

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Winter 2014

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

Ickenham Residents' Association:



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are delighted to welcome two new members to our committee – David Tebbutt as Minutes Secretary and Ian Phillips as Treasurer. They will both be a great asset to the Committee and particularly helpful to the Secretary and Chairman who have been fulfilling those roles !

During this last quarter we have campaigned for Residents on a number of matters, including traffic accident issues at The Pump (ongoing) and at the junction of Breakspear Road South and Swakeleys Road, where improvements have been swiftly made. Also on flooding problems following the deluge of water that arrived in Ickenham in July, which affected a number of properties particularly in Sussex Road and The Avenue.

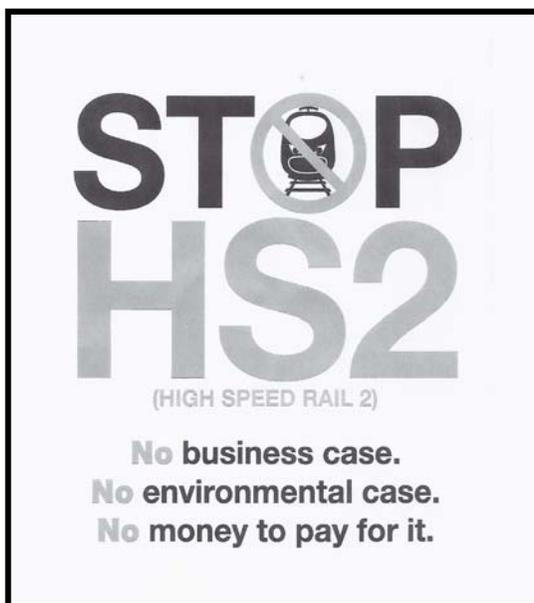
Members of the Committee were pleased to attend, as well as numerous meetings of other related bodies, the official opening of the extended Glebe School, and a service to welcome the new Rector of St Giles, Ickenham.

The latest planning application by Tesco at Hillingdon Circus was finally approved, despite our objections mainly on traffic and pollution grounds. (Also see our STOP PRESS notice in our SUMMER newsletter). Naturally, after so many years we are disappointed, particularly as the traffic issues had not been resolved before the planning hearing. However, our planning team have moved on and you will see in this issue our report on the proposed development in Long Lane by Signature Homes.

The Committee have also been considering the new proposed Local Plan during the consultation period, and how Ickenham will be affected in terms of the Vil-

lage Centre, the Conservation Area, Green Belt, transport and heritage.

We wish all Association members a happy and peaceful Christmas.
Jill Dalton



HS2 UPDATE

At the time of writing we do not know when we will be presenting our petitions; we will get one month's notice and the speculation is that it will be February/March next year. Nick Hurd is organising for the Select Committee to visit our area. When we get notification of this we will be asking residents to help us with roadside protests and banners.

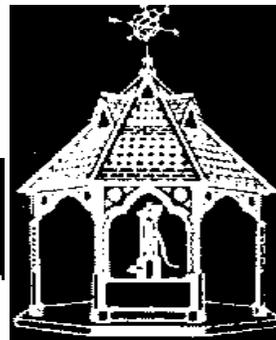
We held a residents petitioners meeting recently and Ian Thynne from London Borough of Hillingdon and Nick Hurd gave us updates on the petitioning process. The LBH petition – 60 pages - is very comprehensive. The focus of all our petitioning (with Ruislip and Harefield groups) is to convince the Select Committee to agree to extend the tunnel beyond the Colne Valley. The Council have consultants looking (i) at the engineering feasibility of such a tunnel and (ii) the economic impacts in north west London of not having a tunnel. We believe there is a cost argu-

A Reminder for your Diary

Ickenham Festive Community Night
Village Hall, Ickenham,
Friday, 12th December 2014 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.



