

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SWAKELEYS ROAD, ICKENHAM, ON FRIDAY 12th April 2019

PRESENT: J Dalton (Chairman), J Reyner (General Secretary), I Phillips (Treasurer),

P Daymond (President). Committee Members: L Douglass, D John, C Mountain, R Piper, V Silk, C Tarr. Also present MP Nick Hurd and Councillors R Puddifoot, J Hensley, D Simmonds, P Corthorne and D Radia. Also Squadron Leader James Tenniswood (media and communications officer of RAF Northolt), Squadron Leader Andy Edgecombe and 2 representatives from the Lagan project team. Our local Police SNT member Sergeant Sharma also attended, plus over 130 Association Members.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: M Beaumont (Patron) members Mr and Mrs May and committee members Neena Bedi, David Tebbutt, Hanne Rader and Brian Adams

The Chairman introduced the Committee members on the stage and welcomed MP Nick Hurd, our councillors and the team from RAF Northolt

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the last AGM held on 20th April 2018 were distributed with the last newsletter. The minutes were approved. Proposed: Brian Cable; Seconded: Geoff Douglass. Passed with no abstentions/objections.

MATTERS ARISING: Change Dave Porter to David Porter

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP from our membership secretary Maureen Pemberton

Our current membership stands at 3045, a reduction of 15 from last year despite increasing the membership in the new developments near West Ruislip station following a recruitment drive last summer. Life memberships are sadly but inevitably declining.

The association continues to thrive and represents more than 60% of Ickenham households - but we acknowledge that we need to maintain our membership numbers to continue to be an effective voice for Ickenham. As the make-up of the area's residents changes, we need to think of ways to recruit new members to continue to represent all the views of our community.

Our area and road steward's team continue to do an excellent job. We would like to express the committee's thanks to them for treading the streets to deliver our newsletters and collect the subscription income.

However, we continue to seek assistance as we do have a turnover of stewards each year.

If anyone is interested in helping us in either capacity anywhere in Ickenham could they please see either our Membership Secretary, Maureen Pemberton after the formal meeting, or email her at ickres.memsec@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS – we have a number of means of communicating with our member households

Firstly our quarterly NEWSLETTER This report from Hanne Raeder

Throughout the year, we have endeavoured to bring to your attention general information and issues concerning and affecting the Ickenham community which, we feel, would be of major interest to you.

As every year, we repeat that we would more than welcome your suggestions of how to improve the contents of our quarterly newsletter, and whether there are any subjects, on which you would like to receive more information, but which, in your opinion, are not covered sufficiently by this Association.

The topics, on which we reported, were again diverse and plentiful, and in chronological order since May 2018 as follows: - Chairman's Comments on a variety of current topics in Ickenham, The 2018 AGM, Health Issues, Police Matters All appear as regular and standard features in every issue

STOP HS2 and HS2 Effects on Ickenham, Ickenham Festival, Local Neighbourhood Plan, Ickenham Marshes, Nature Reserve, Update Membership News, RAF Northolt updates, Planning Informatives and Boundary Commission.

Most of these subjects are ongoing issues,

Our **WEBSITE, EMAIL ADDRESS and TWITTER ACCOUNT** are listed at the top of the front page of each Newsletter which we monitor on your behalf and report on developments and progress at regular intervals. With any new issues arising, we make every effort to bring all facts to your attention at the earliest opportunity. They are well established and well used facilities, with the website recording a steady number of 'hits' or visits.

EMAIL ACCOUNT

Our Hotmail account is monitored by our General Secretary June Reyner and continues in importance as our primary source of communication. This is how our members contact us and how we contact them as well as our councillors, elected representatives and formal bodies (HS2 etc.). Our communications list of over 300 subscribers is now well established on the MailChimp platform and, over the past year, we have sent approximately 150 emails covering TFL weekend working updates, information on road closures in particular with reference to HS2 works, publicity for local events, etc.

As the OWL system is now up and running successfully we no longer send out communications from our local NHW. We do however still regularly circulate the Hillingdon police community newsletter, *The Communicator*, from our local inspector.

Please rest assured that our mailing and membership lists are now compliant with the new general data protection regulation (GDPR). If you are interested in being added to this email communication list, could you add your email address to the list available at the rear of the Hall. We will only use this list for the purpose of village and Association communications. Emails will only be sent from the Ickenham Residents' email account in MailChimp and your details will only be used for Association purposes and will not be forwarded to any other organisation.

WEBSITE ETC

Our updated website has now been running for a couple of years and is updated regularly by David Tebbutt. Weekly, apart from holidays, he maintains an interactive Google map of planning applications and appeals.. He also maintains our Twitter feed and participates in the Facebook group *Ickenham... it's just the best village*. This means we can get information out quickly.

