

# Ickenham Calling .....

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Spring 2020

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

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## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

We were not surprised, but still dismayed as our Prime Minister announced the go ahead for HS2. We know he is keen on infrastructure projects but to want to have his name associated with this project that will ultimately prove to be a white elephant yet have caused so much environmental destruction to our countryside, wildlife, local businesses and indeed our day to day living for the next ten years is beyond us.

The wildly inappropriate proposal for the Master Brewer site was discussed at the Major Planning committee on 19<sup>th</sup> February and our objection address was presented by a committee member. The LBH planning department had eight reasons for refusal and the committee agreed with the objections and refused the application. Whether the developers will ever find a compromise that satisfies their profit motives yet fits in with the planning laws remains to be seen.

There has been quite a furore over plans by Vyners School to revise their admissions policy so that pupils from Ryefield (a member of the same trust as Vyners) would be taken for limited places, in priority to those from more local primary schools in Ickenham and Uxbridge. There has been a consultation which we believe to be flawed, and many Ickenham residents responded over the adverse impacts (thank you) as well as the London Borough of Hillingdon. We shall report on the outcome in due course. *Jill Dalton*

## AGM AND ISSUING OF MINUTES

We have been, and are continuing to, review our costs and our environmental footprint.

The first change we are making is that we will no longer issue copies of the draft minutes of last year's AGM with the **Spring edition of the newsletter**. This will save both money and a quantity of paper, as we print 4000 copies (most of which go in the recycling)

**The Agenda will still be included in this newsletter (Page 6)** (as per the constitution) but paper copies of the minutes and other documents will only be provided for those attending the **AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> April**. Should you wish to see a copy **of the draft minutes for 2019** before this year's AGM, we will of course provide one for you. Please email us on [ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com) and we will send an electronic version to you. If you do not have access to email or would simply like a hard copy, please telephone our General Secretary on 01895234771 leaving your name and address and we will get one to you. Thank you for your understanding.

*June Reyner*

### AGM of the ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Please make a note in your diary for Friday, 17.04.20, at 8pm, Ickenham Village Hall, Swakeleys Road, Ickenham. You will find the AGM Agenda on the back of this newsletter. (Please bring along with you).

Minutes of last AGM in April 2019 (to be approved) will be available as hard copies on the evening itself, or can be sent to you on request beforehand, either electronically or by post (See article AGM AND ISSUING OF MINUTES on this page).

## HS2

The government has made the announcement to proceed with HS2 Phase One. This Phase has a significant impact on Ickenham, Harefield, West Ruislip and South Ruislip where major construction works are sited. The current outlook is 5 years of increased congestion with up to 550 HGV's using our roads every day. The impact will of course be felt wider afield across Hillingdon Borough, and with major sites in Maple

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

AGM/MINUTES

HS2

ICKENHAM MARSHES

PLANNING UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

FESTIVE COMMUNITY EVENING

NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

HEALTH MATTERS

POLICE MATTERS

COMMUNITY FORUM EVENT

AGM AGENDA ON PAGE 6

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

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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 2020



Cross and Great Missenden, these neighbouring areas will compound the problems. Our landscapes will see major changes with the dumping of spoils in the fields and our quality of life will suffer from 24 hour air pollution, construction noise and bright lighting.

We have campaigned for 10 years to get the project stopped or to use alternative routes proposed by experienced railway engineers; these alternatives were 10% of the HS2 costs (at that time) and much quicker to build.

We petitioned in the House of Commons and House of Lords with the support of our MPs, including Boris Johnson, and discussed with our Local Council various options to reduce the local financial and environmental damage including tunnelling under the Colne Valley.

We have been accused of NIMBYism which is a valid criticism but all analyses of the business case showed it was never financially viable. 10 years ago, the fantasy was focused on Ultra High-Speed trains running at 400Km/hour which required new straight tracks with highly expensive engineering and huge amounts of energy.

We have yet to see the details of any announcement but it is probable this will be watered down to normal high speed; UK already has the third largest high-speed network in Europe so all the alternatives 10 years ago which would have been much cheaper and quicker to build were highly valid. We therefore have ended up with something which is not financially, environmentally or strategically sound. Intercity traffic is already reducing as technology such as 'tele' travelling enables business to work together without face to face meetings. Who in 2040 will be using these trains?

Today with our monthly meetings with HS2 we have many issues arising out of the early works programmes. It appears HS2 has no control over their contractors unless residents 'police' their behaviour. This does not bode well for the next few years.

*Brian Adams*



## COLNE VALLEY

Between Christmas and New Year well over a thousand people met at Denham station for a 'walk for the trees', led by celebrity environmentalist Chris Packham. I say, led by, he'd not visited the area before, so local HS2 protesters charted a course. The crowds briefly entering Ickenham's NE corner as they meandered through wet woodland, crossing rivers and taking in the unique landscape, which is set to be irreversibly damaged by the new railway.

