

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about our Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade which will take place on 6 November, featuring the award-winning Laser Light City and is being organised in partnership with Creative Barking and Dagenham. He also talks about the draft Inclusive Growth Strategy which will shape the growth and development of the borough for the next four years, asking residents to give their views (see story below).



Council launches landmark Inclusive Growth Strategy consultation

The Council is keen to hear residents' views and opinions on its draft Inclusive Growth Strategy – our plan for people and places as the borough continues to grow.

The draft strategy sets out the council's vision for growth in the short and medium term and how it will support residents throughout.

[A survey asking for residents' views on the strategy](#) has also been released and will close on 7 November.

Ahead of major developments taking place in the borough, including the relocation of London's iconic three food markets and the Eastbrook Film Studios, the council has set forward its proposed strategy to ensure that all its residents and businesses benefit from the growth and investment being put into the borough.

Residents are at the heart of the new strategy, and we want to hear their concerns and suggestions about all of the current and upcoming developments.

The Inclusive Growth strategy sets out four key themes that will be focused on, to ensure the borough's development will work for all. The four themes are:

Theme 1: A thriving and inclusive economy

Theme 2: Creating places we are proud of

Theme 3: Homes for everyone

Theme 4: A Net Zero cleaner greener borough

Within each theme are key council targets such as: tackling climate change, improving local business space and support, improving housing for vulnerable people, lowering anti-social behaviour and much more.

Residents are encouraged to look out for further events in the coming months where they will be able to give further input into the shape of the borough's development.



Smokers encouraged to join Stoptober

Stoptober is back and smokers are being invited to join the 2.5 million others who have made an attempt to quit with the campaign since it launched a decade ago in 2012.

Nearly 6 million adults in England still smoke, and it remains the single biggest behavioural cause of preventable death, with 64,000 deaths a year.

For smokers, quitting is one of the best things they can do for their health,

allowing them to start moving better and breathe more easily. It can also save them thousands of pounds.

Quitting smoking is much easier with the right support and there is lots of local support available. To start the quitting journey, smokers can pop along to one of our free online and face-to-face support sessions:

Online session

Monday 31 October, 2pm to 3pm

In person session

Thursday 27 October, 2pm to 5pm

Barking Learning Centre, 2 Town Square, Barking IG11 7NB

For more information about pop-up sessions including joining instructions, please email healthylifestyles@lbbd.gov.uk

Alternatively, residents can sign up to a FREE local stop smoking consultation [here](#).



Residents invited to have their say in the CPZ consultation

Residents living in Parsloes, Mayesbrook, Whalebone and Heath wards are being urged to get involved in a consultation as their roads are likely to be one where the council is looking to install a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) to make it easier for them to park where they live.

Residents who live on one of the affected roads should have received a letter through their door, but they can also find out if their road is included by visiting our [website](#).

The letter invites residents to take part in a consultation, so we can hear their thoughts. They can access the consultation online by visiting:

- [Parsloes](#)
- [Mayesbrook](#)
- [Whalebone](#)
- [Heath](#)

Residents who may have difficulties accessing the internet can also call 020 8187 5055 or visit one of our libraries to give their feedback.

CPZs have lots of benefits for our communities. Apart from making it easier for people to park outside their own houses, they also:

1. Improve road safety
2. Reduce traffic congestion
3. Improve safe access for pedestrians
4. Protect parking for residents, visitors and Blue Badge holders

The closing date for the consultation is Wednesday 26 October.

Training updates for councillors

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

Borough News

**GUY
FAWKES**
Lantern Parade

In partnership with
Creative Barking and Dagenham

SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER

4PM TO 8PM
EASTBURY MANOR HOUSE TO
ABBEY GREEN, BARKING

Featuring **Laser Light City** by **Seb Lee-Delisle**

www.lbbd.gov.uk/lanternparade



  **Barking & Dagenham**

Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade is back

On Sunday 6 November, the Guy Fawkes Lantern Parade returns. We're teaming up with [Creative Barking and Dagenham](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk) to bring it back again for 2022

and we hope residents will join us. This year it features the award-winning Laser Light City by Seb Lee-Delisle and creative workshops.

This year, the parade begins at Eastbury Manor House and ends up at the Abbey Ruins, where there will be a FREE entry family event starting at 4pm with amazing stage acts, live music and street theatre.

There will be lantern making workshops organised by Creative Barking and Dagenham around the area and the parade will include a Guy Fawkes and magical lanterns created by local artists – but residents can also join us by bringing their own handmade lanterns if they so wish.

