

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Autumn 2015

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

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Huge thanks to all those valiant villagers who travelled to the House of Commons to support Brian Adams, Brian Cable and all the other presenters of their petitions to the HS2 Select Committee. It was certainly gratifying to our committee members that so many showed their concerns by filling all the seats set aside for supporters. Naturally, we are devastated that the Select Committee have refused our demands to extend the tunnel, but they do seem to have taken some traffic concerns on board, and asked HS2 Limited to try to mitigate some of the issues that will result. Any traffic measures they do take to try to accommodate the lorry movements may well lead to worse and unacceptable changes to our village.

As expected, Signature Homes has appealed against our Councillors' decision to refuse its planning application, and the Inspector will hear its appeal and our petitions in September. See the details in this newsletter and please do try to attend to show the Councillors your objection, if possible.

In July, some members of the committee attended a meeting with a representative of Douay Martyrs School, and the Trust owners of the land to the south of Clovelly Avenue/west of Burnham Avenue. The family of the current land owners has a history of living in Ickenham, and during past years of sympathetic property development around Milton Road and Milton Court.

Indeed, one of the aims of the Trust is to benefit Ickenham and the Trustees are keen to engage with the community over their proposal to build an extension to the Douay Martyrs School in the centre of the fields, with housing to the north, and gifting the land to the south of the proposed school as a community asset for the benefit of Ickenham. It is hard to see how Ickenham would benefit given that valuable Green Belt land would be lost to yet more development, the housing would bring more traffic via Glebe Avenue, and the admission policy of the school would mean that yet more children would come to the village from outside the area, with few, if any, places available for Ickenham pupils.

The owners of the land are well aware of our objections to their proposals, and we are keen to work with the school to help them find alternative solutions to their current split site arrangements.

At our regular monthly meeting in August, the committee was delighted to welcome Hazel from Chalfont St Peter, who gave us a comprehensive presentation on their experiences putting together a Neighbourhood Plan for their village and environs. Of necessity, it involved a great deal of work from ALL residents living within the parish boundaries, but they are already seeing the benefits to many aspects of village life, including planning, and it is something

that your Committee will be considering over coming months. Watch this space for any further developments.

Jill Dalton

SIGNATURE SENIOR LIFESTYLE – we need your support

Care Home for the Elderly –

88-94 Long Lane ICKENHAM
52129/APP/2014/2996

The Association had objected on 23.10.14 to the above planning application on issues of *Built Environment* in the Ickenham Conservation Area, *Flood Risk Assessment*, *Change of Use*, *Traffic/Safety* and generally *Environmental Impacts*.

A petition with 40 signatures had also been provided. After amendment documents had been submitted by SIGNATURE SENIOR LIFESTYLE and after a thorough research of those new papers, we sent a follow-up objection letter on 03.03.15.

Our Chairman, Jill Dalton, spoke at the Major Applications Planning Committee Meeting on 05.03.15 on behalf of our membership. The Planning committee of the LBH refused permission for the above development on 19.03.15.

In the meantime SIGNATURE SENIOR LIFESTYLE have lodged an appeal against the LBH Refusal Decision and the hearing is scheduled for

**Tuesday, 15th September 2015,
at 10.00am at the Civic Centre,
Uxbridge, Committee Room 4.**

Your Association will be represented at this hearing and we would welcome your support by attending this meeting, if at all possible.

Hanne Raeder

STOP

HS2
(HIGH SPEED RAIL 2)

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

SEE PAGE 2



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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
August 2015



HS2

The petitioners from Ickenham presented to the HS2 Select Committee on 18, 23 and 30 June. All petitioners were asking for mitigation to avoid the issues from construction traffic (from 3 sites) using Ickenham roads and requesting that the tunnel be extended beyond the Colne Valley. The presentations were also individualised showing the very local issues on their neighbours and roads. We had many letters of support where people voiced their concerns over getting to work, caring for their elderly relatives and the potential loss in value to their properties. Ickenham can be very proud of the effort made by these petitioning residents. Thanks also to the many residents of Ickenham who came to Westminster to support the Petitioners, filling the rooms and corridors, and impressing the Select Committee by their numbers. We were supported by presentations from LBH Council Officers, Ward Councillors, the Leader of the Council and finally Nick Hurd (accompanied by Boris Johnson). The presentations were televised and the recordings, starting with June 18, can be seen on:

