



# Ickenham Calling....

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Autumn 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

It is so heart-warming that many Ickenham villagers have carried on with the spirit of fellowship and helpfulness that was so evident throughout full lockdown, supporting local businesses, looking out for neighbours and the elderly, and generally making the best of such a difficult time. The economic impact will no doubt be felt for years to come and we feel for those that are suffering hardship and employment difficulties.

We are fully aware that the economy will have to be recharged but are concerned that some of the measures intent on encouraging development will impact on Ickenham. For instance the new rules under permitted development allowing two storey extensions – some of the existing ones in Ickenham are considered rather more functional than aesthetically pleasing.

Also the new White Paper out for consultation is billed as the biggest change to the planning system since it was created in 1947, so that new homes, hospitals, schools, shops, GP surgeries and offices will get "automatic" permission to be built if the council has judged there is a need for it. Under new rules, land will be designated into three categories – giving protection for Green Belt and Areas of Natural Beauty, but at the same time setting zones for fast track development. The London Green Belt Council are concerned that "Ministers have missed the opportunity to strengthen local democracy and have instead opted for policies that circumvent local communities". The Ickenham Residents' Association will be adding their comments to the consultation.

In the meantime, after some 20 years of seeking opinions and discussion, a new Hillingdon Hospital is proposed on the existing site. As the scheme moves into the next stage, a community conversation will be started to hear feedback from the community, patients and stakeholders, test their thinking and develop plans further.

Please do get involved, by completing the feedback form, getting in touch with the team or attending one of their events. I'm sure many will want to air their views!!

<https://thh.nhs.uk/redevelopment/get-involved-and-have-your-say/>

HS2 rumbles on in its disastrous way, even at this stage causing difficulties for residents – and all before construction has even really started. Our team still persevere in trying to mitigate the worst of it.

Lastly, as rather expected, the London Mayor and Greater London Authority did call in for review the refusal by LBH of the Master Brewer application, and we shall be commenting with our objections before the deadline, just a week or so away – with extremely short notice !

*Jill Dalton*



## Please see STOP PRESS information at the end of this article.

There can be no doubt that HS2 construction has started in earnest as their contractors take over vast swathes of land off Harvil Road, Breakspear Road South, Ruislip Golf Course, Harefield and Denham, clearing all trees and vegetation, building temporary roads and buildings, putting up hoardings, causing so much disruption for our communities.... and this is only the beginning. Again our Ickenham HS2 team, along with members of Ruislip and Harefield Residents' Associations, have continued to have regular monthly virtual meetings with the Community Engagement Team, HS2 contractors, representatives from the London Borough of Hillingdon, and Transport for London. Our aim continues to be to communicate effectively with HS2, attempting to obtain mitigation and reduce the harm being done to our area both during construction and eventual operation, and my goodness we have tried so hard!

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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)

Our issues with the HS2 Community Engagement Team have been endless with meetings becoming more frustrating as HS2 basks in the knowledge that the signing of 'Notice to Proceed' allows them to do almost anything they want. However, as HS2 reorganises their set-up, we shall in future be more in touch directly with their contractors and hopefully be given more detailed and timely answers to our questions and have the chance to maybe influence their plans.

At petition hearings we were reassured by HS2 executives that no roads would need to be closed during construction, that there would only be lane closure. Over the past year we have seen closures which have caused total chaos in all parts of Hillingdon. Currently the roads between Rayners Lane and West Ruislip are being dug up by UKPN, on behalf of HS2, as they install the electric cables needed to supply power to the two Tunnel Boring Machines which will be situated on Ruislip Golf Course. Harvil Road, Breakspear Road South and Moorhall Road have lane closures and many more upheavals and traffic diversions are inevitable. There is great concern at the potential damage to water supplies by the ground works investigations and eventually the building of the foundations of the supports for the Colne Valley viaduct. From what we have experienced to date we have no great faith in reassurances being given. We have raised our worries about the dumping of spoil in the fields between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South, which could lead to more flooding in Breakspear Road South.

HS2 continues to spend enormous amounts of our money despite so many warnings, including from the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) who reported that "Successful delivery of the project appears to be unachievable". The IPA uses a traffic light system to appraise major projects. Green, to signify that successful delivery of a project is highly likely, all the way down to Red. Between 2013 and 2019, HS2 was awarded a record-breaking seven Amber/Red warnings in a row. This year it finally snared a Red warning meaning there are serious issues that "do not appear to be manageable or resolvable." All this before a single piece of track has even been laid!

Three new non-executive directors have been appointed to the HS2 Board remunerated at £950 per day, on an assumption of a time commitment of two days per month. The organisation's annual report has revealed that HS2's chief executive, Mark Thurston, 'earned' £660,000 last year, the chief financial officer earned a £16,000 bonus on his £270,000 pay packet, while Chairman Allan Cook, who works three days per week, took home a £266,000 salary.

Protestors continue to camp at various sites along the route protecting trees, wildlife and habitats, but their efforts are being hampered by security staff and an increasing police presence. The walk by Extinction Rebellion and Local communities, between Birmingham and London Euston, was well supported and passed through Hillingdon, but sadly Covid 19 news ensured there was little press coverage. HS2 continues to be a totally ill-conceived project economically and environmentally and, with the developments in technology over the last few months, is already redundant.

