

Ickenham Calling

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

At this time of the year we look forward to the December festive season, time to spend with family and friends, and especially the Ickenham Festive Evening on Friday, 8th December.

However, the Committee are aware of the possibility of three planning hearings important to Ickenham, to be heard in December as follows: -

The first is the proposed dense flatted development for the former Master Brewer site at Hillingdon Circus. The Association does not believe that the scheme as submitted is in anyone's interest [local residents or future occupiers] and our objection letter called on the planning and traffic modelling expertise of many members of the Committee – that letter holds the dubious record of being the longest and most robust ever submitted by the Association !

Secondly, the owner of Swakeleys House seeks to renew the planning permission achieved in 2013 – we would all be delighted for this central Ickenham landmark building to be brought back into use, but not at the expense of construction on Green Belt parkland. Furthermore, the conditions attached to the granted planning permission should have ensured that the House remained a community asset, with views of the House from Swakeleys Park and use of the Grounds for Gala Day. The spirit of those conditions has been consistently and deliberately flouted throughout the period of permission, and our submitted objection letter asked for those matters to be taken into account in deciding the next application.

Lastly, there is another application for flats to be built within the Conservation Area – generally, we do not believe that these flatted developments can be said to “preserve or enhance” the Conservation Area, as any alteration is required to do, and that will form one of the reasons for our objection letter.

The fact that a house has been allowed to deteriorate to the point of ruin should not automatically allow for it to be demolished and replaced with flats, rather than rebuilt as a family home.

Ickenham is a great place to live, with a thriving village centre and community spirit, and plenty of open green spaces to enjoy – let's all do our best and work together to keep it that way.

The Committee wish all villagers a happy and healthy Christmas time and New Year. Thank you for your support throughout 2017. *Jill Dalton*

**ICKENHAM FESTIVE EVENING -
PLEASE SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 6**



you ain't seen nothin' yet....

**Harvil Road and diversion of gas mains:
(as at the time of writing, 19 October 2017)**

As expected, HS2 Early Works Contractors have moved on to the two sites to the east of Harvil Road, one near the bridge over the Chiltern Line and one near the Dogs' Trust, totally clearing large areas of trees and plants. The current works are simply to divert the gas main and are on a minute scale compared to what is to come....*you ain't seen nothin' yet!*

The “temporary” occupation and clearance of the site means that it will never be returned to its natural state and we are destined to live with it for the rest of our lives.

HS2 have stated that any works that do not involve tunnelling will be carried out between 8am and 6pm on weekdays with a period of up to one hour before for start-up activities and one hour after for close-down activities such as deliveries, unloading and maintenance.

The start-up and close-down periods will not include the operation of any plant or machinery likely to cause disturbance to local residents or businesses.

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

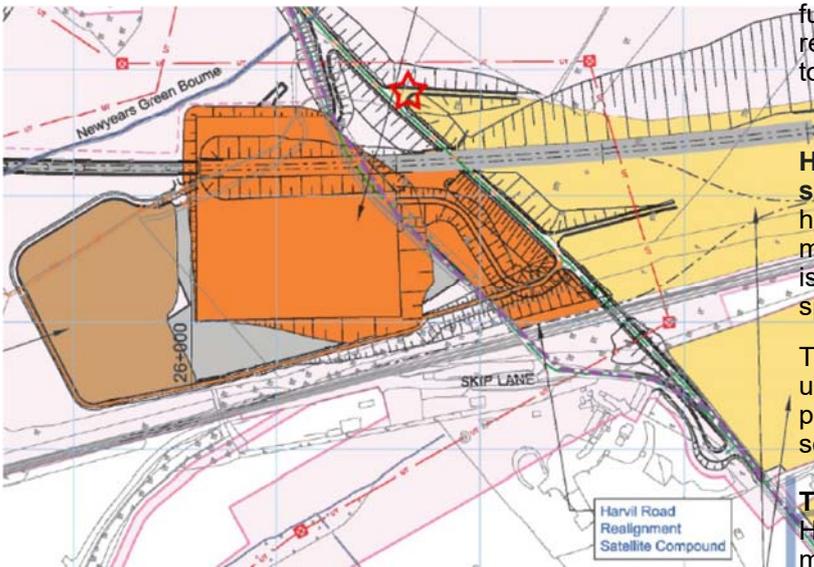
This issue edited by
Hanne Raeder
November 2017



