

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SWAKELEYS ROAD, ICKENHAM, ON FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017**

**PRESENT:** J Dalton (Chairman), J Reyner (General Secretary), I Phillips (Treasurer), M Pemberton (Membership Secretary), P Daymond (President). Committee Members: N Bedi, B Buckle, L Douglass, D John, C Mountain, R Piper, V Silk, D Tebbutt. Co-opted Committee Member: B Upton. Also present MP Nick Hurd and Ward Councillors R Puddifoot, J Hensley, D Simmons, P Corthorne, B Crowe and Squadron Leader James Tenniswood (media and communications officer of RAF Northolt). Plus over 130 Association Members.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** M Beaumont (Patron), Mr & Mrs Raeder, Mr & Mrs H Tizard, D Thorpe, Dr Sahota (our GLA representative), G Johnston (Douay Martyrs School), Inspector Paul Trice (Met Police) and Sean Kelly.

The Chairman introduced the Committee members on the stage and thanked MP Nick Hurd and Councillors R Puddifoot, J Hensley, D Simmons and P Corthorne for showing their support for Ickenham and its residents. She also welcomed Squadron Leader James Tenniswood (RAF Northolt).

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** The Minutes of the last AGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 were distributed with the last newsletter. The minutes were approved. Proposed: B Cable; Seconded: P Cramp. Passed with no abstentions/objections.

**MATTERS ARISING:** None.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

**Membership** Membership declined by 124 in 2016, as members moved out of the area, and stood at 3135 households in the summer. Life memberships have also reduced from 72 to 66. However, we've had a number of recent enquiries and hope to increase membership as residents settle in to their new homes in the established area and Ickenham Park, where road stewards are working hard to raise the Association's profile.

We continue our links with The Drive's Association who also contribute subscriptions. Our teams of area and road stewards do an excellent job. We would like to express the Committee's thanks to all our volunteer stewards who give their support to the Association. Without their sterling efforts, we would not receive our subscription income and you would not receive your newsletters.

We continue to seek assistance in the growing Ickenham Park area as it extends further.

If anyone is interested in helping us as either a road steward or Area steward, could they please see our Membership Secretary, Maureen Pemberton, after the formal meeting.

### **Communications – we communicate with our member households through a number of means:**

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Throughout the year, we 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 2016 were as follows: Chairman's Comments on a variety of current topics in Ickenham; AGM 22.04.16; Health Issues and Police Matters appear as regular features in every issue; STOP HS2 and HS2 Effects on Ickenham; Local Neighbourhood Plan; Ickenham Marshes; RAF Northolt Air Safety Feedback; Guide to objecting to LBH on Planning Applications that we feel would adversely affect you; Boundary Commission.

Most of these subjects are ongoing issues, 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.

Any comments, information, or suggestions from our members concerning Ickenham or Hillingdon Borough matters are always welcome.

Our **Website, Email address and Twitter account** are listed at the top of the front page of each Newsletter.

They are well established and well used facilities, with the website recording a steady number of 'hits' or visits.

#### **EMAIL ACCOUNT**

Our Hotmail account, monitored by June Reyner, increases 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 (such as HS2, etc.).

Our communications list of over 300 subscribers became too large for the Hotmail account as Hotmail strictly limits group size and number of daily emails.

We therefore, in common with other local groups (U3A, NHW, horticultural society), migrated our communications to the MailChimp free service. This means we no longer have to take two days sending out a communication and we can store more contact details. This has been in use since the end of February and seems to be working well. We also send our newsletter electronically to our MPs, Councillors, fellow Hillingdon Alliance of Residents' Associations (HARA) members etc. every quarter.

Also working in close liaison with our local NHW branch we continue to circulate information on crimes in order to assist the Police. We also regularly circulate the TFL weekend working information as this impacts our branch of both the Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines.

If anyone else is 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 Twitter etc.** Our recently revised website has been running for over a year and is updated regularly by David Tebbutt. He also maintains our Twitter feed and subscribes to the Facebook group *Ickenham... it's just the best village*. This helps us get information out quickly.

### **Planning**

The planning sub-committee has until recently been led by Hanne Raeder and includes Pete Daymond, and Harmeet Minhas. We have been extremely pleased to welcome Lynn Douglass to the planning team – but if anyone has a bit of spare time and an interest in the appearance of Ickenham we really do need to have some new planning team members as our established team wishes to step back. You don't need to join the Committee and we will provide training gladly. Please do have a word with me or Pete Daymond afterwards if you think you could help.

