

# Ickenham Calling .....



The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Winter 2013

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 COMMENTS

As we approach Christmas, the committee's workload grows inexorably. The full HS2 Environmental Statement is due to be published. We need to analyse it and prepare to petition Parliament for changes to mitigate the impact of the railway and its construction on our village.

The Tesco and Morrisons proposals to develop Hillingdon Circus are due to be determined by the Local Planning Authority before Christmas, but that is very unlikely to be the end of the story. Judicial Reviews and Appeals to the Secretary of State will probably follow and we may need to be involved to protect the interests of the community.

Fortunately, our appeals for more volunteers have not gone unanswered. I am delighted that Dr. Dimitrios Giannouloupoulos, a senior lecturer in criminal law at Brunel, has now joined the committee. Dimitrios has already made an impact by opening a Twitter account for the Association and has been posting messages on HS2 further increasing our bandwidth. You can check it out at [www.twitter.com/ickenhamRA](http://www.twitter.com/ickenhamRA) or if you have a twitter account yourselves, you can search for and follow @IckenhamRA.

But we still need more help and in particular people with project management skills. Do please contact me or June if you would like to get involved.

The Ickenham Festival Festive Community Night, held this year on December 6th, is a great demonstration of the strength of our community; we are as always deeply grateful to the Festival Committee for organising it. Our solidarity strengthens our resolve in face of HS2 and other threats to our environment. Don't let them spoil your holidays!

Have a very Happy Christmas *Humphrey Tizard*

### A Reminder for your Diary

**Ickenham Festive Community Night**  
**Village Hall, Ickenham,**

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013 6pm to 9pm**

As in the past, the Ickenham Festival Team is again arranging this popular and successful evening, with local organisations and shopkeepers participating, covering outdoor activities and stalls, as well as those inside the Village Hall.

**Please come and support this event and your local community!**

## HS2 UPDATE

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies." — *Groucho Marx*

The HS2 bandwagon continues in spite of the latest report from the Treasury Select Committee advising that HS2 should be halted until a business value can be demonstrated. This follows other damning reports from the Public Accounts Committee and National Audit Office. The latest country polls show a majority of all voters are against the project.

The Government having abandoned arguments on speed, is downplaying the 'north-south' divide \* and now proclaim we have a West Coast Main Line 'capacity' issue. This is in spite of the latest figures from Stagecoach which show passenger miles % growth on the Virgin west coast line falling to less than 1%. A simple reduction in the first class coach configuration would significantly increase capacity. (\*HS2 Ltd's own figures say 70% plus of new jobs created by Phase 1 of HS2 will be in London. International experience and academic evidence also supports the conclusion that London will be the biggest winner from HS2.)

The chart below based on Department of Transport figures shows that there are more pressing capacity issues than Euston and the WCML.

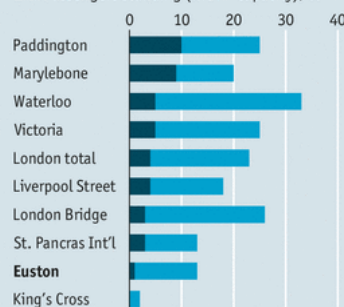
The 51M Group including our own Council published a report in September 'Alternative Investment Strategy for Jobs and



### Crunch time

Peak rail capacity at London terminals, 2012

■ Passengers in excess of capacity, %  
■ Passengers standing (within capacity), %



Source: Department for Transport

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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](mailto:ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com)

This issue edited by  
Hanne Raeder  
November 2013



Growth' which sets out in detail how the £50 billion cost for HS2's track and trains could be better targeted to bring faster, higher value economic benefits across the entire country.

At this time we await the results of the Supreme Court appeals hearings. HS2 Action Alliance and the 51M Group argue that the Government has not taken account of the substantial environmental impact of the current proposals, and by failing to take account of these impacts believe the Government is acting unlawfully. They argue that, if a Strategic Environmental Statement (SEA) had been done, the environmental implications of alternatives would have been considered before a decision to proceed was made -but they were not.

The Government has been forced to rerun the Phase 1 Compensation Scheme Consultation having been told by judges that its previous attempts were so unlawful to be illegal. The Consultation finishes December 4 and you should have received pre-printed reply paid cards to assist you in your response. The Government proposals do not provide any respite for Ickenham – there is no compensation for any property more than 60 m from the line (ie the whole of Ickenham) in spite of the blight to be caused by construction and operation.

