

# Members' Briefing



**Barking &  
Dagenham**



## **Council celebrates 75th anniversary of Windrush**

Members of the community were joined by councillors at a special ceremony to honour and celebrate the invaluable contributions made by the Windrush generation.

The flag-raising event, which was held outside the town hall on Thursday 22

June, marked 75 years to the day since HMT Empire Windrush arrived in Britain in 1948.

On board the ship were passengers from the Caribbean, who had answered the call to help rebuild the United Kingdom following the Second World War.

Since 2018, 22 June has been officially recognised as Windrush Day.

Residents and groups can find out more about flag-raising events, including how to donate a flag at [lbbd.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/flag-flying](http://lbbd.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/flag-flying).



**Residents enjoyed a family fun day at Eastbrookend Country Park**

Local families enjoyed a family fun day at Eastbrookend Country Park last Saturday and it was also an opportunity for them to find out more about sustainable living through a range of fun activities.

Residents were able to pick up freebies like compost bins and have their bikes and other items repaired for free. There was information on [active travel](#), community energy and air quality, food growing and local produce, and wildlife organisations.

The event rounded off an action-packed week which saw the launch of the fourth phase of our Cleaner, Greener campaign.

We are working harder than ever to make the borough a cleaner greener place to live. But we can't do it alone.

Residents can [visit our website](#) to find out more about the quick and easy things they can do to help.



## **Council joins the country to pay tribute on Armed Forces Day**

Last Friday, we joined the whole country to mark Armed Forces Day (which takes place on 24 June), to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our country, protecting our freedoms and ensuring our safety. It is a day to honour their sacrifices and express our deep gratitude.

It is an opportunity for us to come together as a community, to show our support and appreciation. We must remember and support our veterans and serving personnel throughout the year - reach out, offer assistance, and let them know that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

It was also a befitting time to remind residents that the council has signed an [Armed Forces Covenant](#) between serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and living in our borough, which guarantees they will not face disadvantage but is also an opportunity to tap on their knowledge, experience and expertise.

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## **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.

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## **Borough News**

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## Borough marks Refugee Week

Last Thursday 22 June, residents were joined by councillors and staff to raise a flag in support of Refugee Week which began on last Monday. It was an opportunity to show our support for the contributions and resilience of refugees and people who are seeking sanctuary.



## **Residents invited to embrace the spirit of Eid-al-Adha in a vibrant celebration of unity, culture, and festivity**

As part of the Summer of Festival event calendar, residents are being encouraged to get involved and attend Eid at Eastbury on July 2nd. Residents and their visitors can immerse themselves in a joyous day of cultural exploration, live entertainment, and community togetherness, while honouring the significance of Eid-al-Adha.

The event will be held at Eastbury Manor House on Sunday 2 July, from 11am to 4pm.

Eid-al-Adha, also known as the "Festival of Sacrifice," holds a deep cultural and religious significance for Muslims worldwide and brings together all members of the community. The occasion is a time of reflection, gratitude, and community bonding.

Residents can immerse themselves in a range of performances, exhibitions, and workshops - from drumming to henna and face painting. They can also indulge in a tantalizing selection of culinary delights, including traditional dishes and international flavours, at a number of diverse food stalls.

The Summer of Festival Event - Eid at Eastbury reflects our commitment to creating an inclusive and vibrant borough, where all residents can partake in cultural festivities and experience the richness of our diverse community.

For more information about the Summer of Festival Event - Eid at Eastbury, please visit: [www.lbbd.gov.uk/eidateastbury](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/eidateastbury).

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## **Spinning around – swivel chair dumped in Wall of Shame**

Our grime busting web series is back with more fly-tippers caught dumping on camera.

If you recognise someone featured on the show so far, please email our Enforcement Team on [grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk)

And you can also catch up on other episodes of the show at [www.lbbd.gov.uk/wall-shame](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/wall-shame)

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## **Around the council**

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## **Adult College launches 2023/24 prospectus – empowering our residents to be the best they can be!**

Residents can work towards achieving their lifelong learning ambitions through taking advantage of learning opportunities available from the Adult College.

This is an opportunity for residents to acquire additional knowledge, skills, qualifications and enhance their wellbeing.

Whatever the starting point or skills level, the Adult College is able to work with residents to support and empower them to grow in confidence and to develop their skills to progress on to further training, higher level qualifications or into employment.

Courses on offer range from Business Skills, Childcare, Continuous Professional Development, Construction, IT and Computing, English, ESOL,



Family Learning, Maths, Health and Social Care among others.