#### **PLANNING REPORT 2017**

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 any applications outside the immediate village which would have an effect on us. After

all, the visual aspect of Ickenham is still a factor in attracting people to live here.

During the period March 2016 to April 2017 we looked at **353** applications for Ickenham, 31 up from last year. The Association only comments on, or where appropriate, raises sustainable objections to development proposals that 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 advice from the planning team at the London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH), to seek to comply with local and national planning guidance and, most importantly, to discuss plans with their neighbours.

One of our major current concerns is the increase in applications for proposed flatted developments across the village and its impact on the village amenities and services.

This year the Association sent a total of **127** planning letters of objection or observation or comments to the Borough - 25 more than last year and in excess of 10 per month. This is in addition to other general letters to Councillors and residents, plus the almost daily email exchanges with various LBH departments.

16 North Planning Committee Meetings (with Ickenham and West Ruislip Wards' applications on the agenda) were scheduled in the year to March 2017, and we made every effort to be represented by Committee members at those concerning the village.

Our involvement can mean simply attending to ascertain the decision and gain an understanding of how planning legislation and guidance is being implemented in the Borough. For more contentious applications we will petition to use the 5-minute presentation to the 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.

All Appeals between March 2016 and April 2017 of which there were 10, were decided on the basis of written representation by the Inspectorate in Bristol or by the LBH direct. Seven were dismissed and three were allowed.

We are currently engaged in discussions concerning proposed developments on the green belt land behind Clovelly and Burnham Avenue. We will be free to discuss this with you after the formal meeting and, indeed, the landowners are keen to canvass local opinion.

We have also had a preliminary meeting with the developers of the Master Brewer site about their proposals for a very large development of flats. We will update you when we know more.

In short, planning certainly keeps us busy!

### **Special Projects: HS2**

Throughout the year High Speed 2 has kept our HS2 team busy. Our newsletter has provided you with regular updates.

The Traffic Study being conducted by the LBH, TfL and HS2 continues without reaching any conclusions after sitting for a year.

The additional traffic which will be caused by HS2 vehicles will add to the forecast level of pollution in our area.

Air Pollution is high on the Mayor of London's list of priorities. Along with other neighbouring Residents' Associations we have invited Sadiq Khan to visit Hillingdon where pollution exceeds recognised World Health Organisation limits.

In June our team took HS2 representatives, including engineers, on a tour of places of particular concern and greatest impact by HS2. They expressed interest and maybe started to understand just what damage 10 years of HS2 construction work will do to our area. They were suitably impressed to stand on the bridge over the A40 at Swakeleys Roundabout at 5pm on a Friday watching the traffic!

Our request for the Northolt tunnel to be extended, which was supported by Nick Hurd and Boris Johnson, was considered in July by the then new Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling but rejected.

HS2's Engagement Team organised a Compensation Event, followed by two Ickenham Community Events – all of which succeeded in ticking some HS2 boxes, but not in reassuring residents.

The House of Lords Select Committee rejected many of the Ickenham Petitions which were presented to them; HS2's QC stated that their concerns would be covered by the IRA Petition... he obviously has great respect for the IRA even though much of our representation was ignored.

Their Lordships were not prepared to hear any mention of 'the tunnel extension'.

Thanks go to the many members who petitioned and to those who supported the Petitioners by travelling to Westminster.

We cannot let this evening pass without a huge 'Thank You' to Brian Adams for being the IRA's lead Petitioner and campaigner, and for his massive contribution to our efforts in fighting against HS2 since it was first announced in March 2010.

The IRA team is now led by Brian Cable, Phil Taylor and Beryl Upton, with much technical input from Jerry Seabourn of Ruislip, and support from David Crane. We continue to work closely with LBH. We await the conclusion of a contractual agreement between LBH and HS2 that will include a number of mitigation measures that the IRA team have pressed for throughout the petitioning process. There is no doubt that had we not been so assertive in arguing for mitigation, the impact on Ickenham would have been much worse than we now anticipate.

Since Royal Assent was finally granted in February there have been many reports in the press and online about the problems being experienced by HS2.

