

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his [video](#) this week, the Leader reminds residents of the temporary closure of Dagenham Police Station and encourages them to report any crimes or incidents at the Barking Learning Centre police base which is open 24/7.

He also reminds residents that they are able to see the borough in a different light as part of the free London Open House Festival which runs until 17 September, where they can check out the history of the borough and visit some new developments. He points to venues such as Eastbury Manor and Valence House as well as A House for Artists in Barking – which has been shortlisted for

the prestigious RIBA Sterling Prize.

The Leader ends with advice during the really hot weather to take care, drink plenty fluids to help keep cool and to check on vulnerable neighbours.



Open House Festival is back!

The doors are open to discover Barking and Dagenham from a new perspective as part of the free annual Open House Festival which kicked off last week Wednesday 6 September and runs until Sunday 17 September.

The two-week celebration takes place across the capital and offers people the chance to visit and learn more about some of London's most exciting and interesting buildings and neighbourhoods.

Across Barking and Dagenham there are a range of events and tours taking place offering residents, and visitors the chance to discover the hidden history of the borough as well as see the new developments in the area.

Residents can find out more [here](#).



Your Estate Your Call: residents invited to have their say on estate improvements

The second round of our 'Your Estate Your Call' project is inviting residents of Ibscott, Highview House and John Burns Drive estates to have their say on improvements they'd like to see in their local area.

Each year, £600,000 is spent on estate improvements across the borough, of which £100,000 has been made available for residents to put forward their views on what they'd like to see this time around.

The funding can be used for one-off, physical changes to improve outdoor and communal areas, whether that's enhancing an existing space or creating new facilities. Residents get to choose anything from the installation of benches and flowerbeds to outdoor gyms, football goal posts and more.

Residents are invited to share their views by Monday 2 October at www.oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/your-estate-your-call-2



Barking and Dagenham Resident's Survey 2023

Every year the council conducts a resident's survey to find out what residents think about the council, its services and the local area.

The Resident's Survey 2023 opens from 11 September to 8 October and will be available to complete on the council's consultation and engagement website One Borough Voice.

To ensure statistical accuracy, we have a target sample size of 1,100 responses. We will be sending letters to 6,000 households across the borough, selected at random, inviting them to respond.

However, residents who have not received an invitation will also have an opportunity to provide feedback. We will be advertising the survey on our website, social media channels and in locations across the borough.

Once the survey closes, the results will be weighted to ensure it is representative of the borough's demographics.

The detailed findings will be available from January 2024, and the results shared with all services to help make improvements and direct resources at the issues that matter the most to our residents. The information we gather will also identify where further consultation and engagement may be needed.

The results for previous year's surveys can be found on the Council's website [Council performance | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](https://lbbd.gov.uk/council-performance).

We have also published a frequently asked questions page on the intranet to help you answer any questions residents may have [here](#).

For further information contact the Strategy Team at ce-strategy@lbbd.gov.uk.

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



The latest round of Neighbourhood Fund is now open!

The Neighbourhood Fund is a £150,000 funding opportunity for people to make a real difference in their local areas. The funding is open to community groups, charities and social enterprises in the borough to bid for grants of up to £10,000.

So far, over £1,000,000 has been awarded to 122 different local community projects across the borough.

As part of a newly introduced rule, applications are now welcome from groups working together as consortiums made up of multiple organisations, applying for a maximum of £10,000.

The new addition to the application criteria will be helpful for smaller or newly established organisations who do not meet the eligibility criteria on their own.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 1 October at 5pm and groups and organisations can apply [here](#).



Cash up for grabs for local groups to increase volunteering opportunities

A one-off £7,000 funding pot has been set up to create more volunteering opportunities across Barking and Dagenham.