The HS2 website <https://hs2inhillington.commonplace.is/overview> gives details of latest news and works in our area. If you have any queries or complaints please do contact the HS2 Helpdesk 24/7 and if complaining be sure to ask for a Reference number.... HS2 assumes that all is well and residents are happy with everything that they are doing when nobody contacts them!!! Freephone: 08081 434 434; email: [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

## **STOP PRESS**

LBH has won an appeal against HS2 arrogance. Friday, 31.07.20: Hillingdon Council has successfully persuaded the Court of Appeal to overturn a High Court decision concerning the submission of planning applications by HS2 Ltd. under the HS2 Act. The Council had refused to approve an application for HS2 works to be undertaken on a site in the Borough of archaeological importance on the basis that HS2 Ltd had submitted insufficient information in support of it. Councillor Ray Puddifoot, Leader of Hillingdon Council, said: "HS2 Ltd. thought that HS2 could act with total impunity and just expect the Council to approve its planning applications without question. As the Court of Appeal has said, it cannot have been the intention of Parliament to allow HS2 Ltd. to be a judge in its own cause. For the avoidance of doubt, this Council will continue to challenge decisions that may harm our environment or the health and well-being of our people. Full details can be found at

<https://hillington.gov.uk/article/5397/Hillingdon-Council-wins-HS2-planning-case-in-Court-of-Appeal>

*IRA HS2 Group July 2020*

## **NEWSLETTER**

As you will all have realised we are not printing and delivering our normal newsletter for September. We discussed this at length in committee and took on board the views and thoughts of our area and road stewards. We decided, that although things do seem to be improving, there is no certainty that the situation in September will remain as it is currently, to issue the newsletter mainly online. It will be available on our website to download. If you are unable to download it, please email us on [Ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:Ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com) and we will email you a copy. We will also print off a limited number of paper copies which will be available to collect from designated points in the village, which will be Ickenham Library, Dalton's Egg Van (on Saturdays) and Maison de Soleil. We trust you understand our reasons for this, but we cannot risk the health and wellbeing of all our volunteers. The situation will be reviewed again before the next newsletter due out in December.

*June Reyner*

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

We have decided not to collect subscriptions this year as it is not safe to have our stewards knocking on doors and handling money. We are currently looking at alternative payment methods but have not yet come to any firm decisions. Should you wish to send a donation to help us cover our ongoing expenditure please send any monies to the following account

**Barclays Ickenham Residents Association 20-73-53 30555886 Marking it as "2020 donation"**

Thank you very much indeed in advance. If you wish a receipt please email us on [ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com).

We sincerely trust things will have returned to near normal by April / May next year.

*June Reyner*



### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We are still looking for someone to take over this vital role and perhaps now would be a very good time to seriously think about it as the role currently is simply keeping our stewards team up to date with what is happening with the newsletters. Once things get back to some form of “normality” it will mean a greater involvement distributing the newsletters to the area stewards and also ensuring that all roads are covered. If you are interested / wish to chat about this, please contact or e-mail us on [ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com)

*Reyner*

*June*

### PLANNING UPDATE - Between 01.05.20 and 31.07.20

We have looked at a total of 78 planning applications and written letters of observation or objection on 21 occasions since 01.05.20  
*Hanne Raeder*



### DAVID FENTON

It is with much regret and my sad duty to inform members of the Association that David Fenton passed away on the 2nd of June, in the Care Home where he was residing in Denham. I understand he succumbed to “a long standing, underlying infection”, (not Covid related) and, no doubt, his recent loss only last December, of Fay, his wife, will not have helped. David had served in various capacities on the committee, during his service from 1998 to 2013. He served as a Committee Member; Road Steward; Area Steward; and from 1999 to 2011, as Treasurer of the Association. He eventually left the committee in 2013 due to “hearing problems”. In addition to the above, he worked tirelessly monitoring the Cala Development on the Ex USN base, with frequent meetings with the developer to mitigate noise and nuisance emanating from the site during its construction. His wife Fay was always in attendance with him at Association events helping out with the refreshments – an important element of any Association’s functioning. David will be sadly missed by those who served with him in the Association, and personally by myself and Vanetta, who had become close friends of them both.

*Pete Daymond. President*



### COLNE VALLEY

Photos from my May walk around Denham Lock Wood are available on our website:  
<https://ickenhamresidents.co.uk/2020/05/15/denham-lock-wood/> .

London Wildlife Trust volunteers have recently carried out some more boardwalk repairs and have also cut back brambles in and around Frays Farm Meadow to improve the habitats for the illusive glow worms.

### ICKENHAM MARSHES



Visitor numbers have been higher than ever over recent months; it's great to see so many people out enjoying the area. Regular Marshes updates and photos go on the Marshes website:



<https://ickenhammarshes.wordpress.com/latestnews/>.

