

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SWAKELEYS ROAD, ICKENHAM, ON FRIDAY 20th April 2018

PRESENT: J Dalton (Chairman), J Reyner (General Secretary), I Phillips (Treasurer), P Daymond (President). Committee Members: N Bedi, L Douglass, D John, C Mountain, R Piper, H Raeder, V Silk, C Tarr, D Tebbutt. Also present MP Nick Hurd and Squadron Leader James Tenniswood (media and communications officer of RAF Northolt). Plus over 130 Association Members. (Due to impending Council elections, Ward Councillors were in the audience rather than on stage – R Puddifoot, J Hensley, B Crowe, D Simmonds, P Corthorne and guest D Radia.)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: M Beaumont (Patron), Sergeant John Hine, B Adams, B Buckle, M Pemberton, H Tizard, B Upton, J Riley and M Adams.

The Chairman introduced the Committee members on the stage and welcomed MP Nick Hurd and Squadron Leader James Tenniswood (RAF Northolt).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the last AGM held on 22nd April 2016 were distributed with the last newsletter. The minutes were approved. Proposed: Brian Cable; Seconded: Henry Gardner. Passed with no abstentions/objections.

MATTERS ARISING: None.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership stands at 3060, a reduction of 75 from last year – that despite our increased Membership on Ickenham Park during 17/18. However, there is potential for more members in this Area and there will be a recruitment push during the summer months on the new developments. Life membership has reduced from 72 to 62. Membership still stands at over 60 percent of households but as we are used to being even more representative as an Association we will strive to increase take up. We continue our links with The Drive's Association who also contribute subscriptions. Our road steward team does an excellent job and we would like to express the Committee's thanks to them and to our area stewards, without whom we would not receive our subscription income and you would not receive your newsletters.

If anyone is able to volunteer to help increase membership in the growing Ickenham Park area or indeed help in any other part of Ickenham, please contact our Membership Secretary, Maureen Pemberton on the email address ickres.memsec@gmail.com Or speak to a Committee member this evening who will pass on your name and address.

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

Newsletter

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 if there are any subjects, on which you would like to receive more information.

We did receive a letter recently with a number of worthwhile suggestions, but because it was anonymous, we could not act on it. If you were the author, do let us know so that we can discuss how we can improve, and what we feel is already covered – maybe you could even help with the changes. The topics, on which we reported in the newsletter, were again diverse and plentiful, and in chronological order since March 2017 were as follows: Chairman's Comments on a variety of current topics in Ickenham, AGM 21.4.17, Health issues and Police Matters appear as regular and standard features in every issue, STOP HS2 and HS2 effects on Ickenham, Links with Schools, Gospel Oak, The ongoing work on the Local Neighbourhood Plan, Ickenham Marshes and Nature Reserve Updates, Membership News, RAF Northolt Air Safety Feedback plus Flight Safety and future works at Northolt, LBH Guide for planning applications and objections, Planning Informatives, Boundary Commission changes. 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 the Borough are always welcome.

Website, email address and Twitter account are listed at the top of the front page of each Newsletter. These are well established and well used facilities, with the website recording a steady number of 'hits' or visits.

As we emphasised in the past, it is always worthwhile to check out the 'Current Issues' page on our website, which is now kept up-to-date on an almost daily basis, thanks to David Tebbutt.

Email account

Our Hotmail account monitored by June Reyner 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 such as HS2. Our communications list of over 300 subscribers is now well established on the MailChimp platform, and over the last year we have sent approximately 150 emails covering TfL weekend working updates, information on road closures and publicity for local events. Also working in close liaison with our local Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) branch we continue to circulate information on crimes in order to assist the Police. We also regularly circulate the Hillingdon police community newsletter called The Communicator, from our local inspector. We are in the process of ensuring that our mailing and membership lists will be 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 or shared with any other organisation.

Website Twitter etc Our updated website has now been running for over a year 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 have our ears to the ground on local matters and get information out quickly.

