

Ickenham Calling

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

Affiliated to the Hillingdon Alliance of Residents' Associations.
Member of London Wildlife Trust 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

Our thanks to those many resident members who turned out for the AGM, confirming their interest in our village, and supporting their Committee. It was a very encouraging and pleasant evening, most useful to listen to our Councillors and Dr Sahota, and of course great to meet all of you again.

I'll reiterate Humphrey's plea at the AGM, and Brian Adams' request under the HS2 section of this newsletter, for as many of you as possible to attend the hearings at the House of Commons on **June 18, June 22 and June 23** and support your local petitioners. HS2 plans will cause the biggest ever upheaval and disruption to our lovely village, so these petitions, and their supporters, are our best chance to make a difference!

Thanks also to those residents who attended the planning hearing for Signature Homes proposed development, back in March. Our Councillors rejected that application but we are concerned that Signature plan to reapply – again we hope that neighbours and Ickenham residents will attend the planning hearing, wherever possible, to show their feelings about this development.

At the HARA (Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations) meeting, the Heathrow Villages group reported that

the Davis Report is due to be published on 20th June, and it is widely believed that it will be in favour of expanding Heathrow Airport. Even if Gatwick Airport were to be chosen, it is understood that Heathrow would still be trying for the 3rd runway, and a sixth terminal combined with Terminal 5.

That would entail the loss of approximately 5,000 homes, mostly occupied by Heathrow workers who would need to be re-housed in the vicinity.

Jill Dalton



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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
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HS2

Ickenham & West Ruislip Petitions

Your neighbours and fellow residents will be appearing before the HS2 Select Committee in the House of Commons June 18, June 22 and June 23 to fight against HS2's plans which will cause years of congestion, pollution and noise in Ickenham and West Ruislip.

This for many of us will be a daunting experience, but we must try to get improvements to HS2's plans. **Please come and support us.** Your appearance with us in the House of Commons **will make a difference.**

The hearings are open to the public; you only need to go there.
(Underground to Westminster (Jubilee Line); entrance via St Stephens Gate; Committee Room 5)
See details www.ickenhamresidents.co.uk or email ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com

Thursday, June 18 2015	09.30 – 12.30 Ickenham Residents' Association / West Ruislip / Breakspear School
Monday, June 22 2015	12.30 – 21.00 Ickenham High Road + adjoining roads / The Greenway / Milton Court / Hoylake Crescent + adjoining roads / Swakeleys Road + adjoining roads / Brackenbury House
Tuesday, June 23 2015	09.30 – 12.00 Breakspear Road South / Harvil Road + adjoining roads / Vyners School / Warren Road



HS 2

Recent nationwide polls show that less than 1% of the UK population believe that building HS2 is a spending priority. The House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee published their report into HS2 in March 2015 after 6 months exhaustive investigation and came to conclusion the Government's case for investing £50,000,000,000 was very poor. (These cost estimates are based on 2011 prices and we therefore all know they will rise significantly).

In March this year a new study presented on the multi-billion euro investments made on Spain's AVE high-speed rail system concluded that the costs were "neither beneficial to businesses nor society," and did not compensate passenger savings in airline tickets or time spent on the road. In France a public enquiry into two proposed high-speed TGV lines between Bordeaux -Toulouse and Bordeaux - Dax has come out unequivocally against the lines. The report states that the economic benefits of the lines are not clear, their profitability is highly questionable, the funding is uncertain, and there are significant environmental and social objections. Significantly, it follows hot on the heels of a highly critical report of the TGV network submitted to the Government last October by the French National Audit Office.

At the time of writing this, HS2 Ltd and the Department of Transport are refusing to publish the results of polls they have taken, funded by you, the tax payers.