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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

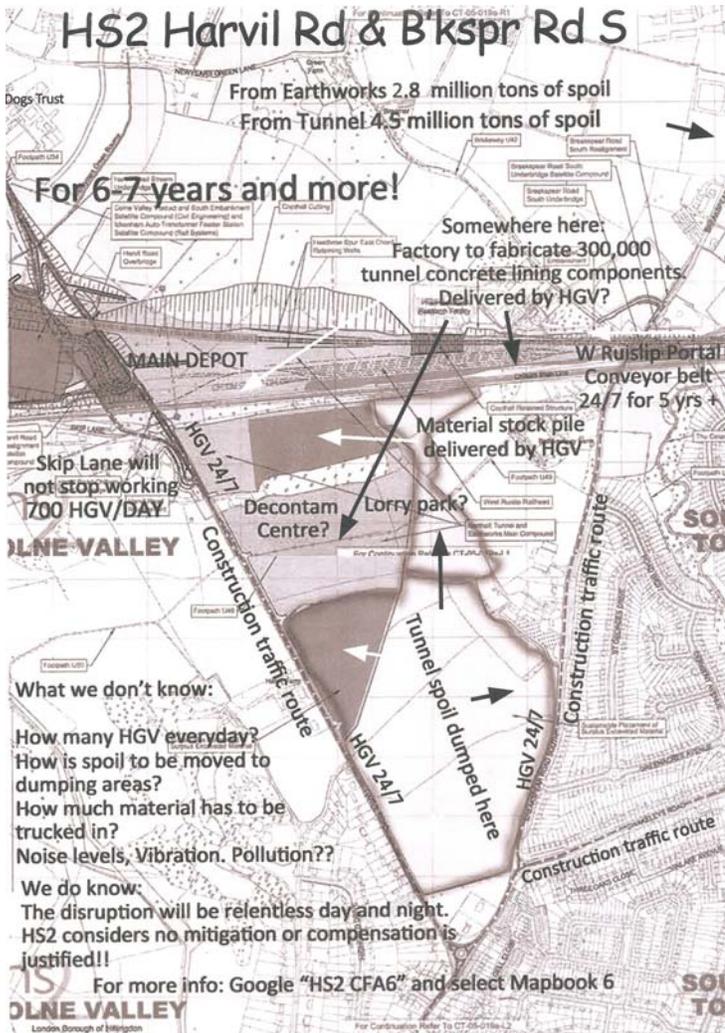
You can also send your comments to our e-mail address:
ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com

This issue edited by
Hanne Raeder
November 2014



ment for a tunnel as well as avoiding the construction and operational blight.

Brian Cable who leads the Harvil Road petition presented his research into the Harvil Road construction site – the more one investigates the worse the blight becomes and as we know



there is no compensation for construction blight. The Compensation Consultation has finished. There has been a debate in Parliament and MPs voiced their concerns that the Government proposals are inadequate.

The Government, Department of Transport and HS2 Ltd have all failed to convince the public that HS2 is a worthwhile project, The latest YouGov poll in the Sunday Times (October 26) shows support has reduced to 23% and less than 10% believe that HS2 will improve the environment.

The Government and HS2 have attempted another relaunch of HS2 focussing on benefits to the North. The latest myths appear to be scraping the barrel – the Chairman of HS2 is suggesting hordes of London workers will be willing to pay 30% - 40% of their take home pay on season tickets and spend 4 hours each day on a train to have a cheaper house in the north. He suggests this will save our green belt. We believe the closure of HS2 and his marketing organisation will do more to save our green belt and areas of outstanding natural beauty than these 'pie in the sky' schemes.

The launch of HS3 clearly demonstrates that HS2 was never going to bring the economic benefits to the north and is another

interesting political pre-election scheme – although called 'high speed' the proposed speeds are the same speeds as our current inter-city trains (which by international definition are high speed). It is an uncoded scheme but the Prime Minister said it could cost 6-7 billion. It is probable that a 'Crossrail' link between the major cities in the North would bring economic benefit and perhaps scrapping HS2 and focussing on these regional developments would be a sensible idea.

When the PM announced the appointment of Sir David Higgins to lead HS2, it was with the intent of reducing the costs and timescales; Sir David Higgins has already admitted the budgets cannot be reduced (even though to reduce costs, HS2 will not now be going into city centres). There has been no transparency of the real costs and it is obvious these are being held back. A House of Lords Select Committee is currently examining the 'economics' of HS2 and our Council have presented their report.

