

Ickenham Calling

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

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

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Chairman's Comments

I'd like to add my personal thanks to everyone who helped to fill the Village Hall for our AGM in April - it certainly encourages the Committee to carry on with their great work. I promise to practise with the PA system before we start next year and thanks to Brian Cable for speaking out before I blasted everyone's eardrums away!

Bad news on HS2 – well, it's all bad news really, but particularly the planned full and partial closure of Breakspear Road South for 8 weeks from the end of May – not even the disruption during vital exam times has been enough to dissuade them thus far.

Disappointing news for those of us who had hoped to stem the ever increasing number of flatted developments in our Conservation Area and retain the detached houses and associated garden spaces characteristic of our village. LBH planning committee refused an application for 60 Long Lane with no less than FIVE very valid reasons, including the fact that its size, scale, bulk and design would result in a cramped, unduly intrusive, visually prominent and undesirable form of development that would fail to harmonise with the existing character of the Conservation Area and have a detrimental impact on the street scene and on neighbouring properties. Needless to say the developer appealed the decision, and though we don't have the reasons yet, the Planning Inspectorate has allowed the Appeal.

Jill Dalton

AGM 12TH April 2019

Thank you to all those of you who joined us in the Village Hall for our AGM. As always it was very well attended. We were pleased to be joined by our MP Nick Hurd and by Councillors Puddifoot, Simmonds, Hensley, Corthorne and Radia. We were also joined by two officers from RAF Northolt and two members of the LAGAN project team.

The 2 amendments to the constitution were approved so we can now have 6 co-opted members and the title Publicity Officer was changed to Communications Officer. We are however still looking for someone to fill this role so if you might be interested please get in touch @ ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com and we can arrange to meet to discuss what is involved.

The information provided by the teams from Northolt can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The formal meeting closed at 9:20 when most people stayed on to enjoy the drinks and light refreshments.

June Reyner

HS2

The Treasury Secretary has announced the HS2 project will be included in the autumn spending review with other large infrastructure projects and declared her determination to junk 'white elephants'.

The HS2 main works construction which was due to start in June 2019 has been delayed until January 2020 pending a review of costs.

The business case has never stood scrutiny as the Government included all sorts of intangible costs benefits and ignored other technological developments. As the costs rise it becomes even less worthwhile. The experience from other such rail projects – HS1, Great Western electrification, Crossrail – show that the DfT cost estimates and time schedules are wildly optimistic and are never achieved. The other rationale promoted since 2010 is that it is a green project and would reduce UK's carbon footprint; the Government has now come clean and admitted that even over a 120 year period HS2 will produce a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions. This does not include the massive 1,451,000t CO₂e tonnes of embedded carbon associated with the construction that is due to take place over the next 15 years.

If there was ever a project that meets the criteria for being a white elephant, this is it.

However for the immediate future we continue to suffer from the 'early enabling works' in Breakspear Road South, Harvil Road and West Ruislip.

At the time of writing we are attempting to delay the 8 week closure of Breakspear Road South until the school summer holidays but HS2 seem determined to cause major disruption to our communities from May 31.

Stop Press: Following pressure from the residents and the London Borough of



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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 compiled by Peter Daymond
May 2019



Hillingdon supported by our MPs, HS2 has agreed to defer the above mentioned road closure until the beginning of the summer holidays (e-mail 24.05.19).

The immensity of the tree and vegetation clearance has surprised even we hardened cynics. Vast areas of green spaces have been totally cleared of trees, hedges and every single blade of grass, being replaced by Portacabins, concrete, and men in Hi-Viz orange outfits. There has been outrage along the route as contractors continue to clear vegetation even though the main works are held pending the review. Some main works construction has now been reclassified as enabling works and therefore is being done before the review is completed. HS2 thinks that's fine but we regard it as moving the goal posts ... completely unacceptable.

