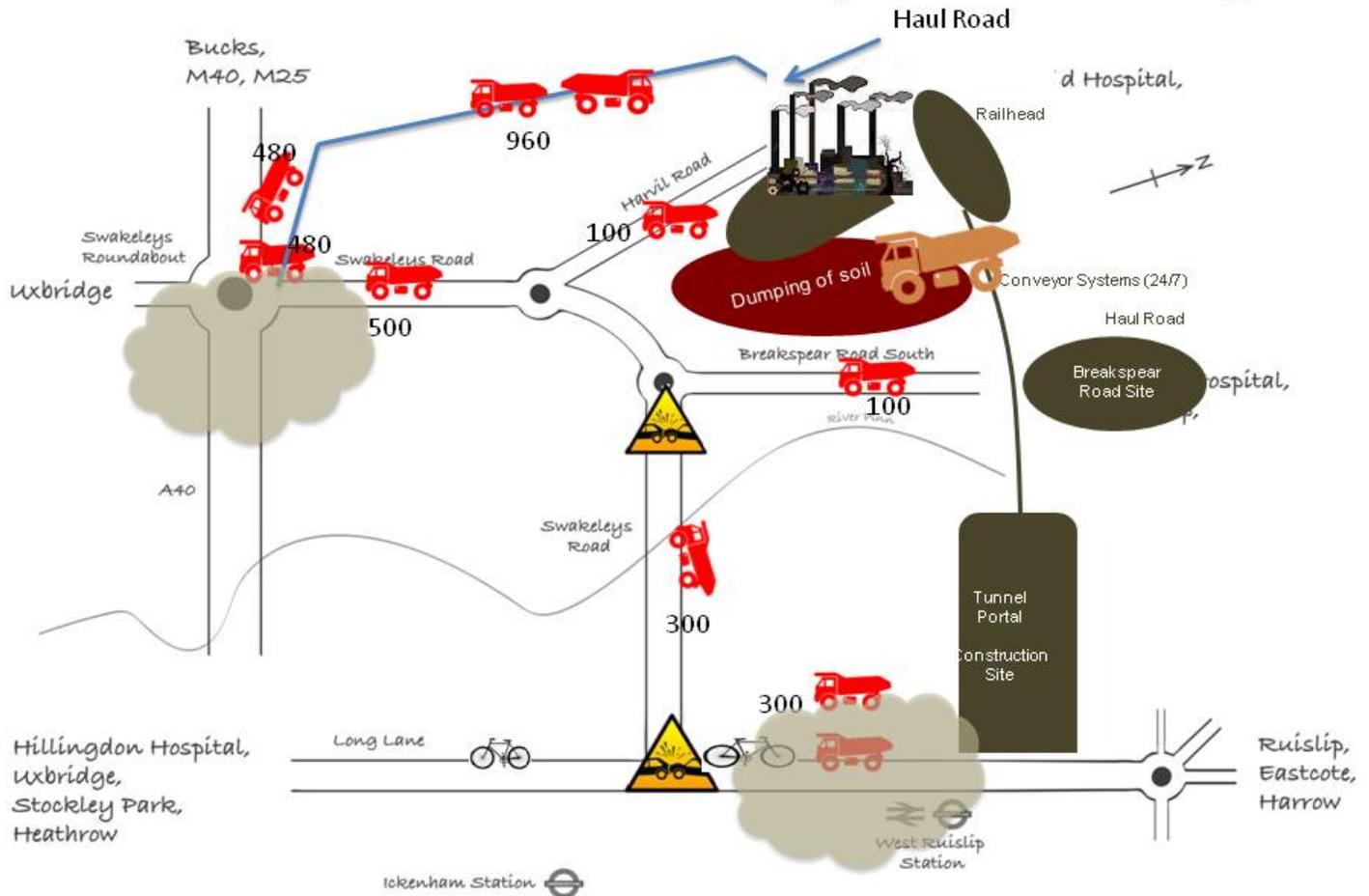
HS2 is planning an event in Ickenham Village Hall on 8 March from 2 pm to 7 pm to show their plans for the local area. We have advised HS2 Ltd that the event should be postponed as their study with LBH and TfL will not have been completed and could be confusing for the residents. HS2 Ltd however is continuing with the event.

