

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader gives an update on an enforcement case from a few years back, where in 2019, enforcement officers visited Barking Halal Meat & Fish and found some serious health and safety breaches – including selling poor quality chicken to customers which was meant to be pet food.

He also talks about our efforts to lobby for more police resources for the borough, which we desperately need to keep everyone safe and adds that he

has written to the Met Commissioner, to raise urgent concerns and demanding they do much, much better for our borough.



Leader's Facebook LIVE special with the Police

Residents are being invited to send in their questions and find out more about the work our local Police force do during a LIVE Facebook Q&A session with Council Leader, Cllr Darren Rodwell and Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Stuart Bell.

Interested residents can email their questions to socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk by 12 noon on 12 June and make sure to tune in on Thursday 15 June, from 6pm on the [Leader's Facebook page](#).



Stunning new statue unveiled in Barking

A new statue showing what Barking Abbey would have looked like in the past has been unveiled outside the Curfew Tower, in Barking.

The statue is the centrepiece of the newly delivered public realm around the historic tower, giving residents an open, welcoming place to sit, walk and learn.

The work was delivered by Be First on behalf of the council – find out more [here](#).



Helping children grown and discover, one account at a time

BD Money and Leeds Credit Union have launched an exciting new initiative to support children in the borough to learn, grow and discover the great outdoors.

And we can all play a part.

By simply becoming a member of the Credit Union before the end of July, they will fund a place for a child in the borough to experience outdoor learning – so nobody misses out.

There's a whole range of great saving and affordable loan products to choose from. Residents can make a difference and become a member today.

More information can be found at [Partnership page - B&D Money \(bdmoney.co.uk\)](https://www.bdmoney.co.uk)



New Eastbury Manor Creative Practice Grants launched

We have launched a new grant funding totalling £15,000 to support creative practitioners living in the borough to develop new work and share it at Eastbury Manor House and with the local community.

Three grants of £5,000 each are available to support the development of new creative work that directly responds to the building and history of Eastbury Manor House as well as imagining its future.

The fund will encourage artists to try out new ways of producing and sharing work using a range of mixed media.

Those interested in applying are invited to share a proposal detailing how their new work will relate to the House. Successful applicants will share their work at Eastbury Manor House from March to May 2024.

More information can be found at [NEW EASTBURY MANOR CREATIVE PRACTICE GRANTS | One Borough Voice \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/new-eastbury-manor-creative-practice-grants)

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



Celebrating our borough's volunteers

We know Barking and Dagenham isn't short of community spirit. Each year, so many of our residents give up their spare time, roll up their sleeves and get stuck into a range of volunteering opportunities.

In the past year alone, over 350 volunteers have amassed over 17,000 hours dedicated to supporting the local community.

To mark Volunteers Week, which began on Thursday 1 June, we're inviting our volunteers to come along to a special event which will be held at the Broadway Theatre Barking tomorrow (Tuesday 6 June). The evening will include a range of awards, speeches and a cake cutting ceremony.

Throughout the week we will continue to share messages on social media to thank our volunteers, past and present, for their fantastic work supporting the community.



Residents invited to have their say on air quality in the borough

Residents are being invited to add their experiences, thoughts and ideas about air quality in the borough through a newly launched interactive map.

The map is part of a wider project called Community Air Quality: Breathing in Barking and Dagenham and has been produced in collaboration with researchers at Imperial College London, and a panel of local resident ambassadors.

The map will give a wider picture of air quality in the borough. Residents can add their experiences and read others [online here](#).



We're marking Carers Week 2023

Carers Week will run from Monday 5 to Sunday 11 June and aims to raise awareness of and celebrate the amazing work unpaid carers do every day, as well as highlight the challenges they can face.

To celebrate Carers Week, Barking and Dagenham Carers will be hosting events and activities throughout the week, including pamper days, health checks and day trips. Find out more by heading [here](#).



Local businesses invited to join our Safe Haven scheme

Earlier this year, we launched our Safe Haven scheme where through local businesses, we provide safe places for people to go if they're feeling scared, anxious, worried or just need some general help.

There are currently over 30 across the borough and we are looking for more. Safe Havens:

- Provide a welcoming space.
- Help the person with calling someone – friends, family or the police if need be.
- Provide practical information, such as bus routes, information about train stations and directions.

- Make sure the person feels safe and confident to leave when they want to.

For businesses interested in becoming a Safe Haven, our partners at Studio 3 Arts are running several online training sessions over the next few weeks:

- Friday 9 June – 11am to 12.30pm
- Friday 16 June – 11am to 12.30pm

Any business that would like to attend or find out more information, can email fern@studio3arts.org.uk. Please help spread the word.

