

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader mentions his visit to Thames Road for a topping out ceremony for a new housing development of 156 built to rent properties with space for commercial units.

He also reminds residents of the place to be on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May - the free Summer of Festivals Weekender to celebrate the King's Coronation and the return of the One Borough Festival in Valence Park.



Council Leader launches scathing attack on Met Police following publication of yet another report – and calls for a bigger role for London council leaders

Following the publication last Friday, 28 April of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) report – [An Inspection of the Metropolitan Police Service's response to lessons from the Stephen Port murders](#), the Leader Cllr Darren Rodwell issued a statement.

[You can read his statement in full here.](#)



Mixed-Use Thames Road Development, tops out

A new, mixed-use employment and residential development reached the top floor of its construction, on Thames Road in Barking last week.

12 Thames Road is a £58m development of 156 affordable built-to-rent homes across four multi-level residential blocks ranging from seven to 16 storeys. There is also 5,000 sq. ft of light industrial units for new and expanding businesses with an additional commercial unit which will house the Brothers Café which was previously on that site.



Council marks Worker's Memorial Day

On Friday 28 April, as part of International Worker's Memorial Day, a gathering was organised by the Barking, Dagenham and Havering Trades Union Council and the London Asbestos Support Awareness Group. It was attended by Deputy Leader, Cllr Dominic Twomey, members of the Trades Union Council and the London Asbestos Support Awareness Group and residents who have lost family members through asbestos related illnesses.

It is a commemoration day for the dead and injured and takes place annually around the world on April 28.



Local pupils pitch enterprise ideas at a Dragon's Den event

The council recently joined [Social Enterprise Academy](#) to encourage young people to step up and present their social and environmental initiatives to a panel of 'Dragons' at Barking Town Hall. Each group received feedback and a cash prize to help them develop their school enterprises, sponsored by the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#).

Pupils from four schools came forward, allowing them to engage with a cause they care about whilst developing valuable skills, as they planned a social enterprise and presented it in an 8-minute pitch in the Council Chamber.

Their projects tackled a range of issues, from reducing air pollution around schools and the amount of waste that ends up in landfill to delivering hygiene packs to homeless people, reducing poverty, and promoting diversity. But they all had something in common - to create a business that makes a difference in the local community.

Becontree Primary were the overall winners, but Riverside Primary were also

recognised for pitching the Best Environmental Enterprise, Beam Primary for delivering the Most Creative Pitch, a Year 10 group from Greatfields School for their Community Cohesion, and a Year 12 group from the same school for pitching the Most Charitable Enterprise.

The programme is part of a three-year project and is fully funded by the [Social Enterprise Academy](#) thanks to the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#).

Social Enterprise Academy will be supporting four local schools this school year, seven in 2023/24, and 12 schools in 2024/25.

Training updates for councillors

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

Borough News



Summer of Festivals Weekender celebrating the Coronation

Residents are being urged to mark their calendars for Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May for our Summer of Festivals Weekender at Valence Park, Dagenham.

