

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Gascoigne East Phase 2 shortlisted for prestigious award

Gascoigne East Phase 2 has been nominated for a 'Place of the Year' pineapple. The awards, launched in 2019 by The Developer in partnership with the Design Council looks to celebrate great places. The Developer are organisers of the Festival of Place and entries are judged by their environmental and social impact, with emphasis on places being somewhere people want to live, work and play.

You can read about the [other projects](#) shortlisted in this category. We are in a group with seven other projects including: Unity Place in Brent, Stanley Square in Sale, Kampus in Manchester, Springfield Village in Wandsworth, Your New Town Hall in Lambeth, Media City and Quayside in Salford and Magna Square in Egham.

Winners will be announced at a prize giving ceremony on 16 May. Watch this space for further updates!



Residents asked to have their say on library services

Residents are being asked to have their say on our borough's libraries, including what improvements they'd like to see, and to share ideas on ways to innovate our services.

Their feedback will help us to improve and further shape our libraries to ensure they remain vibrant community hubs that cater for the needs of everyone.

[Residents can have their say online.](#)



Debt Awareness Week 2024

Debt Awareness Week runs from 18 to 24 March and over the course of the week, we explored the barriers residents might face when looking to get debt advice, and how they can overcome them. We shared tips and pointers to help residents get the support they need on our social media channels throughout the week.

BD Money and the Homes and Money Hub also held a pop-up stand inside Barking Station on Tuesday 19 March, from 10am to 3.30pm, offering free on the spot debt advice and support to residents.

Residents can access a range of money support, including a free benefits calculator and access to grants they may be eligible for, visit www.bdmoney.co.uk.

Training updates for councillors

This week we have included details of a number of LGiU and LGA courses and

events. For details on how to access the courses, please see the Members' Training section below.

Borough News



You HAF got to see this year's Easter Programme

Our Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Easter programme is here, and we're telling parents they HAF to get involved!

There's plenty of food, footy and fun activities to keep the kids entertained.

Free spaces are available for those eligible for free school meals as well as paid places - everyone is welcome to join the fun!

Residents can check out the HAF Easter Programme schedule [here](#).



Residents invited to tell us what they think about our parks

Our borough is one of the greenest in London with 28 parks and green spaces, covering over 463 hectares, which is equal to over 1,000 football pitches.

We want to know which of our parks and green spaces residents have been using and what they think of them; what they like or dislike and if they have any ideas on how we can improve them. We would also like to hear their ideas on how we can make them safer and welcoming for everyone.

The feedback from residents will help shape how our parks are managed, maintained and developed in the future and support applications for external funding to help bring even more improvements for everyone.

[Residents can have their say before the closing date on Sunday 31 March.](#)

Measles: Are you protected?

You need **2 doses** of the **MMR vaccine** for lifelong protection.

If you haven't had **both doses**, you could be at risk.

Contact your GP practice and book an appointment if you're not up to date.

Residents urged to make sure their children get the MMR vaccine

Residents may have seen in the news recently that there have been outbreaks of measles in the West Midlands and areas of London.

Sadly, the current outbreak of measles is not surprising given the low take up of the MMR vaccine over recent years and it spreads easily between people who have not been vaccinated.

Measles can be extremely serious, even life-threatening - the best way for

residents to protect their children is the MMR vaccine and it is free of charge.

Any resident whose child, regardless of their age, has missed one or both doses of the MMR vaccine, needs to make sure they have the vaccine as soon as possible.

They can find out how to get their child vaccinated [here](#).



We are still supporting residents with the cost of living

Now more than ever, some residents will be feeling the pinch with sky high energy prices and the cost of food and shopping.

That's why we're sharing easy ways for residents to access help if they need it - from benefits and low-cost loans, through to income maximisation and signposting them to food banks, warm spaces, and wellbeing support.

There's lots of help available and it's really important that we can all talk about it.

Residents can take a look at the latest cost of living support guides which bring together the support we offer, alongside our partners in one place.

[View the Cost of Living Information Support Guides here.](#)

Residents can also drop into [Community Hubs](#) across the borough to access support face to face.

Around the council



Residents interested in a career in construction invited to get in touch

Residents interested in a career in the construction industry are being invited to get in touch with the Barking Riverside Innovation in Construction Centre (BRIC).

The BRIC training centre in Barking Riverside is offering construction training and qualifications plus brand-new test centre facilities where interested residents can book for their CITB Health, Safety and Environment tests. They will also be able to gain a Level 1 Health and Safety in Construction qualification.

On successful completion of the course, participants will gain the green CSCS labourer card which will allow them to work safely in the construction industry. Staff at the BRIC will also assist participants in gaining other industry related construction cards.

To find out more please contact bric@lbbd.gov.uk or telephone 020 8227 2777/07977 017133.

You can also visit the website at: www.lbbd.gov.uk/BRIC



Over £250,000 in loans handed out to residents through BD Money partnership

Over £250,000 in affordable loans have so far been handed out to borough residents through our partnership with Leeds Credit Union.

The partnership aims to bring more affordable loans options and saving accounts to residents through Barking and Dagenham Money (BD Money).

The aim is to help local people become more financially resilient, keep more money in their pockets and access appropriate services to meet their financial needs and ambitions. This is not-for-profit, with all benefits staying in the community.

Households across the borough have saved an estimated £62,500 in interest since the partnership launched in October 2022.

For residents considering opening a savings account through BD Money, it's straight-forward, hassle-free and there's also a wide range of trusted, low-interest loans available.

More information can be found at www.BDMoney.co.uk



Help and support available for residents through the Household Support Scheme

Residents who may be struggling with their finances or to make ends meet are being encouraged to get in touch.

