

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader talks about Baby Loss Awareness Week which supports parents and families affected by pregnancy and baby loss and mentions the help and support available locally. He mentions raising the flag outside Barking Town Hall last Monday and invites residents to the global 'wave of light' event this Sunday 15 October at 7pm.

The Leader ends with a message for council tenants about a face-to-face

surgery on housing repairs where residents can speak to someone about issues with repairs to their properties.



Repairs surgeries for council tenants now open

Council tenants with existing or ongoing repairs in their homes can now speak to a member of the housing repairs team face to face at the Barking Learning Centre and Dagenham Library.

Repair surgeries will be open for appointments on the first and third week of every month between 9.30am and 3.30pm. The next repairs surgeries will take place on:

- Monday 6 November 2023, 9.30 to 3.30pm at Dagenham Library (Ground Floor Glass Pod)

- Monday 20 November 2023, 9.30 to 3.30pm at Barking Learning Centre (Meeting Pod 2)

Residents will be able to book 20 minute appointments via a [booking form](#) which will be made available online.



CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO

We're marking National Hate Crime Awareness Week

We don't stand for hate in Barking and Dagenham

This week, we're marking [National Hate Crime Awareness Week](#) as we stand up against hate. The week runs from 14 to 21 October and there's plenty for residents to get involved in including learning more about Stop Hate UK, an information stall in Barking Market and an [online seminar](#).

You can find out more about hate crime, how to report it and what is going on throughout the week by heading to our [website](#)



Inclusive Digital Zones coming soon

Our Inclusive Digital Zones, based in Barking Learning Centre and Dagenham Library are set to open to help remove some of the barriers to digital technology that people with disabilities may face.

The zones are equipped with cutting-edge technology, including screen readers, magnification software, and speech recognition tools. They have also been carefully designed to include accessible seating and adjustable desks, as well as volunteer digital champions who can offer support to those who need help getting online.

Residents are invited to come along to our launch days at:

- Dagenham Library, Wednesday 18 October, 10am to 11am
- Barking Learning Centre, Thursday 19 October, 1pm to 2pm

For more information, including our inclusive workshops, free laptop borrowing scheme for over 65's and free mobile data for eligible residents, [visit our website](#).



Only 1 week left to take part in our annual resident's insight survey

Each year the Council runs a Residents Survey to help us understand what people think about the council, services, and the local area. The results of the survey will be used to drive improvements and help us direct resources at the issues that matter the most to residents.

Residents have until Sunday 22 October to complete the survey at:
<https://oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/residents-survey-2023>

Training updates for councillors

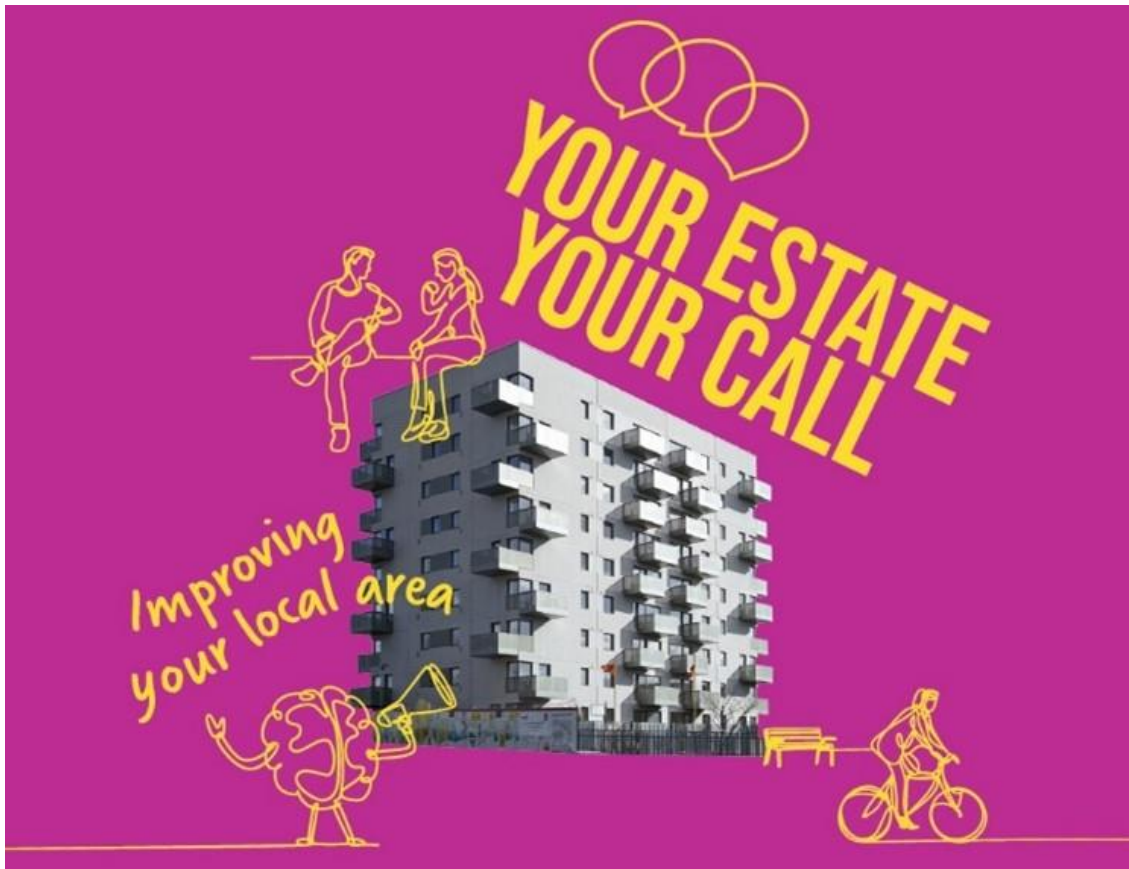
This week we have included details of a number of LGiU and LGA courses and events. For details on how to access the courses, please see the Members' Training section below.

