

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Autumn 2017

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



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Members of the committee attended the recent Planning Forum, a meeting regularly organised by LBH, and were reassured by the Planning Officers confirmation that, so far as they were concerned, "Green Belt means Green Belt" and there were no plans for any land to be released at least for now, neither for schools nor any other purpose.

HS2 rumbles on, despite a recent spate of anti- comments from MP's in the House of Commons, and works are currently being undertaken in Harvil Road to move a gas pipeline under the existing Chiltern Line railway. Traffic lights have been installed to ease the flow of construction traffic (and no doubt hinder other Harvil Road users).

The Residents Committee have long campaigned for a sensible plan to make the whole Pump junction and zebra crossing safer after many accidents in that area.

Eventually, LBH with other bodies formulated a system which was put out for consultation. Quite a few objections were raised, including our own, but we still await formal notification of the consultation results. We have, however, been forewarned that these may well have to be changed to incorporate HS2 requirements. We will of course keep monitoring the situation.

Jill Dalton



There continues to be a huge, nationwide debate about HS2 - in the Lords and the Commons, in the Press,

on Question Time, on Social Media.

Lord Framlingham and Dennis Skinner MP, have made impassioned pleas for a rethink

on HS2 and many other MPs are questioning the scheme, especially as more communities are discovering how they will be affected.

See:

<http://stophs2.org/news/17038-lord-framlington-afraid-truth-hs2>

<http://stophs2.org/news/17134-dennis-skinner-government-get-real-reassess-hs2>

There has also been much discussion as contractors have been appointed, the Phase 2 route was announced, and HS2 Ltd's 2016/17 Annual Report and Accounts were published.

HS2 Costs and Annual Report and Accounts:

On 17 July Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport, appeared in the Commons to make a speech following the publication of a written statement.

He fended off criticisms of the projected £56bn cost of the HS2 high-speed rail line in an unusual late-night ministerial statement sparked by MPs' disquiet over the Government's handling of the project. Mr Grayling was forced to come to the House of Commons after 10pm to make a formal announcement after MPs complained about the Government issuing details of the plans. "HS2 will be the new backbone of the UK rail network," Mr Grayling told the Commons. "It will transform the network from one built for the 19th century into one designed for the 21st century." "There will be concern about how HS2 will affect homes, communities and businesses along the route, but I am determined that we will engage extensively with everyone affected and that we will show fairness, compassion and respect."

See the statement in full at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hs2-update-phase-2a-and-phase-2b>

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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 2017



Mr Grayling has also said it is *“incredible, inconceivable and simply nonsense”* to suggest that the cost of the 351-mile line is set to spiral. *“This project has a cost attached of £55.7 billion for the whole thing, it is currently on time and on budget and I expect it to stay that way.”*

The HS2 Annual Report and Accounts, published 19 July 2017, showed that the company spent £500million in the year to March 31 2017 - up almost 30 per cent from £352.9million the year before. It takes the total amount spent by HS2 so far to more than £1.9billion since 2009. Separate accounts published by the Department for Transport also showed it has spent another £366million on HS2. The bulk of this was on compensating individuals and businesses who own property and land near the planned line.

HS2 has already cost taxpayers almost £2.3billion before a single piece of track has been laid; this while the Department for Transport has just cancelled much needed plans to electrify rail lines in the Midlands, Wales and the North.

Contractors:

Also on the 17 July Cheryl Gillan, MP for Chesham and Amersham, thanked the Secretary of State for appearing in the House and asked of the £6.6 billion being awarded to contractors: *“ just by glancing at recent news reports, we see that Strabag, an Austrian firm, is pulling out of a hydroelectric plant contract in Bosnia, having sought to increase the contract price.*

Skanska UK has revealed major project cost overruns and write-downs of £33 million. Costain has yet to reach a settlement for a private finance initiative project contract with the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority, where it has already incurred £15 million of losses.

Last December the Health and Safety Commission confirmed that Kier Infrastructure and Overseas Ltd was being prosecuted for three incidents that took place during the construction of the Crossrail tunnel. That is in addition to Carillion’s well documented financial problems, which mean that it is having to restructure.