At the end of October the French Court of Auditors published their report on the TGV high speed network in France and it was very critical of the economic value of the current and future high speed projects – similar to the report by our National Audit Office on HS2.

The election in 2015 may force MPs to reconsider the case for HS2 – it is not popular with the public, there are many damning reports in newspapers and by business organisations, and the country's economic situation should not allow vanity projects with very questionable benefits.

Brian Adams

TESCO

It is with mixed emotions that after nearly 20 years of campaigning, the Tesco proposal for the old Master Brewer site has been given the green light by LBH planners in August this year.

We put forward our objections at the final major planning meeting but the committee felt the latest proposal was finally acceptable.

Although we still believe there will be increased traffic associated with the new store the residents of Ickenham can gain comfort from the fact that as a result of their mandate to object to the store, changes have been made to the size and appearance of the store and hotel.

The latest proposal now has a smaller store and hotel, improved site layout for access and parking, some soft landscaping and includes changes to the local highway network and traffic light timings at Hillingdon Circus.

David Grimshaw

SIGNATURE HOMES – END OF LIFE CARE HOME

Signature Senior Lifestyle Developments Ltd. have applied to the LBH with the following application: 52129/APP/2014/2996 88-94 LONG LANE ICKENHAM Demolition of 5 existing dwelling houses and redevelopment of the site for an 85 unit Class C2 care home for the elderly of 1.5 to 2.5 storeys in height with associated landscaping and car parking (40 spaces in total), stopping up of existing



vehicular accesses on Long Lane and construction of new vehicular access onto Long Lane.

This application is within the Ickenham Conservation Area and also includes the demolition of Dormy House off Court Road.

As your committee did not have sufficient time to 'poll' our membership, they had a very detailed discussion on what our position should be in this case. It was decided, unanimously, that we should take the stance of stating that whilst not opposed to 'End of Life' Care Homes in principle, and recognising the need for such institutions in appropriate areas, this was not such a site. The introduction of a massive commercial development in a conservation area already susceptible to local flooding was totally inappropriate.

In a 'Preamble' to our letter of objection we stated:-

This Association objects strongly to the above proposal. We do, however, recognise the need for the provision of such facilities, but not at this level of intensity or occupation, nor at this particular site within the Ickenham Conservation Area and as such completely disagree with the conclusion reached in the Planning Statement.

The Association would like to put this proposal into perspective, in that it is over 40% larger in terms of Gross Internal Area than the proposed Tesco store on the Master Brewer site.

The Conservation Area at this point comprises large detached houses with equally large settings.

This proposal would alter completely from the foregoing description to one of a very large terraced commercial frontage, totally inconsistent with the existing Conservation Area.

The current footprint of five large detached houses with extensive green areas (gardens) and mature trees surrounding them will very largely be replaced with a massive concrete footprint supporting a highly dense form of accommodation.

Recent research of ours, printed in our last Ickenham Calling Newsletter indicated the following:

"At the moment, Hillingdon has 64 care homes with 1200 beds, plus nine supported living units with 318 beds. The CCG (Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group) proposes to recruit two Community Specialist Nurses to support care homes in caring for residents, to avoid admission to hospital". This, we feel, indicates there is no particular lack of such provision in Hillingdon, despite the applicants' claim, and further indicates a possible move from institutional care to that of care in the community, i.e. at home.

One final point in our preamble is that of cost. We have been told that typical pricing for accommodation in this facility would be in the region of £2000 per week – far beyond the means of most people in the local area, even though it is planned to be an 'end of life' facility with an expected stay of probably less than two years.

Our letter then went on to highlight detailed Planning Legislation Policies, which we felt this proposal did not comply with, or worse contravened. Areas and Policies covered included the Built Environment; Flooding; Change of Use; Traffic/Safety; and Environmental Impacts.

In Summary we stated "we would suggest that the introduction of a purely commercial site and operation within the confines of a Conservation Area, so designated as being 'of large residential properties set in spacious grounds' is wholly inappropriate.

