

# Members' Briefing



**Barking &  
Dagenham**



## **Leader's borough update**

In his video this week, the Leader mentions the visit last Monday of Keir Starmer, Leader of the Labour Party, to Sydney Russell School to meet their multi award winning debating team and engaging with members of the team in a lively debate.

He also welcomed the election of new councillor Summya Sohaib who won last week's by-election in Mayesbrook ward.

In the video he calls on residents living in Ibscott, Highview House or John

Burns Drive estates to give their views on improvements they want to see in their neighbourhood.

The Leader ends with information about THE YARD – a new venue in Barking offering great food, drinks and entertainment for residents wanting a perfect night out in the town centre.

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### **Labour Leader, Sir Keir Starmer visits borough**

Last Monday, the Labour Party Leader, Sir Keir Starmer MP paid a visit to the borough and spent times with pupils at Sydney Russell School.

Sir Keir was accompanied by Labour Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson and met with members of the school's multi award-winning debating team, and along with the Leader of the Council, Cllr Darren Rodwell, witnessed a lively debate session.



## **B&D Reside launches digital repairs pilot with EVO**

[B&D Reside](#) has partnered with digital repairs and property management platform [EVO](#) to transform its property management and maintenance service.

The partnership means EVO are responsible for the management and delivery of repairs, contractors and documentation relating to the repairs and maintenance process. Residents can report problems at the push of a button via the EVO app to kick-start the repairs process and track the status.

The pilot will improve resident experience as well as the speed and quality of repairs, and to build up property service history to help Reside make better, more pro-active long-term decisions.

Rather than looking back, Reside will be able to predict future needs and plan and budget accordingly. EVO's technology will focus on improving the customer journey and places residents at the heart of one of Reside's key service areas.

So far, 230 repairs have been completed with a first-time fix rate of 94.5%. The average number of days to complete a repair stands at 6.5 days and in addition, 121 residents (65% of those included in the pilot) have had home audits completed.



## **Industria - London's first new generation multi-storey scheme opens**

The development of London's first new generation multi-storey ramped industrial/warehouse scheme was launched last week.

The scheme has been built to provide employment space for local businesses and help the growth of SMEs in the borough. It comprises over 100,000 sq ft of

industrial floorspace in two connected buildings, one of three and one of four floors. The scheme was designed by London-based architect Haworth Tompkins in collaboration with industrial specialist Ashton Smith.

It is London's first scheme to respond to the London Plan, by providing a new stacked industrial building that will bring well specified industrial floorspace to east London.

The scheme comprises two parallel rectangular wings containing a total of 45 industrial units, arranged around three levels of loading bays and service yards. The workspaces inside range from 20 to 450 square metres, providing a mixture of SME and Flatted Factory units and could provide employment for up to 300 people.



## **Residents invited to find out about their next career step at a job fair**

The council's JobShop will be hosting a Jobs Fair in partnership with Job Centre Plus on Wednesday 4 October at Dagenham Library, from 10.30am to 1pm.

Residents will be able to speak to employers from a range of sectors including cleaning, construction, health and social care, childcare and hospitality.

There will also be live vacancies for people to apply for on the day plus professional advice and guidance. Residents will be able to meet and talk to employers, recruiters as well as training providers to find out what local jobs and training opportunities are available.

Residents can turn up on the day or email [vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk) to find out more.

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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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## **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](http://www.oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/your-estate-your-call-2)

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## **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](#).

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## **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.

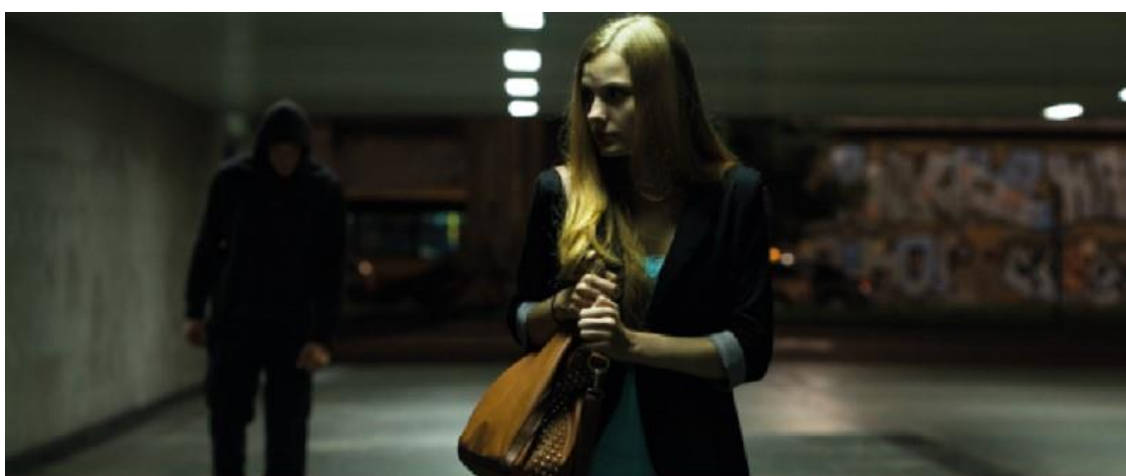
The Activate Volunteering Fund invites local organisations and groups to bid for up to £700 each to use towards an activity, scheme or event that relies on volunteers.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).

