

Ickenham Residents' Association



General Secretary: 6 The Chase, Ickenham, Uxbridge, UB10 8SR

Association update as @ May 2020

Message from our chairman

What strange times we are living in at present.

I'm sorry I have not seen you as usual on Saturdays at the egg van but am isolating at home to keep my dear Mum (who is doing well at 96) safe and well.

Aren't we lucky to live in Ickenham? The community spirit shown, the help on offer for those in need whether it is getting food / prescriptions/ just keeping an eye on someone is incredible. There are sewing groups making garments for the NHS and all sorts of other initiatives. The local shops are pulling out all the stops to provide us with what we need whilst keeping us and their staff as safe as possible.

To quote the Facebook page:

Ickenham really is THE BEST VILLAGE

Thank you to all of you.

The Association has decided not to produce this quarter's newsletter, nor to collect the annual subs at this time in order to protect all our stewards. We will review the situation when we are due to produce the Autumn newsletter. In the meantime, just to keep you up to date with what has been going on in the last few months here is a brief update on the major issues.

Keep safe and well.

MASTER BREWER

As you are aware this application was refused at the Major Planning Committee meeting on 19th February.

However, this application has now been called in by the Mayor of London. we wrote to our MP David Simmonds as follows to ask him to ask the Secretary of State to call this in.

We recognise the timing of this request could not be worse, but decisions on planning applications are being made throughout the current crisis and the application to build tower blocks at Hillingdon Circus (Master Brewer: LBH ref 4266/APP/2019/3088) will soon be decided by the Greater London Authority.

Please will you ask the Secretary of State to call in this application to prevent the Mayor from forcing this inappropriate development through. It would permanently blight the local area and is of more than local significance because it could set a precedent for building tower blocks in suburban areas across London and the rest of the country.

Whilst we support the principle of development at the Master Brewer site at Hillingdon Circus, we have serious concerns about the current application, which has been recommended for refusal by the London Borough of Hillingdon. The application clearly flouts local planning policies that rightly restrict such buildings to town centres. We also have serious concerns about local air quality and Green Belt impacts.

We look forward to working with the developers in the future to bring forward a more suitable scheme for this site, in line with the community masterplan that several local groups have developed as part of the emerging Ickenham Neighbourhood Plan.

David has kindly agreed to do so.

Our adjoining RAs, OFRA and NURA have also contacted Boris's constituency office to ask him to do the same.

VYNNERS SCHOOL

As you are aware the school decided on 13th March not to proceed with the changes. The letter to parents is available on the school website. They did however reserve the right to revisit this. We have since received a letter from the Headteacher outlining this intention and inviting the Association to attend a meeting on this matter once it is safe to do so. We have accepted the invitation.

HS2

The government has announced the Notice to Proceed which enables the Main Contractors to start the main works. Up to now, the HS2 work taking place has been 'early works. In our area SCS (Skanska/Costain/Sebag) will be based at West Ruislip and will be constructing the tunnel towards London, building the ventilation shaft at South Ruislip and the line northwards to Harvil Road including a bridge over Breakspear Road South and a cut and cover tunnel between Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road. ALIGN, based at Maple Cross, will be the contractor to build the Colne Valley viaduct and the Chiltern tunnel.

We have had constructive discussions with SCS over past few years which has resulted in less HGV's going through Ickenham village, no concrete factories on our green belt and no major railways sidings between Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road. We still have issues on the number of HGVs and the toxic emissions between Swakeleys roundabout and Harvil/Breakspear Road South roundabouts and their planned dumping of spoil between Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road.

There are still issues with ALIGN and the Colne Valley viaduct construction; there are major concerns regarding the potential impact of the pilings on the aquifers under the lakes. These aquifers provide our drinking water.

We maintain monthly meetings with HS2 and the contractors although the meetings are now online. We have many issues with HS2, particularly the behaviour of their workers both on site and in the village. These have been escalated to our MP and Ministers. Meanwhile HS2 is advising us of works that are planned to take place in the near future; if you wish to keep up to date, information can usually be found on their website <https://hs2inhillington.commonplace.is/>

We can see on Facebook that people have issues with HS2; please always register any concerns (whether Covid-19 related or not) as formal complaints using the HS2 Helpdesk first and escalate through the complaints procedures. Very few complaints are officially recorded in Hillingdon compared to what we

know is the reality. We understand there is little faith in the process, but we can't take the complaints to a higher level if they go unreported. The HS2Ltd Helpdesk can be reached on Freephone **08081 434 43**

or you can go to the HS2 website <https://www.hs2.org.uk/how-to-complain/> where you will find the HS2 Complaints Form which, once completed, can either be emailed to HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk. or posted to "Freepost HS2 COMMUNITY HUB".

If contacting HS2 residents should ask that their request is treated as a formal complaint and be given a Complaints Reference Number. They should also follow up their complaint and ensure they get a satisfactory answer.

If you could also copy in our email ickenhamresidentsa@hotmail.com, it would be a great help. Thank you

PLANNING

Yes, these are still continuing.

Between 01.02.20 and 30.04.20 we looked at 48 planning applications and wrote 17 letters of either objection or observation to the LHB Planning Team.

HEALTH

Coronavirus Pandemic

NHS staff are working flat out to cope with an unprecedented health emergency. GP practices are focused on helping their patients who have COVID-19. and are not working normally, but most should be open 8 am-6.30 pm. Those who think they have Covid-19 symptoms should always use the 111 online service for advice. If you cannot get online, phone 111, do not go to your GP surgery, as this may lead to the virus spreading further, including to practice staff. If you need a GP about another matter, you must stay at home and ring the practice in the first instance. Local practices are working together in networks to support each other. It is possible that if you need to speak to a GP, you will be given an appointment with a different doctor or practice to the one you usually see.

Dentists and Covid -19

Routine face to face dental services have been suspended all over the country due to Covid-19. The advice is to call your dentist first. The practice should be open in normal surgery hours and may be able to give advice and guidance over the phone, or what support is available, depending on your condition. If you need urgent dental treatment phone 111, for further advice.

Cases by local area: as at 9th May (rates per 100k in brackets)

Hillingdon	750 cases (246)
Harrow	983 cases (393)
Brent	1,405 cases (425)
Richmond on Thames	390 cases (198)
Westminster	637 cases (249)
Ealing	1,136 cases (332)
Hounslow	703 cases (260)
Buckinghamshire	886 cases (164)