We would like to thank Nick Hurd for his support and the speech he made to the Select Committee. We have also jointly submitted a report to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into HS2.

During the last 5 years we have had many issues with HS2 Ltd and the way they have 'engaged' with the local communities. Further details can be found on Nick Hurd's website <http://www.nickhurd.com/2016/01/29/hs2-select-committing-hearing-for-hillingdon/>. and the Associations' website - www.ickenhamresidents.co.uk

Brian Adams

HS2 Ltd construction sites and construction routes (AP4 HGV traffic nos/day)





FRAYS FARM MEADOWS

Having read about the HS2 plans to create a temporary road next to the Frays Farm Meadows nature reserve, and reading that the London Wildlife Trust description of the site is "one of the most important natural habitats in London", I thought I had better visit.

Firstly, I was surprised to realise that the meadows are in Ickenham. I'd never really thought about our western boundary, but after checking, I realised that it extends beyond the Grand Union Canal to the River Colne - which also marks the historic Middx/Bucks border.



River Frays

Secondly, I was delighted to realise that access is relatively easy. The London Wildlife Trust manage the site (like the Marshes) and their website is a tad out of date on access arrangements.

I parked at the Golf Club and followed the obvious footpath down the hill to the green 'public footpath' sign at the bottom of the hill, from there I turned left into the Harefield Place Nature Reserve. Straight on would have taken me between lakes to the canal tow path. I passed a bird watching hide before stumbling onto the disused Uxbridge branch line. Heading southwards down the old railway I turned left onto the Frays Farm Reserve just before the beautiful river Frays. A right turn takes you over boardwalks to Denham Lock and the Denham Lock Wood reserve.

New interpretation boards and fencing (installed when cattle were recently returned to the site) made me realise I had found what I was looking for. The meadows themselves are rich with grasses and sedges and the river Frays provides a wonderfully picturesque backdrop, home to rare water voles and the invasive floating pennywort. I headed due east towards a gate that opens onto the disused section of the golf course, before following the path through the woods back to the clubhouse. I strongly recommend a visit to this other 'forgotten corner of Ickenham' before the possibility of changes in 2017 brought about by HS2.

Christopher Mountain

ICKENHAM FESTIVE EVENING

This was held on Friday 11th December 2015 and was as usual very well attended. The Association had 2 tables in the Village Hall this year. One was for membership and general queries, and of course our usual fun competition. The second table was manned by Chris Mountain and a rotating number of committee members and it was to engage people in the idea of a neighbourhood plan for Icken-



With kind permission of Geoff Rouseil (via Alan Noad)

ham. Chris got lots of input and is in the process of analysing the responses prior to holding a follow up meeting in March this year. We managed to get several more members signed up to our mailing list to keep up to date between newsletters.

If you are interested, please e-mail: ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com with your name and address and we will add you to our list.

June Reyner

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Many thanks to the hundreds of people that took the time to get involved with our Neighbourhood Plan exercise at the Festive Evening in December 2015. We recorded 380 comments on what Ickenham residents **like/don't like/would change** about the village.

Retail, traffic and green spaces featured as issues most prominently, with housing and heritage also drawing thought-provoking comments. Our community spirit and enthusiasm were also a recurring theme - attributes we will need, if we are to build on these ideas and write a Neighbourhood Plan for Ickenham - to guide future development in the village - so it is done with us, not to us.

Thank you also to the 80 people who signed up to find out more about a Plan for Ickenham. They, along with everyone else who lives, works or owns land in the village, and our 15 locally elected Ward Councilors are invited to a Village Meeting:

**ICKENHAM VILLAGE HALL -
SATURDAY 19 MARCH - 2.30-3.30pm**

to discuss the ideas from the Festive Evening about the future of Ickenham, and decide whether we want to set up a new group - a Neighbourhood Forum - to lead the task of writing a Neighbourhood Plan for Ickenham.