HS2 Ltd still claims to be on time and within budget but the timetable keeps slipping and costs continue to escalate.

The IRA team has had a couple of recent meetings with HS2 who have promised advance notice of works, but it is clear they are struggling with detailed planning so it is important we keep on top of them. They expect to appoint main contractors in July this year who will then have a year to do their planning before any major work is expected, although early works on ground investigation and possibly some minor works will be happening this year.

On your behalf we shall continue to closely monitor every aspect of HS2 and argue for more mitigation in concert with Nick Hurd, our Councillors, LBH staff and the other Associations and groups.

### **Green Spaces**

Neena Bedi has been active on Green Spaces and Conservation Matters as well as acting as our liaison with Ickenham schools.

The good news is that she has persuaded the owner of Swakeleys House to clear the perimeter path, so that it is once again more accessible to villagers.

### **The Marshes \ Frays Farm Meadows**

Chris Mountain continues to lead the Association's work to improve the Ickenham Marshes, with last summer marking the return of cows to the nature reserve. Three Sussex cattle (a small, timid breed) were grazed, and looked after by local volunteers.

Working parties on the Marshes continue to be well attended, and the 'bug hunt' during the Ickenham Festival was a particular success, attracting many new visitors.

Discussions continue about establishing public rights of way across the Marshes, and we hope the London Wildlife Trust deliver projects to reconnect lost river meanders later this year.

Beyond the Marshes, our other nature reserves have been in the news recently. An article about Frays Farm Meadow and its glow worms featured in the Times in July, while a recent grant to improve the habitat in Denham Lock Wood for a species of rare snail was reported in the Gazette. These were welcome distractions from the potential HS2 blight that looms over these two important local wildlife sites.

#### **Other activities:**

**Traffic – LBH** have provided a report proposing changes to the road junction at the Pump (some welcome and some not so) and we and various villagers and shopkeepers have provided comments. The intention is to move the pedestrian crossing further up Swakeleys Road and to make some road changes around the pond. Unfortunately, it does mean that some parking spaces will be lost.

**OUR REQUEST TO extend the Low Emission Zone** – We met with TfL but they did not seem to comprehend our position. We are trying to get a further meeting to put our points across.

**On police matters** Vic Silk continues to attend the quarterly Ward Panel meeting and the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) meetings. His quarterly report in *Ickenham Calling* keeps us up to date with crime and crime prevention in the village. Although Brian Walters is not part of the Residents Association, Ickenham people are ever grateful to him for his vigilance and diligence in working along with NHW and the police to identify and catch offenders.

#### **Health**

David John monitors health matters, an important role with the current state of the NHS locally. One immediate concern is the proposal by NHS England to decommission the Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) services provided by The Royal Brompton & Harefield Foundation Trust. This proposal by NHS England is being strongly resisted by The Trust, with the assistance of much local support.

We continue to be members of The Hillingdon Community Voice, which is essential in keeping up to date with local news and changes with the Health Service.

We are also represented on HARA (Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations) and the London Green Belt Council by Pete Daymond who, with June Reyner, attends the RAF Northolt Community Liaison meetings.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Ian Phillips** highlighted elements from the figures to the year ended 28 February 2017. Last year's figures in brackets. Receipts were £6471 (6267) due to an increase in book sales and donations. Bank interest at £70 (72) is expected to fall further in the coming year. Cost of running the Association has decreased at £4710 (5848). Print, website, HS2 related expenses and cancellation of the Post Office response service all helped reduced expenses while fees and subscriptions rose slightly. LBH has promise to reimburse some of our HS2 costs, which will show up in next year's accounts. The reserves have increased at £1761 (527) which provides the flexibility for a possible fighting fund. I'd like to thank the area and road stewards for their excellent work collecting the subscriptions, which are the lifeblood of the Association.

Treasurer's report accepted. Proposed by A Noad. Seconded by B Cable. Passed with no objections/abstentions.

**Question:** Matt Semple asked about switching bank accounts to improve the interest situation.

**Answer:** Ian Phillips: we have looked into this and it is quite a rigmarole. You get the impression the banks don't want our business. The sum involved could be up to £50 p.a. However, we will consider it.