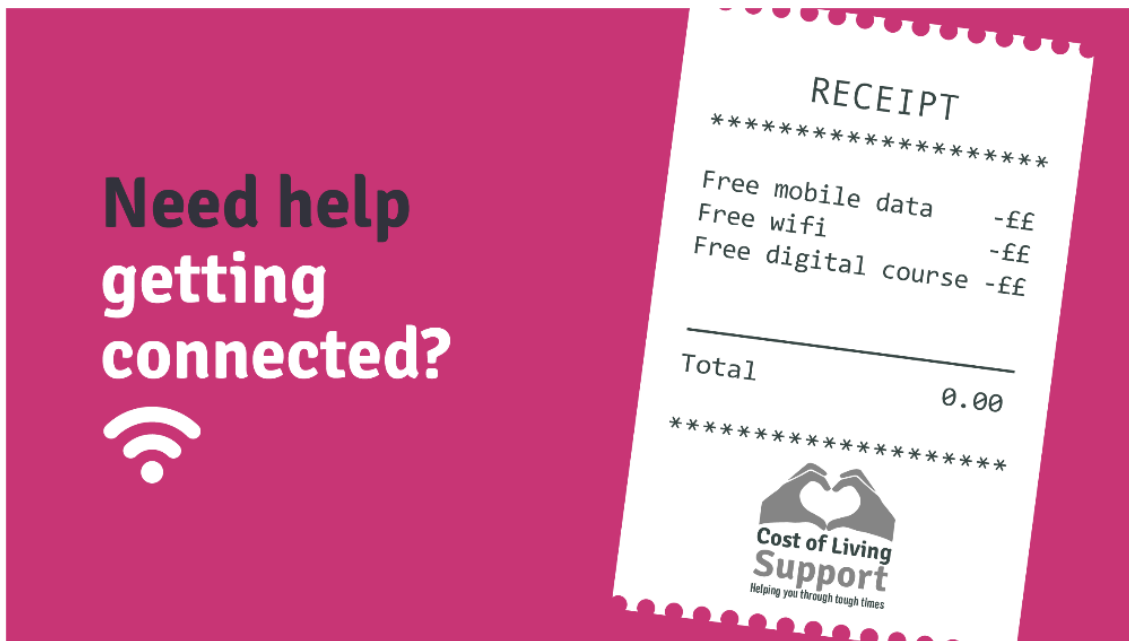
On Saturday, residents can join us from 11am to 5pm for a special [Coronation event](#) to honour His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort. We'll be screening the historic Coronation event, and residents can enjoy a picnic while soaking up the festival vibes.

On Sunday, from 1pm to 7pm, residents can enjoy the [One Borough Festival](#), where we're mixing in old favourites like the Steam and Cider Fair and Roundhouse Music Festival. There will be classic cars, tribute acts, dance performances, family fun activities, food and drink stalls, and more.

The best part is it is all FREE entry.

Visit lbbd.gov.uk/coronation-day for information on the Coronation Day and lbbd.gov.uk/one-borough-festival for information on the One Borough Festival.

If anyone you know wants to exhibit or perform at these events, applications are now open, and forms can be found on the above weblinks.



Getting connected: free laptops available as part of device lending scheme

Residents aged 65+ can now borrow a laptop for up to 6 weeks for FREE from Barking Learning Centre Community Hub.

The scheme is part of the council's wider work to tackle digital exclusion by improving access to online services for every borough resident.

Other schemes available also include free mobile data, calls, and messages for residents on low incomes, as well as the roll-out of free unlimited Wi-Fi in libraries across the borough, and the creation of digital champions, who are specially trained volunteers that can help answer any internet related query.

So if you know any resident who might be interested, [they can find out more here](#).



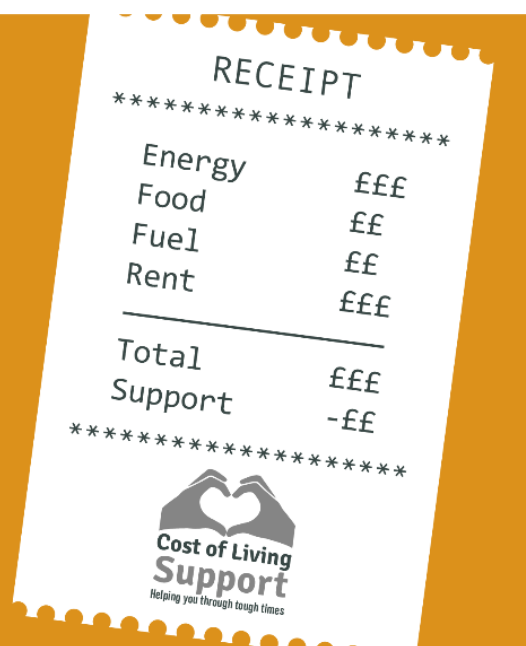
Cool dumpings – fridge fly-tipped on latest Wall of Shame

Our [grime-busting web-series](#) is back with more fly-tippers caught on camera, and we need your help catching them.