A year ago we had a unanimous vote (with one abstention) for the Association to petition to Parliament against the plans of HS2 Ltd. for our area. These plans include 3 construction sites, over 1,000 HGV vehicles a day on our already congested roads and dumping

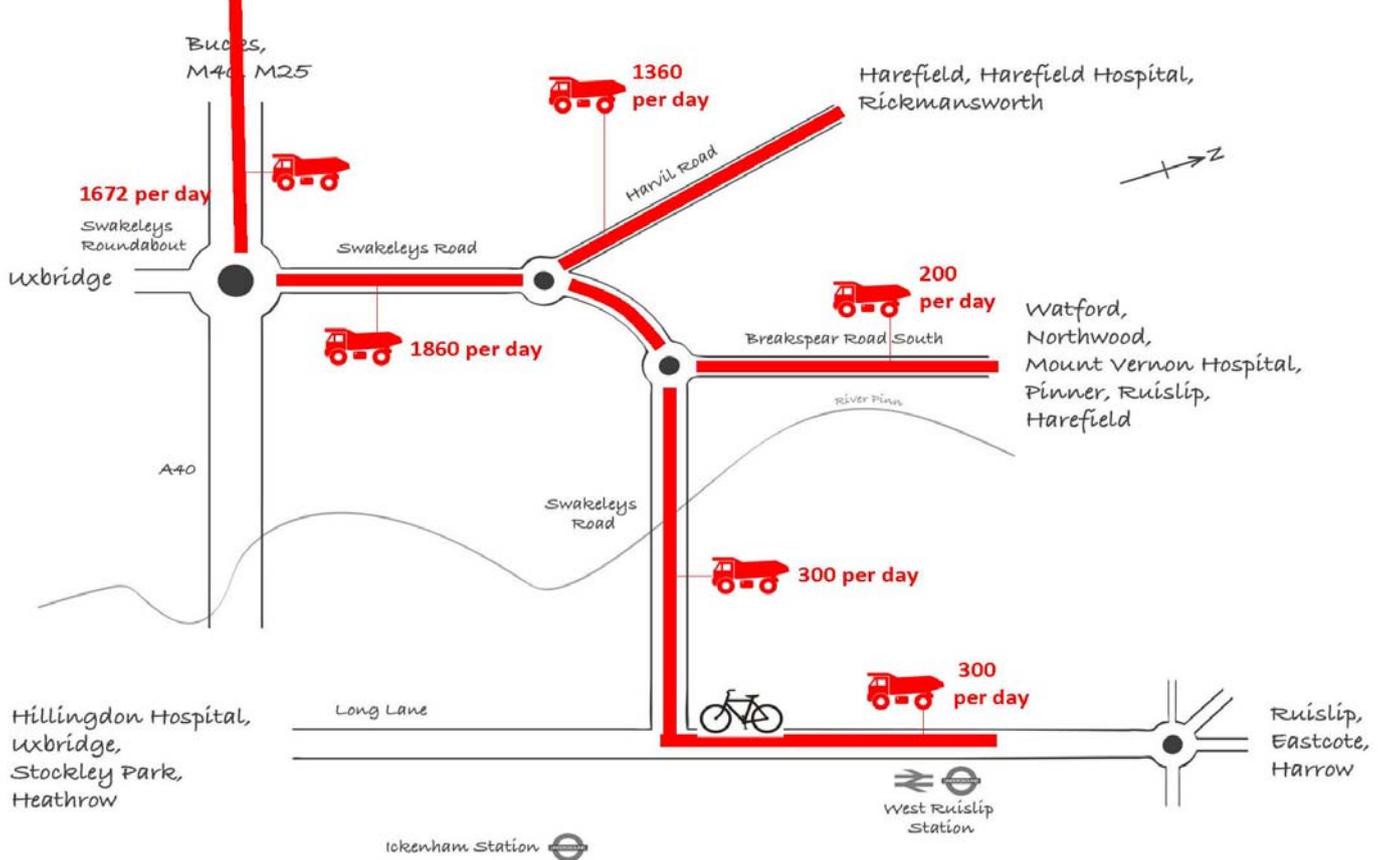
of soil on greenbelt fields. The Harvil Road site will be there for at least 10 years and would have 2 concrete factories, a lorry park and will be a major depot. Conveyor systems and a haul road will be running 24/7 behind The Greenway and Hoylake Crescent. The West Ruislip site will be there for 7 years working 24/7 . Our neighbours in Harefield have 7 sites. And after all this devastation to our environment and quality of life we would have the line running through our area with trains every 1.6 minutes – HS2 Ltd in their Environmental Statement recognise that there would be adverse effects from noise, pollution and congestion on many roads .