For all of the above reasons, and the contravention of many of your planning policies, as indicated, we strongly oppose this application and ask that you refuse planning permission".

We hope you agree with our stance to object to this proposal, which we estimate would put 1.4 Hectares of currently open space (back gardens) under concrete; lose 5 substantial properties contributing to conservation area status; compromise already delicate 'water table levels'; completely change the street scene of Long Lane; and introduce a commercial operation into Ickenham's Conservation Area.

Pete Daymond

ICKENHAM'S CENTURY EXHIBITION

The exhibition to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Association was held in the Village Hall on 20th September this year.



Steady stream of visitors at the Village Hall

The Village Hall was busy all day with a steady stream of visitors, and more than 100 people were present at 3pm, when our anniversary cake was cut.

There were over 100 ft of panels with photo-

graphs, articles and other memorabilia showing the growth of Ickenham from 1900 – 2000. There are plans to put a lot of the photos on our

Website in the future. We have also received some new photos to add to our records, but if anybody has photos of Ickenham past, we would be very interested to see them.



Barbara Buckle, the organiser of the exhibition, And our president, Peter Daymond

We would like to thank all other organisations (Horticultural Society, Festival of Ickenham, Village Hall and Home Guard) who contributed to the success of the event.

Barbara Buckle

Editor's Note: *The committee presented Barbara with a small gift in recognition of the exceptional effort she had personally put into the display.*

METROPOLITAN LINE USERS COUNCIL

With other residents associations and user groups we met with the Metropolitan Line Management recently.

The management reported that their key service measurement of 'lost customer hours' had improved considerably this year with the

increasing reliability of the new rolling stock and all the track improvements of the past year. The good weather had also been an important factor so when the recent deluges of rain occurred the Victorian drainage systems between Finchley Road and Baker Street let them down again. They have financial approval to upgrade the drainage and track but this will not take place until 2016 and will require many weekend closures.

The new Watford line (called the Croxley link) is still scheduled to open by the end of 2017. The management are confident the project will take place as the major disruption to Euston station required for HS2 will require alternative transport systems for commuters.

The contract for the new signalling systems has yet to be signed so the systems are unlikely to be operational until 2019. The installations will commence in central London and work out northwards. These systems are urgently required to improve line speeds, operational flexibility and customer communication. The current systems are over 50 years old and difficult to maintain.

A new timetable comes into operation on December 14 this year. There is an impact on Uxbridge users: all trains from Uxbridge will now go to Aldgate. Currently, some trains terminate at Baker Street. For users starting their journey at Baker Street, this means all trains to Uxbridge will arrive via platform 2 (at present Uxbridge trains could go from platforms 1, 2 and 4) – the potential downside in future will be that, as all Uxbridge trains will start in the City, they could be quite full, when they reach Baker Street.

There are increasing numbers of incidents involving the gap between platform and trains – it is particularly bad at Finchley Road, Baker Street, Farringdon and Kings X. The management are increasing staff on these platforms but please take care when using these stations.

They are planning a ‘feet on seats’ campaign; it is considered anti social behaviour. In addition to posters and automated announcements the drivers now have CCTV in their cabs and can advise offenders via their intercom systems.

Brian Adams



ICKENHAM MARSHES

As the winter draws in and colours on the marshes change from green to red and a fair amount of brown, this quarter's Marshes Update will reflect on progress made against the Partnership's objectives. Just to remind you,

the Partnership was set up in 2012 in response to local concerns about the area (the 40 fields between the Glebe Estate and Ruislip Gardens). Ickenham and Ruislip Gardens Residents' Association are the core members, and they work with a variety of other interested groups, including land managers and owners to help plan and deliver improvement projects. Updates on the three Partnership objectives are provided below:

Environmental Management

One of the main reasons for the popularity of the Marshes are the different sorts of wildlife that dwell there. It is strange but true that the hedgerow and meadow habitats that support much of that cherished wildlife are man-made. As such, they need a fair amount of maintaining. This year has seen some fantastic progress in this area, primarily through the extensive pruning of miles of hedgerows. Although this work may seem brutal, it is critically important to control the spread of blackthorn and bramble into the hay meadows. The current field boundaries have been in place since at least 1780, and this work ensures they will be around for years to come.

