

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about the government's mini-budget, reminding residents of the help and support available to help them through the cost-of-living crisis. He also mentioned last week's interfaith memorial service held to remember those lost to the pandemic and reminded residents about the month-long events to celebrate Black History Month this October.



LIVE  

with the Leader
Fire Brigade Special

**Join us Thursday 6th
of October, from 5pm**

Email your questions in:
socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk

#BDLeaderLive **Barking &
Dagenham**

Live with the Leader – special Q&A with the London Fire Brigade

Residents will have the opportunity to find out more about the work that Dagenham Fire Station does to help keep residents safe and get tips to avoid fire related incidents.

In the latest LIVE with the Leader, Cllr Darren Rodwell and Neil Dickinson, Station Commander for the London Fire Brigade at Dagenham Fire Station, will be giving listeners fire safety advice and tips.

As well as answering any questions, they will also be giving out information on the things we can all do to support the London Fire Brigade to help keep everyone safe.

Interested? Make sure you tune in this Thursday 6 October, from 5pm on the [Leader's Facebook page](#).

And if you can't watch it live, you'll be able to view the Q&A after the session on the [Leader's Facebook page](#).



Residents invited to open a savings account with Barking and Dagenham Money

We know the situation is tough right now for our residents, and that's why we're collaborating with Leeds Credit Union to bring more affordable loan options and saving accounts to residents through Barking and Dagenham Money (BD Money).

We aim 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 also not-for-profit, with all benefits staying in the community.

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

Barking dogs cost owner nearly £400 after ignoring council advice

Nuisance barking by up to eight dogs that caused “misery” for neighbours, has landed their owner with a fine of almost £400.

Czeslaw Lukiewicz, of Warrington Square, Dagenham, pleaded guilty at Barkingside Magistrates’ Court on 20 September after breaching a noise abatement notice.

The council took action after receiving more than 75 complaints from neighbours.

When council enforcement officers visited the address, they found as many as eight Staffordshire Bull Terriers being kept at the property.

Despite being given written warnings, the barking continued, leading to a noise abatement notice being issued, under section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1980. However, this still didn’t stop the nuisance behaviour and the council decided to prosecute after recording two breaches of the legally enforceable notice.

Mr Lukiewicz was ordered to pay £100 each for the two breaches of the noise abatement notice, £100 costs and an £80 victim surcharge.

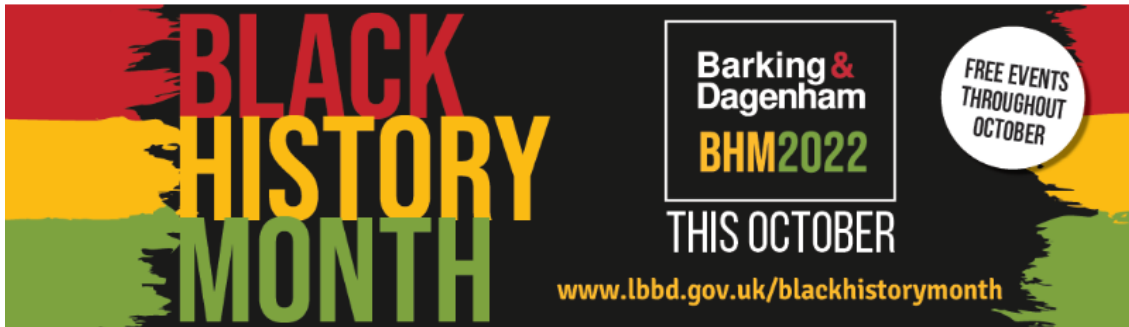
Residents can report a noise nuisance issue on the council website at:

lbbd.gov.uk/pests-pollution-noise-and-food/report-nuisance-noise

Training updates for councillors

This week we have included details of several LGiU and LGA courses and events. For details on how to access the courses, please see the Members’ Training section below.

Borough News



Celebrating Black History Month 2022

October marks the beginning of Black History Month – the annual celebration of the culture, history, and achievements of Black, African, and Caribbean people.

As part of the festivities, a packed programme of events will be held across the borough for everyone to get involved in.

On Monday 3 October, the official Black History Month flag was raised at a special event at the Town Hall at 12pm.

A host of events are planned throughout the month, including a music history quiz, workshops, talks, and exhibitions.

You can find out more on what is happening in the borough during Black History Month at lbbd.gov.uk/black-history-month.



Nigerian Independence Day 2022 kickstarts Black History Month

The Nigerian flag was flown outside Barking Town Hall on Friday (30 September) to mark the country's 62nd Independence Day.

Members of the public joined councillors for the ceremony, which saw the bicolour triband of green, white and green raised atop of the council's community flagpole.

Figures from the [Office of National Statistics](#) estimate there are around 20,000 residents in Barking and Dagenham who were born in Nigeria.

The flag-raising event also marked the unofficial beginning of Black History Month in the borough, which runs throughout October.

For more details about flag-raising events or to donate a flag, visit lbbd.gov.uk/flag-flying.



Council marks National Hate Crime Awareness Week

In our continued effort to tackle hate crime, the council is marking National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

Alongside the police and partner organisations, we are standing up against hate crime and encouraging residents to report it if they're victims or they witness it.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week runs from Saturday 8 to Saturday 15 October and there are a range of activities to get involved in, including:

- Information stalls at Barking Town Hall
- LGBTQI+ online training and awareness session
- Stop Hate UK – Disability Hate Crime training
- Stay Safe East – Disability Hate Crime training

Hate crime is any crime that targets a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

There are a range of support services available in our borough for people who have been victims or witnesses to hate crime, including a 24-hour confidential support service delivered by Stop Hate UK: Telephone: 0800 138 1625 or text: 18001 0800 138 1625. They can also chat at: www.stophateuk.org/talk or through an online form at: www.stophateuk.org/tell

For young people under the age of 18, there is a 24-hour confidential service called 'Call Out Hate' at 0808 801 0576 or 07717 989 025 (text) and they can visit the website: www.callouthate.org

For more information on hate crime, head to www.stophateuk.org.



