

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, . ROAD, ICKENHAM, ON FRIDAY 29th April 2022

PRESENT: J Dalton (Chairman), J Reyner (General Secretary), I Phillips (Treasurer), P Daymond (President). Committee Members: Brian Adams, Neena Bedi, B Buckle, L Douglass, J Ingram, C Mountain, R Piper, V Silk, V Syal, C Tarr. Also present MP David Simmonds and Councillors R Puddifoot, J Hensley, P Corthorpe..

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: M Beaumont (Patron), as well as RAF Northolt representatives Ian Rushforth and Wing Commander Paula Wilmott members Rachel Evans, Anke Phillips and Nadine Woodland and committee members D John and Heather Maureen Pemberton H Tizard, B Upton The Chairman welcomed our MP David Simmonds, our retiring Ward Councillors Sir Ray Puddifoot and John Hensley, as well as Phillip Corthorne our West Ruislip Councillor who will no longer be representing us after the boundary changes which become effective after the May elections. Our gratitude to them all was expressed and we formally recorded our sincere thanks to all our councillors for their untiring work on behalf the village and its residents over their many years as our elected representatives. We hope to keep working with David as our MP – at least until the next general election when the boundaries change, and Philip has asserted he will still be involved in the HS2 fight should he be elected to represent west Ruislip ward. They have ALL been exemplary in supporting all of us / getting things done / and helping us fight battles to keep the village a great place to live. We will miss them all and cannot thank them enough for all they have done – may we show our appreciation in the usual way a generous round of applause ensued

Despite the pandemic we have still managed to hold our monthly committee meetings through the online Zoom function. This year we have managed to hold "mixed media" meetings with those attending in person in St Giles growing in number for every meeting

Minutes of Last meeting – these had been placed on the seats in the hall there being no matters arising, these were approved proposed by Brian Cable Seconded by David Bond unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Membership from our membership secretary Julian Ingram who kindly took over this role from Maureen Pemberton in January 2021

As we have not had a full subscription collection since Summer 2019 our figures are not accurate –we will get them up to date this summer after the 2022/2023 subscriptions collection

I stepped into the Membership Secretary role, having been a Road Steward, more or less as the pandemic started. During this time, it has been difficult to distribute newsletters and collect subscriptions with the ever-changing rules and restrictions. However, with the help of our Area and Road Stewards and some creative thinking we have emerged in reasonably good shape. We decided early on that while we would do as much as we could to collect subscriptions, difficult with limited face-to-face-contact, we would continue to deliver newsletters whether we had received a current subscription or not. To this day our lovely members are still returning the subscription envelopes, distributed with the Newsletters, with their £2. This policy will come to an end in June 2022 when our plan is to return to business as normal, and members will need to subscribe to continue to receive their Newsletters. I'd also like to thank our many Stewards for their efforts in getting Newsletters delivered and subscriptions collected in extraordinary circumstances. Many of the team are older and more vulnerable members of our community so thank you so much. We now face the challenge of replacing some Area and Road Stewards as, not surprisingly, we have seen a higher than usual attrition over this challenging time. So if you think you could spare a few hours assisting us please email me or give me a call.

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

Firstly, our quarterly NEWSLETTER This report from June Reyner and Ian Phillips

After detailed research we changed our printers in early 2020 from X1 to Print24 – an online printing service. This has saved us at least 50% of our costs and in the case of the AGM / Spring newsletter as we are not including the minutes, by 60% With the lockdown in March 2020 we were no longer able to deliver to the village residents. For Summer 2020 we produced a brief update sheet which was posted on our website and copies left in the Library and in a couple of shops in Swakeleys rd. For Autumn and Winter, we produced the normal newsletter but in a reduced run leaving copies as above. In Spring 2021 the ICN delivery team kindly allowed to let us put copies in their plastic dispensers at locations around the village which we did as well as using the locations named above For Summer 2021 most of our road stewards were happy to deliver and even to cover for those who had reservations We did a full run with membership cards etc. for Autumn 2021 and are pleased to say that we got in a much higher percentage of subs than we anticipated thanks to the efforts of our road stewards. Not everyone was comfortable collecting so we produced preprinted envelopes for delivery with the newsletter. Winter 2021 was a short 2-page document containing the required information for the AGM. The Spring 2022 newsletter included the Agenda for the AGM This Summer's edition will be a full run and we will be collecting subs as per our normal schedule

Throughout the years, 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 cover our regular features as well as local events.