The following map can be accessed on the link below:

CFA6 Map CT-05-019A: (www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/466768/CFA_6_South_Ruislip_to_Ickenham.pdf [Page 22](#))

and shows that whole area in Harvil Road as a major works site. It is destined to become three works compounds along with the new railhead, and it will extend several hundred metres east and west of the current Harvil Road. Most of that ridge is to be flattened to level ground for the siding and the spoil dumped on our green belt. Where the scar is now will become the new Harvil Road and there will be two new bridges built.



What was probably the first of many direct actions against HS2 happened when a local protester entered the site and crawled under a digger; she stayed there overnight and along with four other protesters was removed by police and bailiffs the following day. Regrettably, the protesters and subsequent social media coverage have only served to show how ill informed the public at large is about how the scope and implications of HS2 will affect our neighbourhood.

Ground Investigation Works, West Ruislip and Ruislip Golf Course:

The planned Ground Investigation works have also started on Ruislip Golf course as contractors begin tests which will mostly consist of rotary boring and percussion bore holes. Since receiving Royal Assent, HS2 Ltd will continue to use land along the route as agreed; all we can do is ensure that contractors work within the guidelines of the Code of Construction Practice.

The HS2/LBH Agreement, which was signed by Ray Puddifoot 17.8.2017 can be seen on the LBH website <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/23081/High-speed-rail-updates>

It contains a lot of "reasonable endeavours" notes, but, on the whole, it is probably as good as we could expect in the circumstances.

The agreement is now legally binding, we have to work in that context and we should not challenge HS2 or LBH on its content.

HOAC:

Within the HS2/LBH Agreement there is the provision of funding of £26.5m by HS2 to the Council to enable it to relocate the Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre [HOAC] to Denham Quarry.

HS2 has launched an HS2/Hillingdon specific website <https://hs2inhillington commonplace.is/> which we hope will make searching for HS2 documents and information easier. Previously, everything was, and lots still is, on: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited

The main components of the website will hopefully have updates of current works in our area, notifications of planned works, an "About the project" page, a FAQs section and a chance to 'Feedback' your thoughts.

The IRA HS2 group continues to be in contact with the HS2 Engagement Team, Hillingdon Council's Environmental Officer, and has had a meeting with Nick Hurd.

On 24th October members of the group will have their first meeting with HS2 Contractors and be able to explain to them the very many problems that will be encountered in our area once construction work starts, contractors' vehicles start using our already congested roads, and clearance of vast areas of Ickenham land begins.

Much more information:

This 'Ickenham Calling' report covers just a small part of all the discussions and documents published since the Autumn edition. To keep up-to-date you can find 100s of documents within the HS2 websites:

<https://hs2inhillington commonplace.is/>
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited, on the Ickenham Residents' Association website: <https://ickenhamresidents.co.uk/> and on the STOP HS2 website: <http://stophs2.org/> as well as all the many articles in the press and on TV.

19 October 2017

The HS2 Team /Beryl Upton



RAF NORTHOLT EXPANSION RUMOURS

Please find below a copy of an article in *Hillingdon People*, (Nov/Dec. issue), which hopefully will allay any fears re: the future of the base:

Local residents had raised concerns with the council regarding speculation that planned runway improvements in 2018 were to enable the airport to receive passenger commercial planes. Speaking at a Westminster Hall debate on Wednesday 13 September, **The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, Tobias Ellwood MP** put an end to the rumours, stating: "I begin... by paying tribute to those who are connected with RAF Northolt – the community around RAF Northolt, who for many years have been so supportive of the aerodrome, and the personnel of RAF Northolt. It is not just an aerodrome, but a vibrant core military station, with over 1,800 personnel based across 33 diverse units, from all three of the armed services and wider Government. Alongside 32 (The Royal) Squadron undertaking VIP and operational command support flying, there are many other major units at the station in ground roles. An Army bomb disposal squadron, the British Forces Post Office, the Service Prosecution Authority, an Aeronautical Publication and Mapping Centre, two RAF Bands and an operational RAF regiment unit, which also encompasses the ceremonial Queen's Colour Squadron, are all based at the aerodrome.