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 new 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.

Planning report 2018

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 which would have an effect on that area. After all, the visual aspect of

Ickenham is still a factor in attracting people to live here. During the period from 31.03.17 to 01.04.18 we looked at a total of **371** (18 more than last year) applications for Ickenham. 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 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. The Association sent again a total of **136** (nine more than last year) planning letters of objection or observation or comments to the Borough between the two AGMs. This is in addition to other general letters to Councillors and residents plus the almost daily email exchanges with various LBH departments. There were 18 North Planning Committee Meetings scheduled in between April 2017 and March 2018 with 13 Ickenham and West Ruislip Wards applications on the agenda, and we made every effort to be represented by Committee members at the ones concerning Ickenham and West Ruislip. 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 5-minute petition to the Committee in order to ensure that the Councillors have the benefit of local knowledge when reaching their decisions. If an application is refused by the Borough or at the Planning Committee, an applicant can appeal that decision. The documentation for the proposed development at the old Master Brewer site was exceedingly lengthy, and our review needed all the expertise of our Committee members regarding height, density and appearance of the proposals, traffic impact, visual impact and lack of amenity space. This resulted in the longest objection letter the Association has ever sent. The proposal has not yet come forward for consideration by London Borough of Hillingdon.

There have been so many applications for flatted developments in the village and, as you are aware, we could welcome such proposals if they would help to provide accommodation for our young families – but they are not. They are generally for luxury flats that are just too expensive. So, on the whole, they have a major impact on the appearance, traffic and parking in the village. We have submitted detailed objections and sometimes lodged petitions on proposed developments at the top of Swakeleys Road, in Harvil Road, and now the Conservation Area in Long Lane is targeted by developers. Each proposal that is approved sets a precedent, and we try our best to keep Ickenham as the village we know and love, accepting that we have to move with the times.

We have also provided comments on the London Plan part 2 proposed by the London Mayor's office, supporting the comments submitted by LBH. Hillingdon Borough will be required to provide significantly more housing in future, and whilst Ickenham is not a specific target, there is no doubt that there will be a huge impact throughout the outer London boroughs. Of the 316 (01.01. 17– 31.12.17) planning applications for Ickenham: 214 were approved by the Borough; 82 were refused; 20 were either withdrawn, or have not yet been decided.

Ongoing local issues causing residents and members serious concerns, which occupied the Association's time, included: STOP HS2 and its effects on Ickenham (more on this shortly); Emission and Air Pollution; Speeding in Harvil Road; Junction of Swakeleys Road / The Pump; Neighbourhood Watch. In short, planning certainly keeps us busy!

HS2

As you are aware, HS2 has already made an impact on our area; during the past year there have been many HS2 geological and archaeological investigations all over Ruislip, Harefield and Ickenham. HS2 Early Works have commenced in Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South and, although they have proved disruptive and are blots on the landscape, it should be noted that the **MAIN** Works, which will be much more significant, will not commence until early 2019. The Association works with colleagues from West Ruislip, Harefield and Ruislip in regular meetings with HS2 in an attempt to improve HS2's communications with our communities and reduce the harm that is yet to come to our area from the construction sites and eventual operation. Our thanks go to Brian Adams, Beryl Upton, Brian Cable, David & Sue Crane and Phil Taylor who have given so much of their time on behalf of Ickenham residents over many years.