The return of cattle grazing seems a step closer, with some willow clearance on the Nature Reserve at the centre of the Marshes. London Wildlife Trust manage the reserve, and are confident that the cattle will keep grass and scrub levels down. New gates and fences will ensure public access is maintained.

Working parties have been busy this summer, carrying out pond and balsam clearances to preserve and enhance the wetter sections of the Marshes. The Council have also been busy, clearing a large area of scrub formerly known as the Stafford Rd Open Space. A plant survey was also carried out this summer. The latest water quality scores for the Yeading Brook were not great (again). We have not seen a sought-after Mayfly larva since June. A Little Egret was spotted in October - a small white continental heron with a black bill. A Sparrowhawk has also been seen recently.

Maintain and enhance footpaths

The new paths are now over a year old, and have been worn in nicely. In some areas they have already started to get overgrown, so there will be working parties in the spring to try and address this. The new anti-motorbike gates are still intact, and the Council also cut grass paths regularly this summer on their patches. Our local police inspector encourages villagers to ring 101, if they see or hear motorbikes on the Marshes.

Engaging local schools and people

As previously reported, visitor numbers are up, and schools on both sides of the Marshes organised visits this year. The website continues to attract hits, and a new Facebook page has been set up for more regular updates and to allow visitors to share photos and comments. You can show your support by clicking 'like' on the page: www.facebook.com/ickenhammarshespartnership

Do get in touch to share your thoughts on the Marshes - past, present or future! You can do this via email ickenhammarshes@hotmail.com or through the Facebook page. **Chris Mountain**

HEALTH MATTERS

"Dying Matters": Most people are uncomfortable talking about dying, meaning that, when they come to the end of their lives, friends and loved ones are not aware of their preferences. The National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC) set up a Coalition in 2009 to promote public awareness of dying, death and bereavement. Everybody deserves a "good death" and this is more likely to be achieved by talking about it early on, although every individual may have different ideas about which for them will constitute "a good death".

Some time earlier, in 1972, a report came out confirming the need for specialist palliative care for people affected by terminal illness. Sir Michael Sobell was so impressed by the report that he decided personally to gift one million pounds to the then National Society for Cancer Relief, (NSCR latterly Macmillan) to support the building of four continuing care units (hospices) in the grounds of Mount Vernon Hospital. The gift was given on the understanding that the NHS would fund the running costs supported by charitable donations from the local community. Such donations, in the case of Michael Sobell House were channelled through the Charity which later became The Friends of Michael Sobell House.

The first patients were admitted to the 16-bed-in-patient unit in February 1977. Michael Sobell Hospice is run by the East and North Hertfordshire NHS and jointly funded by the NHS and Michael Sobell Hospice Charity. Each year the Charity has to raise £1.5 million to ensure that vital services are maintained, this sum is about 40% of the running costs. Thanks to the support of the local community, the Charity contributes £2 of every £5 that is spent on patient care at the Hospice. Michael Sobell in-patient unit has a focus on improving quality of life for

patients by providing relief for distressing symptoms. This may also be care, comfort and support for local people with life limiting illnesses; patients may also be admitted for symptom management, rehabilitation, carer support, or for care in the last days of life.

The Day Centre is an integral part of Michael Sobell Hospice. Its aim is to support patients with palliative care needs, in order to enable them to maintain their independence in a safe and supported environment, and to provide help for their carers. The "Patient and Family Support Team" helps with psychological and social difficulties, and is made up of a social worker team manager, 4 part time palliative care counsellors, a creative art leader and 12 bereavement counsellors. A palliative care and support help line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It gives access to specialised nursing and medical advice at any time on symptoms' control, syringe pumps and drug use; appropriate place of care and management of palliative care emergencies.

Who can make referrals? Any health care professional, both community and hospital based can make a referral to Michael Sobell Hospice, following assessment of the patient. They do not accept self referrals directly from patients. Referrals are prioritised on an appropriate type and severity of a patient's needs.