The situation for Ickenham worsens with every communication from the HS2 Ltd and Government ministers. Construction activity is now forecast to take 9 years (without the Heathrow spurs), tunnel waste is to be dumped in Ickenham & Harefield (HS2 Ltd are approaching landowners along Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road to acquire land for the dumping of tunnel waste) and there is no compensation. Our experiences are mirrored along the line as HS2 Ltd in a desperate desire to keep costs under control is refusing any form of mitigation.

The Association has maintained constant communication with our MP Nick Hurd. We have continually expressed our anger at the lack of respect and care for our community. We believe he should oppose the project. He insists that he can achieve more by working within Government - we have seen no evidence of this to date.

The Government starts to show paranoia with any opposition to their plans. A lobbying bill which will gag opposition groups during an election period has been passed by Parliament. The Government next intends to bring a bill to Parliament (Local Government Audit Bill) which will prevent local authorities campaigning against Government 'policy'. We trust the House of Lords will have more concern about our democracy.

The Phase 1 Hybrid Bill will shortly be introduced into Parliament and the focus of all HS2 opposition groups is to persuade MPs all over the UK to understand how seriously their constituencies will be affected, if they vote for this white elephant.

To further demonstrate the unfairness of the Government's processes, the communities affected by Phase 2 are just starting their consultation period. – what chance their voices will be heard, if the Phase 1 Hybrid Bill is passed ?

Great concern over HS2 continues to grow. The business case is seriously flawed and represents very poor value for money to the taxpayer. The environmental impact will be devastating. Please continue to write to our MP, get your friends and family also to write to their MPs and write to Ministers.

**Brian Adams**

## TESCO AND MORRISONS, THE SAGA CONTINUES!

As you will be aware, both applications were removed from the agenda of LBH's Major Applications Planning Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> October on the grounds that the committee needed to be given time to consider additional documents, mostly related to the traffic issues that concern us, that had been submitted on behalf of both retailers.

The recommendations of the Council Officers were to approve Tesco and refuse Morrisons, but we have considered in detail their reports and made written responses reiterating our view that *both* applications should be refused on grounds of Traffic, Environment and Height and Appearance.

Additional objections to Morrisons relate to Car Parking [loss of commuter spaces at Hillingdon station with likely knock-on effect on the surrounding roads] and Retail Impact, on which the officers had added broader LBH concerns to our own more local one relating to the potential impact on Steve Williams, our Butcher.

We have met representatives of Morrisons since they submitted an amended planning application, but there is nothing we have seen or heard from either them or Tesco that affects our position. We have a meeting scheduled with Ray Puddifoot, the Leader of our Council, and some of the officers, in which we will voice our concerns and hear what they have to say.

I am pleased to report that we have received support in this area from Nick Hurd, our MP, so the fight goes on!

**Richard Piper**

## OPEN FORUM – OCTOBER 2013

Regrettably many local residents missed an interesting evening on 24<sup>th</sup> October in the Village Hall, when two very good speakers addressed a meeting organised by this Association.

### **River Habitat Restoration**

The first of the speakers was Andy Willmore, who is the Regional Development Manager and West London Community Projects Officer of the *Crane Valley Wildlife Trust*. Illustrating his talk



with a PowerPoint demonstration, Mr. Willmore showed pictures of locations in the west London area, which has become a vibrant wildlife habitat and breeding ground. He also showed us photos of volunteers wading through mud, clearing



weeds, making rustic bridges, and generally improving and enhancing various forms of wildlife, but also making it easier for those interested in studying nature and taking walks along properly maintained routes.

Mr. Willmore gave much food for thought in showing what a variety of species we have on our doorstep. To find out more about their work or to support London Wildlife Trust by becoming a member, then please go to their website [www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

We also refer to our updates under **Ickenham Marshes**, which are part of the above mentioned *Crane Valley* corridor (pages 4 + 5) – one of London's important green chains, and the most welcome news that the London Wildlife Trust has secured a sizeable grant to enable cattle grazing to be re-introduced on the Nature Reserve at the centre of the Marshes.

### General Local Policing

Inspector David George from Ruislip Police Station then followed by telling us about the new policing arrangements in the Borough.

Despite the fact that currently the Borough was 50 officers short of its requirement, crime figures in the area were on the decrease.