We have had many issues with HS2's processes and organisation. It is obvious it has been a completely disjointed organisation with one department not knowing what another is doing. Here we are eight years later dealing with a whole new set of people from top management down. Their Helpdesk has been 'not fit for purpose' and their website was worthless. There has been some progress and we recently met with the Director of Community Engagement who has committed to a programme of improvements. Our thanks go to officers in the London Borough of Hillingdon who support us and are committed to protecting us as much as they can – the Hybrid Bill however has given HS2 draconian powers. Our thanks also go to local politicians who take HS2 and Dept of Transport to task when we report our grievances. The Main Contractors have now been appointed for different parts of the line. Our Main Contractor, which covers Ickenham to Euston, is a consortium of Costain, Skanska and Strabag; the consortium is called SCS. ALIGN is the neighbouring Main Contractor building the Colne Valley viaduct and Chiltern tunnel and after much local campaigning we were able to see their initial designs in exhibitions locally including our Village Hall. We have begun to meet representatives of SCS and make them aware of our local issues; we continue, after our petitioning in the House of Commons and House of Lords, to campaign against construction traffic on our roads, the dumping of spoil on local fields and the siting of a concrete factory on our green belt. The Construction Code of Practice should offer some protection from excessive environmental damage during construction and we want resources in place to enforce best practice.

We have been advised that the SCS consortium will complete a final detailed plan for our area in the autumn of this year and then construction will start early in 2019. We are trying to participate at the earliest stage possible in this planning and are pushing for a Public Exhibition in the Village Hall by June this year, similar to that held recently on the Colne Valley viaduct.

GREEN SPACES

Neena Bedi has been active on Green Spaces and Conservation Matters as well as acting as our liaison with Ickenham schools. She is instrumental in reactivating the Friends of Swakeleys Park who provide volunteer support and pressure to maintain the quality of the Park as an important green space. She has to liaise with four different teams from LBH – ground maintenance, woodland and trees, green spaces and refuse collection – and she still smiles through it all!

Ickenham Marshes \ Frays Farm Meadows

Our work to improve the Ickenham Marshes continues, in partnership with other local groups, the London Wildlife Trust and the Council. Projects since the last AGM have included lost river meander reconnections, a third year of conservation cattle grazing and applications to establish public rights of way. On the subject of rights of way, Chris Mountain, our lead on these matters, is keen to hear from anyone with memories of using the Austins Lane track during the 20th century....he'll be around at the end of the formal meeting to chat with. If anyone has recollections, this will help us establish this as a right of way. Conservation projects are also underway in Ickenham's other nature reserves, with pond and ditch clearances at Denham Lock Wood and general reserve maintenance at Frays Farm Meadow.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Traffic: Last year LBH provided a report proposing changes to the road junction at the Pump {some welcome and some not so welcome} and we and various villagers and shopkeepers provided comments, quite different ones. However, no progress has been made on this and we still await a published outcome.

Low Emission Zone: As a result of our request to extend the Zone, we met with TfL, but it did not seem to comprehend our position. We are trying to get a further meeting to put our points across.

Police: Vic Silk continues to attend the quarterly Ward PANEL meeting and the Neighbourhood Watch 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. We continue to be members of The Hillingdon Community Voice, which is essential in keeping up to date with local news and changes within the Health Service.

Other: 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 with James Tenniswood.

TREASURERS REPORT for the Year to 28 February 2018

Income for the year declined to £6277 from last year's £6,471. The cost of running increased from £4,710 to £5,127 but this was offset by receipt of £1,257 expenses from LBH for our HS2 work. The net effect is an increase in the surplus amount to £2407 compared to last year's £1761. The reserve fund is there as a fighting fund in case of need – a major planning challenge, for example. The treasurer thanked Committee, the road stewards and D Thorpe the independent examiner for all their hard work.

Acceptance of Treasurers report. Proposed: Brian Cable; Seconded: Rachel Evans. Passed with no abstentions/objections.

JILL DALTON (CHAIR)

It is an honour that villagers and the Committee continue to put their trust in me as chair and I continue to enjoy the learning curve, challenge and satisfaction that the role brings. I am eternally grateful for the commitment, time and expertise of the willing (almost always) 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 Peter Daymond.

PD thanked JD for her work and proposed that she continues as chair for the coming year. Seconded by Geoff Douglass. Passed with no abstentions/objections.

