

# Ickenham Calling .....

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Spring 2019

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

Ickenham Residents' Association:



E-Mail Address  
WebSite  
Twitter Acc.

ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com  
www.ickenhamresidents.co.uk  
www.twitter.com/ickenhamRA

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are currently hearing and reading so much more regarding the lack of support and justification for HS2 that we can only hope the question over its continuation comes back onto the Government agenda – if the Brexit debacle ever ends!

The Boundary Commission have published details of their proposed ward reorganisation for comments following an initial consultation last year. More responses were received about Ickenham than any other part of the Borough, and we believe their proposal for an Ickenham/South Harefield ward would be an improvement on the current arrangements. The proposal would return around two thousand Ickenhamers to the Ickenham ward along with the Marshes and the Village Green. Discussions are ongoing and we will continue to make the case for a 'true' Ickenham ward, but recognise that the process is primarily guided by a requirement to ensure equality of numbers of electors per councillor - around 4,000.

The Major Planning Committee met on 19<sup>th</sup> February to consider the planning applications for, amongst others, residential-led proposals at the Master Brewer site and Halfords/Wickes next to Uxbridge Police Station. Both were up for refusal for various reasons including appearance, height, parking and traffic impacts. For the Master Brewer site damning petitions were heard against the proposals from Ickenham and Oak Farm Residents' Associations. Interestingly, the Chairman of the Committee questioned the Agent on why the proposed number of flats had increased following local engagement (from 359 to 437), commenting that it normally worked the other way around. The Agent referenced feedback from the Greater London Authority, which, unfortunately, highlights the growing planning policy divergence of outer boroughs like ours and that of the GLA. These issues are currently being discussed at the public examination of the London Plan, which is scheduled to finish in May. We should know by early March, if the London Mayor will use his powers to 'call-in' these applications, which would collectively provide 704 new homes, in a borough where, according to the Office for National Statistics, the ratio of average house prices to average earnings has risen from 1:4 to 1:12 in the last 20 years.

We are enjoying some amazingly balmy weather and hope everyone made the most of our local green spaces during their half term breaks, possibly on the Marshes, where over 4km of new

public rights of way have recently been established!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the AGM.  
*Jill Dalton*

## AGM of the ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Please make a note in your diary for Friday, 12.04.19, at 8pm, Ickenham Village Hall, Swakeleys Road, Ickenham.

AGM Agenda plus Minutes of last AGM in April 2018 (to be approved) are attached to this newsletter.

Please bring them along with you. Thank you.

**Proposed changes to Constitution for the Ickenham Residents' Association**  
to be adopted at the forthcoming AGM on Friday, 12.04.19:

*Management d.:* Change co-opting additional Committee Members from four **to six**

*Management g.:* Change Publicity Officer to **Communications Officer**

## MEMBERSHIP

As always we are keen to recruit volunteers to help with deliveries of the quarterly newsletters and the collection of the annual subscriptions. We are particularly short on the Glebe Estate and need assistance with Willowtree Close and Lawrence Drive .

There is also an upcoming vacancy for an Area Steward on the Glebe Estate.

If you can offer any help please contact me by e-mail: [Ickres.memsec@gmail.com](mailto:Ickres.memsec@gmail.com)  
**Maureen Pemberton /Membership Secretary**



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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](mailto:ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com)

This issue edited by  
Hanne Raeder  
February 2019



# HS2

## HS2 News

At the time of writing there are numerous press articles and TV programmes raising doubts about the HS2 project: the costs, the risks of the project plan and whether such large amounts of money would be better used for more immediate transport improvements, in particular, the links between the northern cities.

For those of us involved since 2010 none of these concerns are surprising; we never believed what was whatever the latest justification – ‘speed’, ‘capacity’ and ‘jobs’. It has always been a white elephant. The business case has never stood scrutiny and it is a pity our parliamentarians never made the effort to examine what they were voting for.

In the meanwhile, we are now faced with the consequences of the HS2 Phase 1 act on our community – environmental damage to our green belt, traffic congestion and pollution. So far we are only experiencing what are called ‘Early Works’ - construction activities such as moving utilities to prepare for the Main Works.

Your team of Ickenham and West Ruislip residents – Beryl Upton, Brian Cable, David Crane, Phil Taylor and myself – working with colleagues from Harefield, North Uxbridge and other parts of Ruislip meet with HS2 and their contractors every month. In addition to feeding back to HS2 the current local issues, we are advised of the latest HS2 plans and we attempt to advise HS2 of the consequences of their actions and how they can be mitigated. Although at times disheartening, we have achieved some significant changes – the use of rail to bring in the concrete tunnel linings instead of siting concrete factories along Harvil Road, the use of haul roads on construction sites to avoid HGV traffic on local roads particularly through Ickenham village and reductions of tens of thousand of HGV movements over the duration of the project. We are well supported by officers in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

As yet we have not been given final details of the plans for the Main Works which are supposed to start in June this year, but we can still anticipate significant HGV traffic, road closures, dumping of spoil and large construction sites for bridges and tunnels. The Colne Valley viaduct design and construction is going to be particularly contentious.