Thanks to the intervention of Nick Hurd, the compensation scheme recognised us as a rural zone and a few people in The Greenway can claim full compensation; BUT the compensation scheme does not recognise construction blight and many people in Ickenham will be blighted once construction starts.

The Association identified many issues with HS2 plans and it is obvious that these plans have not been thought through. With much assistance from LBH council officers we submitted our petition last May. The petitioning process used archaic language and was complex, but a number of Ickenham and West Ruislip residents worked with us and collected 1,300 signatures from their neighbours in the streets most affected. In total we submitted 28 petitions from Ickenham and West Ruislip including the governing bodies of Breakspear and Vyners schools.

The HS2 Select Committee of MPs started work in September 2014 and has almost 2,000 petitions to hear (5 times the number for HS1). Nick Hurd has supported our group and in January organised for this Select Committee to visit the Colne Valley, Harefield, Ickenham and West Ruislip. On the day we had a

HS2 Ltd's forecast of HS2 HGV movements PER DAY in 2021





magnificent turn out and the Chairman of the Committee remarked that they had not experienced such a turnout on visits to other areas.

We are now in the process of getting ready to present our petitions to the Select Committee – **we will be presenting to the Committee June 18, June 22 and June 23.** You can see the schedule on the Association website <http://www.ickenhamresidents.co.uk>. It is going to be a very daunting experience to be in the House of Commons in front of MPs being televised and we are very proud of the 'volunteers' who are working hard on their presentations and are willing to stand up and present. We are getting excellent support from the Council Officers.

Our neighbours in Harefield have already presented their petitions and did an outstanding job. They have been giving us tips and hints and we thank them for their support.

We are approx. 11,500 people in Ickenham/West Ruislip and 7,000 in Harefield – we are all going to be adversely affected by HS2 Ltd plans. But it does not stop there – hundreds of people from Northwood, Pinner, Harrow, Ruislip, Eastcote and so on travel through Ickenham every day to go to work in Uxbridge, Heathrow, Stockley Park and they will be affected. The congestion will impact on journeys to Hillingdon, Harefield and Mount Vernon Hospitals.

We are petitioning to get the tunnel extended from West Ruislip to the M25. This removes much of the damage from Ickenham & Harefield, although there will still be a need for ventilation shafts and electricity stations. The Council have commissioned studies of extending the tunnel and the socio economic damage to our area if the tunnel is not extended - this demonstrates that the tunnel can be extended and the costs difference between a tunnel or no tunnel is very close. Nick Hurd, Sir John Randall, Boris Johnson all support the tunnel extension. HS2 Ltd once again shows the same disregard for our community and has dismissed the Council's conclusions.

LBH will be presenting their petition June 15 - 17 and this will be very critical to the success or otherwise of our petitions.

Our group of petitioners will be representing you and the 11,500 Ickenham and West Ruislip residents - **we would like as many people as possible to go to Parliament and support your fellow residents.**

We will publicise how to get to the committee room in the House of Commons. PLEASE make every effort to attend and tell your friends and neighbours – this will have an impact on the Select Committee.

Brian Adams

ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM

This took place on April 17th this year in the Village Hall. We were pleased to welcome 5 of our Local Councillors - David Simmonds, John Hensley, Philip Corthorne, Brian Crowe and John Riley. We also welcomed our GLA Representative, Dr Onkar Sahota, and our local Metropolitan Police Inspector Rob Bryan.