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. Committee Members: Brian Adams; Neena Bedi; Barbara Buckle; Lynn Douglass; Dave Grimshaw; David John; Chris Mountain; Richard Piper; Hanne Raeder - planning admin; Vic Silk; David Tebbutt - minutes secretary; Humphrey Tizard and Chris Tarr who agreed to join the Committee as a full member in February. Two co-opted Members: Simon Taylor; Beryl Upton.

Proposed: Anke Phillips; Seconded: Henry Gardner. Passed with no abstentions/objections.

Honorary Independent Examiner Mr D Thorpe to serve for one year:

Proposed: John Coombes; Seconded: Geoff Douglass. Passed with no abstentions/objections.

INVITED SPEAKERS

Nick Hurd, MP

HS2: This year and last we secured an important legal agreement which places restrictions on HS2 activities. The attitude to the proposed concrete factory appears to be changing. HS2 is considering bringing in these items by rail. The construction people are more practical and open-minded. HS2 communication has been frustrating and Brian Adams, Beryl Upton etc. have been doing a very good job. The HOAC cash (£22.6m) has been paid to LBH. We should keep our fingers crossed that when the costings come in for the works that thoughts may return to a tunnel.

Heathrow: I have no idea what's going on. The air pollution bar is very high. The consultation is closed yet they have no idea about flight paths and they won't know for two more years. This is deeply unsatisfactory. Some options would have a profound impact on RAF Northolt.

Police: Antisocial behaviour and burglary have led to lots of frustration. I have visited Ickenham with Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick and spoken to shopkeepers affected. We have the same policing levels as in 2008. The police were granted £460m for England and Wales of which £100m went to the Met'. Following consultations, the Mayor changed his mind on plan for one police station for Hillingdon – Ruislip stays. We are in a better place than seemed possible a few months ago.

Squadron Leader James Tenniswood, RAF Northolt

Runway: Resurfacing still expected in 2018. It will take six months during which time it will be closed to all fixed-wing aircraft.

Helicopter operations – RAF and air ambulance – will continue. We will share exact dates for the resurfacing when a bidder is chosen. It was last fully resurfaced in 1978. The work will include the arrestor equipment at each end of the runway. Upon completion, normal operations will resume with no changes.

Operations: Support to UK Government – Brexit-related flights for Theresa May, Boris Johnson, David Davies and their entourages are the most regular users. Others include Commonwealth-related flights, the RAF's 100th anniversary activities, ceremonial duties and emergency-related flights (e.g. Hurricane Irma, Falklands and Middle East). There are no plans to increase the commercial flight cap of 12,000 movements (take-off and landing count as separate movements). Civil aviation contributes 60 percent of the cost of running RAF Northolt. If, for any reason, there's no capacity for civilian flights, they are stopped.

Drones: Drone activity seems to have increased near HS2 sites. It is a criminal offence to endanger aircraft and all users of drones should read and abide by the Drone Code.

RAF 100: This is the centenary year for the RAF and many events are planned. 15th May a talk at Ickenham library. 14th June a parade through Uxbridge. The baton relay comes to Northolt July 9th. July 10th will see a march past in central London of 1500 people, supported by 5,500 support staff and a fly past of a number of planes. The number's a secret but it might have something to do with the

100th Anniversary. They will come from different airfields, but some will fly over Hillingdon. The Polish War Memorial Commemoration is on September 1st with a Hurricane, Spitfire and Lancaster fly past. And the 7th September sees a Battle of Britain reception.

Chris Tarr for Sergeant John Hine

In summary the boroughs of Ealing, Hounslow and Hillingdon are merging into one police area that will be collectively known as the 'west area'. This is a major change in the way the Met operates and there are a lot of unknowns that are still being ironed out with problems being solved as we go along.

However, I would say that of all the police portfolios, neighbourhoods have maintained the most recognisable structure. Although the Borough boundary lines have been merged, the wards remain. As I'm sure that you know there are 22 wards in Hillingdon and each one will retain two dedicated police officers and support officer. They are 'ring fenced' save for the most pressing of needs such as a terrorist attack or major incident. The only two days of the year they can be used elsewhere are August bank holiday (Notting Hill Carnival) and during New Year's Eve. I have been reassured and I am confident that the MPS remains committed to neighbourhood policing and we will be able to continue much as we have been in the neighbourhood world.