If there is a feeling that we should give it a go, we'll need a minimum of 21 people to sign up to join an 'Ickenham Forum' and we can then ask the Council to formally designate us as a neighbourhood planning group!

Plans take on average 18 months to write and must contain evidenced policies that the Council then use to decide local planning applications.

Please try and make it along on **19 March**, but don't worry if you can't - if we do decide to set up a Forum, free membership is always open to all - and plans must be consulted on twice, be independently examined and ultimately pass a local referendum!

This public meeting will be the end of the commitment that the Residents' Association made to 'kick-start' a local conversation about a Plan for Ickenham.

An Ickenham Forum (should one be formed) would be a brand new constituted and democratically managed organisation - which would work closely with all interested local people, businesses and organisations (including the Residents' Association and the Local Council) to prepare a Plan for Ickenham.

Chris Mountain

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The Residents' Association is minded to apply for certain local buildings to be listed as Assets of Community Value. Such a designation would mean that owners must give the Local Council notice, if they intend to sell the building. This notice then triggers a statutory six months' period during which the community has time to come up with ideas about how the building could stay in community use, and possibly raise money to bid to buy the building.

The owner is under no obligation to accept a community offer. Thousands of buildings around the country are already registered.

We propose nominating the following buildings to demonstrate the value that we think these buildings have to the local community:

Public Houses

Coach & Horses
The Soldier's Return
The Tichenham Inn
The Fox & Geese
The Swallow

Other buildings

Ickenham Library
Ickenham Clinic
Ickenham Village Hall
The Buntings
Ickenham Hall & Compass Theatre

Please get in touch by the end of April 2016, if you have any comments about the list above, or think any other local community buildings should be considered.

Chris Mountain



ICKENHAM MARSHES

The Council are considering way-markers for a local footpath called the Willow Tree Wander, which starts in Rayners Lane and follows the Yeading Brook to Ickenham. Interpretation boards may also be installed along the route, so we are working with LBH to come up with some interesting local information that could feature on boards.

As well as information on local flora and fauna, an early twentieth century picture from the Council archives of the Sims family cutting hay on the Marsh could feature, and I'm also trying to track down a photo of Hill Farm. Any other suggestions would be kindly received.

High rainfalls have recently exposed all of the 12 ponds that are marked on old OS

maps. The two at the top of Hill Farm Road are next on the list for volunteers to clear out this summer.

Summer event planning is underway. Two Balsam Bashes are planned this year, along with the now traditional bug and treasure hunts.

Keep your eye on the website <https://ickenhammarshes.wordpress.com> for the latest information, and do get in touch, if you've got any spare time this summer to help organise events, or have any other thoughts, ideas or comments about the Marshes!

Christopher Mountain

HEALTH MATTERS

Small local pharmacist shops are under attack! You may not have noticed that one of our long-standing pharmacies has organised a petition. This petition refers to the concern shown by all small neighbourhood pharmacies to the announced funding cut by NHS England to community pharmacy.

The Department of Health and NHS England have announced a 6% reduction in funding through the community pharmacy contractual framework. This amounts to a cut of £170 million with the consequences of lowering the funding available.

It is anticipated these changes will take effect in October 2016. This reduction in funding will have a substantial impact on pharmacy business owners, their employees and locums.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has called on NHS England to halt the planned withdrawal of funding for the essential "Small Pharmacies Scheme" and to reassess the impact on local communities, if affected pharmacies are forced to close.

The cuts seem short-sighted, coming just as the phenomenal pressures on other parts of the NHS mean that community pharmacists are now seen as an acces-

sible source for advice; helping people stay well, through treating many minor ailments and health conditions.

With ever growing pressures on GP surgeries and hospital A & E departments, an integrated pharmacy network is key to ensuring patients have access to the health care they need.

In defending their position, the Department of Health states "there is real potential for far greater use of community pharmacy and pharmacists: in prevention of ill health; support for self-care for minor ailments and long term conditions; medication reviews in care homes; and as part of a more integrated local care model".

The Department also feels that "we need a clinically focussed Community Pharmacy Service, better integrated with primary care".