You can keep up-to-date on local impacts by following our website and <https://ruislip-against-hs2.co.uk>. The HS2 website <https://hs2inhilligdon.commonplace.is/> provides details on how to contact their organisation; don't hesitate to email or telephone HS2, if you have any issues.

**Brian Adams**

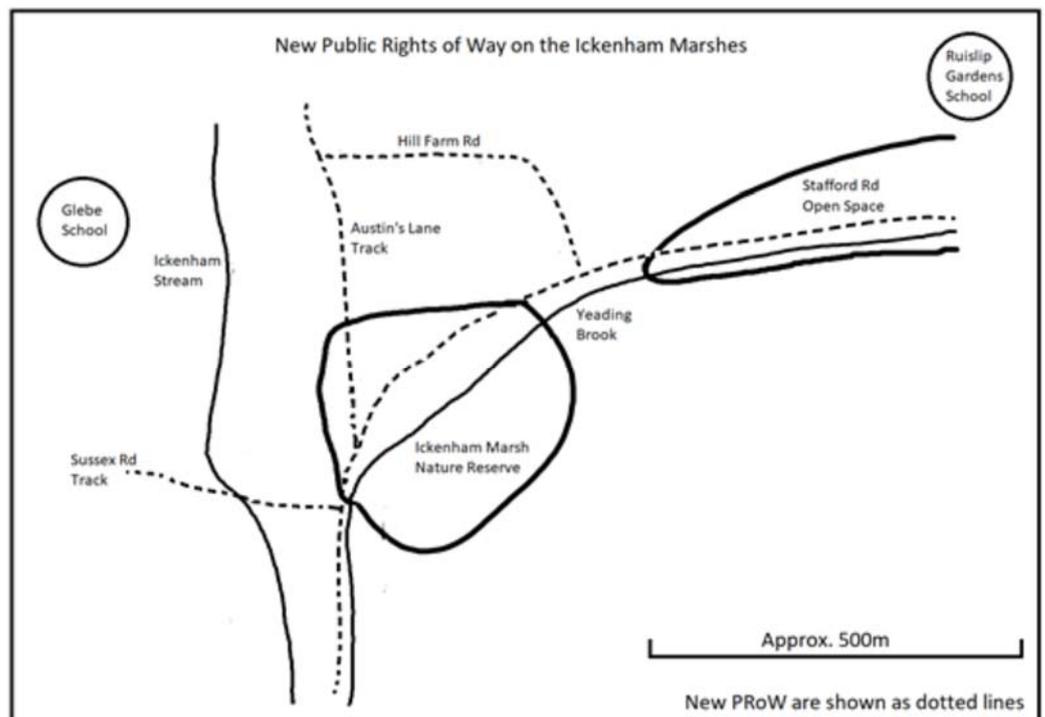


### Ickenham Nature Reserves

Bumper update this quarter, including my first ever update on the Harefield Place Nature Reserve. Just one over-riding point though: there are small groups of people that care for our local wild places. They would appreciate our help now and again. More details below.

#### Frays Farm Meadow

While the HS2 juggernaut ploughs on, we have received news that the Haul Road through the Colne Valley in Ickenham will not be built after all. The London Wildlife Trust raised grave concerns in Parliament about the irreparable damage the Haul Road could inflict on the Frays Farm Meadow Nature Reserve; a rare haven for the threatened water vole. While a further HS2 U-turn is not impossible, the news offers a ray of sunshine against the wider HS2 deluge. Working parties have been busy in December and January cutting back vegetation to clear space for summer grazing.





### Ickenham Marshes

In response to a Government deadline requiring historic rights of way to be recorded by 2026, the Ickenham Resident's Association petitioned the Council to formally register historic paths on the Marshes. Use of the routes on the Marshes dates back to the land enclosures of the late eighteenth century. After a period of consultation, the London Borough of Hillingdon have now confirmed that the Borough's 'Definitive Map' has been updated to include around 4km of new Public Rights of Way on the Marshes. The four new routes are (see Map on page 2):

**Austin's Lane track:** a section of the Hillingdon Trail which provides access to the Ickenham Marsh local nature reserve. The reserve, which crosses the Yeading Brook, is open access land.

**Hill Farm Road:** an ancient track which once provided access to Hill Farm. The farm stood on the site of the current RAF Northolt control tower.

**Sussex Road track:** a path linking Sussex Road to the Ickenham Marsh nature reserve and featuring a bridge over the Canal Feeder (Ickenham Stream).