The wildflowers have been vibrant and widespread oxeye daisy (see picture to left) especially thriving. Conservation grazing continues on the Nature Reserve with three Sussex Cattle from the farm near Black Park, and London Wildlife Trust volunteers cut most of the 'meadow' on the Reserve in late July (see picture to right). A section full of purple vetch has been left for a few months to ensure that the seeds can set and pop.

The Stafford Road Open Space is maturing wonderfully, having been mostly cleared of scrub 8 years ago. A recent count recorded around 20 different wildflowers, including several species I've not seen on the Marshes before, like Sneezewort, Marsh Cudweed Common Fleabane, Meadowsweet, and other less welcome invasives like Goat's Rue and Himalayan Balsam.



As well as locals, butterfly spotters from far and wide continue to visit the Marshes to see the rare Brown Hairstreaks that seem to be so at home in the Ash and Oak trees in the early mornings, and on flowers like thistle in the late mornings. Picture of rare brown hairstreak butterfly was kindly provided by Andy Symes.

River monitoring scores have improved in recent months. Perhaps the reduction in car traffic has meant less road run-off pollution.

*Chris Mountain*

### HEALTH MATTERS



There has been a large cultural change in the last few months. This has been "the deadly wake-up call" that Britain needs to tackle obesity. Public Health England found excess weight put people at greater risk of serious illness or death from coronavirus. It has been unfashionable to really "take to task" the sensitivities of this topic, and really start discussing ideas, such as individual responsibility. Quite frankly it was certainly thought to be unfair to bluntly criticise poor behaviour, without knowing the reasons behind it. Perhaps this will now

change. The medical profession and our politicians are now willing to tackle obesity, and unveil a strategy to slim the nation's waistline. There is now a crusade to get the nation, one of Europe's fattest, to shed flab. Britain is the second fattest country in Europe, with more than a third of children overweight or obese by the time they leave primary school, along with two in three adults. Those who are overweight can expect more direct communication from their GP, with family doctors told to help people shed the pounds.

Obesity matters, it affects our life chances and our self-esteem. It makes the work of the NHS and care services more difficult. Living with obesity increases the risk of type 2 diabetes, many cancers, cardiovascular diseases, high blood pressure, liver disease and respiratory diseases, and major consequences on joint and back pain and on mental health. Thirty years ago, it was so different! In conclusion you might consider calculating your BMI (Body Mass Index); it is a simple calculation using a person's height and weight. The formula is  $BMI = \frac{kg}{m^2}$ , where kg is a person's weight in kilograms divided by height in metres squared. A BMI of 25.0 or more is overweight, while the healthy range is 18.5 to 24.9. (Those with a horror of maths, may struggle, but I am sure there will be help available, if needed!)

Some good news. "The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is delighted to announce that today, 28 July 2020, the Trust Board approved the submission of the draft Strategic Outline Case for the redevelopment of Hillingdon Hospital to regulators." It identifies a new hospital build on the Hillingdon Hospital site as the preferred way forward. The current hospital was built in the 1960s and is in a state of disrepair. If the Trust were to undertake the necessary repairs, it would cost over £211 million. It has the second highest backlog maintenance cost of hospital trusts in England.

Further news from Hillingdon Hospital's NHS Trust is that their Chief Executive Sarah Tedford has tendered her resignation with immediate effect dated 14th August 2020. Sir Amyas Morse, Chair of the Trust, said "Today, I accepted Sarah Tedford's resignation as Chief Executive. Sarah has reached a personal decision to stand down for family reasons, a decision I respect and understand".

Finally, coronavirus is at the top of many of our minds, and we may be eager to hear every update. Unfortunately, reading more about the virus and watching media coverage can contribute to anxiety. Limit yourself to information that is practical and informative. Listen to music; take a walk; read a good book. Keep well and follow guidelines. Stay alert.

*David John*



### POLICE MATTERS

The discouragement of unnecessary travel during the last three months has had the expected effect of reducing incidents of burglary, as not only have people been spending more time in their houses, but when there, have been keeping an eye open for unexpected events. However, the focus has shifted to aspects of car crime. The still rising price of the metal palladium has given rise to a spate of thefts of catalytic converters, which contain a quantity of this metal. These thefts can take place in a matter of minutes, so what can be done? The obvious answer is to keep the car in a garage when not in use, or at least in a drive behind locked gates; but this is not always an option. Recently two attempts of this type of theft have been foiled by sharp-eyed neighbours alerted by seeing a couple of hooded men approach a car carrying tools such as a jack. Note that these types of thieves never act alone, they are always in twos or threes.

Theft of and from cars is also continuing. Both owners of cars with the conventional electronic fob and the recently fashionable keyless systems need to be on their guard. In the former the method is to overcome the lock by hiding a transmitter nearby that blocks the signal from key to lock so when the driver walks away the watching crook can just walk up, open the door and help himself to any contents. The moral of this tale is always check that the door handle is indeed locked before leaving the car. In the case of the keyless car, the card is constantly 'talking' to the car and the signal can be intercepted and copied, then used to drive the car away. It is thus essential for owners of this type of system to carry a metal-lined pouch to put the card in when leaving the car and as the signal can read from outside a house to keep the card in such a pouch or in a tin box when indoors.

*Vic Silk*