The hall was fuller than I have ever seen it – approximately 170 members attended. We welcomed 3 new committee members: Maureen Pemberton taking over as Membership Secretary, Ian Phillips taking over as Treasurer and David Tebbutt taking over as Minutes Secretary. We also bade farewell to John Squiers, who stood down from both the committee and the Membership Secretary role after 21 years active involvement. Jill Dalton expressed our sincere and grateful thanks and presented John with



Ickenham Residents' Association Chairman and Committee Members



LBH Councillors David Simmonds, Phil Corthorne and John Hensley, GLA Representative, Dr. Onkar Sahota,

2 rose bushes. His wife Brenda was also presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Humphrey Tizard appealed from the stage for everyone there to make the effort to get to the Houses of Parliament on the days we present our petitions concerning HS2 to the select committee. The audience were in favour. We will send out the information once the details and dates are confirmed. If you would like to join us, please follow those at the meeting who agreed to include their names in our mailing list and email ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com to be added to our list.

The meeting closed at 9:20 when everyone enjoyed a drink and light refreshments and the opportunity to speak to the committee and our local representatives.

June Reyner

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

Through "Ickenham Calling", my wife, Brenda, and I would like to thank the Association for their unexpected and most generous gifts and card, which were presented to us at the AGM to mark our so-called retirement. Brenda received a large bouquet of pink, mauve and white chrysanthemums, daisies and carnations, and I received two rose bushes of a variety called "happy retirement". Although advancing years and health problems have



John Squiers' farewell address

forced me into taking a back seat, we shall continue to do our bit for the Association. Brenda will continue to help with refreshments at our functions, and I will continue as area steward for Brackenbury, as well as being available for any small jobs that need doing urgently.

I was unaware that I had served 21 years on the committee and eleven of them as Membership Secretary, I have always found it a worthwhile cause to work for. I have greatly appreciated the loyalty and support I have received from the area and road stewards, because without them, there would be no means of members being kept informed without "Ickenham Calling", and the annual collection of subscriptions is our principal source of income. May I also express a special thanks to June Reyner and Barbara Buckle for their help especially during the past year, when I have found the going rather tough, in sorting out the magazines for distribution to the area stewards.

In general, I have found that most area and road stewards enjoy doing the job. It is not too time consuming (magazine distribution once a quarter) and providing people are at home and answer the door, the annual collection of subscriptions can be a reward. Unlike requests for money from many charities, callers for our subscription are generally most welcome, and like to have a chat with the steward; this should be encouraged at all costs.

My successor as Membership Secretary is Maureen Pemberton. Please give her the same support you have given me.

Brenda and John Squiers.

LOCAL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

The Council will be consulting on the Local Plan again in June/July. Part 1 of the plan (covering development policies), is already in place. Part 2 (covering development sites) will be out for consultation – copies will

be available in the library and on the LBH website (in Planning / Planning policies & guidance / Local Plan).

Ickenham does not feature heavily in Part 2, with most of the development over the next 15 years expected in the South of the Borough, but views are being sought on slight changes to local green space designations, the scale of our high street and to areas of archaeological importance. The committee will scrutinise and comment on the consultation – please get in touch, if you would like us to take on board any thoughts or suggestions on the proposals. Unfortunately the timescales are not yet clear, but we expect a 6 week consultation ending in mid-June.

The committee will also soon be discussing the pros and cons of an Ickenham Neighbourhood Plan to complement the Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are a new tier of the planning system, which offer local residents and businesses the opportunity to write locally specific and legally binding planning policies. More than 2,000 communities in England are developing plans – by agreeing local priorities on things like shops, housing, green space and other facilities. You can follow the progress of nearby Neighbourhood Planning groups online – to our west, Chalfont St Peter have just voted to approve their plan. To our south the Heathrow villages are just starting theirs. East are Sudbury, whose draft plan is currently being considered by the Council, and north in Rickmansworth the plan seems to have stalled because the council and local people didn't agree on the area the plan should cover.

Do get in touch if you have thoughts on an Ickenham Neighbourhood Plan – if we do decide to write one, it'll need to be a real community-wide effort.