The event was a huge hit last time, so residents should not miss out. For more information, visit: lbd.gov.uk/lanternparade



Your Estate, Your Call – residents invited to vote on estate improvements

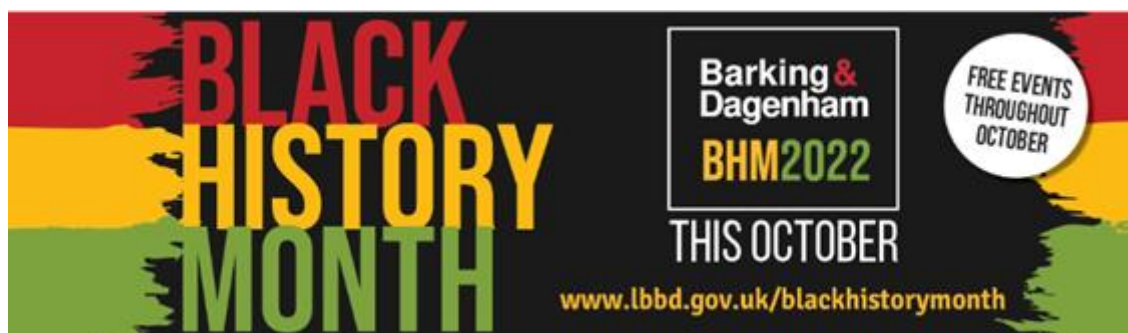
Residents of Becontree Heath, Harts Lane and Parkside House estates have

shared over 100 ideas for improvements in their area and can now pick their favourite from the most popular suggestions to help decide what will get funded.

Residents are being invited to have their say before voting closes on Sunday 30 October at: oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/your-estate-your-call

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Celebrating Black History Month 2022

This week is the final week 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 has been held during October across the borough for everyone to get involved in.

You can find out what's planned for the final week of Black History Month at lbbd.gov.uk/black-history-month.



Local groups invited to apply for a share of £10,000 for equality and diversity projects

Local community groups are being encouraged to help spend a £10,000 pot of money to help promote social inclusion, celebrate diversity, and support equality across the borough.

The Equality and Diversity Community Fund offers charities and groups the chance to apply for up to £500 for initiatives that provide opportunities for people with protected characteristics.

The next round of funding will be open to any equalities event. In this window of funding, we're particularly encouraging applications for any Independence Day celebrations or flag raisings, as well as International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), Christmas (December), LGBT+ History Month (February), Race Equality Week (February), or Women's Empowerment Month (March).

There are three application windows throughout the year for the fund. The second opportunity for groups opened on 1 October and will close on Monday 31 October.

Groups can find more information or apply [here](#).

Around the council



Parents urged to get their child's school to sign up to the School Uniform project

About 1.4 million wearable school uniforms are thrown away every year – reusing these uniforms would save families money and benefit the environment, which is exactly what The School Uniform Bank Project is all about.

Parents are being urged to check with their child's school to see if they can help them join the network of school uniform shops as part of the School Uniform Bank Project.

They will be playing an important part in supporting their community through the cost of living crisis and creating a cleaner, greener borough.

They will find out more [here](#).



Parents are being reminded to apply for their child's secondary school place

Parents whose children are in Year 6 are being reminded to submit their secondary school application. They have until Monday 31 October to get their applications in to give their child the best chance of being accepted into their first-choice school.

Before applying, parents should read our useful [e-booklet](#) which gives them all the information they need to know about their application.

Parents can find out more information and follow the applications procedure on

[our website](#).

They can then find out if their child has been accepted to their chosen school on 1 March 2023.



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 our 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



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

London Councils' Vice Chair receives life peerage

London Councils have congratulated its Vice Chair, Cllr Teresa O'Neill (London Borough of Bexley) on being nominated for a Life Peerage.

A total of 26 figures were made members of the House of Lords as part of the latest honours list. The peerages were conferred by the King on recommendation from Liz Truss, further to advice from former prime minister Boris Johnson.

[You can see the full list of nominations here.](#)

APPG for London looks at cost-of-living concerns

With growing numbers of Londoners struggling with cost-of-living pressures, the [All-Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\) for London](#) met last Monday to discuss this important topic.

Cllr Georgia Gould, Chair of London Councils, spoke at the event to highlight boroughs' work supporting their residents, and to make the case for policy changes at a national level. The voluntary and business sectors were also represented on the panel of speakers; with Manny Hothi of the anti-poverty group Trust for London and Stephen Jones from the London Chamber of Commerce & Industry addressing the meeting.

Stakeholders from a range of London organisations attended and took part in the discussion, sharing a range of perspectives and concerns.

Co-chaired by Sir Bob Neill MP and Florence Eshalomi MP, the APPG is due to hold a private meeting with the Minister for London and will discuss these issues further.

Response to interim Casey Report

Baroness Casey's interim report on culture and standards of behaviour in the Metropolitan Police was published last Monday 17 October.