With any new issues arising, we make every effort to bring all facts to your attention at the earliest opportunity.

Then continuing with Communications

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 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, we have sent approximately the following number of emails 2019 87 2020 145 2021 169 2022 to date 36

As you will see this account is being used more and more and the topics cover TfL weekend working updates, information on road closures in particular with reference to HS2 works, publicity for local events, etc

We do not seem to be able to increase this number as members do unsubscribe – whether this is by clicking on the wrong tab in the email or not we cannot ascertain.

WE now have our own Facebook page and are subscribed to Ickenham the best village Facebook page too, and use this to flag additions to our website 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 NHW newsletter,

Please rest assured that our mailing and membership lists are 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 several years and is updated regularly by our former minutes Secretary David Tebbutt. He also maintains a list of Planning details culled from the LBH website

The website / twitter / Facebook are also maintained for us by David, and we are extremely grateful for his continuing help in these areas We are still investigating the best way to use current media to improve our communication spread

Planning

Firstly, the committee would like to thank Hanne Rader for all her sterling work on planning over many years. Unfortunately, due to ill health Hanne has had to resign. I am sure everyone will join us in wishing her well for the future and hope she enjoys a well-earned rest. The planning sub-committee includes Lynn Douglass, June Reyner & Julian Ingram (administration) – 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.

PLANNING REPORT 2020 / 2021 / 2022

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

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people to live here.

The number of applications for Ickenham looked at are as follows:-

Between the 01.04.19 to 31.03.20 we looked at **259**

Between the 01.04.20 to 31.03.21 we looked at **386**

Between the 01.04.21 to 31.03.22 we looked at **359**

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 AGM held in 2019 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 26 North Planning Committee and major applications committee Meetings scheduled between April 2019 and March 2020 and from April 2020 to March 2021 there were 26 meetings and from April 2021 to March 2022 there were again 26 meetings including several applications from Ickenham and West Ruislip Wards.

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

Sadly all avenues have now been pursued including LBH asking for a judicial review of the Mayor's decision to grant permission. The review concluded that the development could go ahead, The Association has approached our MP to ask if he could ask the Secretary of State to intervene but we have heard nothing further.

60 Long Lane conversion to flats

Several applications for telecoms masts – all refused by LBH.

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.

When the World Health Organisation declared Covid-19 as a pandemic, two years ago this month. It was clear that it represented a clear threat to global health. Since then, we all adjusted to the challenge with countries plunging in and out of lock-down, mask wearing and self- testing. Now thanks to high levels of immunity, built up through vaccinations and previous waves of infection. The UK is entering a new phase, where hopefully the worst of the Pandemic is over. However, it is clear that the "finishing line" is not yet in sight. I am afraid the legacy of Covid-19 for the NHS is the significant impact of waiting times, with some 6 million on the waitlist for elective surgery. The NHS continue to do a brilliant job with emergency care.

HS2

It's now 12 years since we first saw the HS2 project plans in the Winston Churchill Hall. So much seemed inconceivable; the planners had obviously no understanding of where they were proposing to build the line.

In 2013 a 50,000-page Environment Statement was published and we spent months putting our response together ...a mere 60+ pages... significant changes were made to the plans including tunnels under Ealing and Ruislip and a spur to Heathrow eventually put on hold but unfortunately Ickenham, West Ruislip and Harefield were still to be decimated by visible rail infrastructure and construction.

We joined other communities to campaign against a project which had no business case, has been proven demonstrably not to be needed and would create extensive damage to the environment.

The UK already has the third highest speed rail network in Europe; a small island doesn't need an ultra-high speed rail and one which terminates in London – rail planners throughout the world ensure rail systems pass through cities thereby enabling links with other cities and countries. The costs were so grossly understated as the consequences of the route chosen were not understood – now of course very obvious.

In 2016 with great support from London Borough of Hillingdon, we and many residents petitioned against what was called the HS2 Bill and presented our case in person to the House of Commons Select Committee and to the deaf ears of the House of Lords Select Committee. We achieved some assurances for our communities – some never upheld, such as 'we will never close your roads'. The most significant achievement was by the London Borough of Hillingdon negotiating an agreement which included amongst many things funding for the re-siting of HOAC. We campaigned to extend the tunnel past West Ruislip to the Chilterns Tunnel thereby saving Ickenham and the Colne valley....a solution the contractors today probably wish had been agreed.