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/3a5abb0f-c98e-4809-9d6a-49ade9f92c61>

The Select Committee was convinced that the traffic situation in Ickenham is so bad, that it cannot sustain the additional load of 1000 HGVs every day from HS2 construction activity. It requested HS2 to work with TFL to assess whether the planned construction site and railhead between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South could be located at the existing London Underground West Ruislip depot. It requested HS2 to come back in September with the results. IF this was agreed it would significantly reduce the HS2 HGV traffic through Ickenham and it would eliminate the need for conveyor systems working 24/7 behind Copthall Road West, Hoylake Crescent and The Greenway. As there is a working railhead at West Ruislip, materials could be brought in and out by rail from the beginning of the project further reducing the need for HGV traffic anywhere in the area.

Unfortunately, the Select Committee did not agree to extend the tunnel. This is a devastating blow to the Colne Valley, HOAC, our local green spaces (including the golf courses) and it means parts of our community will be affected by noise when the line is operational. We should have the opportunity to take our petitions to the House of Lords in the future, and I am sure this will be approached with yet more determination and enthusiasm by residents and the Association.

Facing the Select Committee, the QCs employed by HS2 and the television cameras was a daunting experience. Petitioners give evidence on oath and sit facing the Chairman and the Committee members, who all have monitors to view exhibits. There are large TV screens for the rest of the room to see the exhibits. To the left of the petitioner is HS2's QC and his assistant, and behind them and down the left hand side of the room is a bevy of HS2 staff and experts.



That said, the Chairman was very considerate of ordinary folk who were appearing and the whole process was courteous and conducted in a very civilised manner.

Some petitioners found it quite intimidating, but showed real courage in presenting the case

for their neighbourhoods and their individual concerns.and to

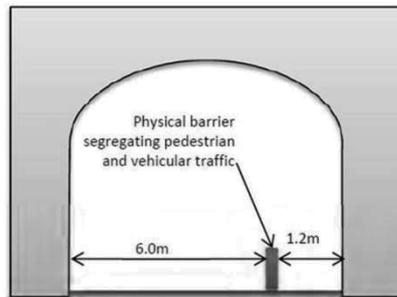
Westminster Hall (photo courtesy of Brian Cable)

walk through the corridors of the House of Commons and be part of a political process was an interesting experience.

HS2 consistent with their previous total disregard for communities sent each of us hundreds of pages of changes just before our presentations, thereby causing confusion. Much of this material was dated early May so could have been made available much earlier. There were interesting gems from HS2 such as our traffic volumes in 2021 will be less than today because of Crossrail, night time working at the West Ruislip tunnel portal will be quieter than the noise level experienced today.

The HS2 QC claimed there had been a rigorous safety assessment of re-routing of the Celandine Way footpath along Breakspear Road South including creating a segregated footpath under the Chiltern Line bridge – we have now received details of this 'rigorous assessment' and as one of our residents commented it looks like someone has spent 10 minutes doing it on the back of an envelope. As the typical width of a lorry is 2.55m it certainly does not look safe for either vehicles or pedestrians.

Cross Section Through Breakspear Road South Bridge



Perhaps the most revealing, showing the competence of HS2 Ltd, was that since May 2013 the residents of Ruislip have been told that the tunnel would be 30 metres under Ruislip. It was spotted on one of the HS2 exhibits during a presentation by a Ruislip ward councillor that the tunnel is actually between 14 and 19 metres under Ruislip.

On 1 July, before Nick Hurd's and Boris Johnson's presentations, HS2 Ltd, via their QC, had to make a grovelling apology to Ruislip and the Select Committee. As Boris Johnson said in his presentation – it is difficult to trust anything in HS2's documentation.

Finally, the Select Committee confirmed that it will take action to remove the 'Heathrow Spurs' from the Hybrid Bill. This removes the threat to Ickenham of extended construction blight as this would have meant another possible 5 years of construction activity.

It does however raise the question of why so much money and time is being wasted on this route as it was only chosen for its proximity to Heathrow. If this project was justified – and to date it has not been justified - there were more direct routes costing less to build, which would have avoided destruction of the Chilterns and our green belt areas. Network Rail has recently announced they are way behind schedule and over budget on existing key projects. The managers who started these projects have now moved to HS2.