Can he confirm that he knew about all those matters, that he has carried out due diligence on those companies, and that the taxpayer is not in reality carrying unacceptable risks on the construction of HS2?”

To which the answer, of course, was *“We of course monitor the fitness for contracts of all the companies we award contracts to.”* so that must mean we can all relax.....

<https://www.cherylgillan.co.uk/news/hs2-concept-reality>

Meanwhile in Ickenham...

Local Environmental Management Plan:

On the 5 July HS2 published plans setting out the site-specific control measures for HS2 contractors working within local authorities along the Phase One route. The Hillingdon Plan can be seen at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/624675/hillingdon_local_environmental_management_plan.pdf

Harvil Road and diversion of gas mains:

The first Ickenham HS2 works have started with area wide ecological surveys. These will be followed by site clearance in advance of gas main diversion works at two sites to the east of Harvil Road, one near the bridge over the Chiltern Line and one near the Dogs’ Trust.

These diversions, of one 48” and one 18” gas mains, are necessary to clear the way for building the HS2 route. HS2 have assured us that there will be no disruption of gas supplies.

The site clearance and survey work will be completed by the HS2 Early Works Contractors followed by diversion works by Cadent Gas (formerly part of National Grid). These works will continue from September 2017 to November 2018 and will significantly add to the number of vehicles using Harvil Road.

Air Pollution:

Our invitation to Sadiq Khan, to visit the area to see for himself the problems which HS2 will create, has not yet been accepted but, to be fair, he has had a lot of high priority things to deal with over the last few months.

HS2 Traffic Congestion:

Our HS2 group continues to meet the Council officers who, in turn, continue to meet HS2 Ltd and Transport for London in an attempt to progress to a final agreement about how to deal with the extra traffic caused by HS2 vehicles. At the moment the HS2 Engagement Team seems sure that putting signals on Swakeleys Roundabout will solve all the problems.

HS2 Engagement Team:

On 4th July the HS2 group attended another frustrating meeting with the HS2 Engagement Team and again it was quite evident how little they understand our area. There were no straightforward answers, any answer is caveated and so many decisions depend upon the contractors. Many of our questions were taken away with a promise to contact us once



they have answers; at the end of July, despite reminders being sent to them, we are still waiting.

The Agreement between LBH and HS2 Ltd, which was drafted days before our petitions to the House of Lords Select Committee in November, has yet to be signed. This agreement should provide us with assurances for some mitigation against the impacts of the construction activities; the Contractors that have now been appointed for different sections of the track have sixteen months to complete their detailed designs and should take previous assurances into account. We have concerns that new members of HS2 do not understand the issues we have been fighting for six years and we have asked for meeting with the Contractors so they hear first-hand the residents' concerns.

Much more information:

This 'Ickenham Calling' report (as at the time of writing, 26 July 2017) covers just a small part of all the discussions and documents published since the Summer edition.

To keep up-to-date you can find 100s of documents within the HS2 website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited

and on the STOP HS2 website: <http://stophs2.org> as well as all the many articles in the press and on TV.

Beryl Upton

JOHN SQUIERS

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of John Squiers.



John's involvement with the Association began in 1988 when he became Road Steward for Breakspear Road South. He joined the committee in April 1994, becoming Membership secretary in 2004, holding that post till 2015. He was an enthusiastic and diligent member of the committee. His courteous, smiling presence was always to be seen supporting us at AGMs, Festivals, Festive Evenings etc. in all weathers. He organised several Road Stewards' evenings as well as other social occasions. He was Area Steward for Brackenbury for many years and continued in this role until his health made this impossible.

He was very persuasive on the Association's behalf. If he called to discuss an offer of help a member had made, they somehow ended up doing more than they had originally thought!! He was also one of life's true gentlemen in both senses of the word a very gentle man and an old fashioned courteous man. He will be greatly missed.