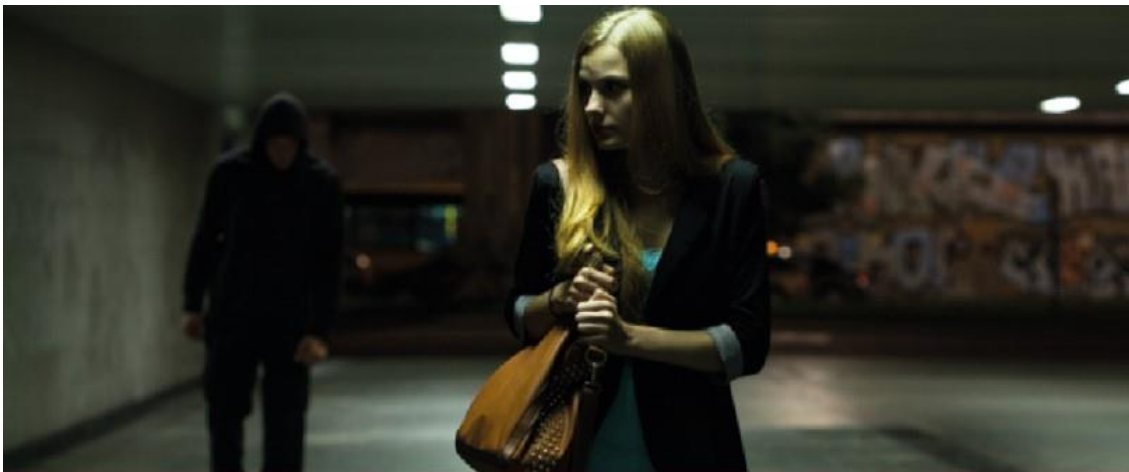
The Activate Volunteering Fund invites local organisations and groups to bid for up to £700 each to use towards an activity, scheme or event that relies on volunteers.

The fund is aimed at supporting initiatives of all sizes, from local litter-picking groups that needs supplies to something bigger.

Successful applicants will be able to access support for their projects from the council's large pool of volunteers.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday 3 October.

For more information visit <https://oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/activate-volunteering>



Women's Safety Forum

Wednesday 20 September,
6pm to 7.15pm

If you would like to join
email csp@lbbd.gov.uk

In partnership with



Residents invited to join our Women's Safety Forum

Women's safety is a key priority for the council, and we want to understand more about any issues faced in the borough.

Residents are invited to join us on Wednesday 20 September from 6pm to

7.15pm on Microsoft Teams. Interested residents can find out more information by email to csp@lbbd.gov.uk



Cost of living survey

We're asking residents how the cost of living is affecting them so that we can improve the support on offer in Barking and Dagenham.

The survey takes just three minutes and residents who take part could be in for a chance to win £500.

Please help us spread the word – [the survey can be found here.](#)

Residents are also reminded there's a range of cost of living support available online and through our Community Hubs.

Residents can get advice, help and support with the cost of living, including money, energy, food and wellbeing support [here.](#)

Around the council



Local people invited to train for a career in construction

Local residents are being offered the chance to train and get industry accredited qualifications in the construction industry.

The Barking Riverside Innovation in Construction Centre is offering residents the opportunity to train for CSCS courses. On completion, participants will be able to safely work in the construction industry.

Courses include a three-day Level 1 in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment; CSCS test and preparation ultimately leading to the award of a CSCS card. In addition, the service can also assist participants to acquire other construction industry related cards.

Interested residents can find out more by email at bric@lbbd.gov.uk or by telephone on 020 8227 2777 or 07977 017 133.



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

Surge in London landlords quitting temporary accommodation sector

A [London Councils survey](#) has revealed a 120% increase in London landlords quitting the temporary accommodation sector, with stark warnings for the impact of homelessness in the capital.

Between September 2022 and April 2023, 15 boroughs reported receiving a Notice to Quit (a legal notice requesting the return of a property) from landlords for 3,531 properties in use as temporary accommodation.

[Cllr Darren Rodwell, London Councils' Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing & Planning, said:](#) "Turbulence in the private rented sector is a key factor behind the capital's skyrocketing rates of homelessness.

"Boroughs face a complete lack of other options for keeping a roof over an increasing number of homeless families' heads."

He reiterated that the government should "treat this as the emergency that it is and work with us in reversing the numbers relying on temporary accommodation."

Executive changes

London Councils has confirmed changes to its Executive to support the maternity leave of Cllr Georgia Gould, Chair of London Councils.

Cllr Claire Holland will be acting Chair of London Councils for this period, including leading on the future of London, local government finance and devolution.

Cllr Nesil Caliskan will be acting Deputy Chair.