Making a donation will help to secure the future of the superlative care provided by the Michael Sobell Hospice.

www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk

Tel. 01923 844829

David John

POLICE MATTERS

The private CCTV systems, co-ordinated by Ickenham Neighbourhood Watch, are meeting with increasing success. Over a three-month period during the summer 7 out of 11 burglaries were caught on CCTV and the images passed to the Police. A recent prosecution of two professional burglars could be traced back to the identification by our CCTV. Perhaps we should change our 'Welcome to Ickenham' signs to 'Ickenham is watching you!' The evidence is that burglaries in our village are almost all by outsiders, arriving by car. We should keep an eye out for slow-moving vehicles, containing two or more men and if there is no obvious reason for their activities, report the reg. no. and a description to 101. Again our local police inspector tells us that it is crucial that all doors of your house are properly locked.



If going away on a break, don't make the mistake of leaving the curtains drawn; by day this will give a clue that the house might be unoccupied. Also, of course, have a light or lights on a time-switch, readily available from B&Q etc.

A month ago I had a letter from China, purporting to come from a business associate of someone with my surname who had died in China. He wished to return to me a sum of money that he (the associate) was holding in trust and would do so on receipt of my bank details. This is a variant of the well-known Nigerian scam, in this case given away by my next-door neighbour receiving an identical letter quoting their surname. I should think that this attempt is costing the gang a lot in postage!

Recently there has been a resurgence of an old scam. A phone call from an alleged 'Microsoft help centre' saying that 'your computer has been hacked into' and offering to fix the 'problem' if you give them details to access the computer. If you fall for this they can then rummage around in your records to gather passwords, pin numbers etc. Particularly deadly if you go in for internet banking. An older version of this was a pop-up message saying 'your computer is running slow, click on the link for help'. You would then be offered, for a fee, a piece of software to 'fix' the problem. The software would be useless, or even worse, might be carrying a virus. Ickenham Neighbourhood Watch has alerted me to a new type of 'malware' e-mail that purports to be an invoice or shipping document. It contains an attachment, that, if opened, will probably infect your computer with a virus. Always be wary of attachments unless you know from where the e-mail originated.

Finally our well-regarded Sector Inspector, David George, has been moved to South Sector and Inspector Rob Bryan has taken charge of the North Teams. **Vic. Silk**

YOUR DELIVERY OF ICKENHAM CALLING

We know from your comments how much you appreciate receiving your quarterly newsletter. As you know, we rely totally on our volunteer team of Area and Roads Stewards to get these to you. Sadly we regularly need to replace some of these for many reasons (people leave / get ill etc) and we are again appealing to you if you think you would be able to help. We need road stewards in 2 particular areas

- a) The Swakeleys Road end of Warren Road
- b) Sussex Road

Although we have someone covering North West Area Stewards duties, we would still like a permanent replacement. Duties are to deliver the quarterly newsletters to the road stewards and to collate the subscription money annually. Help is given in finding road steward replacements should the need occur (see above)— this area covers Breakspear Rd South, St George's Drive, Copthall Rd West, Greenacres Ave, Kenbury Close & Derwent Ave.

If you feel you would like / are able to help in any way, please contact us via the website: Ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com or ring our Membership Secretary on 01895 638367
Thank you in advance. **June Reyner**

PROBLEMS WITH OVERGROWN GARDENS

Following a determined and long campaign by one of our Road Stewards in Thornhill Road , the Council's anti social behaviour team (part of residents services) have succeeded in getting one property owner to finally clear their front garden and remove some abandoned cars, and in another location to get some dangerously overhanging branches cut back.

The Association via the same department has also had similar success with a property in Long Lane and we are pursuing a similar process regarding Pete's Cottage in the High Road.
June Reyner

ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the next Annual General Meeting will be held at Ickenham Village Hall on Friday, 17th April 2015, 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, 20.02.2015

More details of the evening, the full Agenda and Minutes of the 2014 AGM will be included in our next regular newsletter, due for circulation in early March 2015.

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