We still have major concerns over the danger to our water supplies during the construction of 80 piers for the Colne Valley viaduct. The piers will go through the aquifers which provide our clean water. Affinity Water has applied to the Government for an indemnity to cover their revenue loss should they be unable to supply us with this water....not very reassuring.

We believe these early enabling works should stop until the project review is complete and a decision is made to continue or cancel the project. We have lobbied our councillors and MPs to raise this with the Government ministers.

Brian Adams

Ickenham Marshes Partnership

Working parties have been cutting back tufted hair grass on the reserve. It's taking over a bit, so we're seeing if sawing off the tops of the tufts will control its growth. Conservation grazing of Sussex cattle will be repeated again this summer. Regular chomping of the grass should make it easier for wild flowers to grow. Purple Vetch and Lady's Smock have bloomed well this year, which is a good sign.

As always, please keep dogs, regardless of their size, on a lead in and around the cow enclosure. River monitoring turned up a few mayfly larvae in April. These little three-tailed invertebrates haven't been spotted in the Yeading Brook in Ickenham for over a year, so their return was welcome. Unfortunately they were absent again in May.

Denham Lock Wood

The refurbished sluice gates are working well; enabling water levels to be managed to better maintain the wet woodland habitat. The large clearing that was created near the ponds last year is now looking much more natural, and the ponds are teeming with life.

Frays Farm Meadows

Fences have been repaired and more scrub has been cleared in preparation for the arrival of Sussex cattle for conservation grazing. The cows come from the same farm as the cows at Ickenham Marshes, i.e. from opposite the Black Park car park. Dragon and damsel flies are starting to emerge, and are always common on the reserve in and around the Frays, which flows through the area.

Chris Mountain

RAF Northolt updates

1. Runway works

The project team leader from Lagan (the company carrying out the works) explained what the works entailed. The brief is to repair and improve the runway and the arrester beds. This will bring them up to a modern specification. The runway itself is currently in a desperate state and the new arrester beds will provide a much safer option. A leaflet explaining in more detail was available to take away.

The runway is now closed and only helicopter traffic is allowed into and out of the airfield. Once the works are completed and the runway handed back to the MOD flights will resume as before. There will be no change to the number of flight movements per annum nor to the permitted time slots, nor will there be any suggestion of a scheduled service from the airfield. The runway is scheduled to reopen this October.

2. RAF Northolt's Airspace Change Proposal.

The following was explained by Squadron Leader Andy Edgecombe.

Royal Air Force Northolt is required to submit an Airspace Change Proposal under the Department for Transport's Future Airspace Strategy Implementation (South) programme. All airports in the South East of the United Kingdom are taking part in this programme, which will not be implemented before 2024.

"Airspace Change Proposal will be implemented under the Civil Aviation Authority's 'CAP1616' process, which directs an airport or airfield to engage with those geographical areas that may be affected by any proposed flightpath changes. We have identified that your area could be affected by Royal Air Force Northolt's Airspace Change Proposal.

We want to ensure that you are aware of this Airspace Change Proposal, and seek the input of local residents before we start the initial airspace design process. Before we start to put any lines on maps, we would like to understand what is important to local residents and this information will influence the design principles that we use in designing



the Airspace Change. This way we can ensure that local opinion is taken into account, where there are choices to be made in the airspace design process.

You can let your views be known by completing the design principles form [then available at the rear of the hall] and sending an electronic copy or by posting a hard copy to 'Senior Air Traffic Controller, RAF Northolt, RUISLIP, HA4 6NG'. Please rank the design principles in it in order of preference for Tables Two and Three".

Sqd/Ldr Edgecombe stressed that operations and usage at RAF Northolt will remain unchanged, just the airspace in which our aircraft operate will change.

What we are looking to achieve at this stage is simply to understand which of the design principles are most important to residents. From there we can go about designing the airspace and share the proposals once complete.

All the forms were taken away and we have since sent these out electronically. The exercise was due to close on May 12th 2019. The Association will keep you abreast of any news as and when we receive it.