As part of our exercise to future proof the Association, we have formed a subcommittee to review all aspects of the Association and how we can make best use of all the current media options to disseminate information in the most efficient and timely manner

PLANNING

The planning sub-committee includes Hanne Rader, Peter Daymond, and Lynn Douglass – but if anyone has a bit of spare time and an interest in the appearance of Ickenham we really would like to have some additional planning team members - no commitment to join the Committee, training would gladly be provided. Please do have a word with any committee member afterwards if you think you could help. As you know the Association spends a great deal of time on planning matters and it was gratifying for us that the survey you kindly completed at the Festive evening last December proved to us that you too consider planning to be of great importance and thereby gave us a mandate to continue devoting so much of our time and energy to this issue.

PLANNING REPORT 2019

This Association has continued to seek to preserve and enhance our local environment and amenity by scrutinising every planning application relating to the Ickenham area, or applications from adjoining wards which would impact our area. After all, the visual aspect of Ickenham is still a major factor in attracting people to live here.

During the period from 31.03.18 to 01.04.19 we looked at a total of **300** applications for Ickenham. The Association only comments on, or where appropriate, raises sustainable objections to, development proposals which it considers contrary to local and national planning control regulations. Some regulations and guidance are specific and easy to apply, whilst others are more subjective. As a result, anyone making an application for planning permission is encouraged to obtain the advice of the London Borough of Hillingdon's planning team, seek to comply with local and national planning guidance, and discuss plans with their neighbours.

We have to bear in mind that many plans for home extensions and alterations are covered by the laws for permitted development, and so however unattractive the outcome, there is nothing we, nor the LBH can do about it. The Association sent a total of **102** planning letters of objection or observation or comments to the Borough between the last and this year's AGM. This is in addition to other general letters to Councillors and residents plus the almost daily email exchanges with various LBH departments.

There were 17 North Planning Committee Meetings scheduled between April 2018 and March 2019 including four applications from Ickenham and West Ruislip Wards on the agenda, and we made every effort to be represented by committee members at the ones concerning our village.

Our involvement can vary from simply attending to see what decision is made, which can be an invaluable way to understand how planning legislation and guidance is being implemented in the Borough, to presenting the maximum five minute presentation guaranteed by the submission of a petition to the LBH Planning committee in order to ensure that the Councillors have the benefit of local knowledge when reaching their decision. If an application is refused by the Borough or at the Planning Committee, an applicant can appeal that decision.

It is increasingly disappointing to us that developers seem to be ignoring the special status of our conservation area. We will continue to fight this as much as possible.

We have been involved in the following major applications:

FORMER MASTER BREWER SITE Freezeland Way Hillingdon Circus

Letter of objection 17.01.19 even longer than the one submitted in 2018 This was refused by LBH in January 2019 after our speaking at the Planning Committee – thanks to all who signed the petition. Also speaking against the proposal were Oak Farm Residents' Association who worked closely with us. News Announcement 04.03.19: *Inland Homes plc* has an interest in the development of the six acre site known as 'Hillingdon Gateway' and we await new planning applications in due course.

60 LONG LANE Another proposal for a conversion to a block of flats Letters of objection were sent in March and June 2018. We spoke against the application at the Planning committee hearing on 4 December 2018, as did the neighbours of the property. The application was refused for many reasons. The developer has now appealed the refusal and we have sent our objections to the Planning Inspectorate.

61 HIGH ROAD A previous application for a terrace of two storey houses had been approved by the Council – we had no objection as the development was attractive and appropriate for the area. However no work was started since then. This has now been amended to an Outline planning application for the erection of a 5/6 storey building with 38 residential units, comprising 2 bedroom 1 bedroom and studio flats with associated works (appearance and landscaping reserved for subsequent approval). Our strong Letter of objection was sent on 09.03.19 We were informed by an email from Councillor P. Corthorne that this should be heard at Major Applications Planning Committee on 15.05.19 In short, planning certainly keeps us busy!

HEALTH

David John monitors health matters for us, with particular reference to the local and national issues of the NHS. Unfortunately, it is sad to report the closure of The Hillingdon Community Voice. This occurred at its AGM in June 2018. Further bad news was the sudden closure of the inpatient unit of Michael Sobell Hospice, Northwood, in May last year. The latest news is that the Hospice is expected to reopen, on its existing site, on completion of extensive refurbishment, possibly later this year.

HS2

Throughout the year our HS2 team, along with members of Ruislip and Harefield Residents' Associations, has had meetings with the HS2 Residents' Commissioner and Construction Commissioner and continues to have regular monthly meetings with the Engagement Team, HS2 contractors, representatives from the London Borough of Hillingdon, and Transport for London.

Our aim is to communicate effectively with HS2 attempting to obtain mitigation and reduce the harm being done to our area both during construction and eventual operation. Our issues with the HS2 Community Engagement Team have been endless – the quality of communications, help desk responsiveness and problem logging, timeliness of meeting minutes and reports. As issues with construction increase, it is apparent that the HS2 services cannot cope with the problems being reported.