The commonest crime was still theft of mobile phones and objects from cars, such as laptops and SatNavs.



David George

### Neighbourhood Watch

Mr. George particularly praised the work of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, especially in Ickenham, who were responsible in many instances for the arrest and conviction of wrongdoers. He encouraged people to report suspicious incidents, because this was the best way of obtaining leads.

Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the evening, the speakers staying on to answer further questions.

*John Squiers*

### UXBRIDGE GOLF COURSE NEWS - Debacle at Uxbridge Golf Club

It is astonishing to all interested parties that the Borough is showing a complete lack of energy, in responding to the many questions regarding the future plans for Uxbridge Golf Course. This has not been the Council's "finest hour"; it is apparent that there has been a catalogue of mistakes, including incompetence, bad judgement, dithering and prevarication.

The London Borough of Hillingdon has a duty to reinstate the Course and return it to its previous condition. This is a wonderful amenity and incorporates and adjoins a nature reserve, lakes with fishing, and extensive wildlife and vegetation, and is marvellous for a walk.

The Golf Course has been a well used facility for over sixty years, and until recently an interesting and challenging course.

Unfortunately, Public Bodies, generally, have a poor record of looking after properties on our behalf, they seem oblivious to the deterioration and lack of upkeep, and it is often well down the list of priorities, particularly in times of austerity. It is surprising that this administration has not realised that the continuing and progressive development of the Golf Course can make a positive contribution in enhancing the landscape. This is especially true of the degraded areas at the southern end, and the lower aspects of the Course. Golf Courses such as this are of great value for players of lesser ability and income and enable them to enjoy a round of golf in wonderful surroundings. It must not also go unnoticed that the Club is active in tuition for the very young players, and it is enjoyable to see their enthusiasm.

The debacle of mismanagement at Uxbridge Golf Course goes forever onwards, with no end in sight. There is no momentum from our Ward Councillors, who should take a much more proactive approach. The Council should supply a copy of the recent Consultant's Report. It is outrageous to be told that it is to be withheld, particularly as we have waited full of expectation for many months. This sorry path has led to a situation alive with rumours; the stupidity of a country park, and the even greater difficulties that it would place on the Council; the excuse that HS2 would place the Golf Course in jeopardy is utter nonsense! The rightful custodians of this delightful spot should remain with the Golf Club, let that be their legacy.

The Greenkeepers continue to give valiant service, whatever the weather, appallingly wet in the winter, and then a drought in the summer months. We give our grateful thanks to them and their expertise. Let us hope it has not all been wasted!!

One ray of hope has been the renovation of the footpath between the lower part of the golf course and the Grand Union Canal. Those regular walkers who know this route, remember the quagmire that it became for most of the year, particularly in the wet winters we have experienced in the last few years. The access is so good now that you can reach the Denham Country Park and beyond, and enjoy the bird life on the lakes in an environment which is relaxing, and good for one's well-being. A big thank you to the Borough for this project, a job well done! Get your walking shoes on, and take a stroll, it will be a delight.

*David John*

### STOP PRESS

**Ickenham's Glebe Allotment site has won the cup for the best Council-managed site in Hillingdon for the third year running! Three individual Glebe plots also made Hillingdon's top 50, after being judged alongside all the 1500 plots in the Borough. Plot holder Chris Mountain said: "It is a fantastic effort by everyone to retain the title again. We are especially grateful to the team of mowers who cut the communal grass, and to the committee for their hard work. It is the community spirit that makes the site so special though – it really is the GOOD LIFE!"**



## ICKENHAM MARSHES PARTNERSHIP

### WINTER 2013 UPDATE

#### Summary

Great news for the Partnership recently as significant investment has been awarded for improvement projects. The Council allocated funding for path restoration and scrub clearance, which has essentially been creating a new public park in the South East corner of the Marshes. Also the London Wildlife Trust has secured a sizeable grant to enable cattle grazing to be re-introduced on the Nature Reserve at the centre of the Marshes.

Motorbike use has significantly reduced this Summer, and the new paths have improved access and visitor numbers. A stand-alone website will be set up soon.