"I turn to the aerodrome itself...It is used and needed by the military every single day. It is true that for a number of decades it has been under-utilised in that role. Since the 1980s, RAF Northolt has accepted up to 7,000 business aviation movements per year, but that was done under stringent terms and conditions to utilise the spare capacity.

For that very reason, from 2011 to 2013 we conducted an extensive value-for-money evaluation of RAF Northolt's future utilisation. Wide-ranging options were considered, including selling the aerodrome off as a civilian licensed airport, devising shared civilian and military usage to better maximise revenue, and retaining the aerodrome in military hands – although that would leave an irreducible spare capacity.

I impress on the Chamber that those were simply options that were considered. "While the review was going on in 2012, the Ministry of Defence commissioned a series of reports under Project Ark and Project Noah. Those reports were not designed simply to open the floodgates – no pun intended – to civil movements at the station, but rather to analyse the various available options... Further consideration was given to one Project Ark option that had the potential to increase civil use of the military aerodrome to up to 20,000 movements, to generate additional revenue from the under-utilised spare capacity.

That, in turn, would benefit taxpayers by offsetting the costs to the taxpaying public of the station's military operation. However, Ministers took the final decision to increase the self-imposed cap on civil movements to only 12,000 movements per year. That was implemented in April 2013...there are no plans to revisit that decision. "Following

the review decision, the Project Ark report and other review documents were archived and the project's other options remained hypothetical. I assure...residents of the area that no current active planning is looking at any further changes to that 2013 decision about the cap or the operating terms and conditions.

The unchanged, stringent terms and conditions that have been in place for civil movements for many years mean that in future we will not attract any aircraft larger than those that we have accepted for decades. "It was against these terms and conditions, which were reaffirmed in 2013, that Flybe made an unsolicited bid in 2015. No meetings about RAF Northolt have been held with any commercial airlines, but in late 2015 and early 2016, Ministers corresponded twice with the chief executive of Flybe to inform him that his bid was not being considered further. "...The runway resurfacing project at RAF Northolt aims to make improvements as required to upgrade existing military runway end safety features and extend the life of the main runway pavement to between 10 and 15 years. This planned life cycle replacement works in line with the safety cases for the military aircraft that operate from the station.

I repeat firmly that the aim is not to accept bigger commercial aircraft, but to ensure that the runway has the strength to accept the larger military aircraft that may be required to visit the station in future.

Alongside the BAe 146 military airframes based there, a number of European allies operate medium airliner-sized military aircraft into RAF Northolt on military business. The RAF C-17 and A400M Atlas are the largest types of aircraft that visit the station. "In conclusion, RAF Northolt remains a core station with many diverse units. The aerodrome is needed by the military every day and is valuable for contingency, as we saw during the Olympics and the Ebola outbreak.

A decision on its future use was taken in 2013, and we will not revisit that decision. After the military runway works are complete and the runway reopens, nothing will have changed: the same stringent terms and conditions on civil movements that have been in place for many years and that were reaffirmed in 2013 will remain in place. The MAA and the CAA continue to employ robust oversight and assurance of civil aviation activity."

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot, said: "The Minister's statement echoes my previous statements that there was no truth in the rumour that RAF Northolt would start to receive commercial passenger carrying jets and that residents were being unnecessarily scaremongered.

It also re-affirms that the resurfacing project is merely to provide the runway with much-needed improvements to extend its life cycle."

November/December 2017 Issue of Hillingdon People

As always, regular updates about the Marshes are posted on the website: ick-enhammarshes.wordpress.com including some lovely shots of this years cows and the scything session in September.