Updating our council website

Our Customer Experience Team has now launched an updated version of our [council website](#).

The new website will help staff and residents to use our online services more quickly and easily. Improvements include a better home page and search functionality so users can find what they're looking for faster.

The website also has better structured content, with clearer service information, which means there will be less need for residents to call the Customer Contact Centre to get the information they need.

The Customer Experience Team will also have more control over the website code, allowing them to make changes and improve functionality faster and more cost-effectively.

The updated website won't be a finished product, as the team will continue to improve it based on user and feedback and data.

Around the council



Help for Households

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 www.lbbd.gov.uk/hardship-and-covid-support-schemes.

Residents can also contact our Homes and Money Hubs which are open for a drop in at Barking Learning Centre and Dagenham Library 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.

For more information about help and support, residents can visit the Barking and Dagenham Working Together campaign page at www.lbbd.gov.uk/working-together.

Local Government News

Growth ambition welcome but funding and more detail needed

On Friday, 23 September the Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng made a statement to the House of Commons setting out the government's [Growth Plan](#).

London Councils has warned that fast-rising costs and demand for services mean boroughs in the capital need to make £400 million of savings this year, which could rise to £700 million next year without an uplift in funding closer to the rate of inflation.

London Councils Chair Cllr Georgia Gould said: "Councils are already providing a safety net to communities and doing all they can to support people who are struggling. Financial support from the government for councils is crucial for continuing this work. Boroughs stand ready to work with the government to find long-term solutions to support our residents and businesses in the capital."

[You can read more about London Councils budget priorities here.](#)

Women's homelessness programme

Up to four London boroughs are being sought to join AVA (Against Violence & Abuse) as programme partners on a new [women's homelessness programme](#), designed to improve London boroughs' housing and homelessness offers for women survivors of gender-based violence.

Boroughs interested in becoming partners are invited to complete [this expression of interest form](#) by 10 October 2022.

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 29 September – [London's cheapest homes: flats for sale for less than £250,000 in every London borough](#). Mentions Barking and

Dagenham.

Building Design & Construction, 27 September – [CITB invests £1.8m to support England Construction Opportunities and reduce the skills gap.](#)

Mentions Barking Riverside Ltd.

Heromag, 27 September – [Council set to buy Barking office block and recycling plant.](#)

BBC, 25 September – [Labour Party: The battle of the east London centrists.](#)

Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

City of London, 23 September – [City Corporation responds to Chancellor's fiscal statement.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Art Daily, 23 September – [Yinka Ilori's creative practice explored for first time at the Design Museum.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

West Ham United FC, 23 September – [West Ham United Foundation visits the Old Bailey.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Daily Brit, 23 September – [Demand for 'bills included' rental properties up in London.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Daily Brit, 23 September – [Mortgage-backed buyers fuel 71% of property purchases.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Ground Engineering, 22 September – [Ground works kick off at Dagenham school development.](#)

Media Releases

[Barking and Dagenham to host first ever childcare specific jobs fair.](#)
[Council and police team up to tackle antisocial behaviour hotspots.](#)

[How you can take part in the Great Big Green Week in Barking and Dagenham.](#)
[Thousands of illegal cigarettes seized from shops in Barking and Dagenham.](#)
[Barking and Dagenham's Trading Standards provide top tips for buying second-hand cars.](#)

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

[Effective interpersonal skills: the persuasive councillor](#) – 11 October, 10am to 12pm

You'll use these skills every day: negotiating techniques, developing a win-win outcome, and the 4P's of Persuasion, plus more.

[Effective interpersonal skills: conflict resolution and mediation](#) – 18 October, 10am to 12pm

Master difficult situations with skills like homing in on the conflict, distraction techniques, mediation methods, and more.

Local Government Association (LGA) Events

The LGA are offering the following sessions

Making a success of governance, accountability, and scrutiny - 17
October, 10.30am to 12pm

This webinar, which is funded by Government will look at the different governance models available within the devolution framework in the Levelling Up White Paper, including County Combined Authorities (CCAs), what powers are likely to be available to areas with each type of deal, and how to negotiate

relationships between potential constituent and non-constituent members.

Parking and high streets - 20 October, 10.30am to 12pm

This webinar, aimed at council officers and councillors, will share good practice from the experts at the British Parking Association and councils who are trying something different.

One to One Development Sessions

The LGA are offering councillors the opportunity to have one-to-one development conversations with one of the Leadership Academy Facilitators. This will be available to councillors in leadership positions for the next three months. These sessions are not political and will be provided by tutors from the LGA's Leadership Academy programme who a number of councillors might have met from participation on the programmes. They will be focussed on helping councillors adapt their personal leadership style through three structured coaching calls. For more information, please contact Leanna McPherson at: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk

If you are interested in joining any or all of these courses, please email: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk or lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk

The LGA also offers help for new Councillors via the New Councillor Hub, which can be found [here](#).

And finally...

The Members' Briefing is intended to keep you up to date with what is going on in the council, in the borough and in the world of local government. Please let us have your suggestions on items for inclusion in future bulletins and any feedback you may have on how it can be improved.

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