At petition hearings we were reassured by HS2 executives that no roads would need to be fully closed during construction, that there would only be lane closures. Last year Breakspear Road South was completely closed for 6 weeks which caused total chaos in all parts of the Borough. Congestion rage required police intervention. The contractors plan to close Breakspear Road South again for eight weeks and we are campaigning for this to be during school summer holidays to reduce congestion but we still await confirmation of dates. The unplanned need to dig up roads between West Ruislip and Rayners Lane to obtain a Tunnel Boring Machine power supply is just another example of this project's failure. The immensity of the tree and vegetation clearance has surprised even we hardened cynics. You will have seen the early works that have already started in Ickenham – Affinity Water in Breakspear Road South, Cadent Gas in Harvil Road and Ruislip Golf course. 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 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 there is no great faith in reassurances being given. There are great concerns about the dumping of spoil in the fields between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South, which could lead to yet more flooding in Breakspear Road South. On the positive side, our meetings with the main contractors have yielded some improvements, they have listened to and understood our concerns and are keen to design the route to make it the best they can for residents as well as HS2. They will use haul roads as we proposed, and they will not be building concrete factories on our green belt. The latest proposal to have a green tunnel instead of Cophall Cutting sidings is welcome. Everything we predicted about the route, the project viability and the business case are now apparent. With what has already taken place and the controversy yet to come over the Colne Valley viaduct we are sure that the contractors could have done a far better job with a tunnel solution. HS2 continues to spend enormous amounts of our money. It now plans to spend over a quarter of a million pounds employing two firms to try to keep costs under control.

The start of the Main Construction Works have been delayed yet again and it now looks as if the "Notice to Proceed" will be not be signed off until December, a year later than scheduled. However, Chris Grayling (commonly known as failing Grayling)

continues to claim that HS2 will come in on time and within budget. This is a totally ill-conceived project economically and environmentally and, with the developments in technology, is already redundant. HS2 plans to have another public event early in the Summer to explain the improvements they are making along the route through Hillingdon. We'll continue the battle.

ICKENHAM MARSHES \ FRAYS FARM MEADOWS

This is looked after by Chris Mountain

At the last AGM Chris mentioned the Association had initiated the process of establishing public rights of way on the Ickenham Marshes - the fields between Ickenham and Ruislip Gardens. These routes have now been confirmed - 3 miles worth of countryside paths have been granted indisputable legal status. This ranks as one of the Association's most significant recent achievements, achieved with the help of Association members who supported the petitioning process, and Hillingdon Council, who administered the process admirably. The London Wildlife Trust continue to carry out great work overseeing the management of the Ickenham Marsh nature reserve, as well as Frays Farm Meadow and Denham Lock Wood. We are also indebted to the Hillingdon Natural History Society for their ongoing management of the Harefield Place Reserves, which also fall with the village boundary.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

TRAFFIC – last year TfL in conjunction with HS2 proposed major changes to the Swakeleys roundabout including signalisation. We wrote strongly objecting to the proposals. TfL have now withdrawn the proposals for signalisation and told HS2 that it should manage the issues that will arise there from construction traffic.

FOMLUC Federation of Metropolitan Line Users' Committee

Brian Adams attends these meetings where possible and keeps us up to date with ongoing works and issues.

GREEN SPACES AND SCHOOLS

Neena Bedi is our representative on Green Spaces matters and she is also our liaison with local schools.

POLICE MATTERS Vic Silk continues to attend the quarterly Ward panel meeting which is chaired by Chris Tarr, and Vic also attends the Neighbourhood Watch meetings. His quarterly report in Ickenham Calling keeps us up to date with crime and crime prevention in the village.

Lynn Douglass and I attend the quarterly planning forums organised by LBH, and I also attend the meetings of HARA (Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations) with Pete Daymond – he also attends meetings of the London Green Belt Council and, with June Reyner, the RAF Northolt Community Liaison meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the Year to 28 February 2018

The Chair handed over to our Treasurer, Ian Phillips, to present his report on our behalf

1 question was asked regarding whether we are using the right account for the best deal. IP explained that ours is not a standard current account nor a savings account. They are regularly reviewed but as yet we have not found it worthwhile to change

Acceptance of Treasurer's report Proposed Bob Brown Seconded Brian Cable passed unanimously

JILL DALTON (CHAIR)

It is an honour that villagers and the committee continue to have faith in me as chair. I thank our band of proof readers for removing the worst of my non P.C. rants in my chairman's comments in the newsletter particularly in relation to rubbish planning applications. I remain grateful for the commitment, time and expertise of our Committee who after all are only volunteers and give so much to keep Ickenham the special place we know and love. As required by our constitution I now stand down and hand the meeting over to our president Peter Daymond. Peter Daymond took over and proposed JD as chair for upcoming year Seconded B Buckle approved unanimously