Chris Mountain

NATURE RESERVES

Volunteer working parties have been busy on the Marsh nature reserve and Denham Lock Wood during October and November.

On the Marsh, following the departure of the cows (4 sussex cattle) in early October, several areas of blackthorn scrub have been cut and burned. The picture below shows the volunteers at work on 17 November. The working party numbered a healthy 10, with 3 Ickenhammers, two London Wildlife Trust (LWT) staff and 5 others who had made their way to the Marsh from all over NW London. The Marsh is part of a 'higher level stewardship scheme', which allows the land managers (LWT) to claim a subsidy to help over land



17.11.17 Working Party Volunteers on the Marsh

management costs. A condition of the scheme is the containment of scrub to less than 10% of the reserve's area. Blackthorn (famous for its sloes) burns remarkably well, even when freshly cut. I suspect the sap may contain gin.

At Denham Lock Wood - recently featured on ITV news because of its tiny rare snails - corporate volunteers (under LWT's supervision) have lovingly installed a stile near the lock. There's a footpath with a section of boardwalk linking the lock to Frays Farm Meadow and Uxbridge Golf Course, but it was always a bit tricky to squeeze under the barbed wire by the river Frays footbridge. The stile makes the path much easier to navigate, but you still have to walk over the actual lock gates!

HEALTH MATTERS

We have five traditional senses known as taste, smell, touch, hearing and sight. The eyes to see, the tongue to taste, the nose to smell, the ears to hear, and the skin to touch. By far the most important organ of our senses are our eyes! We perceive 80% of all our impressions by means of our sight. So it is important to look after your eyes!

A recent guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) states the NHS should not rely on sight tests alone to decide whether surgery is warranted. Instead Trusts should take a "patient centred approach" and offer an operation when a patient feels their quality of life is affected by their sight loss. Some patients who are losing their sight are waiting up to 15 months for cataract surgery, amid a postcode lottery in the NHS. Patients are going untreated until their sight is seriously restricted.

The most common eye disorders are:

1. Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD). This involves disturbance of the centre of the retina called the macula. There are two different types of AMD:

(a) Dry Macular Degeneration. About 90% of people diagnosed with AMD have dry AMD. People with this condition have a less severe degree of vision loss and it develops slowly.

(b) Wet AMD occurs when delicate abnormal blood vessels form under the retina and leak blood and fluids beneath the retina, causing it to distort and scar. This is much more serious and needs urgent attention as quickly as possible.

Deterioration of vision is usually very slow in the DRY AMD and treatment may be confined to include a diet high in vitamins A, C & E. There is some evidence that this may slow the progress of the disease.

Wet AMD is much more serious. The two main treatments are (1) injections to prevent the growth of abnormal blood

vessels, (2) possibly laser surgery to destroy the abnormal blood vessels in the eye.

2. Cataracts are a degenerative form of eye disease in which the lens gradually becomes opaque and vision mists over. If there is a problem with your vision, make an appointment to see your optician (optometrist). They can examine your eyes and test your sight. If the optician discovers cataracts you can be referred to an ophthalmologist, who can confirm the diagnosis and suggest a treatment plan.

The surgery involves removing the cloudy lens through a small incision in your eye and replacing it with a clear plastic one. In most cases, the procedure is usually carried out painlessly under a local anesthetic.

3. Glaucoma occurs when a build up of fluid in the eye (intraocular pressure) creates pressure on the optic nerve. This is progressive and can in the end damage the optic nerve and eventually cause blindness. Both eyes are usually affected, although it can be worse in one eye.

Treatment is usually with prescription eye drops. This can decrease eye pressure by the slowing the production of fluids within the eye, or improving the drainage flow. Very occasionally glaucoma can develop suddenly and cause intense eye pain. If this happens, go as soon as possible to your nearest A&E or eye hospital. Glaucoma can be familial (within the immediate family). If this is the case, a yearly visit to the optician is advised.