Funding is available to vulnerable residents to support them with essentials over the coming months.

Residents can [apply online](#) or email benefits@lbbd.gov.uk.

There are also [a number of other support services](#) including:

- Our Community Food Clubs which are free of charge and can provide £20 worth of food per week for a period of either three or six months at www.lbbd.gov.uk/community-food-clubs
- Our money and debt webpages provide an income and expenditure calculator and budgeting tools that will help people understand how much money they have coming in and how much is going out, helping them look at areas where they can make savings at www.lbbd.gov.uk/money-and-debt
- Residents who are worried about their finances and need help to tackle debt can now get advice and support from our local Barking and Dagenham Money website at: www.bdmoney.co.uk
- People struggling with increasing energy costs should contact their energy supplier about possible funds they may be entitled to, to help them through difficult periods. They can also access the Warm Homes Grant at www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme
- People with disabilities who aren't claiming specific disability benefits may be able to take advantage of a number of benefits available, including Personal Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance (for children), and Universal Credit. For those caring for someone with disabilities they may be able to claim Carer's Allowance although this is means tested, at www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/disability-and-sickness-benefits
- People with a water meter who are experiencing financial difficulties may want to look into the Watersure scheme at www.ofwat.gov.uk/households/customer-assistance. Most water

companies also have a fund to help those who are struggling, and it might be worth contacting their water provider.

- People who are out of work and looking to get into employment can get help and support from our Job Shops at www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work
- Anyone worried about a lack of skills can find courses and support on the Adult College website at <https://adultcollege.lbbd.gov.uk/>
- Residents who need help with emergency living expenses for food, fuel (gas and electric for customers who pay via a key meter), travel expenses and household appliances and/or clothing in exceptional circumstances can apply for help from our Hardship Fund (Individual Assistance Payment) at <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/discretionary-hardship-support/discretionary-financial-support-schemes>.

Residents can also contact our Homes and Money Hubs which are open for a drop in at Barking Learning Centre Community Hub and Dagenham Library Community Hub from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday or via email at: homesandmoneyhub@lbbd.gov.uk.



Jobs and training opportunities available from our Job Shops

Residents who need help and support to get into work can visit our Job Shops.

Jobs and training opportunities are advertised on the website every Monday, and residents can register with the service by completing the [online form](#). They will then be contacted by a member of staff.

Alternatively, residents can contact the shops by telephone: Dagenham Job Shop – 020 8724 8877; Barking Job Shop – 020 8724 8870.

For details of jobs available every week, residents can visit www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work.

Local Government News

Energy Bills Discount Scheme heat network support – councils and housing associations to apply by 31 March

Domestic customers on heat networks receive support with their heating and hot water bills via the [Energy Bills Discount Scheme](#). It covers usage between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

All heat suppliers with domestic end consumers are required by law to apply for the scheme and pass on the benefit they receive to their end consumers. The heat supplier is the body responsible for supplying and charging for the supply of heating and/or hot water supplied by the heat network. [Councils and housing associations that operate heat networks will need to apply.](#)

The scheme closes on 31 March so if you need to apply and have not yet done so, please apply as soon as possible.

The Waste Enforcement (Fixed Penalty Receipts) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

In the Prime Minister's [Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan](#) published in March 2023, the government announced that income from litter and fly-tipping fixed penalty notices should be reinvested in enforcement and clean up only.

COVID-19 vaccination: spring 2024 campaign resources

People aged 75 years and over, those in care homes, and those aged 6 months and over with a weakened immune system are being offered a spring dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Bookings for the spring booster vaccination will be offered between April and June, with those at highest risk being called in first. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is keen to encourage everyone who is eligible to come forward and strengthen their protection.

[DHSC has produced a leaflet in a number of languages designed to increase awareness of the COVID-19 spring booster offer among people eligible for it.](#)

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

BBC London, 21 March – [East London hospital trust A&E improves despite overcrowding](#). Mentions BHRUT.

UK Authority, 19 March - [DHSC highlights promise of 4D mapping in care](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Housing Today, 19 March – [Latest Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund allocations announced](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham

Evening Standard, 19 March – [London first-time buyers need to save for almost nine years to get on the housing ladder](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Property & Development, 19 March – [Houses under £500,000 launch in Barking Riverside](#).

Metro, 19 March – [Train Sim World 4 lets you travel the Goblin and the London Overground](#).

Evening Standard, 18 March – [London house prices rise 5.6 per cent in some boroughs – how does yours compare?](#) - Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

One News Page, 18 March – [Granicus names winners of annual UK Digital Public Sector Awards](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Facilitate Magazine, 18 March – [Churchill secures dual-service deal at Heathway Shopping Centre](#).

CoStar News, 15 March – [MIPM 2024: A change in the air as real estate puts its best foot forward](#). Mentions Barking Riverside.

UK Construction Online, 15 March – [Remade in Dagenham: new homes and](#)

[green spaces on the way for historic factory site.](#)

Time Out, 14 March – [Loads more Uber Boat services could soon be coming to East London.](#) Mentions Barking Riverside.

London Loves Property, 14 March – [Flat London market sees apartments account for 49% of all sales.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham

Media Releases

[School and community mourn the loss of long serving Governor.](#)

[Global Recycling Day stars: Meet the Dagenham pupils taking charge of battery recycling in their community.](#)

[Persistence pays off – Landlord ordered to pay almost £100,000 for illegally converted property.](#)

[Eyesore garden costs Ilford business thousands of pounds.](#)

And finally...

The Members' Briefing is intended to keep you up to date with what is going on in the council, across the borough and in the world of local government. Please email von.edomi@lbbd.gov.uk if you have any suggestions on items for inclusion in future bulletins and any feedback you may have on how it can be improved.

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