To plagiarise a popular journalist....."you couldn't make it up"
Brian Adams



CHAPEL HIGH ROAD ICKENHAM

By the time this edition of *Ickenham Calling* reaches you, the Chapel on the High Road may have been demolished (along with the neighbouring Victorian shops next to the *Soldiers Return*) to make way for new homes. Opened in 1835, the Chapel drew an ever increasing congregation until they transferred to the new Congregational [now URC] Church in the 1930s after a spell worshipping in the Village Hall. After that the Chapel was used occasionally for weddings, but more recently has fallen into considerable disrepair.

LBH heritage experts recently considered whether the Chapel should be put forward for consideration as a listed building. After inspections, it was felt that the building would not meet any of the relevant criteria for listing. It was added to the local list, but such a designation does not afford any genuine protection.

Surveyors' reports warned against entry because of structural instability, and with the current owners of the site keen to demolish, there was no real way to save the building.

The Association did ask that LBH consider whether or not the Chapel could be retained within the new development, but because of its large footprint, state of disrepair and lack of utilities, this was unlikely to be viable.

LBH have insisted that photos be taken before demolition - we will seek copies and would also be interested to hear any local stories about the Chapel for us to record in our library.

So farewell to another local landmark. One positive outcome from the situation has been the start of dialogue between the Association and LBH about the new power that communities have to register buildings as assets of community value. This new 'community right' will be explored by committee members and an update will be provided in the Winter edition of the newsletter.

Chris Mountain

Ickenham Marshes
Partnership



ICKENHAM MARSHES



Ickenham Marshes Entrance

The July river monitoring recorded the highest number of fish since records began (April 2014). Eight Minnows and a Bullhead

found their way into the net during the 3 minute sample period, along with over 100 shrimp. No sign of other target invertebrate species, demonstrating that the water quality still isn't great. If you'd like to get involved on the monthly monitoring, please get in touch.

Thanks to TfL Highways Team and LBH for swift action to repair a section of railings by the A40. The railings had been cut to enable motorbike access. A reminder to all Marshes visitors that, if you are unlucky enough to spot a motorbiker, please report to the Police via the 101 non-emergency number.



Blood Vein Moth / Ickenham Marshes



Large White spotted on Ickenham Marshes

A recent detailed study of the northern part of the Marshes confirmed the presence of a wide variety of flora and fauna, including at least two species of bat, great crested newts and badgers.

The study was commissioned by London Underground, as they continue to press HS2 Ltd to use their depot for construction and spoil transfer- enabling them to build a new depot on the Marshes. LU have wanted to expand onto the Marshes for some time, but the HS2 situation could offer the funding to make the expansion viable.

The HS2 Select Committee have asked HS2 Ltd to further consider the possibility of substantially or completely relocating the large proposed construction site from Harvil Road to the depot to reduce traffic problems during HS2 construction. Driving a new road south through the Marshes to the A40 has also been suggested.

Hopefully, more details will be available before the Select Committee deadline in September. Regardless of the choice made, our rural surroundings and much cherished link to the countryside are profoundly threatened.

Chris Mountain



HEALTH MATTERS

Britain is not in the premier division of the European league table for the provision of cancer services. In a recent study, England/Wales and Scotland languish near the bottom in the number of people still alive five years after being diagnosed as suffering with cancer. Only former "Eastern Bloc" countries, Slovakia, Poland and Estonia have lower survival rates! The figures for all cancers are 37% in England and 33% for Scotland. This survival rate compares unfavourably with 50% in Iceland, 45% in France and 44% in Germany.

The NHS needs to raise its game! Part of the problem is the large regional variations in detection and care of cancer; the post code lottery! London is just about at the bottom of the NHS cancer league table. Too many cancer patients in London are not getting the care they deserve according to a survey by Macmillan Cancer Care. London is a world class city, but it cannot currently claim to have world class cancer outcomes. It is unacceptable in the London Region for 1,000 people to be dying unnecessarily each year, because their cancers are not spotted early enough. Every year 30,000 Londoners are diagnosed with cancer, equivalent to three an hour.