**Willow Tree Wander:** a section of the Hillingdon Trail alongside the Yeading Brook linking Ruislip Gardens the nature reserve and on to the A40 underpass.

The Association thanks the Council for undertaking the lengthy administrative process and our members who supported our petition. We also urge others to consider whether there are other local routes that should be added to the Definitive Map.

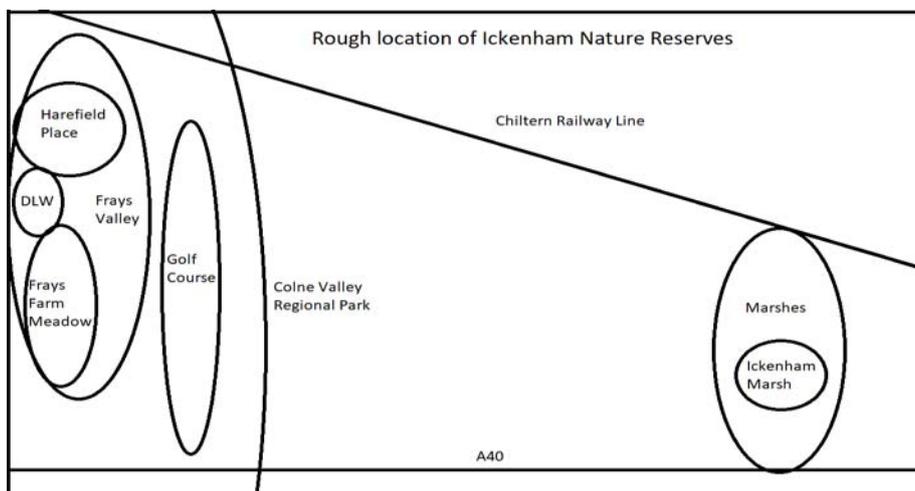
Volunteers and contractors have cleared yet more bramble and blackthorn scrub from the nature reserve and widened the Hillingdon Trail Path down towards the A40 pedestrian underpass. The northern section (this side of the river) feels significantly larger as a result. Our job is now to keep the scrub at bay in future years to encourage the return of wildflowers.

Some tree work has been carried out on the southern part of the reserve (over the footbridge) where a few mighty oaks are sadly on their way out.

We have agreed our annual Balsam Bashing date for 2019: **Saturday 8 June at 3pm**, meeting, as usual, at the Austin's Lane gate. Gloves and long sleeves/trousers recommended, to avoid nettle stings. The number of Bashers has been in decline recently, so do get the date in your diary - the more the merrier!

### Harefield Place

This reserve is best accessed from Uxbridge Golf Club car park off Harvil Rd and is made up of three sections: North Wood, South Wood and a Wildfowl Lake. Like nearby Frays Farm Meadow and Denham Lock Wood, the reserve is in public ownership. Unlike the others, Harefield Place is managed by The Hillingdon Natural History Society (the others are managed by the London Wildlife Trust). Together, those three reserves plus a few more lakes are called the Frays Valley Local Nature Reserve. All nestled within the Colne Valley Regional Park.



The Harefield Place reserve has three bird hides (that is three more than all the other local reserves put together), and several sections of boardwalk to guide visitors through the wet woodland habitats.

At the time of writing, I confess that I am yet to visit the North Wood, although I have read about the bluebells and ramsons that grow there, so I will certainly venture there this spring.

The Hillingdon Natural History Society is run by volunteers and they meet every Thursday to look after the reserve. If you would like to help out, they meet at 9.15am every Thursday at the Uxbridge Golf Club car park. Please e-mail Reserve.Manager@hillingdon-naturalhistorysociety.org.uk a couple of days earlier. You will need stout waterproof footwear. No previous experience is needed, as tools and instructions in their use, together with safety gear are provided. You just need an interest in natural history and working in a small team.

### Denham Lock Wood

Since the historic sluice- gate system on the reserve was repaired last summer, water levels in the ditches have been monitored to check that water is being retained within the reserve. This will hopefully, over time, stop the drying-out of the reserve, which was negatively impacting the wet woodland habitat. Monitoring will continue throughout 2019.

For weekly volunteering opportunities at Ickenham Marsh and other local nature reserves, do get in touch with Simon Hawkins at the London Wildlife Trust - He emails every week letting everyone know what and where activities are taking place: shawkins@wildlondon.org.uk



## HEALTH MATTERS

What do we mean by "Quality of Life"? One definition could be "the general well-being of a person or societies in terms of health and happiness rather than wealth". We can also include a much longer list which features: Wholesome food and clean air; enjoyment of unfettered open spaces; security from crime; a good transport system; local provision of excellent health and public services. These benefits will probably enable us to enjoy life and prevail over life's challenges, irrespective of the handicaps we may have. Our village of Ickenham is lucky to have most of the benefits just listed.