Changes to the Constitution have been proposed as follows

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

Management g.: To change **Publicity Officer to Communications Officer** (position currently vacant – if anyone is interested please see a committee member at the close of the meeting) Proposer B Cable Seconder D Crane approved unanimously

ELECTIONS

As required by the constitution, all the current members of the committee must stand down and they have all agreed to put their names forward for re-election. We thank them all, as well as our very hard-working President Pete Daymond for committing their support again this year. So, the committee members seeking election are as follows:

President - Peter Daymond, General Secretary- June Reyner, Membership Secretary - Maureen Pemberton,

Treasurer - Ian Phillips, 13 Committee Members: Brian Adams; Neena Bedi; Barbara Buckle; Lynn Douglass;

David John; Chris Mountain; Richard Piper; Hanne Rader - planning admin; Vic Silk; Chris Tarr; David Tebbutt - minutes secretary; Humphrey Tizard. Four Co-opted Members: David Crane; Dave Grimshaw; Simon Taylor; and Beryl Upton. Proposed B Cable Seconded Anke Phillips approved unanimously

ELECTION OF HONORARY INDEPENDENT EXAMINER to serve for one year Independent examiner: Mr D Thorpe

Proposed G Douglass Seconded Bob Brown approved unanimously

INVITED SPEAKERS

Nick Hurd, MP

He expressed his thanks to our HS2 team and to Sergeant. Sharma. He noted that there was a Treasury review of big capital infrastructure projects to weed out those which were failing and over budget – including HS2. The relationship with HS2 is dreadful. Our local area had the most difficult relationship.

Law and Order - there is an increased concern re aggravated burglary, though Ickenham is not too bad. There are concerns re police response on burglary – he has taken this to the Met Commissioner. He has spoken to our Superintendent and been assured that it is a priority .

There will be a public meeting in May. He said he was available at the end of the meeting for further discussions.

Cllr R Puddifoot

Commented on achievements – no council tax rises – all libraries kept open and refurbished - awards for Green Spaces won Britain in Bloom last year. Christmas lights are seen as important only three local areas contribute to cost – one of which is Ickenham Festival Committee. There are still weekly waste collections. In 2017 LBH had safest roads in London. RP then praised the Association stating that it is the best in the borough the committee works very hard LBH feels as if it is dealing with professionals.

RAF NORTHOLT TEAM

Squadron Leader Tenniswood gave an update on the resurfacing of the runway. It commences on 15th April and will be finished by October. 32 Squadron will be based at RAF Benson. There will be only helicopter traffic till October and when the runway reopens there will be the current restrictions on civilian fixed wing movements

He then introduced the **Lagan project manager** who described his company. They will be removing the top 100mm of the runway and refreshing and repairing it. They will be installing 2 new arrester beds which will now conform to the latest specifications. All works will take place on the base and there will be no more than 65 HGVs per day on local roads. All the old material will be reused on the base and the RAF are accommodating a great many of Lagan staff on base to reduce transport movements. They have discussed the traffic plan with LBH. All material will be produced on site – only bringing in raw materials. They are carrying out road safety days in local schools and are already funding two community projects.

Squadron Leader Andy Edgecombe then briefed on the review of airspace which is being carried out. This follows two Green Papers on the modernisation of UK airspace. Northolt has already submitted a statement of needs and is now undertaking community engagement on the baseline design principles. Forms are available at the rear of the hall. The project will be run under the CAA and hopefully completed in the next five years

ANY OTHER BUSINESS/QUESTIONS

B Cable queried whether there would be a change to the runway approach. Noise and environmental impact are key. Current traffic probably won't change. UK airspace design is based on 50s and 60s design and there is a need to improve usage. There is a need to consider impacts of flights below 7000ft.

W Tomliss raised the issue of the pump junction and the plan to move the pedestrian crossing. J Hensley replied that the Association proposal to move the crossing failed due to the need to move the bus stop and loss of loading bays. He then reported that TfL were looking at his request to get traffic lights in Long Lane synchronised.

D Porter stated that there would be another "litter pick" on 27th April in Ickenham Green. He thanked his councillors for getting more litter bins provided. N Hurd was requested to try and bring forward legislation on deposit scheme for recyclables.

R Bennett challenged N Hurd on his voting in Parliament

P Biddick thanked LBH for outdoor gym in Swakeleys Park

B Cable queried the closure of the West Ruislip course and range. R Puddifoot stated it was an HS2 decision not the borough's

V Chalkley raised the issue of litter. R Puddifoot said people just ignore bins and signs

Bob Brown raised the issue of HOAC – there is a more than reasonable chance it will stay in its current location.

Jill Dalton thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

J Reyner
29th April 2019