4. Detached Retina is a disorder of the eye in which the retina separates from the layer underneath. Symptoms include an increase in the number of floaters, flashes of light and a widening of the outer part of the visual field. This may be described as a curtain over part of the field of vision. This needs immediate and urgent treatment of a surgical operation. Contact your GP, or call NHS 111, or go to A&E. *David John*

POLICE

There are several topics of interest this quarter. First is the welcome return of Rob Bryan as North Hillingdon Safer Neighbourhood Inspector. Rob lives in Ickenham and is always active in letting us know what is happening via meetings

and a monthly newsletter. For example, a recent item dealt with the perennial problem of burglary.

Hillingdon has a dedicated crime squad which over the period July and August stopped and searched 150 people, arrested 70 (including known burglars) and seized 10 cars. As most burglary in Ickenham is perpetrated by travelling teams, who roam around looking for opportunities, it is important to keep our eyes open and report any suspicious vehicles to 101.

Brian Walters, of Neighbourhood Watch, likes to be informed too, so that he can alert our network of cameras to look for a pattern and note the registration numbers. His number is 01895 673281.

A recent item on the BBC showed how it is possible for a thief to lurk in a car park with a device that will block the signal from a key to a car's lock, thus, after the owner has walked away, he can open the car door and look for loot. The moral of this tale is always check the door handle before leaving the car.

One of our local cameras picked up a couple of men using another device to read the signal from a keyless fob inside a house so they could steal an expensive car from the drive. This can be foiled by putting the fob in a metal box (or even the 'fridge) when indoors; best of all, putting the car away in a locked garage.

We have had a nasty 'distraction burglary' since the last Newsletter. This took the form of three men calling on a local resident, pretending to be Water Board officials, saying that they 'needed to check the plumbing'. While two of them pretended to be checking the pipes in the kitchen, the third went upstairs and stole property. It is most unlikely that any people from a utility will call at a house without previously posting written notice, so if you do get such an unscheduled visit, tell them you will check with their head office and shut (and lock) the door while calling the contact number on your utility bill. As it will probably be an attempt to gain entry to the house, you must then, of course, call the police.

You will probably read in the Press that a number of Police Stations are to be closed across London to save money. The proposal in Hillingdon was to have only one at Hayes End and sell off Uxbridge. At the public consultation meeting it was forcibly pointed out to the representative from MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) that this was a daft idea, all roads and most rails lead to



Uxbridge, while Hayes End is difficult to access from most parts of the Borough. It was also noted, that Hillingdon being long and thin, response times would be unacceptably long, especially to places north of the A 40; thus showing the need to retain Ruislip as a Patrol Base.

That's all for now, except for our usual seasonal plea not to leave your house in darkness of an evening. Modern LED bulbs use so little electricity that the cost of leaving a couple of lights on, if you won't get home until after dark, is negligible.

Vic. Silk

LBH RUBBISH COLLECTION DATES

OVER XMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday, 25.12.17	Wednesday, 27.12.17
Tuesday, 26.12.17	Thursday, 28.12.17
Wednesday, 27.12.17	Thursday, 04.01.18
Thursday, 28.12.17	Friday, 29.12.17
Friday, 29.12.17	Saturday, 30.12.17
Monday, 01.01.18	Tuesday, 02.01.18
Tuesday, 02.01.18	Wednesday, 03.01.18
Wednesday, 03.01.18	Thursday, 04.01.18
Thursday, 04.01.18	Friday, 05.01.18
Friday, 05.01.18	Saturday, 06.01.18

A Reminder for your Diary

ICKENHAM FESTIVE COMMUNITY NIGHT **Village Hall, Ickenham, and Centre of Village,** Friday, 8th December 2017 6pm to 9pm

As in the past, the Ickenham Festival Team is again arranging this popular and successful evening, many local shops and businesses will be planning to open late with hospitality and special features; **St. Giles Church** open with Christmas displays and Christmas Fair at St. Giles Hall. **Village Hall** open with local groups, sales, fun and games, **Guide Hut** (Community Close) open for sales and crafts.

Details @ <http://www.ickenhamfestival.org.uk/feature.IFCN.htm>

Please come and support this event and your local community.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Friday, 20th April 2018, 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, 23.02.2018.



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