In England amongst the best performing trusts are Harrogate District Financial Trust, and South Tyneside NHS Financial Trust. The poorest performing trusts can be found in and around London, including Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and BARTS Health NHS Trust (well known names in the teaching hospital world). This lottery of care is intolerable, too often there is bad practice, as well as failure in admitting errors in treatment plans. In order to improve the present situation, Simon Stevens, the chief executive of NHS England, is introducing a £2 billion initiative to replace a range of outdated equipment, and quicken the system of referral.

Therefore, it is good news to hear that radical changes to the way the NHS diagnoses and treats cancer will hopefully improve this dreadful situation. There is a five year plan which includes 95% of patients to be given a definitive diagnosis within four weeks; Proposals also include a dedicated call system to enable patients displaying symptoms to bypass their GP and refer themselves for tests. (It will be interesting to see if this is practicable).

GPs to be given the power to order specialist tests such as CAT scans; an 80% increase in the number of cancer tests carried out; major investment in new radiotherapy equipment; national action plans on reducing smoking and obesity; The Cancer Drugs Fund will be over-hauled to ensure patients have access to the latest drugs.

In addition, it is important that people take a more active role in respect of their own health. There is little evidence that this is happening. An important element is about maintaining a better lifestyle. Obesity is overtaking smoking as a major killer. It is thought that 4 in 10 cancers are preventable, and obeying simple rules can reduce one's chances of getting the disease. Despite the lack of performance in some areas, it is obvious that we are very fortunate in having our NHS. Let us not take it for granted, and abuse our good fortune!

David John

POLICE MATTERS

Once again we have had an outbreak of sales cold calling disguised as a survey. In the latest case a 'crime survey', the caller asks for opinions on local crime and tries to get you worried and push the idea of a burglar alarm if you don't already have one. If you fall for this and employ the company, it will cost you dear in inflated 'maintenance fees'. It is, of course, a good idea to fit such an alarm, but get some unbiased advice first.

Another recent problem is distraction robberies. This can occur when you may be stopped in the street and asked for directions etc. There

are usually two people involved, one will get you looking at a map while the other dips into a handbag or shopping basket. Sadly, this means that before being helpful, one must be suspicious and perhaps back up to a fence or wall so that no one can get behind you. The people involved are usually foreigners but are rarely violent, so keeping alert will protect you.

When you read this, it will be September, a good time for planting shrubs and roses. I have previously written about protecting one's garden boundaries, when they abut onto a path, lane or open ground; as many in Ickenham do. Not only houses and sheds get burgled, it is quite common for the pricier garden ornaments to be taken. Fences are all very well, but unless topped with trellis are quite easy for an intruder to climb over. However, if you train a rambler rose along the top of the fence and plant a row of thorny shrubs behind it (holly, berberis or pyracantha), I suspect that any would-be burglar would go away and look for an easier target.

Vic. Silk

ROAD STEWARD SOCIAL 31ST JULY

Despite the appalling traffic in the village on this Friday night approximately 50 souls struggled to St Giles Church Hall for an evening of food / drink and quizzes. Jill Dalton welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She also thanked John Squiers for his many years of service as Membership Secretary and also introduced Maureen Pemberton, our new Membership Secretary.

An enjoyable 2 hours was had by all and the quizzes can't have been too challenging as the winning table got 73% closely followed by 71% and 70%. All the food prepared by Barbara Buckle and her team in the kitchen disappeared. Vic Silk kept the bar running and all the Pimms and other refreshments also went down well. We have had many expressions of thanks for the evening from those who attended, so thank you to those who contacted us.

Should you wish to be part of this happy band and help out by delivering newsletters and collecting subs we are always in need of volunteer Road Stewards.

The role only involves delivering the newsletter 4 times a year and collecting subs once a year in summer. At present we need stewards specifically in and around Warren Road and Hoylake Crescent as well as Sussex Road and its adjoining roads.

If you are interested please contact us either via email ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com or ickres.memsec@gmail.com, or call me on 01895 234771. Please leave a message, if I am out.

June Reyner

OPEN HOUSE LONDON 2015

SWAKELEYS HOUSE will be open on SAT 19.09.15 from 10am - 5pm

BATTLE OF BRITAIN BUNKER at RAF Uxbridge, St. Andrews Road, on SAT/SUN 19./20.09.15 from 10am to 5pm. Pre-book only: 01895 238154

Further information on openhouselondon.org.uk

