

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader mentions the forthcoming Summer school holidays and things for young people to do through the Holiday Activity and Food programme open to all school-age children aged 5 to 16, with loads of activities and a healthy meal. The programme is free for young people who go to school in the borough and are eligible for free school meals – there are also paid places available. The Leader is urging residents to book places now.

Residents can find out what's on the programme [here](#).

He also lets residents know that if they are looking to having a great day out over the Summer that there is lots to do at Valence House Museum, the only surviving manor house in Dagenham and voted as one of the best free things to do in London.

The Leader ends by adding that Valence House Museum was recently shortlisted for the highly prestigious Kids in Museums, Family Friendly Museum Award.



Lewis Sheldrake wins Local Government Challenge

Lewis Sheldrake was announced winner of the Local Government Challenge at the LGA Conference which took place in Bournemouth earlier this month.

The highly competitive challenge saw 10 local government officers take part in a series of real-life challenges around the country and has been called 'The Apprentice' of local government.

Lewis Sheldrake, Lead Commissioner for Innovation and Personalisation, made it through to the final where he presented his final project to the LGA Conference for a £10,000 scholarship.

His AI Labs project involves safely and ethically using artificial intelligence to address the challenges faced by local government - to improve the quality of life for residents, drive efficiency and foster innovation. This is a fantastic achievement and continues our tradition of innovation in Barking and Dagenham.

e-Business

Support for SMEs



The e-Business Support programme is a fully-funded (Free to you) digital skills and support service delivered by Newham College and available to all SMEs (small businesses) based in Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Newham

Personalised help and support on offer to local businesses

The council and its partners are now offering local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) the opportunity to work with a business advisor who will

offer one to one business mentoring and advice for FREE.

Local businesses can benefit from a range of valuable services and digital skills to enhance their business operations. Whether they need assistance with website development, social media management, search engine optimization (SEO), or mastering Microsoft Office tools like Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook, help and support are also available.

Practical day-to-day tools and expert advice to help them run their business more efficiently will also be provided.

Local businesses can get in touch to book a session. The sessions with a business advisor take place every Thursday at the Barking Learning Centre.

Businesses can book a session by getting in touch by email at businessforum@lbbd.gov.uk



House for Artists nominated for two industry awards

A House for Artists in Barking has been shortlisted for two more industry awards.

House of Artists has been shortlisted for the [Neave Brown Award for Housing](#) which recognises the best new example of affordable housing in the UK. The winner will be announced at the RIBA Sterling Prize ceremony on Thursday 19 October at Victoria Warehouse in Manchester.

It has also been shortlisted for the [Stephen Lawrence Prize 2023](#), which celebrates new talent by exclusively recognising projects led by an early career project architect.

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



Council marks Srebrenica Memorial Day 2023

Last Tuesday, 11 July, Councillors were joined by faith Leaders, residents and staff to commemorate the 28th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre with prayers and speeches.

During the awful genocide at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina over 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were murdered. This week, 28 years on we remember and honour the victims and survivors.

The theme for this year's Memorial Day was 'Together We Are One'. During the week, communities across the country pledge to create a better, stronger and more cohesive society – to ensure history doesn't repeat itself.



Barking Folk Festival is back - save the date

Residents are being invited to save the date and join us for the Barking Folk Festival on Saturday 5 August at Barking Abbey Green from 12pm to 7pm as we celebrate the best music and dance from around the world.

As well as performances from Skinner Lister, Beans on Toast, Honey and the Bear and more, there will be plenty for the whole family to get involved in including a playground area, creative workshops, Dino Crafts, flower workshop, facepainting, funfair and more.

Residents can find out what else is going on [here](#).



Our HAF Summer programme returns

Arts, crafts, sports and much more are just a few of the exciting things that children across the borough can take part in our HAF Summer programme.

Children aged between 5 – 16 who are eligible for free school meals can take part in the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) for free.

For children who are not eligible for free school meals, there may be paid places available.

Booking is essential on all activities, so residents are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

Residents can find out what's on the programme [here](#).



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

Fourth year anniversary sees LOTI look to develop innovation capacity

The London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) was established in July 2019 to help its members (currently 26 London boroughs, the Greater London Authority and London Councils) to collaborate on projects that bring the best of digital and data innovation to improve public services and outcomes for Londoners.

In its first four years, LOTI focused on building and supporting the capital's local government digital community; helping them share knowledge, build capacity and run projects together to improve public services and outcomes for Londoners.

While that vital work will continue, technology and data – and the professionals who manage them – cannot bring about change alone. In the face of the of huge challenges facing London, from climate change to homelessness, and from social care pressures to digital exclusion, LOTI plan to further develop and strengthen London's innovation capabilities and capacity, offering methods such as open innovation, behavioural science and design thinking.

[You can read more about LOTI and its projects on their website here.](#)

Leader's Committee

London Councils Leaders' Committee met last Tuesday, 11 July. Items on the agenda included: Progress and future work on delivering our Shared Ambitions (see chart below for a summary of our Shared Ambitions); Proposed Business Plan for Climate Programmes; London Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness Pressures and an update on the London HIV Prevention Programme and Local Government Finance.

[You can find the full agenda and associated papers on the London Councils website here.](#)

By-elections

Two by elections took place in the London Borough of Newham last Thursday 13 July.

Results of the elections in Boleyn and Wall End wards are [here](#).

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

On London, 14 July – [Darren Rodwell: It's never been more vital to champion London to the world.](#)

National Health Executive, 13 July – [NHS brings staff and patients together in event exploring how to reduce hospital admissions.](#) Mentions Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust.

TfL, 13 July – [TfL opens 10 new low traffic cycleways across the capital making cycling accessible to even more Londoners.](#) Mentions Barking Riverside.

Newham Council, 12 July – [Newham Council appoints new Chief Executive.](#)

[Mentions Barking and Dagenham.](#)

Architect, 12 July – [New RIBA commission debuts to boost social life in large east London housing development.](#)

853, 12 July – [Developers set to pay Greenwich Council more towards infrastructure – but only in some areas.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

New London Architecture, 10 July – [An appreciation of Lord Bob Kerlake.](#)
Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[£30k of dodgy electrical items seized from shop by east London council officers.](#)

[Fly-tipping vehicles seized by east London council.](#)

[East London Council's social value policy delivers tangible outcomes for its residents.](#)

[Funding available to help communities come together.](#)

[Operation Whitemouth, a policing operation in partnership with east London council results in targeting road safety.](#)

[Dagenham shipping firm convicted of fraud over missing car.](#)

Members' Training

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 von.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.

Copyright © [2020] [London Borough of Barking and Dagenham], All rights reserved.