Chris Mountain

REMINDER OF THE LAWS ON PAVING OVER FRONT GARDENS

The flooding we experienced in Ickenham last summer was caused by a combination of factors - lots of rain, lack of capacity in the drainage system and lack of green space to soak up the rain. With this in mind, it's worth reflecting on the factor which we can have as direct influence over available green space.

Specific rules apply for householders wanting to pave over their front gardens. Planning permission from the Council is required if you want to use concrete or any other non-permeable material - and direct run-off onto the street.

You do not need planning permission if a new or replacement driveway uses permeable (or porous) surfacing which allows water to drain

through, such as gravel, permeable concrete block paving or porous asphalt, or if the rain-water is directed to a lawn or border to drain naturally.

Please don't hesitate to bring this up if your neighbours are thinking about a new drive! I've mentioned the rules on several occasions recently. Yes, I may have come across as a bit of a bore, but homes were flooded in Ickenham last year, and with cloudbursts set to be more common in the future, we all need to do our bit.

Chris Mountain



ICKENHAM MARSHES

The fantastic flowering cycles of the meadows are now underway, with lady's smock (also known as cuckoo flower - photo below) blooming first, followed by buttercups, daisies, clover and vetch flowers blooming one after the next. River samples in March and April have identified the return of mayfly larvae - an indicator of



Lady's Smock / Cuckoo Flower

good water quality. Freshwater shrimp were found in the Ickenham stream.

The Pinner RSPB group visited the Marshes recently and spotted an impressive 38 bird species - a full report can be found on the Marshes website. The summer events schedule has been agreed. The meeting points for all events is the gate at the junction of Austin's Lane and Glebe Ave. and the dates for diaries are below.

More info and contact details are on the website www.ickenhammarshes.wordpress.com.

SUMMER EVENTS:

Yeading Brook/Ickenham Stream Balsam Bash Sunday 7th June, 10am-12

The annual Himalayan Balsam bash aims to halt the spread of this damaging alien species. The Balsam spreads like wild-fire and sucks the life out of rivers by blocking sunlight and damaging banks. All you'll need is sensible footwear and gloves. Trousers and sleeves are recommended, as Balsam sometimes grows next to nettles.

River Monitoring Saturday 20th June, 3pm-4

Help local volunteers count the invertebrates in the Brook - results are recorded monthly up and down the river to track water quality and detect pollution incidents.

Path clearing/litter picking Saturday 4th July, 4pm-6

Gloves and sensible footwear are required - bring your own cutting tools if you like. The paths need regular cutting to ensure they remain passable during the summer.

Marshes Treasure Hunt Monday 27th July, 10am-12

Start the Summer holidays with a kids treasure hunt on the Marshes. The event will be great fun, and will hopefully inspire local families to visit the Marshes throughout the summer. All you'll need is sensible footwear.

River Monitoring Saturday 15th August, 3pm-4

Help local volunteers count the invertebrates in the Brook - results are recorded monthly up and down the river to track water quality and detect pollution incidents.

Path clearing/litter picking Saturday 5th Sept, 4pm-6

Gloves and sensible footwear are required - bring your own cutting tools if you like. The paths need regular cutting to ensure they remain passable during the summer.



Pond Clearing - Sunday 20th Sept. 10am-12

Old maps show 12 ponds on the marshes, but several have disappeared because of a lack of maintenance. Overhanging branches need trimming to slow the decline of these important wildlife havens.

All you'll need are gloves and sensible footwear. Please also bring cutting tools if you've got them.

Chris Mountain

HEALTH MATTERS

It has been said that "general medical practice is the bedrock of the NHS and without GPs the rest of the health service crumbles". Over 90% of NHS patient contacts take place within general practice. GP teams are now seeing 40 million patients a year more than they were 5 years ago. (figures from The Royal College of General Practitioners). You have probably noticed that it is taking longer to get an appointment to see your GP.