June Reyner

MEMBERSHIP

Volunteer Road Stewards Required

Unfortunately, this summer we have seen an unprecedented number of resignations from road stewards due to ill health or relocation. We rely on an army of volunteers to distribute the quarterly newsletters and collect subscriptions once a year. We are particularly looking for help in the following areas:

- Burford Close, Applewood Close and Walnut Close
- Warren Road
- Campden Road
- Parkfield Road
- Hoyle Crescent and surrounding roads
- Swakeleys Road shops

If you could spare a few hours every three months to assist we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please email me at ickres.memsec@gmail.com.

Maureen Pemberton
(Membership Secretary)

ROAD STEWARDS' SOCIAL 18TH AUGUST

Around 60 people including road stewards with their companions and some members of our committee enjoyed a couple of hours together in St Giles Church Hall on Friday Evening 18th August.

Our membership Secretary welcomed everyone and thanked them for their efforts for without the Stewards we would not get the newsletters delivered nor our subs collected.

An enjoyable evening was had by all. Those attending were treated to an excellent buffet spread prepared by Barbara Buckle and her team of helpers. Vic Silk kept the drinks flowing all evening. Everyone's brains were stretched by the quiz challenges, with the winning team receiving boxes of chocolates. Wooden spoons were presented to those with the lowest score.

Thanks to everyone for staying to help clear everything away at the end.

June Reyner

FLIGHT SAFETY

We have been asked by RAF Northolt to remind you about these issues

1. Directed Light/lasers

This is still an issue in the UK and particular London.

Oct 15 – Cardiff man jailed for 6 months – four counts of targeting aircraft.

Feb 16 – Directed laser forced Virgin jet to return to Heathrow.

It is a Criminal Offence – please report to civilian police.

2. Chinese Lanterns

2 found as 'FOD' on airfield in Q1. These are dangerous to aircraft.

3. Drones

Follow The Civil Aviation Authority's The Drone Code.

<http://dronesafe.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Dronecode.pdf>

June Reyner



NATURE RESERVES Frays Farm Meadow & Denham Lock Wood

The annual glow worm walk organised by local London Wildlife Trust volunteers attracted around 30 walkers this year, coming from as far afield as Croydon. Once relatively common, glow worms, like many insect species, are struggling these days. We spotted around 10 - half the number sighted last year. You'll recall that June was hot and dry, which may have shortened the glowing season. Typically, the females only glow on warm evenings to attract a mate. Once they've mated, they don't glow again. BBC Country File had apparently enquired about filming the walk, but ended up doing a piece on Woodberry Wetlands instead.

The proposed HS2 haul road would impact a section of the Frays Farm Meadow more famous for rare water vole than rare glow worms. At the time of writing, there is still no definitive news on whether the temporary haul road will be built (to alleviate traffic on the roads).

Freezeland Covert

I recently visited one of our lesser known wild spots, squeezed between the main A40 carriageway and the southern slip road, behind what was

the Master Brewer Hotel. It is accessed via a yellow gate at the end of Freezeland Way. The covert was segmented when the A40 was re-routed in the 1990s and despite the rumble of traffic, it is a pleasant area, banked on all sides and featuring mature oak, various herb and flower species and a lily pond. It is hoped that future development at the Master Brewer would fund a rejuvenation of the area (which benefits from Green Belt protection), with improved access from Hillingdon Station to the west and the Hillingdon Trail to the east.

The Marshes

Anyone who has visited the Ickenham Marsh Nature Reserve recently (the nature reserve at the heart of the Marshes complex) will have seen the four cows that have been with us this summer. We hope to arrange a scything session in early September to cut down some of the larger tussocks that the cows have turned their noses up at. Keep an eye on the Marshes website or the entry sign for news of dates.

Chris Mountain

HEALTH MATTERS

At a recent monthly meeting of Community Voice, the guest speaker, D. Sheru George, spoke about the planned new "Skin Centre" at Mount Vernon Hospital. He leads a diverse skin specialty service (dermatology) at Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Financial Trust. There is an international shortage of dermatologists, and there are too few in the UK.

However, luckily, there is a specialised 18-member team, including 3 consultants, with nurse clinics and outreach facilities over a wide area, in locations such as central London, West Herts, and Great Missenden. Their main problem is lack of space to serve their patients as they would wish. Services have been provided in a total of ten outlets across Hillingdon and Mount Vernon Hospitals,

with significant lack of space for surgical interventions.