Cllr Grace Williams will join the Executive as the Member for Communities and will lead on issues relating to asylum seeking and refugees.

These changes take effect immediately.

Get Online London shortlisted for Community Improvement Award

[Get Online London](#) has been named a finalist for the Community Improvement Award at this year's [Connected Britain Awards](#).

At a time when digital connectivity is an essential gateway to work, health, finances and a range of services, some 6% of London households still do not have an internet-enabled device – and more than 1.6 Londoners lack basic digital skills.

Get Online London is London's first digital inclusion service giving Londoners access to refurbished devices, free mobile connectivity and digital skills training.

Supported by the London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) and the Mayor of London, Get Online London is delivered by Good Things Foundation.

Meet the nominees

The winners of the 13th annual London Borough Apprenticeship Awards will be announced on 11 September. [London Councils' Executive Member for Skills and Employment, Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz OBE](#), says: "The nominees of this year's awards showcase an excellent array of talented apprentices motivated to serve the public good alongside the dedicated officers and managers who take on and support them to achieve their potential."

Ahead of this year's awards London Councils has been meeting the shortlisted apprentices and posting their videos on Instagram. You can watch the first two videos below and [follow London Councils on Instagram](#) for more videos.

[Jawad Ibrahim \(LB Camden, shortlisted for Best Contribution by a New Apprentice\)](#)

[Nathan Edwards \(RB Greenwich, shortlisted for Best Apprentice Working in a School\)](#)

A full list of all this year's shortlisted apprentices is available [here](#).

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

The Guardian, 6 September – [‘A polite beige consensus’: are these really Britain's best new buildings?](#) Mentions House for Artists, Barking.

Reuters, 6 September – [Wish you weren't here: postcards from the edge of London in the age of Brexit.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Guardian, 6 September – [Wilko administrators reveal locations of 52 stores to close next week.](#) Mentions Barking.

Wallpaper, 6 September – [2023 RIBA Sterling Prize: the shortlist revealed.](#) Mentions A House for Artists, Barking.

Housing Digital, 5 September – [New homes completed in Barking's Gascoigne regeneration.](#)

Evening Standard, 5 September – [Revealed: the real availability gap between budgets and monthly room rents for every London borough.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

What House? 5 September – [New phase launched at Urban Village in Barking.](#)

Evening Standard, 5 September – [How many Wilko stores are being closed and which are closing down?](#) Mentions Barking.

Evening Standard, 4 September – [Children in London's most deprived boroughs at greatest risk of asthma attack. Mentions Barking and Dagenham.](#)

Which?, 4 September – [London house prices: the 25 boroughs where prices are falling.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Local residents invited to have their say on estate improvements.](#)

[Discover Barking and Dagenham at Open House Festival 2023.](#)

[Council Leader calls for fairer funding regime following Ofsted inspection.](#)

[Council offers reassurance to parents on RAAC and school closures.](#)

[Cash up for grabs for local groups to increase volunteering opportunities.](#)

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

Scrutiny: Wednesday 27 September, 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 you on the edge of your seat in anticipation while providing comprehensive tools and frameworks to implement moving forward.

Managing casework: Thursday 28 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online)

Sustainably carrying out multiple roles and working with a variety of people requires resilience and a healthy work-life balance.

Personal resilience is about maintaining a sense of well-being, being mentally strong, effectively meeting different demands and performing at one's best on behalf of individuals, and communities as well as being an effective leader. This is a very practical seminar that will provide each participant with methods and helpful ideas to manage the pressures they face and enable them to be able to maximise the positive aspects of being an elected member.

Training from Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA are offering the following session:

Recycling fit for the future: Monday 18 September, 2.30pm to 4pm

Local flexibility is key to effective waste and recycling services. Catering for people in urban areas with many flats will require a different approach to rural, less populated communities. With this in mind, this session will look ahead to the implementation of government's reform of recycling services (the consistent collection framework for households and businesses), the new extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging, and the deposit return scheme for drinks containers. It will look at practical ways to increase participation in recycling schemes and consider what needs to be done to tackle the "hard to recycle" items in household waste. This will require viable end markets for materials that are not currently recycled at scale, such as flexible plastics.

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.