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## **Around the council**

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### **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](mailto:bric@lbbd.gov.uk) or by telephone on 020 8227 2777 or 07977 017 133.

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## **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 Borough Apprenticeship Awards 2023 winners announced

The winners of this year's London Borough Apprenticeship Awards were announced last Monday at a special ceremony at the Barber Surgeon's Hall, hosted by London Councils.

The London Borough of Camden's Jawad Ibrahim was named Apprentice of the Year 2023. An Afghan refugee who arrived in the UK in 2021, Jawad secured an Advanced Business Administrator apprenticeship, where, despite language barriers, he has helped other refugees, featured in promotional videos and delivered a moving speech at a Camden Apprenticeship event.

All of this year's winners were recognised for their exceptional impact working across London local government in a range of sectors including finance, housing, regeneration, and waste and recycling.

[Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, Executive Lead for Economy and Skills](#), said: "Each year I am blown away by the talent and passion of the nominees and winners from the boroughs, who are motivated to serve the public good and realise their incredible potential.

"I encourage Londoners to look into the apprenticeship opportunities that are available across all of London's boroughs and consider joining us in becoming an impactful and inspirational driver of what makes our city so unique."

You can see more about how the day unfolded and view all the well-deserved winners, have a look at the [London Councils twitter page](#).

### MPs take evidence on air quality

Acting Chair of London Councils Environment and Transport Committee Cllr Deirdre Costigan gave evidence to the [Environmental Audit Committee](#) last week, as MPs continue evidence gathering on outdoor and indoor air quality targets.

Cllr Costigan explained London Councils' cross party view that London's boroughs are ambitious for London's air, but that improved dialogue with government, devolution of powers and funding remain significant sticking points in meeting those ambitions.

### **Making dockless bikes and e-scooters work for Londoners**

The most recent blog in the ongoing series covering various aspects of London Councils' [Climate Programme](#) looks at the challenges and opportunities presented by dockless bikes – and what needs to happen to make micro mobility schemes work for London.

[You can read the blog by London Councils' Principal Policy and Project Officer, Agathe de Canson here.](#)

### **By-election result**

Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell (Ind) was elected to represent the City of London's Bread Street ward in an Aldermanic by-election on 7 September. [You can read the result in full here.](#)

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

**On London, 14 September** – [ULEZ raising air quality at 144 more London schools to legal standards, City Hall confirms.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Property Reporter, 14 September** – [Almost a third of all homes sold across Britain over the last 12 months were purchased by cash buyers.](#) Mentions

Barking and Dagenham.

**BBC News, 13 September** – [Workers at four London NHS trusts set to begin strike](#). Mentions Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Trust.

**Evening Standard, 13 September** – [Revealed: London's best boroughs for renting families, with low crime and good schools](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**BBC, 12 September** – [Sir Mark Rowley: Cancer at Met Police still needs cutting out](#). [Mentions Barking and Dagenham](#).

**Commercial News Media, 12 September** – [Be First announces completion of London's first new generation multi-storey scheme, Industria](#).

**Evening Standard, 12 September** – [Cycle ferry to Canary Wharf plan floated as Thames Clipper goes green](#). Mentions Barking Riverside.

**LocalGov, 12 September** – [Tackling anti-GRT racism at the local level](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**City Matters, 11 September** – [New concerns over lack of accommodation for London's homeless](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**Evening Standard, 11 September** – [Wilko: Full list of 52 shops set to close this week](#). Mentions Barking.

**The Critic, 9 September** – [Growth, grift and speculation](#). Mentions Company Drinks, Barking and Dagenham.

**Letting Links, 9 September** – [Comment: will Labour come round to loving landlords?](#) Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

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## Media Releases

[Messy garden owner fined almost £600 by a Magistrate.](#)

[Thousands of illicit tobacco and vapes seized in planned operations.](#)

[Dropped cigarette costs Southend smoker hundreds of pounds.](#)

[Dagenham landlord fined thousands for illegal outbuilding.](#)

[Barking and Dagenham's A House for Artists nominated for prestigious Sterling Prize award.](#)

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## 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:

### **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](#).

### **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](mailto: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.

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