It is also considering on how to drive forward new models of ordering prescriptions and collecting dispensed medicines. The online journey for patients remains slow and awkward. In future, patients should be able to choose to order their prescriptions online and have them delivered to their home, if they wish, or click and collect if they prefer!

Ordering prescriptions online will not suit everybody, and I quite like calling in to collect my medicines personally at the pharmacy, and to have a chat with the pharmacist for advice and information. Personal service is the key to a successful pharmacy. Click and collect is not for me except with Waitrose!

David John

POLICE MATTERS

A couple of brief items to start: There are now 132 CCTV systems in use in Ickenham. This may have some bearing on the steady drop in burglaries on our patch. At least one team of prolific burglars has been caught in recent weeks using evidence supplied from our CCTV systems, ably co-ordinated by Brian Walters and his team.



In Hillingdon there are now (surprisingly) more PCs on patrol than at any time in the last five years, however, they do tend to be concentrated in the South.

Bike-marking is now available all the time at 'Bikewise' Ickenham, a useful precaution which will increase the chances of getting a stolen bike back.

Now for scams: Three more to report this time. The first concerns fake websites. A Hillingdon resident ordered some computer equipment over the internet, was instructed to follow a link to a 'PayPal' page, which duly appeared. Problem was, it was a fake PayPal page and the funds went not to PayPal but to a fraudster's bank account. The receiving bank refused to disclose the recipient's name, claiming it would fall foul of the Data Protection Act. Initially, the Police were inclined to dismiss the incident as a civil matter, though later agreed it constituted fraud.

It is important to be very careful when buying over the internet as fake pages look very similar to the genuine ones. There are also fake websites offering luxury goods, such as jewellery, at low prices. There are always some small differences from the genuine pages, but in any case upmarket companies just don't sell things at low prices.

The second event involved a huge sum of money lost by a London landlord. An expensive house was rented to a seemingly respectable tenant. The tenant then proceeded to change his name by deed-poll to that of the landlord and offered the house for sale via an agent, stipulating that only a cash buyer would be considered. The house was sold and the cash immediately transferred to Dubai and there the case rests. The weak link in this case was that the house was owned outright by the landlord. If there had been an outstanding mortgage, the bank or building society would have been holding the deeds and would have been in contact with the owner before any sale could go through. So, the moral of this tale is, if you are a 'buy to let' landlord, always have some portion of a mortgage outstanding.

The other new, probable, scam that has come to my notice, was reported by a friend of mine, a retired doctor. He received a communication from an address in Switzerland, inviting him to look at a long list of symptoms and offering to sell pills to treat any of them. Several things were wrong here:

First off, payment was only acceptable by debit-card, credit card, cheque payments not accepted. Possibly an attempt to get hold of the debit-card details to empty the account. Even if the offer was genuine, the 'treatment' would probably consist of vitamin pills, which could be bought at any chemist at a lower price. The person with whom to discuss symptoms is your doctor or pharmacist.

Vic Silk

HELP WANTED

As you will see from the enclosed minutes from last year's AGM, planning matters take up a great deal of the committee's time. In 2014/15 we looked at a total of 262 applications and this year 2015/16 will have done even more. We work very hard to keep inappropriate developments away and to keep our village as the green and pleasant place we all enjoy.

We would however welcome some additional help in processing all these applications. A knowledge of planning law would be useful but not essential. We download applications, decisions, appeals and enforcements on a weekly basis and circulate by email and then respond to LBH on any matters which concern us (again by email).

This would not mean becoming a committee member, though that is a possibility should you wish to do so.

If you feel you would be able to help or are interested in finding out more, please contact us at ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com or ring our chair Jill Dalton on 07770 868648 to discuss this further..

We do hope you will be able to help

June Reyner

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ickenham Festival 11th June – 19th June 2016
Gala Day will be on Saturday, 18th June 2016.

Venue will be confirmed by Festival Committee.

Glebe Primary School will be holding its Summer Fayre in the school grounds on Saturday, 11th June 2016 from 1pm to 4pm.