

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader mentions October being Black History Month – the annual celebration of the rich and diverse history of the black, African, and Caribbean community. He said the focus will be on honouring the achievements of black women and we'll be kicking off the celebrations on Monday by raising the Black History Month flag outside the Town Hall.

He added that throughout the month there will be lots of fantastic stuff for residents to see and do, including music, fashion, food, workshops, artwork and much more, including a special one-off Black History Month pop-up market – at

Barking Market - to showcase black-owned businesses and local community groups on 26 October.

The Leader ends with a thank you to residents for the increased rates of recycling and congratulated the winners of the waste and recycling quiz.



Cycle to School Week in Barking and Dagenham

Last week we marked Cycle to School Week - and Cllr Geddes got into the spirit by jumping on a bike outside Barking Town Hall!

It's been great seeing so many of our youngsters strap their helmets on and get peddling to school and we're committed to make it even easier for people to get around by bike in the borough.

It's never been a better time to be a cyclist in Barking and Dagenham. We're

investing in more cycle infrastructure to make it easier and safer for cyclists. We recently [opened up Cycleway 42](#) to connect Barking Riverside with Barking Town Centre and the [Biking Becontree Cycle Hub](#) offers residents free repairs.



Barking and Dagenham youngsters named in Turner Prize 2023 shortlist

Rory Pilgrim was nominated for the commission [RAFTS](#) at Serpentine and Barking Town Hall and a live performance of the work at Cadogan Hall, London.

The RAFTS (2022) film is a seven-song oratorio narrated by eight Barking and Dagenham residents from Green Shoes Arts, reflecting on what the symbol of a raft means to them through song, music and poetry. They are joined by singers Declan Rowe John, Robyn Haddon, Kayden Fearon, and Barking and Dagenham Youth Dance members.

RAFTS was made during the Covid-19 pandemic and in this work, Pilgrim positions the raft as a symbol of support, keeping us afloat in challenging and precarious circumstances. Timed screenings of RAFTS and RAFTS: Live are presented alongside paintings, drawings and sculptures that expand this theme.

The Turner Prize promotes public debate around new developments in contemporary art. The winner will be announced on 5 December 2023 at an Eastbourne's Winter Garden award ceremony.



Barking and Dagenham Adult College announces new Principal

Simon Beer is the new Principal at the Adult College of Barking and Dagenham.

Simon was previously Head of Service at Haringey Learns. He is a member of

the HOLEX National Policy forum, where he leads on localism and is also a Steering Group member of the Lifelong learning London Central partnership, where he leads on Influencing and Positioning. Simon sits on the Central London Forward (CLF) Employment and Skills Board and is a member of the ETF funded FE Innovation Committee.

Prior to joining Haringey, Simon was Programme Manager for Governance at the Education and Training Foundation. From September 2011 to early 2014 he worked for the Local Government Association as Senior Policy Advisor on employment and skills. From 2005, he worked as Programme Manager at NIACE. In 2001, he joined the Workers Education Association where he was Regional Director for London. Before that, he worked at West London College, managing courses in the creative industries sector.

He has published widely on lifelong learning and skills - on creative industries learning, public service reform, community learning curriculum reform, lifelong learning, and the public value of Further Education.

Simon is excited to be joining and added: “The College is a fantastic resource for local people, with a great story to tell. It is important for it not to become a ‘well-kept secret’, but asset residents are proud of and have a stake in. The cost of living crisis has hit the borough hard and makes it more crucial than ever for residents to increase their earning power. The college has helped residents through austerity, Covid and now we will do the same during this unprecedented squeeze on people’s living standards.”

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

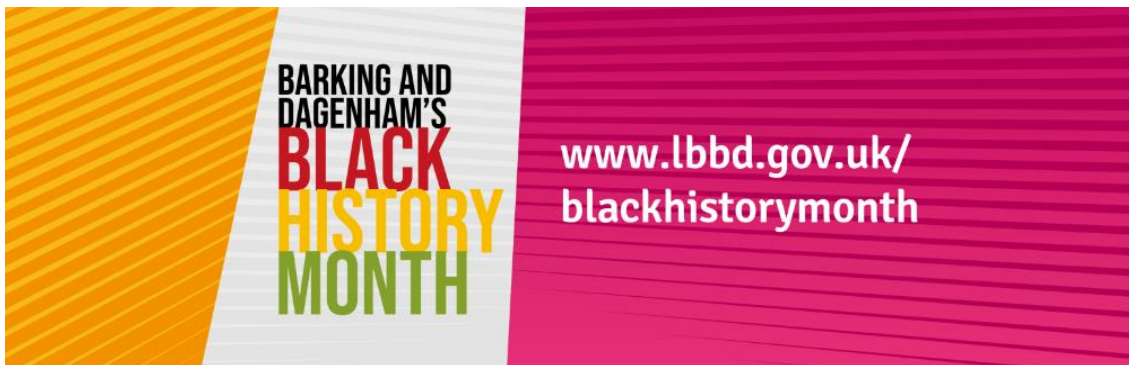


Borough raises flag for Nigerian Independence Day 2023

Nigerian residents were joined by staff and Councillors at Barking Town Hall to celebrate the 63rd anniversary of Nigeria gaining its independence from Britain in 1960 with a flag raising event and speeches.