Unfortunately, we do not have "clean air", and this is a major problem for us as residents, in our urban environment, on the outer fringes of London. Of all the risk factors for premature death, the air we breathe is one area over which patients and doctors have little control. In cities health professionals care for patients in environments where air pollution can aggravate cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and damage children's hearts and lungs. An analysis by King's College London and the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, reports that more than half of 2,200 NHS facilities in London are blanketed by air pollution above legal limits. Further proof not only that London's air is toxic, but that it harms the most vulnerable.

The GLA has identified 17 Air Quality Focus Areas in the Borough, which represent the key hot spots where air quality is poor and public exposure is the highest. Hillingdon Circus/ Long Lane is one of these. Air quality monitoring takes place at Hillingdon Circus by way of nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes located at Freezeland Way. Palmes-type diffusion tubes are widely used in the UK for indicative measurement of ambient concentrations of nitrogen dioxide. The results have to be "biased adjusted" at the end of each year. Exceedance of the nitrogen dioxide mean air quality objective of 40 micro-grammes per cubic metre has been the feature at Hillingdon Circus for some years.

The London Borough of Hillingdon has published an "Air Quality Annual Status Report" for 2017: The date of publication: May 2018. This report is part of The Air Quality Action by the Borough, it is to be highly recommended. The report has been produced by Val Beale and her associates.

In conclusion there is an unwelcome proposal of an inappropriate development at the former "Master Brewer Site". It will not be carbon neutral and will contribute to the increasing dangers of air pollution. The site will have a proposed high residential density of 173 homes per hectare. The London Plan expects in a suburban area, 50-95 homes per hectare. The development proposals, where both air quality and noise are concerned, do not protect amenity levels of either existing local residents or future occupants.

**David John**

## POLICE MATTERS

Perhaps we should change the wording on the Ickenham boundary signs from 'Welcome to Ickenham' to 'Ickenham is watching you!' At a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting a series of videos from our network of CCTV cameras, ably overseen by Brian Walters and Dave Ludlow, were shown. One showed a lady crashing her car into a parked vehicle, causing considerable damage to both; her excuse was that she swerved to avoid a fox. Our very high quality film

showed that no fox was in evidence and that the true cause was that she was talking on her mobile 'phone. Two other series of pictures showed a cool and well-equipped thief stealing the wheels from a BMW, parked in its owner's drive overnight. It seems that a set of BMW wheels costs about £6000! Putting it away in a garage overnight would seem to be the best precaution. A third set of pictures followed a burglar prowling around Vinlake Avenue, before trying to break into a house. He suddenly noticed a camera pointing at him and looked straight at it, thereby giving the police a perfect mug shot. He has been convicted of two other burglaries in Ickenham and has been sent down for a period of rest and reflection. The quality of a modern CCTV system is remarkable, giving clear images even at night.

The price of the metal palladium has recently risen above that of platinum. This is the active element in cat-converters which clean up the exhaust emissions from vehicles. Not surprisingly, this has led to a spate of thefts of the converters from parked cars. One of our CCTV videos shows a pair of villains with a bolt cutter stealing and making off with a section of exhaust from a parked car, on a public road, in a matter of minutes, in broad daylight! You will immediately know if yours has been stolen by the ear-shattering noise when you start up.

The latest on the scam front has been a very authentic-looking e-mail purporting to come from TV Licensing, saying that a refund is due to you and asking for bank details so that payment can be made. In other words, a 'phishing' attempt. Also, I recently had a 'phone call from 'BT Services' saying that a fault had been detected on my broadband connection and requesting access to my computer to fix it. Anyone falling for this one would probably find that some sort of evil program had been inserted into their system; in my case it was easy to spot, as I don't get my broadband from BT.

Finally, if you want to keep up with problems in Ickenham, it is worth signing up to OWL. Go to <https://www.owl.co.uk>, Enter your postcode and click on Join a watch. Of all the wards in Hillingdon, Ickenham has the highest percentage of people connected to this excellent service.

**Vic.Silk**

## FESTIVE COMMUNITY EVENING December 2018

A big thank-you to all who took the time to stop and chat to us during the event in the Village Hall. We know from your comments that you enjoyed the slide show of Ickenham Gardens. So, very well done to David Tebbutt and all those who sent him photographs for inclusion.

Our appreciation also goes to those who took part in our survey. We know we only gave you 2 options to select, but the results were interesting:

The top 4 in order of priority were

1. to challenge inappropriate development proposals
2. to monitor / oppose HS2
3. to monitor green spaces (e.g. Swakeleys Park and Marshes)
4. to monitor police provision.

The evening brought a really good turn out in the village, so a very big thank-you also to the Festival Team for their usual excellent organisation.

**June Reyner**