



Pupil Parliament at Barking school hosts inspiring climate change conference

Pupils at Ripple Primary School in Barking held a special climate change conference as part of the Great Big Green Week, the nation's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change.

It's the second time the school has hosted such an event, following on from a successful pioneering event last year. It has since earned praise for its passion and commitment to tackling climate change in a letter from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

The school's Pupil Parliament hosted a Q&A session with Councillor Kashif Haroon, Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Climate Change. The youngsters, aged 5 to 11, took the opportunity to ask questions about the council's commitment to tackling climate change.

The council declared a climate emergency in 2020 and has introduced a range of measures to help reduce its carbon footprint and recently launched the fourth phase of its [Cleaner, Greener campaign](#), which calls on residents to play their part in keeping the borough clean and living sustainably.

The school also welcomed another special guest, Professor Warwick Murray, a professor of geography in New Zealand, who joined the conference as part of his tour of England. He gave an impassioned speech about protecting the environment and challenged pupils to make a difference.

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School pupils enchanted by Road Safety Magic Shows

As part of efforts to accelerate our active travel programme, which encourages school pupils to take part in walk to school challenges, providing residents with cycle hubs to repair their bicycles, and launching a consultation to provide more cycling infrastructure, a series of events took place to reward schools that took part in The Big Walk & Wheel – the UK’s biggest active travel competition for schools.

Six schools, Village Infants, William Ford, Hunters Hall, Henry Green, Parsloes, and Dorothy Barley Junior – welcomed ‘Education By Magic’ magician, Allan Cadabra, where he performed his ‘Road Safety’ magic show.

Designed to reinforce road safety principles in a fun and engaging way, the show has been seen by over 915,000 pupils since 2007 and is one of the most successful Road Safety Magic Shows in the UK. Pupils joined in with the

festivities as Allan Cadabra encouraged them to sing and dance in his fun-filled show.

Both the Road Safety Magic Show and The Big Wheel and Walk are a continuation of Be First's Active Travel programme to encourage people to travel without their cars.



Closure Order issued for property linked to drugs

The council has used court powers to completely close a property after reports were made that it was being used by drug dealers and users.

The Order means that nobody, including the tenant, is now allowed to enter the property for a three-month period.

Council Enforcement Officers and the Police presented a case in court and applied for a full Closure Order, under Section 80 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act to be placed on the property in Meadow Road, Dagenham.

This followed reports that the flat was being used for drugs, offensive weapons were seen in the front garden, fires being started in and around the property and other serious antisocial behaviour issues.

Prior to the application being made, meetings were held, and the tenant was offered supported housing due to them being known to mental health and drug and alcohol services. However, the tenant refused the offer.

The Closure Order was granted at Barkingside Magistrates Court on Thursday 22 June. The tenant attended and, on this occasion, requested alternative accommodation which has since been offered supported by Adult Social Care service.

Work is currently ongoing to attend court in a bid to take back the property.

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



Valence House Museum shortlisted for national award

Valence House Museum has been shortlisted for the Kids in Museums Family Friendly Museum Award.

Charity Kids in Museums has run the prestigious annual award since 2004, recognising the most family friendly heritage sites in the UK and it's the only museum award to be judged by families.

From late March to early June, families across the UK voted for their favourite heritage attraction on the Kids in Museums website. A panel of museum experts then whittled down hundreds of nominations to a shortlist of 18 heritage attractions.

Valence House Museum is up against four other museums in the small museum category and the winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in October.

[Find out more.](#)



Funding available to help communities to come together

A new £15,000 pot of cash is up for grabs for residents to help set-up activities that will benefit the community.

Barking and Dagenham Council's CAN DO fund is aimed at helping local residents start projects they are passionate about, whether it is setting up a walking group, creating a craft workshop or starting a sports tournament. Grants of £50 will be available this summer, with larger grants of up to £250 up for grabs in future bidding rounds.

The funding can be used to buy equipment, provide food or refreshments, or pay for activities.

The funding has been secured from the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supported by the mayor of London.

For more information visit oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/activate-volunteering-and-can-do-fund.

Around the council



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 020 8270 4722 or email 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



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

Consumption-Based Emissions Report launched

The impact of Londoner's lifestyles on the climate challenge continues to reduce each year, but there is still more work to do to have a fighting chance of meeting net zero targets, warns a new report by London Councils, ReLondon and the GLA.

The Consumption-Based Emissions Report launched on 26 June, commissioned by London Councils, ReLondon and the GLA, and carried out by the University of Leeds, showed that the average Londoners' household consumption-based emissions have decreased by 49%, from 10.0 Mtonnes CO₂e in 2001 to 5.1 Mtonnes in 2020. The 2008 financial crisis was the main cause of these reductions, due to its negative impact on incomes and consumption, together with the decarbonisation of the UK electricity sector.

Mayor Philip Glanville, London Councils Executive Lead for Climate, Transport and Environment, said: "Even though London's population has increased

drastically since 2021, there has been a huge amount of effort from boroughs to support Londoners in reducing their household consumption-based emissions, as highlighted in the report. However, there is still much more to do in order to reduce harmful emissions across London.

“The report gives us a fantastic understanding of the lifestyles of London’s incredibly diverse communities. It is essential we build on this data and continue to develop strategies that will make it easier for Londoners to shift towards low carbon, greener and healthier lifestyles. Our One World Living programme, led by LB Harrow, aims to build on this by boosting the circular economy and encouraging sustainable consumption and production.”

You can read more [here](#).

London Social Work for Children website launched

The London boroughs have launched a new website promoting children’s social work career opportunities, seeking to attract “those ambitious about their careers and ambitious for young Londoners.”

This collaborative online platform, [London Social Work for Children](#), means that for the first time, all 33 London local authorities will post their job adverts for children’s social workers on a single site, bringing together the extensive and diverse range of opportunities on offer across London.

Through this new collaborative website, boroughs are making it easier for those interested in opportunities to develop their social work careers in London, as well as supporting the drive for employers to attract and retain the staff needed in local services.

Social workers are invited to [register](#) to receive tailored career opportunities and take the next step in their social work career in London.

APPG for London Summer Reception

The [APPG for London](#) (secretariat provided by London Councils) hosted its

Summer Reception in the House of Lords last week. The event, sponsored by BusinessLDN, was attended by London MPs, peers, business leaders, council leaders and third sector organisations.

Attendees heard from Sir Bob Neil MP and Florence Eshalomi MP, London Councils Chair, Cllr Georgia Gould, BusinessLDN Chief Executive, John Dickie, as well as keynote speakers Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, and DLUHC Minister Felicity Buchan MP, on the challenges and achievements of our city, around housing, homelessness, business, and the economy.

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.](#)

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Builder Master, 29 June – [L&Q launches new private rental homes at Barking Riverside, following a sell-out first phase.](#)

Time Out, 28 June – [These four London boroughs have the longest life expectancy in the UK.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Property 118, 28 June – [Councils want cash for enforcing S21 'no fault'](#)

[evictions ban](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Railway Pro, 27 June – [Arriva wins extension contract for London Overground](#).
Mentions Gospel Oak to Barking Riverside.

Municipal Enquiry, 24 June – [Barking up the wrong tree](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Channel 4 News, 23 June – [‘We simply don’t have enough social housing’, says Council leader](#). [Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell](#).

Children & Young People Now, 22 June – [Toolkit urges councils to convert empty buildings into homes for care leavers](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Architects’ Journal, 22 June – [Councils are sitting on ‘enough empty property for 19,500 affordable homes’](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

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](#).

Members’ Training

Training from Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following session:

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 session:

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

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.