In response, Cllr [Jas Athwal](#), London Councils' Executive Member for Community Safety and Violence Against Women and Girls, said: "The interim findings of Baroness Casey's report are stark, and there is work to be done in response. I welcome the steps that the new Commissioner has already set out since taking office last month, including on tackling officer misconduct, improving professional standards and rebuilding Londoners' trust.

"Policing by consent is essential for a police service to work effectively. The Met's mission to regain Londoners' trust is in all our interests – including police officers who put their lives on the line each day to help keep us safe. A police service where Londoners feel they will be listened to and treated fairly and equally, regardless of their sex, gender, ethnicity, beliefs, sexuality, disability, or

any other characteristic, will better and more effectively serve our communities. I look forward to seeing what detailed steps the Met now sets out in response to the report's interim findings."

FSB Local Government awards

On Friday 14 October, the Federation of Small Businesses announced the winners of the FSB's local government awards.

The London Borough of Lewisham were announced as the all-England winner of the 'COVID-19 Support and Recovery' category for their comprehensive business support during the pandemic.

The winners of the London regional awards were: City of Westminster – Programme of Business Support; LB Bexley – Future Ready; LB Tower Hamlets – All Round Small Business Friendly.

Congratulations to all.

[You can read more about the awards here.](#)

Take part in the London Councils website survey

As part of their commitment to improving their digital services, London Councils have launched survey asking for views on their website. The survey aims to deepen the organisation's understanding of the people who use the website, why they use it and the issues they face.

The short survey takes just two minutes to complete. You can take part in the survey [here](#).

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

RIBA Journal, 20 October – [Sarah Allan: from CABE enabler to architecture's leveller up](#). Mentions Be First and Barking and Dagenham.

CU Today, 19 October – [International CU Week: East London Council partnering with CU to provide more loan options](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Planning & Construction News, 18 October – [Party conferences – what we heard and what we didn't – about solving the housing crisis](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

What's on Stage, 18 October – [Inclusive audiences – how Sita McIntosh is making lasting change in theatres](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Construction Enquirer, 18 October – [Wilmott Dixon seals £31m London affordable housing deal](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Dispute Resolution Blog, 17 October – [Injunctions against "Persons Unknown": uncertain territory](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Travel PR News, 17 October – [London City Airport Community Fund supports 15 East London local groups and community organisations with £41,580 funding](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Mortgage Introducer, 17 October – [Ten cheapest places to rent in London](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Wales 247, 17 October – [WordSkills finalists ready to fly the flag for Wales](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Public News Time, 15 October – [Number of landlords still on the increase](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Education Business, 14 October – [London schools embark on programme to tackle school exclusions](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Council and police join forces for antisocial behaviour operation.](#)

[Don't let your elderly relatives or friends be caught out by scams.](#)

[Dodgy meat costs Barking business thousands of pounds.](#)

Members' Training

Member Briefing

The next Member Briefing will take place on Tuesday 25 October and will focus on School Admissions.

The Serious Youth Violence and the work of the Youth Offending Service briefing will take place on Wednesday 26 October.

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

[Effective social media: \(lunch and learn session\)](#) – 4 November, 12.30 to 1.45pm

Explore social media channels and how they can be used to listen to and communicate with communities and stakeholders.

[Equality and inclusive leadership in local government: stepping up](#) – 1 & 15 November, 10am to 1pm

Two workshops that will help you develop inclusive leadership practices on equalities, and help you re-examine equality and diversity policies within and outside your council.

[Local government finance: understanding your council's budget and more](#) – 17 November, 12.15 to 1.45pm

Understand financial planning processes and formulate questions on key local issues through your review of key council documents.

Local Government Association (LGA) Events

The LGA are offering the following sessions

Handling online abuse and intimidation - Thursday 27 October, 10.30am to 12noon

This webinar will provide attendees with an awareness of the steps that can be taken to manage trolls and cyber-bullies, including a gentle introduction to the legal framework around social media posts. There will be guidance on how to be safe online generally, as well as tips on how to create a positive online presence.

Finance without numbers – an introduction to local government finance for newly elected members - Monday 31 October, 6 to 7.30pm

This webinar will provide an overview of local government finance without any numbers - focussing instead on roles and responsibilities, key terminology, and processes. It will give you an understanding of both what you need to be aware of in your role and what you need to understand about your authority's role. This webinar, which is funded by Government, is for newly elected members or those just looking for a refresh.

Youth services – sharing practice among local authorities - Wednesday 9 November, 3.30 – 5pm

The LGA has explored partnership working in different forms, particularly in exploring the key enablers of effective partnership-based early help and developing an effective youth offer. For youth work week, we want to revisit this research and explore how local authorities and partners are approaching youth service models in their local authorities.

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.