At the moment one in six patients have to wait a least a week before they see a GP. A two-week wait for a GP appointment may well become the norm in many practices within a year. The National Association for Patient Participation said that patient groups were preparing to help practices by promoting self-care.

Before you make an appointment to see your GP, consider the alternatives. It may be possible to contact your surgery by phone, and arrange a personal call from your doctor, for a consultation, and thus possibly obviate the need for an appointment. Another alternative is that the pharmacist behind the counter at your local chemist may be able to give you the help you need. Pharmacists are highly trained professionals and may offer a wider range of health services than you might think.

It is estimated that every year 50 million visits to the GP are made for minor ailments, such as coughs and colds, mild eczema and athlete's foot. But by visiting your pharmacy instead, you could save yourself time & trouble.

All pharmacists should be able to recognise many common health complaints. They can give advice on, where appropriate, medicines that will help clear up the condition. If your problem is more serious and needs the attention of a GP, your pharmacist will recognise this and advise you to see your GP instead. What's more, many pharmacies open in the evenings and at weekends. If everybody went to a pharmacist with common health problems, more time would be freed up for our GPs.

This might make it easier to get a convenient appointment with your GP next time you need one. So, your pharmacist may be able to help with minor skin conditions, coughs and colds, nasal congestion and a sore throat. Also minor cuts & bruises, digestive difficulties, warts, verrucas, athlete's foot, mouth ulcers, and also on the list, nappy rash & teething problems.

In more serious cases, Mount Vernon's Minor Injuries Unit, and Hillingdon Hospital's Urgent Care Centre are available to us locally. They can treat sprains & strains, broken bones, wound infection, minor burns & scalds, minor head injuries, insect and animal bites, minor eye injuries, injuries to the back, shoulder & chest. You can also call the NHS111, where you can get advice, and if needed, be directed to the appropriate local service, which may be a Minor Injury Unit (nurse led) or an Urgent Care Centre, rather than going straight to A&E.

David John

POLICE MATTERS

First the good news. The Area Policing model seems to be working well. In particular the introduction of proactive policing. This can take various forms, but the outstanding success has been the 53% (from 83 to 40) reduction in thefts from motor vehicles in the North of the Borough, when comparing the figures for March 2014 and March 2015 (the latest available at the time of writing).

This was achieved by police contacting owners of cars left with valuables on display, or even left unlocked! Plus a media (including social media) blitz. In addition, raids have been made on the homes of known criminals, often finding evidence of wrongdoing. The amusing side of this is that worried residents have sometimes reported suspect cars with men in them, hanging around, that have proved to be covert police operations; but don't let this stop you from ringing 101. The police don't mind.

Now to the latest scam. This takes the form of an e-mail message, looking very official with the right logos, purporting to come from Virgin Media or BT, with a message along the lines of 'Your last payment not received' or 'Unable to process your last payment'. 'Please confirm your bank details'. I am indebted to Neighbourhood Watch for this alert after a local resident received the 'BT' version but does not have a contract with BT.

There was also an error in the origin address. Anyway, if you get anything like this, don't respond and delete it right away. A mini-statement from your bank's ATM will probably show that the payment has been made, if not, sort it out by 'phone.

Finally, my seasonal appeal not to make life easy for burglars by leaving ground floor windows and even upper casements open when going out. It is not unknown for burglars to pose as workmen or window cleaners while breaking in at upstairs windows.

Vic Silk

ICKENHAM VILLAGE HALL AGM

This was held on 23rd April in the Village Hall.

You may not be aware but this vital village amenity is run entirely by volunteers. At this year's AGM they reported a very busy year in improving the hall. They have redecorated inside and outside (including remedial plaster work inside) the electrics have been refurbished and improved and the floor completely renovated and varnished.

They do an excellent job on behalf of all of the village community and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. They are always looking for new volunteers and members. Membership is £1 for life. If you would be interested in joining / getting involved, this Association is happy to pass on your details with your permission if you contact us at ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com

June Reyner