If you recognise anyone featured in this [week's episode](#), please let our Enforcement Team know by emailing grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk now, so we can take action and continue to crack down on this issue.

Around the council

Cost of Living Support



Giving residents a helping hand through the cost of living crisis

We've been sharing lots of ways residents can get help with money, food, energy, wellbeing and more.

If you know someone who could benefit from this support, please do help us spread the word. There's lots of information available online, or if they prefer, residents can speak to staff at one of our Community Hubs or partner buildings. They can also take a look at where these are located [here](#).

While we might not have the answer to everything, residents can reach out and we'll do our best to connect them to the support they might need.

Residents are reminded that there are lots of [warm spaces](#) across the borough that they can visit so they don't have to put the heating on at home.

More information on the cost of living support available can be found at www.lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support



Residents invited to open a savings account today through Barking and Dagenham Money

The Council has partnered with Leeds Credit Union 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.

Since its launch earlier this month we've racked up hundreds of new members. 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

Pothole problem needs long term funding solution

London Councils' Executive Member for Transport and Environment Mayor Philip Glanville has called on government to provide a "better and more stable" funding solution to ensure London's roads are properly maintained.

Speaking on BBC Politics London last Sunday, Mayor Glanville said: "The problem is that potholes are the acute end of the problem. We've seen funding cuts for councils across the board and especially more recently a funding cut to road maintenance. We were seeing around £20m going to London for road maintenance in 2016, that is now down to £2.6m.

"Without routine and regular maintenance for our roads we are just patching."

London Councils estimates the cost of the maintenance backlog for London's roads is at about £1.6 billion. "That is completely unaffordable without a proper settlement from government", said Mayor Glanville.

You can watch the BBC Politics item in full on the [BBC iPlayer here](#) (from 1 minute).

APPG for London

The [APPG for London](#) held its AGM last Monday.

The AGM saw seven of the eight current officers re-elected, including the two co-chairs Bob Neill MP and Florence Eshalomi MP, and three new vice chairs were welcomed to the group: Dawn Butler MP, Marsha de Cordova MP and Munira Wilson MP.

MPs and Peers attending also heard from guest speaker [Martin Machray, Executive Director of Performance for NHS London](#), who gave an update on health issues across the capital that was well received by attendees, with questions on a wide range of topics, including screening, sexual health/gender identity services and GP waiting times.

The APPG for London is a forum for MPs and Peers to work together on a cross-party basis to strengthen the capital's voice in Parliament. The group's purpose is to promote the capital in the interests of all Londoners.

London Councils provides the secretariat to the group on behalf of London government, including the Mayor of London and the London Assembly.

APPG meetings are open to MPs, Peers and representatives of organisations interested in and affected by the issues being discussed.

London Homelessness Awards 2023

The London Homelessness Awards (LHA) opened for applications last week.

With a prize fund of £60,000, the LHA recognise the significant achievements and excellent work of teams and projects across London working with people who are, or are at risk of becoming, homeless.

The awards are open to all projects in London working in the field of homelessness, this includes registered social landlords, local councils, NHS

and health-related organisations, voluntary organisations, or a partnership of any of these. The only stipulation is that the project must have been operating and delivering services for a minimum of six months.

Now in their 22nd year, the awards were originally set up in memory of Andy Ludlow, director of housing and social services at Haringey Council. He was a pioneer in developing a holistic approach to housing and social services. After he died, at the age of just 51, London's housing directors set up the Andy Ludlow Homelessness Awards as a lasting legacy and testament to his tireless work in the sector.