One silver lining is that the walk and associated publicity has raised awareness locally of the wild habitats that exist on our doorsteps. Much of the Colne Valley Park, which runs from Staines to Rickmansworth, will not be impacted. Get out there and explore!

## ICKENHAM MARSHES

Summer dates for your diary are as follows:  
Guided Marshes nature walk on the afternoon of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Bug / wildflower hunt after school on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

I've been providing quarterly Marshes updates since Autumn 2012. I don't think I have actually used the word 'marshy' in that time, but with the storms Ciara and Dennis sweeping through recently, it is particularly apt at this time (late Feb). Egrets (small white herons) have become a reasonably common sight on the Marshes; I counted nine flying over in late January. Much more excitingly, an Olive Mayfly larva turned up



in the February river monitoring tray. These tiny three tailed invertebrates are a welcome sight in terms of water quality. They only tend to show up once or twice a year in Ickenham, and this particular one was spotted by the Association's own Humphrey Tizard.



A repeat of the 2016 sewage outfall safari will take place on 11 April, when I will be walking the river from Ickenham to Headstone and recording any dodgy looking pipes on a smartphone app. Last time 227 questionable stink pipes were reported by 17 volunteers, who surveyed 34 km of river.

I hope I won't find too many, but we have good working relationships with Thames Water these days, so we are confident that action will be taken, should any stinkers be found. Do let me know, if you'd like to join me for some or all of this adventure, which will take up most of Easter Saturday.

*Chris Mountain*

meetings. These are held on the second Wednesday of every month in St. Giles Church Hall.

We have been and continue to look at ways to improve our communications and this could be an opportunity for someone with new ideas to come forward and help negotiate these tricky waters. Training and support will of course be provided.

If you are interested, could you, in the first place, please email our General Secretary June Reyner on [ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com)

*June Reyner*



## PLANNING UPDATE

### Beginning of November 2019 to end of January 2020

We have looked at a total of 48 planning applications and written letters of observation or objection on 18 occasions since the end of October 2019.

*Hanne Raeder*

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Our Membership Secretary, Maureen Pemberton, will be standing down from the rôle at our upcoming AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

We would like to put on record our thanks to Maureen for all she has done over the last 5 years. She stepped into the rôle with no previous experience of the Membership Team nor of the Committee and has fulfilled both rôles admirably. We will miss her input at meetings, though she has agreed to stay on as Area Steward for the North West Area.

We are therefore looking for someone to take over the rôle of Membership Secretary. The rôle involves receiving and distributing the newsletters and other documents 4 x a year to the area stewards for onward distribution to the road stewards and providing support for the Area Stewards.

A working knowledge of computer record keeping and email is required and as the rôle is a committee officer, attendance at some though not necessarily all committee

## FESTIVE COMMUNITY EVENING

Thank you to all of you who stopped by our table in the Village Hall on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> 2019.

We gained a few more signatories to our mailing list on the night and folks seemed to enjoy the display of photographs – thanks to David Tebbutt for organising.

A very big thankyou to the Festival Committee for their organisation as usual, and to all others who take part to make this a special community evening.

Looking forward to the Festival this year in June.

*June Reyner*

## NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

### Take part in Ickenham Festival 2020 Celebrations

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020 - Sun 14th June 2020 -

The Association will be represented, as always.

More details nearer the time – also see <http://www.ickenhamfestival.org.uk>

## HEALTH MATTERS

English organ donation law is changing. From spring 2020, all adults in England will be considered potential organ donors, unless they choose to opt out or are in one of the excluded groups. This is commonly referred to as an "opt out system". This means that all adults will be considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die, unless they have recorded a decision not to donate. However, it does not mean that the organs will be automatically taken if we don't opt out. Your family would always be involved before donation takes place, so it is important that you choose whether you want to be a donor and discuss what you want to happen with your family, so that the decision is clear and they can have peace of mind knowing your decision is being honoured.

The excluded groups include those under the age of 18; people who lack the mental capacity to understand the new arrangements and take the necessary action; visitors to England and those not living here voluntarily; people who have lived in England for less than 12 months before their death.

Organ and tissue donation is giving your organs and /or tissues to help save or improve the lives of others when you die. One organ donor can save or transform the lives of up to nine people. Tissue transplants can also significantly improve a person's quality of life. This might be a cornea to help someone see again, a replacement heart valve to treat a heart defect, or skin to treat severe burns. There has been tremendous progress in organ donation, but there is still a major shortage of donors. Last year, 408 patients died in the UK on the transplant waiting list, and more than 5,000 people are currently on the waiting list in England. For more information the web site is [www.organdonation.nhs.uk](http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk) or a contact number: 0300 123 23 23

NHS England commissioned an urgent review of Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (MVCC) in May 2019, due to increasing concern regarding the sus-

tainability of a safe and high quality oncology service provided on the site. Services continue to be provided within very poor quality accommodation with much equipment reaching the end of its life without a replacement plan! Throughout the review the Advisory Review Members were greatly impressed by the dedication and determination of the MVCC team to continue to provide the best quality care they could under difficult circumstances. The review also noted that the feedback from patients has been consistently positive over a long period of time in spite of the significant challenges faced. The review is now focused on finding a practical and affordable solution for MVCC. One favoured option and considered clinically acceptable is full replacement on an acute site. This would require the build of a new integrated cancer centre on an acute DGH site (District General Hospital) This site should be preferably close to the MVCC site and central to the existing catchment area to maintain patient access!