**Jill Dalton:** It has been a privilege to stand as Chair of the Association for another year. It's fascinating to see what's going on. I have much enjoyed the year even though it has its challenges from time to time – but I am eternally grateful for the commitment, time and expertise of the willing band of volunteers who make up the Committee.

As required by our constitution I now stand down and hand the meeting over to our president Pete Daymond.

P Daymond praised J Dalton's work as Chairman and proposed she continue for the coming year. Seconded by Geoff Douglass. Unanimously approved

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS and COMMITTEE:**

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**

**Publicity Officer - Brian Adams**

**Treasurer - Ian Phillips**

#### **11 Committee Members**

**Neena Bedi**

**Barbara Buckle**

**Dave Grimshaw**

**David John**

**Harmeet Minhas**

**Chris Mountain**

**Richard Piper**

**Hanne Raeder - planning admin'**

**Vic Silk**

**David Tebbutt - minutes secretary**

**Humphrey Tizard**

**Lynn Douglass** has also agreed to join the committee as a full member.

#### **Co-opted Members**

**Simon Taylor - traffic**

**Beryl Upton – HS2**

Proposed by Henry Gardner. Seconded by Brian Cable. Passed with no objections / abstentions.

#### **ELECTION OF HONORARY INDEPENDENT EXAMINER to serve for one year - David Thorpe.**

Proposed J Coombe; Seconded M Alison. Passed with no objections / abstentions.

## INVITED SPEAKERS

**Cllr R Puddifoot** (Leader of the Council) thanked all the members and, especially the Committee – it is the best RA in the Borough. A great asset with a high level of vigilance and credibility within the LBH. He thanked Nick Hurd, MP, for his continued assistance and willingness to lean on the Government at our behest. He then addressed some major projects:

1) Heathrow Runway Three. This has cropped up repeatedly in his almost 18-year tenure as leader of the Council. He is confident it won't happen. The show-stopper is an air-quality-related judgement made in 2010, "Untenable in both law and common sense." The LBH legal team believes this remains the case.

2) HS2. LBH is working hard to get an agreement with HS2 on several fronts. Frustratingly, HS2 keeps adjusting the text, so LBH has prepared its own agreement. It includes conditions on air quality, spoil dumping (including options that will save HS2 money) and traffic limitations. A recent review of HOAC resiting has doubled the costs. LBH with Nick Hurd and Boris Johnson challenged this and it looks as if a deal will now be done. Ruislip and Uxbridge Golf courses: the errors in HS2's understanding have been corrected and appropriate actions are now being discussed.

**Squadron Leader J Tenniswood** (media and communications officer of RAF Northolt) thanked IRA for the invitation to speak. He ran through the many roles and responsibilities of RAF Northolt from moving busy Government ministers around Europe to dealing with unexploded ordnance, deployments to Syria, Afghanistan and the Falklands and fielding its crack ceremonial team. He also addressed press speculation about replacing the aerodrome with 20 to 40 thousand new homes. In fact, Northolt is a key site. It has a strategic value to defence. And its future is determined by the MoD and it is about to invest in a six-month improvement in its runway to ensure its fitness for purpose for the next 15 to 20 years. Finally, he mentioned NORFEST, which still has tickets available to local people at £5 per head and the possibility of a stand for sports and other local interest groups.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS/QUESTIONS

**Brian Cable for Ray Puddifoot.** Will the maximum 550 HGV/day movements be achieved?

**RP:** HS2 keeps trying to include a 'get out of jail free' clause. But we're not happy. We're being as firm as we can. They say they're protecting the public purse but it's not going to happen.

**John Whittle for Ray Puddifoot.** Are there going to be penalties on lorries that exceed air pollution levels? And might the level of traffic lead to civil disobedience – people driving slowly.

**RP:** Air quality is a very good point. We will put in monitors and include severe penalty clauses. The Government is looking at air pollution levels across London. This means we may be able to use the law against them. We don't want them to breach the levels – we don't want the pollution. We actually have to reduce the levels locally anyway.

**John Whittle:** Will we have realtime monitoring reports?

**RP:** They wouldn't need to be realtime or online. We can introduce penalties as we have with school traffic. The main difficulty comes if they claim it wasn't them.

**David Crane:** Not a question – an offer of free pollution monitors that work with smartphones.

J Dalton thanked everyone for attending and participating. All were invited to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

David Tebbutt 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017