Therefore, there is a need for a central integrated skin centre. It will be built alongside the Treatment Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital, and the plan is for a new single storey building, with foundations that would allow development of a second storey at a later date. It is hoped that building should start this September. It will generate income for the Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT, which will benefit the Trust and all its patients.

Much of their work will be to cope with the increasing incidence of skin cancers. We can define them as cancers that arise from the skin. They are due to the development of abnormal cells that have the ability to spread to other parts of the body. There are three main types; Basal Cell Cancer (BCC); Squamous Cell Cancer (SCC); (These are in a group known as non-melanomas). They are cancers that slowly develop in the upper layers of the skin. Finally, there is melanoma, which is a more dangerous form of skin cancer. In recent years, skin cancer has become more common in the UK. This is thought to be the result of increased exposure to intense sunlight while on holiday abroad. There has been an increasing trend in the incidence of melanoma since the early 1990s' of +119%.

The top 5 tips on how to stay safe in the sun: Apply liberal amounts of sunscreen at regular intervals. A sunscreen with a high SPF (sun protection factor) will help prevent the skin from burning; Wear more clothes, i.e. wearing a hat, sunglasses, and cover the shoulders and back of the neck; Where possible sit in the shade; in the work situation apply sunscreen before sitting outside in a lunch break; And finally, monitor your moles. It is essential to regularly monitor your moles, if any change in colour, size, shape, bleed or become sensitive to touch, then seek a review by your GP or Dermatologist.

David John



POLICE MATTERS

In October, Inspector Rob Bryan (who lives in Ickenham) will return as North sector Inspector, taking over from Inspector Paul Trice, after a period filling a Chief Inspector's role at Uxbridge, while the incumbent was on maternity leave. All London police officers are to be issued with tablet computers to remove the need for them to return to the station to enter reports onto the computer system, so if you see one sitting in his car, or even a coffee shop, typing away, he or she is filing a report, not playing games!

There are still cases coming to light where identity theft is causing loss due to bank or credit card statements being chucked into recycling bags unshredded. There was a recent case in Ickenham where a credit card statement was removed from a bag and the card reported lost to the company. The crook then pretended to be the householder when the postman came round, seemingly doing some weeding in the front garden, accepted and signed for the mail and promptly went on a spending spree. All the more easy now that most cards are 'contactless'. Personally, when I wish to dispose of old statements, I take them into the garden and burn them. As most recycling is put out overnight, it is vulnerable to early rifling. If you should be up early and notice anyone sorting through a neighbour's bags ring 999 at once.

Although we had a burglary peak in March this year, over the past five years the number of burglaries in Hillingdon has fallen from around 4000 per annum to around 2500. Probably, in part, due to the spread of CCTV. Incidentally, the incident of the fake gardener above was caught on one of our cameras and a good description of the man given to the police.

By the time you read this the evenings will be drawing in, so make sure you don't have a dark house before you get home. Leave lights on or fit a simple time-switch. Autumn is also a good time to plant thorny plants on or in front of your back fences. Burglars hate them!

Finally, if you wish to contact our Safer Neighbourhood Team to report, say, anti-social behaviour, here are the dedicated names and number:

PC Dewayne Hamilton
PC Natasha Nugent
PCSO Hemant Parihar

All can be contacted on 0208 721 2543. This number should be automatically diverted to the mobile 'phone of the duty officer.

Email is: Ickenham.SNT@met.police.uk

Vic. Silk

LONDON OPEN HOUSE 2017



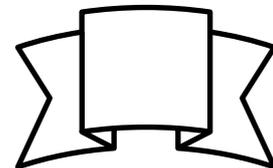
16th and 17th September 2017

Swakeleys Estate

Access from Milton Road

House only Sat 10:00 to 17:00

Grounds open both days Sat + Sun 10.00 to 17.00



Note for your Diary:

FESTIVE COMMUNITY NIGHT

Village Hall Ickenham

Friday, 8th December 2017.