*David John*

## POLICE MATTERS

I have noticed a falling-off of attempted 'phone scams of late; the only recent one being a couple of recorded calls saying 'your Amazon Prime account needs renewing'. We don't have an Amazon Prime account and have no intention of opening one. This seems to be a case of aggressive marketing rather than anything actually criminal.

My concern now is the number of very dubious financial advertisements appearing when I call up news and financial pages on the computer. These offer returns in the region of 8 to 14%, when bank account interest is around 1% and even the Stock Market averages just over 4%, although some leading companies, that are currently out of fashion, are on yields of 5 to 6%; but you do have to tolerate fluctuations in their capital values. There has recently been a

case of a company offering 'bond funds' with a projected yield of 8 to 10%. These bonds are what are called 'mini bonds', that is bonds issued by companies with bad credit histories who can only raise money by offering very high interest rates. If you invest in these you may not see your money back! Another one I spotted lately is offering an investment in 'development opportunities' and suggesting a return in the region of 14%. If this is such a good investment why are they offering it to the general public and not keeping it for their friends? Currently contractors working on developments are working on returns of (at best) around 3% and the development companies are gambling on letting or selling enough of the buildings to recover their investment before their loans fall due. If they end up with a 10% return they are doing well, out of which they have to pay tax, management costs and all being well, a dividend to their shareholders.

The old adage still holds good. 'If it looks too good to be true, it almost certainly is!'

A matter for concern is the number of catalytic converters being stolen from cars for their content of the metal Palladium, which currently fetches a high price on the market. For some reason Hondas seem to be particularly targeted. As the thieves can cut the converter out very quickly, the only sure way to prevent the theft is to lock the car away in the garage. My next door neighbour had a near miss recently when she happened to look out of her window, late at night and spotted a man crawling around her Honda in her forecourt. Luckily, we have a streetlight outside, which was illuminating him. He ran off when shouted at. A motion-sensor light overlooking the drive might act as some deterrent.

So-called 'Ring' doorbells are proving very popular with the more 'techie' householders. Their capabilities are remarkable. When you are out of the house and someone rings your bell, the signal can be sent to your smartphone so you can see who is calling and even send a voice message to the caller. If you are suspicious that the caller might be seeing if the house is unoccupied, it

is possible to set off your burglar alarm from your 'phone!

In spite of all our efforts, burglary in Hillingdon is still gradually rising, so we must do our best to keep our houses, sheds and garages secure. Don't buy any power-tools at boot sales, these are a favourite target for thieves breaking into outhouses.

**Vic Silk**



## COMMUNITY FORUM EVENT

The Great Barn in Ruislip had standing room only to host the Community Safety Forum on January 25<sup>th</sup>, jointly organised by Hillingdon Council, Neighbourhood Watch and the Police.

The event promoted crime prevention and community involvement followed up by a question and answer session. In summary we need to help ourselves by reporting anything suspicious to the police and do what we can to prevent our property being stolen. The NW presentation gave examples of how Ickenham NW helped the police to catch a burglary and catalytic converter team using CCTV from domestic systems. You can read about the event and download the presentation on: [www.hillingdonhw.co.uk](http://www.hillingdonhw.co.uk)

Update from the ward panel: The response team operating on the Borough will very shortly receive 15 newly trained officers for each shift with a similar number to follow shortly. Or local officer, Ahmad, is doing a fantastic job but he is still lacking the support from the MPs.

Maybe, just maybe, this will improve over the coming year as increased resources come to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the crime management system, which is bordering on woeful, is improved.

**Chris Tarr**



# *Ickenham Residents' Association*



You are invited to attend

## **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**FRIDAY, 17th APRIL 2020 at 8.00 pm**  
**IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SWAKELEYS ROAD, ICKENHAM**

### **A G E N D A**

PLEASE BRING THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOU

1. Introduction by the Chairman
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019
3. Any matters arising from the above minutes
4. Annual Report of the Committee
5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 28th February 2020
6. Election of new Chairman for one year
7. Election of Officers to serve for one year and Committee Members to serve for one year
8. Election of Honorary External Examiner to serve for one year
9. Any Other Business - at the Chairman's discretion.

At the conclusion of business, refreshments will be available.