Once the HS2 Act was passed we then had to fight for mitigation with the contractors and HS2 – we achieved some important improvements such as: they would not build two tunnel segment cement factories in our fields...if you pass by Maple Cross, you can see the huge edifices there which are their tunnel segment cement factories.....instead tunnel segments would be pre-fabricated and brought in by rail.

There would be a haul road from the West Ruislip site to Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road sites (something we petitioned for but was refused by HS2). This would reduce the need for HGVs to come through our village.

They would not build a major rail sidings in the fields between Breakspear Road South and now there is to be a 'green' tunnel.

We continue to meet with the contractors regularly. We hold them to task on noise, inconsiderate HGV behaviour, road closure problems and other issues as reported by residents.

As we foresaw in our petitions this was not the right place to construct a railway and the contractor now has serious problems, compounded by Covid and Brexit, and is seriously behind schedule.

- 1) The haul road is not complete and cannot be used for two-way traffic.
- 2) the rail sidings to unload the tunnel segments are not finished,
- 3) the tunnel boring machines are still not fully assembled requiring more abnormal loads and tunnelling cannot start,
- 4) the conveyor system to take tunnel spoil to the fields between Breakspear and Harvil Roads is not ready.
- 5) General planning incompetence on power supplies and infrastructure has created more road closures and land grab.

This all has more consequences for us....

more lorries crossing Breakspear Road South carrying tunnel spoil creating more traffic jams,
tunnels segments now coming to site by lorry and using Breakspear Road South

Once tunnelling starts, we will have 24 months of dumping of spoil in the fields between Breakspear and Harvil roads..... creating mounds up to 20 feet high,.....with noise, pollution and the potential for flood risk for the communities between the fields and the river Pinn who have already suffered a major water main burst recently.

So where are we now...we are sadly nowhere near finished. We have several more years of noise and congestion. With our colleagues, other associations and the officers of LBH, we reluctantly accept that we are going to have suffer more out of hours working and unplanned activities to get this work done and out of our community.

We must recognise the support and work of Ray Puddifoot, when leader of the council in holding HS2 to task and negotiating the Agreement and John Hensley as a local councillor who has always responded with urgency to issues raised by ourselves and residents.

I also express my personal and sincere thanks to all those who have worked tirelessly within our HS2 committee including Brian Adams and Beryl Upton, and others supporting them including special thanks to Brian Cable.

We'll continue the battle.

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Ickenham Marshes \ Frays Farm Meadows

This is looked after by Chris Mountain who reports as follows.

Our local green spaces have been more important than ever over the last few years. It has been a delight to see the council managing these areas in a more nature friendly way, with flowers in verges and other areas “set aside for nature”, and we hope this continues. Of course the destruction of the Village Green has been yet another example of the savage impacts of HS2 – we will do all we can to ensure the promised reinstatement work is carried out. Elsewhere in the village our historic pond has benefitted from a make-over and after a break last year, cattle will be returning to the Ickenham Marsh Nature Reserve this summer to carry on their “conservation grazing”.

Other activities:

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.

On police matters Vic. Silk attends the Ward Panel meetings, chaired by Chris Tarr and also attends Neighbourhood Watch meetings on behalf of the Association. 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.

TREASURERS REPORT for the Year to 28 February 2018

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

The last two years have, for all of us, been very difficult and challenging and the finances of the Residents' Association did not escape the problems.

In 2020 we took the decision not to collect membership subscriptions, asking instead for donations for those who were minded to do this and we received £225. Given the Covid restrictions we decided not to produce the usual newsletters or to hold the AGM. Hence expenses were contained at £656 and the resultant deficit for the 2020/21 year was just £412.

In 2021 we did collect subscriptions but changed the approach. Road stewards limited the number of times they called back to collect subs, instead leaving an envelope for the monies to be returned to them. As the accounts show £4,623 was collected. The comparable figure in 2019, which is the last year that can be considered normal, amounted to £6,044. So given the circumstances I think the amount collected in 2021 is reasonable enough.