#### Volunteers needed!

Now the Partnership is up and running, volunteers are needed to help further develop and implement the Partnership's objectives. Please consider whether you can give some time to support this exciting local project! To volunteer or to find out more, please contact the Partnership by email:  
ickenhammarshes@hotmail.com

#### Objectives update - Objective 1 Maintenance and enhancement of footpaths - Update

- In addition to the Hillingdon Trail path improvements reported in the Summer update, LBH have cleared and reinstated significant sections of the Willow Wander path, which follows the Yeading Brook from the Hillingdon Trail all the way to Ruislip Gardens station
- The new metal barriers and the repairs to existing ones this Summer are still intact – reassuring, considering the repeated acts of vandalism that had damaged barriers in the past
- Hill Farm Rd and sections of the Hillingdon Trail and Willow Wander were cleared by corporate volunteers in September

- London Underground are still considering a request to establish a permissive footpath on a section of Marshes in their ownership.

#### Next Steps

- Continued engagement with Police and LBH about minimising illegal motorbike use.
- Establish timetable for regular path clearing working parties – to ensure the new paths do not get overgrown.

#### Objective 2

##### Engagement of local schools and communities - Update

- Local groups continue to raise awareness of the Marshes.
- Andy Willmore from the London Wildlife Trust delivered a talk to Residents' Association members at the recent Forum Event about the habitats and improvement projects in the River Crane Valley – of which the Ickenham Marshes are part.

#### Next Steps

- Further discussions about volunteering and educational opportunities with local schools, groups and residents.

#### Objective 3

##### Effective environmental management - Update

- LBH have cleared a significant section of scrub in the South East corner of the Marshes, flanked by new paths. Varied grassland areas have been preserved, as have trees, but large areas of bramble have been cleared to open up what is essentially a new public park.
- The London Wildlife Trust has recently secured a Veolia Environmental Trust grant of £22,950, which will pay for the infrastructure needed to reintroduce cows on the Nature Reserve site at the centre of the Marshes. The Trust manage the Reserve and have been planning the grazing project with the Marshes Partnership for more than a year. Grazing is an important part of work to protect and improve our rare marshland habitat and enhance its biodiversity value. More details on the project will follow in the Spring update.
- Inspections of ash trees in Marshes hedgerows have not identified ash die-back.
- Scrub clearance / introduction of cattle grazing objective moved into Objective 3.

- Birds of Prey sightings on the Marshes have recently increased.
- Partnership has offered to undertake water quality monitoring as part of the Crane Valley Improvement Project. (The Yeading Brook is part of the Crane Valley catchment).
- Land Owner has given permission for ponds on the Marshes to be cleared of overhanging branches.

#### Next steps

- Further liaison with Yeading Valley Working Party, LWT and the Crane Valley Partnership to discuss river priorities.
- Woodland management assessments to be carried out.
- Pond management assessments to be carried out.
- Ditch clearances to be considered.
- Monthly ash die-back inspections.
- Baseline habitat assessments to be carried out to allow future improvements to be tracked.
- Balsam Bashing to be scheduled for early Summer 2014.

#### The next update will be published in Spring 2014.

The London Wildlife Trust have helped enormously with the establishment of the Marshes Partnership. To find out more about their work or to support them by becoming a member, please go to their website: [www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

*Chris Mountain*

#### POLICE MATTERS

I have written before of the scam where one is cold-called by a person pretending to be from your bank saying that your cash card has been compromised and they will send a courier to collect it. They also try to get you to divulge the PIN number. There has been a slight variation of this lately, in that the caller pretends to be from the police. Remember that no genuine caller will ever ask for your PIN number.

We are all bothered by cold-callers trying to sell us goods or services, which seem to be getting more frequent, even though most of us have signed up to the Telephone Preference Service. I believe that BT offer an additional service which blocks all calls from callers who withhold their number, as most of these pests do, but I have yet to investigate the details of this and there might be a fee involved.

In view of the numerous scams around, it is probably best just to tell all callers with whom you have no business or other relationship, that you don't accept cold calls and ring off.

At the September meeting of the Hillingdon Community & Police Advisory Group, Chief Inspector Rob Wilson, presented the crime figures for Hillingdon, covering the period between 1/04/13 and 31/08/13. The news is good! Total offences have dropped by a creditable 13.3% compared with the same period last year; with reductions in almost all categories. Burglaries, for example have fallen by 16.5% and thefts of and from motor vehicles by even larger amounts. The surprising figure was a fall in personal robbery (mostly youth on youth) by a massive 41%! Perhaps the market for stolen mobile phones has collapsed? As always, there is a downside; in this case a marked rise in youth and other violence. Probably drunks getting into fights. Not something that is often seen in Ickenham.