June Reyner

Planning Update

Up to the End of April 2019

This has been a busy year since January. We have looked at a total of 88 planning applications and written letters of observation or objection on 16 occasions.

We have also written a letter to the Inspectorate supporting the Borough's rejection of the proposals for yet more Flats at 60 Long Lane.

We spoke at one planning committee hearing which resulted in the refusal of the plans for the Master Brewer.

Hanne Raeder

HELP needed!

We will shortly be needing a new Minutes Secretary.

David Tebbutt who has been our Minutes Secretary for the last five years plans to stand down in October this year. We are therefore looking for someone to take over the role. It would involve attending most, if not all, of the monthly meetings (held on the second Wednesday of each month in St Giles Hall) and taking and issuing the minutes in a timely fashion. Also taking the minutes at the AGM. It would, ideally, involve access to a computer and a working knowledge of Microsoft Word .

If you are interested, think you could help, or would like to discuss the possibilities further, then please contact us via the Association email account at:- ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

June Reyner

Road Steward Appeal

Your newsletter is delivered to over 3000 members in Ickenham with the help of volunteer area and road stewards. To ensure that deliveries continue to be made we would welcome further volunteers in the following roads;

Part Swakeleys Road - Charlbury Road - Thornhill Road - Hoylake Crescent - Warren Road.

Please let me know if you can spare time to deliver the newsletters quarterly and collect the subscriptions once a year for any of these rounds. I can be contacted by email at Ickes.memsec@gmail.com

Maureen Pemberton

Police Matters

Once again I turn to scams. A couple of times recently I have had a recorded call, purporting to be from BT, saying that my 'broadband will cease to function this afternoon, press 1 for more information'. If one did, no doubt one would be transferred to an expensive premium-rate line for more recordings.

Of more interest, I and a friend have had calls, seemingly from New York, stating that a client of theirs was building a stake in companies in which we own shares, preparatory to launching a takeover bid and is prepared to offer a premium price for our stakes. Where they fell down was to state a price well in excess of the current value. Who would want to buy at a price well above that which could be obtained in the market? They also requested our e-mail addresses so that they 'could send us a confidentiality agreement' to fill in. I told them to send any documentation by post, nothing has arrived. How this would play out I'm not sure, as neither of us took it any further before ringing off, but I would guess that we would have been requested to send our share certificates and a completed transfer form and await a large cheque, which would never arrive!

We are all aware that Ickenham Ward has one of the two lowest crime rates in Hillingdon, however, our burglary rate is quite high, due perhaps, to the affluent area and our proximity to the M25 and A40 we attract the attention of roaming gangs from elsewhere. Of particular concern is an increase in 'aggravated burglary', this is when, after breaking in, the occupants are subjected to actual violence or threats of violence. Often the entry is effected simply by pushing past the person who answers the door. If you have a window, such as a bay window, which overlooks the entrance, it is a good idea to have a look and not answer the door if you don't like the look of the person or persons outside. If in some doubt, you could challenge them from an upstairs window. A door chain is a good idea too, but might not stop anyone heavy enough. In particular, be especially wary of callers after dark.



By the time you read this, Summer will have arrived and we like to have some windows open, but I have been concerned, when out collecting subs. how many large case-ment windows I have seen open when the owners are either out or in their back gardens. This does not only apply to ground floor windows, we have had cases where crooks cruise around in a van with a ladder on top and break in pretending to be workmen or window cleaners. If entry is effected by means of an open window, one's insurance company would not look kindly on a claim!

Vic Silk

Health Matters

Here is a puzzle! More than half a million children in Britain have not been vaccinated against measles, figures have revealed. The answer to this serious problem is that social media companies have been allowing grossly irresponsible "anti-vax" propaganda, to be universally published. Simon Stevens the head of NHS England has challenged such sites as Instagram and You Tube to adopt "zero tolerance" regimes.