Again, last year we did not have an AGM and also made savings as regards printing the newsletter, hence our expenses were contained to £2,185. The comparable expense figure for a more normal year, for example 2019, would be in the region of £4,600. The resultant surplus for the year ending February 2022 was £2,185.

By way of some general comments

... As most will be aware savings interest rates are at next to nothing. So you can see that bank interest income is but a trifle.

... Changes to the way we do our printing and what we produce for the AGM are producing savings, which will help us as we go forward.

...As we are no longer campaigning against HS2, but rather suffering the consequences of the decision to proceed, we are not incurring costs for this.

...By way of subscriptions we continue to support the Herts. & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, London Green Belt Council and Federation of Met Line Users as well as the National Association of Residents Associations.

We continue to hold a reserve of funds that is there to give the Association, and therefore the village, a fighting fund. This would support us in case of need, for example challenging a major planning application that could have a detrimental effect on the village.

I should like to thank the committee for all their support, and the area and road stewards for their dedication in collecting subscriptions, in difficult times, that are the “financial life blood” of your association. Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes the Treasurer's report. Thank you for your kind attention and I am happy to take any questions you may have.

Finally, I would like to thank our independent examiner, David Thorpe who for many years has diligently checked the books. Sadly David is no longer able to continue in the role but we have an excellent replacement in Fiona Morgan who has agreed to be external examiner to the Association going forward.

Acceptance of Treasurers report Proposed H Gardiner Secounded B Cable approved unanimously

Jill Dalton then stated 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.

Since our last AGM the following changes have been made to the committee

David Tebbutt stood down as Minutes Secretary – he was replaced by Vivek Syal

Maureen Pemberton stood down as Membership Secretary – she was replaced in this role by Julian Ingram, but she continues as a committee member.

Hanne Rader stood down from her roles as Planning Officer and Newsletter editor in February this year, Ian Phillips has taken over the role of Editor but we have not found a replacement as planning officer. We really need help with planning and as indicated in the latest newsletter have had to scale back our commitment from our previous one to look at ALL planning application for Ickenham

Barbara Buckle is also standing down at the AGM after decades of involvement with the Association. She will still continue her “catering “role as well as that of archivist but will no longer serve on the committee

We thank all of them for their commitment and contribution to the running of the Association

As required by our constitution I now stand down and hand the meeting over to our president Peter Daymond who then praised Ms Dalton and proposed JD as chair for upcoming year Proposer P Daymond Secounded G Douglass passed unanimously

Elections

As required by the constitution, all the current members of the committee must stand down and those listed below as well as our new committee members 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 - Julian Ingram

Treasurer - Ian Phillips

11 Committee Members

Brian Adams Neena Bedi Lynn Douglass David John Chris Mountain Maureen Pemberton Richard Piper Vic Silk

Vivek Syal minutes secretary Chris Tarr Humphrey Tizard

3 Co-opted members Dave Grimshaw Simon Taylor Beryl Upton

Proposed B Cable Secounded H Gardiner accepted unanimously

That leaves us with room for 3 full committee members including Planning Officer and Publicity officer and 3 co-opted members

If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please chat to a committee member after this meeting

We would like to thank David Thorpe for acting as our independent examiner for the last 10 years – a role which he carried out with his usual efficiency and good humour and we are pleased to welcome Fiona Morgan who has agreed to act as our independent examiner and therefore ask you to approve

Election of Honorary Independent Examiner Fiona Morgan to serve for one-year independent examiner Proposed I Phillips

Secounded B Cable passed unanimously

This now closes the formal meeting

I would like to invite our MP David Simmonds to address us Please keep any questions until he has finished speaking.

The Rt Hon David Simmonds addressed the meeting saying that it was his last one as our local Cllr. He had been proud to be associated with such a well regarded Association and hoped to continue the relationship as our M.P

He gave a brief update on HS2 and associated issues assuring the meeting that he always had Ickenham's interests as a priority

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A.O.B. - to the floor

Cllr Ray Puddifoot then addressed the meeting thanking the Association and its members for their support over all the years he had served as our ward councillor and as council leader

Cllr John Hensley also addressed the meeting expressing his thanks

Specific thanks to B Cable for all his work re HS2 was mooted from the floor

There being no further issues the meeting closed with an invitation to join the committee for light refreshments