Inspector David George, who is in charge of policing north of the A40, gave a lively and informative presentation to a rather thinly attended Open Forum, on Thursday 24th October.

He highlighted the problems and opportunities involved with the introduction of the area-policing system, that started in June. Not least of these is that, at the time of writing, Hillingdon was 50 officers short of establishment. This shortfall should be steadily made up with the arrival of newly trained PCs from Hendon, but then it will take time for them to gain experience. To make the most of the available officers, all policing in the North area is now operating from Ruislip police station. Some examples of recent policing successes were noted and it was emphasized that tip-offs from alert members of the public were often the start of successful operations.

He suggested that the recent reduction in most categories of crime in Hillingdon could be credited to more pro-active policing such as the 'Operation Cubos' described below.

Sergeant Martin Baird from the Safer Airport Team gave a presentation on crime at Heathrow. There are an average of 50 offences a week at the airport. Nearly half (42%) is classified as 'other theft'.

This includes baggage theft, so when travelling through Heathrow keep a sharp eye on your bags!



At the same meeting we heard from Inspector Andy Hickling of British Transport Police, who reported on crime on London Underground, where there have been 452 fewer offences reported this financial year, compared with same period in 2012/13. This equates to a fall of 8% overall.

As at Heathrow, a large proportion of the crimes are thefts of passenger property, probably by pickpockets, who are known to infest certain areas of the Tube system, mainly in central London. As always, the best defence is to stay alert.

Finally, the monthly 'Operation Cubos' have continued targeting uninsured drivers across London. Between June and September Hillingdon officers seized 25 vehicles for no insurance. This helps to reduce crime generally by taking the mobility away from habitual criminals, who are the type of person most likely to be driving uninsured. **Vic. Silk**

**NEWS FROM RAF NORTHOLT**

**R.J. Willis Sqn Ldr  
Station Open Day 2014 –**

There will be a Station Open Day on Saturday 14 June 2014 from 1200 midday which will be open to the public. Tickets will be £10 each and must be purchased in advance.

In order to minimise unnecessary car use there will be an additional charge of £5 for everyone who brings a car onto site. The plan is that it will be a large scale affair with significant numbers of static aircraft, arena displays, stalls and fun for the kids. As it is also the Queen's Official Birthday we are seeking to have the Birthday Flypast diverted overhead RAF Northolt so that attendees can enjoy the flypast including the Red Arrows. It would be appreciated if you could begin to promote this to your members so that the date is reserved in their diaries. We are not yet in a position to begin selling tickets/Wristbands, but I will let you know when we can start sales.



**RAF Northolt 2014 Calendar** – I have attached a flyer for our 2014 calendar which we are selling at £6 +p&p each to raise funds for our heritage projects. The calendar is based on



images from our night photo shoots with little vignettes each month featuring one of our heritage assets. Every image included was taken at RAF Northolt. I would be grateful, if you could promote to your residents. Cheques should be paid to "Service Funds RAF Northolt".

Contact R J WILLIS Sqn Ldr/ Media & Communications Officer & OIC Heritage  
RAF Northolt - Tel. 020 8833 8909 / 8853  
email [NOR-SPTMCO@mod.uk](mailto:NOR-SPTMCO@mod.uk)

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Please note that the next **Annual General Meeting** will be held at Ickenham Village Hall on

**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014, at 8pm.**

In accordance with Rule 15 of the constitution, members are reminded that any item which they wish to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda, should be submitted in writing, with the names and addresses of the proposer and seconder to the General Secretary, Mrs. June Reyner, 6 The Chase Ickenham, Uxbridge, UB10 8SR

**by Friday, 14.02.2014**

More details of the evening, the full Agenda and Minutes of the 2013 AGM will be included in our next regular newsletter, due for circulation in early March 2014.

**Ickenham will have a new medical centre, i.e.**

**Wallasey Medical Centre  
1 Wallasey Crescent  
Ickenham**

**opened officially by the Mayor of Hillingdon on 16.11.13.**

**The Officers and the Committee  
of the Ickenham Residents' Association**

**take this opportunity to thank you for your  
continued support over the last year  
and wish you and your families a**



**Happy Christmas  
and  
a healthy, safe and peaceful  
New Year**