Around the council



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

Homelessness Jobs Fair

Following the success of last year's inaugural Homelessness Jobs Fair, the event is returning to London this year and on a bigger scale.

Bookings are now open for the 2023 Homelessness Jobs Fair which will take place at Boxpark Wembley on 10 July, with more than 40 employers in attendance.

The Jobs Fair is for anyone looking to make a positive impact on the lives of those experiencing homelessness and a career in tackling homelessness in London, as well as those already in the sector who are looking to progress their career.

The Homelessness Jobs Fair is supported by London Councils, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Mayor of London, Homeless Link and Bloomberg Associates.

Booking and more details are available [here](#).

Supporting frontline community charities in London

Charities providing frontline community services in London are meeting increased demand resulting from the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. At the same time, funding for capacity building to support them is limited and patchy, depending on the available funding and capacity of a small number of statutory bodies and trusts to fund it.

Based on in-depth interviews with eight capacity building organisations and five London funders, including London Councils Strategy Director Yolande Burgess, [Resources for London](#), has published a survey of the issues currently facing voluntary sector infrastructure organisations in the capital.

[You can read the report: Capacity to Change, in full here](#)

London Councils VAWG report launched at Parliament

London Councils launched its [report](#) on the complex and fragmented funding landscape for support services for victims and survivors of Violence against Women and Girls at an event in Parliament.

The event heard reflections on the report's findings from [London Council's Executive Member for Community Safety and Violence Against Women and Girls Cllr Jas Athwal](#), Donna Covey at AVA and Shadow Justice Minister Ellie Reeves MP, who all agreed that the current system doesn't work well enough for victims and survivors.

The report makes eight recommendations to improve outcomes, [you can read an executive summary here](#).

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 1 June – [Solo buyers: the average salary, deposit and](#)

[mortgage required for a first home in every London borough](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

NetDace, 1 June – [Rising costs force schools to shut in the UK](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Building & Construction Design, 31 May – [You need to earn £4.7m a year to purchase a property in the top 1% of the market](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Statement on Every One Every Day.](#)

[Fly-tipper gets fined for dumping on his doorstep.](#)

[Fly-tipping report lands pharmacy with £400 fine.](#)

[Online map asks residents to share their air experiences in the borough.](#)

[Barking butcher issued with suspended sentence in court.](#)

[Illegal cigarettes costs Dagenham business owner thousands of pounds](#)

Members' Training

Member Briefing

The next member briefing will take place on Tuesday 13 June at 7pm. It will be held in Barking Town Hall and will focus on Waste Strategy.

Training from Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

Chairing: Wednesday 7 June, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online)

Improve how you chair online, hybrid and in-person meetings and learn easy-to-implement techniques to manage participation. Master the technology and

processes around online meetings and gain confidence in how you navigate challenging situations that may arise. The session will also touch on team dynamics and how to best facilitate productive and engaging sessions.

Scrutiny: Wednesday 21 June, 9.30am to 11.30am (Online)

Asking questions and actively listening is of course a crucial skill for elected members. But this is most intensely highlighted when it comes to scrutiny, probing, and questioning in a local authority. This engaging training will keep participants on the edge of their seats in anticipation while providing comprehensive tools and frameworks to implement moving forward.

Training from Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

Adult social care assurance: the return of regulation and the role of elected members: Tuesday 6 June, 1.30pm to 3pm (Online)

On 1 April 2023, a new system of adult social care assurance went live. Under the Health and Care Act 2022, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has a new duty to independently review and assess councils' delivery of their adult social care duties under the Care Act, and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has new legal powers for statutory intervention in cases where a council is judged to be failing, or has failed, to discharge its duties. A programme of improvement and support will also be part of the assurance process.

The role of elected Members in assurance is important, as is the role of democratic leadership in maximising the opportunities of assurance and mitigating its risks. This webinar – specifically aimed at elected Members – will bring together senior colleagues from the Department of Health and Social Care, the regulator and local government. Delegates will hear updates on all recent developments and have plenty of opportunity to raise questions and comments with all speakers.

Investment cost transparency: Wednesday 21 June, 10am to 1pm

This session will provide:

- An explanation of the purpose and background of the Board's ground-breaking Code of Transparency.
- A case study from an LGPS fund on how investment cost information has been used
- A troubleshooting session on how to use the online reporting system, run in conjunction with Byhiras (the system providers), and
- A facilitated discussion on the information that fund officers should be receiving and how this information should be reported to pension boards and committees.

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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