[You can find out more about the London Homelessness Awards, including how to enter, here.](#)

By-election result

A by-election took place in the Bullmoor ward (LB Enfield) on Thursday 20 April. The by-election was won by Destiny Karakus (Labour). [You can see the full result here.](#)

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

The Guardian, 27 April – [Turner prize: pandemic problems and Windrush scandal among shortlist.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Guardian, 27 April – [Met police could be failing to identify serial killers, watchdog says.](#)

Local Government Lawyer, 26 April – [London borough appoints ex-Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer as permanent chief executive.](#)

Mentions Barking and Dagenham

OnLondon, 26 April – [London now speaking with 'one voice' to potential investors, post-MIPM gathering told.](#) Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Evening Standard, 26 April – [Boy, 14, attacked by large group and stabbed in Dagenham Park.](#)

Evening Standard Homes & Property, 26 April – [House price gap narrows: eight remaining 'affordable' London boroughs with property prices below city average.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Building Design, 26 April – [Life under Egis and why the government should invest in London: WW+P's Chris Williamson talks to Building Design.](#) Mentions Barking Riverside overground station.

Metro, 26 April – [How to check if your school is closed tomorrow as teachers go on strike.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

BBC London, 24 March – [ULEZ expansion: How many Londoners are affected?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

LGA, 21 April – [Guidance on business support to reduce area wide carbon footprint.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Insider Media Limited, 21 April – [Forward-thinking leaders 'making things happen' – Lord Kerlake.](#) Mentions Be First.

Evening Standard Homes & Property, 21 April – [Revealed: the London areas where house prices have risen most in a decade.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[B&D pupils pitch enterprise ideas at friendly Dragon's Den.](#)

[Council tenant kicked out of Dagenham home after attacking neighbour.](#)

[Council expands popular School Streets programme.](#)

[National Offer Day: Nine in ten children offered first preference school in Barking and Dagenham.](#)

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following training:

Progress on children and young people's mental health policy in England

Thursday 18 May, 2pm to 3.30pm (Online)

A range of policies such as the 2017 Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Green Paper, the NHS Long-Term Plan, and post COVID-19 recovery, have been announced regarding children's mental health in England over the past decade. However, the scale of children's mental health needs remains of real concern to councils, schools, families and young people themselves, particularly given the impact of the pandemic, school closures and the current cost of living crisis. Children's mental health has also been highlighted in recent announcements including the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life, Schools White Paper and Special Educational Needs Green Paper. The Government is currently developing a strategy for mental health (all-age).

The Centre for Mental Health and the Children and Young People Mental Health Coalition (CYPMHC) have been commissioned by the LGA to produce a report exploring these policy approaches, announcements and steps taken to tackle the rising demand in children's mental health. It looks at the progress that has been made and what else needs to happen to ensure that central government, local government, NHS and wider partners are able to tackle children's mental health needs in England. This webinar will explore the outcomes of this report.

One to One Development Sessions

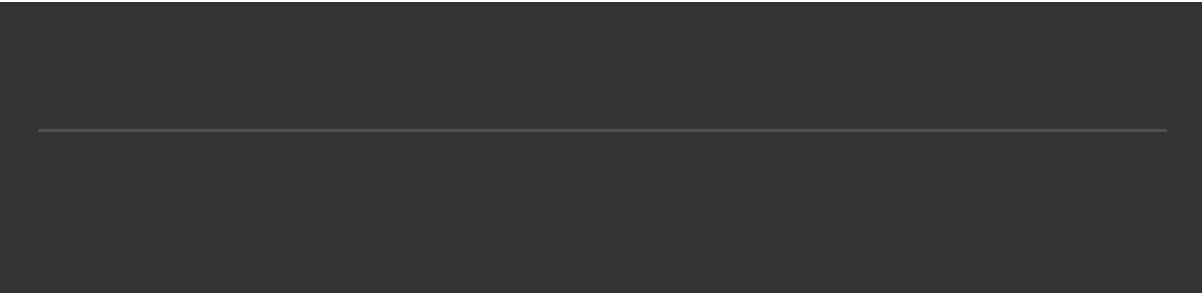
The LGA are offering councillors the opportunity to have one-to-one development conversations with one of the Leadership Academy Facilitators. This will be available to councillors in leadership positions for the next three months. These sessions are not political and will be provided by tutors from 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 email yon.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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