In addition, the merging of the boroughs has created the capacity for a tasking team that can be bid for and deployed to hotspot/problem areas. This is a new idea and has not been tried before. In theory it should mean that the Ickenham ward Sergeant (Me) can bid for the tasking team to be deployed to tackle ongoing issues in the area. I should stress that these bids will be up against bids from the whole West Area and will receive attention accordingly. I don't want to get people's hopes up with unfounded promises of hundreds of extra officers but clearly this is a positive development.

The biggest change is in the supervision structure which has been slimmed down in line with the MPS strategy of reducing layers of management. Hillingdon Neighbourhoods will now be run by one Inspector (Rob Bryan) and sergeants will take responsibility for 3-4 wards. So, you are aware in addition to Ickenham I am responsible for Brunel, Hillingdon East and Charville. In practical terms this means that more responsibility has been passed to the ward officers and clearly, I have to split my time four ways. I would like to stress that the emphasis here is on more efficient working and empowering officers to take ownership of problems with the Sergeant signing it off rather than the Sergeant providing all the solutions which is how we have historically worked. In practice the officers on the streets are often the best placed to provide the solutions the community needs.

I have no intention of spinning all of this to anybody, ultimately this is driven by a requirement to save money. However, change can be a good thing and a lot of effort has gone into getting the right people into the right roles. PC's Dewayne Hamilton and Natasha Nugent are doing a great job as ward officers and are committed to serving Ickenham and the wider community.

This is a very brief summary of where we are going, I'm sure that there will be many questions and I would be happy to answer them if they could be passed to me and I will respond in an open forum.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS/QUESTIONS

Brian Cable: Adding to Nick Hurd I want to mention the sheer frustration of dealing with HS2. We have three sites yet have huge difficulty getting sense out of it. Don't give up. We're trying to minimise the impact on the community. More of us should complain. Please.

Tony Coyne: We don't hear any benefits from HS2. What about a stop locally? [NH responds: It's all pain and no gain. Hard to point at benefit. A small amount of money is being made available for mitigation – community funds and Colne Valley.

Diana May: Apparent collapse of paper version of Uxbridge Gazette. [JR responds: Sainsbury in Uxbridge.] DM: and there's not much in it. [NH responds: Pressure on local papers. They're all under the cosh.] [James Tenniswood responds: Trinity Mirror has had redundancies. High staff churn. Remaining staff are maxed out. News is moving online. Get West London – all the news there finds its way into the paper. It is, in effect, the Uxbridge Gazette.]

Ian Harvey: Residential house extension and pool. Residential use moving to commercial. Council wants to wait until in use commercially. Seems dangerous. Parking. Insurance on road. Reference made to white van seller on Swakeleys Road. [PD responds: Very difficult. We will do what we can. White van man case went on until time ran out. A petition of your road would add weight. JH is doing things inside the Council. We support you.] IH mentioned 'generic residential permission'. [PD added. Advertising in three counties. You and we will keep pressure up. Can't say more. JH is on it.]

Dave Porter: Reflecting on NH. Increasing rubbish on High Road. Started putting in bins. Need more please. Need change of collections. People drop rubbish anywhere. I'm going out a week tomorrow to pick it up. Other places organise pick ups. Council provided bags and sticks etc. HS2 lorry drivers need to see signs that say, "You are entering a Hillingdon litter-free zone." We can make it a litter free area. <Applause.> [PD promised to raise it at IRA Committee meeting. He also pointed out that one Committee member already does it. Perhaps the sign could be added to the Welcome to Ickenham signs.]

J Dalton thanked everyone for attending and participating. All were invited to stay for refreshments.
The meeting closed at 9.25pm

David Tebbutt 21st April 2018