The Nigerian Independence Day was marked in the country on Sunday 1 October.

Friday's event is part of the council's Donate a Flag initiative which celebrates the diversity of our local community. You can find out more [here](#).



Celebrating Black History Month 2023 in Barking and Dagenham

Black History Month returns this October, marking the annual celebration of the rich and diverse history of our black, African, and Caribbean community. The celebrations kicked off as we raised the Black History Month earlier today (Monday 2 October).

There will be lots to see and do, including children's workshops and special tours of Eastbury Manor House, which will look at the colonial heritage of the 16th century Grade-1 listed building.

A one-off Black History Month pop-up market will take place on Thursday 26 October (at Barking Market) to showcase black-owned businesses and local community groups.

Throughout the month, residents will also be able to read about inspirational people as part of our Black History Month Hall of Fame, which will be shared online and through social media.

First celebrated in the UK in October 1987, the focus of this year's Black History Month will be on honouring the achievements of black of black women.

For more information visit [here](#).



THE WALL OF SHAME EPISODE 118

Strike a pose – mannequin fly-tipper on latest Wall of Shame

The [Wall of Shame](#) is back with more filthy fly-tipping for you to feast your eyes on.

We visit a whopping SIX fly-tip hotspots in today's episode so keep your eyes peeled. If you recognise someone on the show, then let us know by emailing grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk now.

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

Climate Programme

London Councils has launched the next phase of its Climate Programme alongside a £2 million funding package and implementation plan to accelerate local government's collaborative work to tackle the climate emergency.

The funding has been pledged for the next two years to enable London boroughs to work better together to reduce carbon emissions, deliver net zero faster and more efficiently while improving air quality and enhancing economic and health benefits across the capital.

[Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee, Cllr Deirdre Costigan](#), said: "London boroughs are committed to rapid action to tackle the climate emergency, from tackling air pollution to addressing flooding and energy insecurity. We know that London, as the biggest city in the UK, has a vital role to play in reducing carbon emissions and this will underpin our future prosperity.

This Climate Programme and boroughs' £2 million pledge is essential to safeguarding London's future."

You can also hear from London Councils' Programme Director for Climate Change, Hannah Jameson, in the [latest climate blog here](#).

Women's rough sleeping census

London Councils is continuing to support the women's rough sleeping census led by Single Homeless Project, Solace Women's Aid and St Mungo's. Running from 25 September to 1 October, the census is designed to improve understanding of the extent and nature of women's rough sleeping in the capital.

[Cllr Darren Rodwell, London Councils' Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing & Planning](#), said: "Rough sleeping is particularly dangerous for women, and we're determined to reduce the number sleeping rough and to ensure appropriate support is available."

More details can be found [here](#).

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Latest Finance News, 27 September – [How London lost its place at the heart of black Britain](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

CIPFA, 27 September – [Rob Whiteman to retire as CIPFA CEO](#). Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Artlyst, 27 September – [Turner Prize 2023: Eastbourne exhibition revealed in pictures](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Gay Times, 27 September – ['Being LGBTQIA+ in London isn't easy as you might think'](#). – Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

City A.M, 26 September – ['It's time to remind the world why the capital is still number one.'](#) – Mentions Barking Riverside.

Sky News, 25 September – [UK councils missing energy efficiency targets for social housing, charity says](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Irish Times, 25 September – [McAleer and Rushe wins 69 Euro contract to deliver 196-unit residential development](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Housing Digital, 25 September – [Record number of landlords fail to comply with orders](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Professional Builder, 25 September – [The easiest and hardest places to get planning permission revealed](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Court orders man to fork out over £500 for fence found to be too high.](#)

[Landlord found guilty of the same offence several years later.](#)

[Celebrating Black History Month 2023 in Barking and Dagenham.](#)

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following sessions:

Charing: Wednesday 11 October, 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. We'll also touch on team dynamics and how to best facilitate productive and engaging sessions.

Community Engagement: Tuesday 17 October, 9.30am to 12.30pm (Online)

So, you have some of the basics of being a councillor under your belt. You know how to resolve a piece of casework and you understand your council's decision-making processes. What now? How do you start to tackle some of the big issues that you got elected to fix?

Councillors are unique in having the democratic mandate for 'leadership of place'. You can use your powers of collaboration and convening to help your communities to thrive. You can hear the silent majority and influence

behavioural change. You can bring their big issues to the council as well as get their backing for your big plans for the area.

Managing Casework: Tuesday 28 November, 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

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.