Residents can view details of the courses available in the [Adult College Prospectus - 23/24](#).

They can find out more about courses, financial and other support available by contacting the Adult College on 0208 270 4722 or email [adultcollegeenquiries@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:adultcollegeenquiries@lbbd.gov.uk)



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

Over £100,000 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.

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](http://www.BDMoney.co.uk)

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## **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:homesandmoneyhub@lbbd.gov.uk).

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### **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](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work).

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## **Local Government News**

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### **London Data Week**

Between 3 and 9 July, you can come and explore the role of data and artificial Intelligence (AI) in live sessions during London Data Week, the first ever public festival about data in London.

With activities run by different organisations, from local government, industry and civil society, make sure you register for the fun and engaging events, including art exhibitions, a comedy night, citizen science projects, and public workshops for different communities like non-profits, those working in health, or about creating responsible images of AI.

[To register for the events, visit the London Data Week website.](#)

### **Data Innovation in London**

Join in for an exciting day, to learn more about the data for public good work happening across the city. You will also get to know other data practitioners and enthusiasts, and explore opportunities to work together, to harness data and technology innovation, for the benefit of Londoners.

[The event is free, and you can sign up or find out more details here.](#)

### **Skills London**

Skills London will be returning to ExCeL London on 24 and 25 November. Skills London offers a practical way for over 20,000 14 to 24-year-olds to meet face to face with more than 100 employers and education providers. It's free to attend and with around 35,000 jobs, training and apprenticeship opportunities at the event, Skills London helps young Londoners find a future that works for them.

The Skills London team works with London schools and colleges from every borough to encourage teachers to book group visits with their students.

[More information about the event and how you can get involved can be found on the Skills London website here.](#)

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## **This week's coverage in the national and regional media**

**Architects' Journal, 21 June** – [Architype wins AJ100 Collaboration of the Year for Cambridge scheme.](#) Mentions Be First.

**Public Sector Executive, 19 June** – [Tens of thousands of homes unlocked through TfL extension.](#) Mentions Barking Riverside.

**The Daily Brick, 19 June** – [Milestone reached at Barking Riverside development.](#)

**Daily Mail, 18 June** – [London councils milk motorists for £1.4bn in five years: Interactive map reveals how much local authorities have made by snaring unsuspecting drivers with ANPR and CCTV fines.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

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## **Media Releases**

[East London youngsters set to benefit from over £100k funding for youth outreach.](#)

[Barking and Dagenham Muslims warned about Hajj scams.](#)

[Eid at Eastbury: Embrace the spirit of Eid-al-Adha in a vibrant celebration of unity, culture and festivity.](#)

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## **Members' Training**

### **Training from Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)**

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

**Shape and share your message:** Tuesday 27 June, 9.30am to 12.30pm  
(Online)

Go step-by-step through the purpose of your content and how it connects with your audience before moving on to planning your content, the timing and the platforms you will use. Participants will be encouraged to use the session to plan some real content around their own upcoming communication needs, although a fictional scenario will also be provided.

**Make a difference as a Councillor:** Tuesday 11 July, 9.30am to 12.30pm  
(Online)

Are you a new or recently elected Councillor finding your feet? You stood to be a Councillor for a reason, so how do you achieve it and how do you keep your head above water whilst making your mark?

This interactive workshop will give you some of the tricks of the trade from an experienced Councillor and Democratic Services Officer and leave you with actions to make a difference for your community. This workshop will also help you keep hold of the bigger picture and achieve your goals for your community.

### **Training from Local Government Association (LGA)**

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

**Personal safety for newly elected Councillors:** Tuesday 27 June, 2 to

3.30pm (Online)

This Government funded event has been specially devised for newly or recently-elected Councillors who are keen to improve their awareness of personal safety. Built around the role of the elected member, the session is full of practical advice and guidance. Included within the webinar is advice on surgeries, canvassing, home visits and managing unexpected doorstep visitors.

**Health in all deals – putting health at the heart of devolution:** Wednesday 19 July, 12.00 noon to 1pm (Online)

This webinar, organised by the LGA in partnership with the NISE network, will hear from leaders closely involved in local discussions about how best to ensure health is a core part of local devolution plans. We will discuss how Combined Authorities and Integrated Care Systems are working together for their shared populations, seeking greater autonomy in a range of related areas that can collectively improve prosperity, support population health and address systemic health inequalities. With Mayoral elections taking place across significant parts of the country in 2024, now is the time to realise our ambitions.

### **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](mailto:leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk)

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

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



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## **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](mailto: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.