The data from UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) showed the UK to be among the worst high income countries for uptake of the measles jab. The figures, dealing with children left unvaccinated between 2010 and 2017, follow a steep rise in measles cases in England this year. Vaccination coverage among children reaching their 2nd birthday is now 91% with just 87% receiving the 2nd dose by their 5th birthday. This falls below the 95% believed to be necessary to achieve "herd immunity", which effectively prevents the spread of outbreaks.

The coverage for Hillingdon is under 90%. The figure produced by the "Childhood Vaccination Coverage Statistics England - NHS Digital" 2017-2018 puts Hillingdon at 86.5% coverage. This is well below the 95% advised figure needed. The London area generally performs badly in this respect as well.

One of the best ways to protect our young babies against diseases like measles, rubella (German measles) tetanus and meningitis is through immunisation. The MMR Vaccine protects against measles, mumps and rubella. It is given at one year and at 3 years & 4 months of age. Since the MMR Vaccine was introduced in 1988, it's rare for children in the UK to develop these serious conditions. Complications include meningitis, potentially fatal encephalitis (swelling of the brain), and deafness and can as well cause complications in pregnancy that affect the unborn baby and can lead to miscarriage.

How safe is the MMR vaccine? The combined MMR vaccine has been safely protecting children for many years, worldwide. Although there may be some side effects from the vaccine, they're usually mild and much less severe than the disease itself. These include a rash, high temperature, loss of appetite and a general feeling of being unwell for about 2 or 3 days. Serious reactions are rare. Many studies have taken place to look at the safety and effectiveness of the MMR vaccine. The evidence is clear that there is no link between the MMR vaccine and autism.

Andrew Wakefield is the discredited British doctor who became an anti-vaccine activist, until he was struck off

the UK medical register in 2010 for unethical behaviour. It is over 20 years ago that an infamous scientific paper by Andrew Wakefield, published in the prestigious medical journal "The Lancet" which started the enduring vaccine-autism myth. This article was later retracted by the journal. (The Lancet is one of the world's best respected medical journals.) However his opinions led to many parents shunning the MMR vaccine!

Perhaps we should ask the question why it's essential that our children have the vaccine? We should have the vaccine to protect ourselves against three serious infections. By doing so we will help to protect others who can't have the vaccine: It is good for the child and good for the community. It protects the unborn child: Infants who are too young to have the vaccine: Children/adults who can't have the vaccine because they have weakened immune systems. This will help to prevent large outbreaks of disease. We should also have the vaccine if our work brings us into close contact with young children. Vaccines work by imitating an infection or disease and stimulating the immune system to develop antibodies.

A significant proportion of measles cases last year were teenagers and young adults, who were not immunised when younger. So if you or your child have missed out on the benefits of vaccination, it's not too late to get immunised.

In conclusion we should also mention the 6-in-one vaccine. This protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hib (Haemophilus influenza type b) and hepatitis B and is given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age to all babies born on or after 1 August 2017. For further information go to www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/childhood-vaccines

David John

Noise & Dust Pollution

Following complaints to us and to Councillor Hensley, and as a follow up to our article in the Summer 2018 Newsletter, on issues around Noise and Dust pollution, the Council have suggested that we highlight the following Links to the LBH website where very detailed information is available in relation to what constitutes pollution (considered as Anti Social Behaviour) and how and when to report it

Noise

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/23746/Noise>

Dust

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/17387/Dust>

Antisocial behaviour can be reported through the LBH [online services](#) (as above). or by telephone through the Contact Centre on [01895 556 000](tel:01895556000).

During our out of hours duties you can report anti-social behaviour on [01895 250 111](tel:01895250111).

The out of hours service deal with forms of anti-social behaviour happening during duty periods. This includes noise from parties/raves, construction and commercial noise, unauthorised encampments and licensing compliance checks.

Out of Hours duty periods are as follows:-

*Thursday 8pm to 2am: Friday 9pm to 3am:
Saturday 9pm to 3am: and Sunday 7pm to 1am*

(With our thanks to the LBH).

June Reyner