Borough News



Council flies flag for Ugandan Independence Day

Residents were joined by staff and councillors to mark the 61st anniversary of Ugandan Independence.



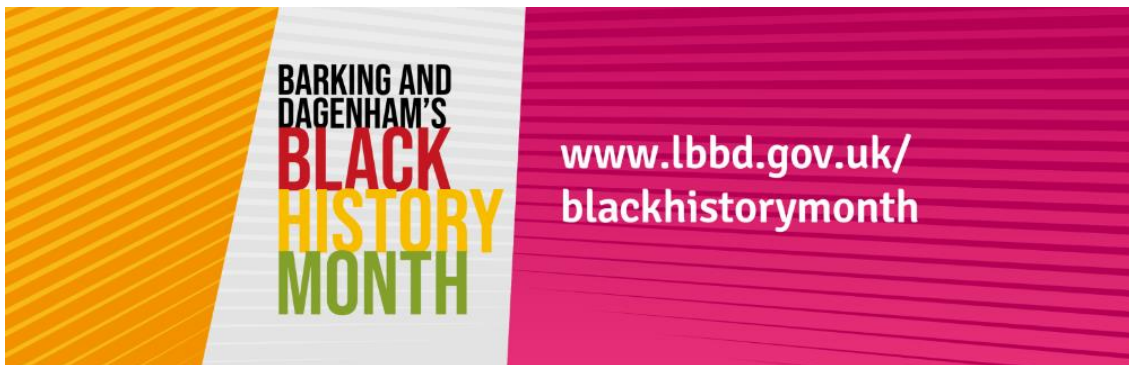
Your Estate, Your Call - it's time for residents to vote!

Last month we asked residents for their ideas on how we could improve three housing estates in the borough: Ibscott, John Burns Drive and Highview House in Marks Gate.

We received 51 ideas in total and a shortlist has been prepared. Bin storage, cycle storage and improvements to a play park are among the ideas put forward by the community.

It's now time for residents to cast their vote and let us know which suggestions are their favourite.

[Voting closes on 10 November.](#)



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.

There is 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 women.

For more information visit [here](#).



Pack your bags - suitcase dumper spotted on the Heathway

[The Wall of Shame](#) is back with more dumping caught on camera – and we need your help in catching the culprits.

Watch the [latest episode](#) closely and let us know if anyone looks familiar by emailing grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk now.

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

Labour Party Conference

Last Tuesday, London Councils hosted its final fringe event of the 2023 party conference season at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool. Discussing the 'Retrofit revolution: Making our homes greener, warmer and more affordable', the panellists engaged in a lively discussion, exploring some of the unique challenges facing London.

The event was chaired by London Councils' Acting Chair and Leader of Lambeth Council, Cllr Claire Holland, with panellists: Tom Copley, Deputy Mayor of London for Housing and Residential Development; Cllr Bev Craig, Leader of Manchester City Council, and Gillian Cooper, Head of Energy Policy at Citizens Advice.

The event was covered on London Councils' [social media channels](#).

Half-price bus and tram travel for care leavers in London

London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) have worked with Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor of London and care experienced young people at [Partnership for Young London](#) to announce that care leavers aged between 18 and 25, who live in London, will receive half price bus and tram travel from Spring 2024.

[Jacqui McShannon, Strategic Director Children's Services and ALDCS Strategic Lead for Care Leaving, Hammersmith & Fulham, said:](#) "London's Directors of Children's Services share the strong commitment to an enhanced and consistent offer to support all care experienced young people across London."

Islington confirms new Chief Executive

Islington Council has appointed Victoria Lawson as its new Chief Executive, confirmed at Full Council on 28 September.

Victoria is currently Executive Director of Environment, Culture and Customer Services at the London Borough of Hounslow, where she has held senior leadership positions for the last seven years. She is also [Chair of the London Environment Directors Network](#).

Stephen Biggs will continue as Acting Head of Paid Service of Islington Council until the new Chief Executive begins in post.

Parking and traffic consultation

There are just a few weeks left for Londoners to have their say in London Councils' Parking and Traffic Penalty Charges consultation, closing on 23 October 2023.

Parking charges have not been reviewed since 2010 and rates of parking offences have increased by 50 per cent over the last 12 years.

More details and how to respond can be found on the [London Councils' website here](#).

By-election results

By-elections took place in South Tottenham and White Hart Lane wards (Haringey) week before last. South Tottenham ward was won by Mark Grosskopf (Lab) and in White Hart Lane ward, Liam Christopher Sean Carroll (Lab) was elected councillor. [You can read the results in full here](#).

A by-election also took place in Vauxhall ward (Lambeth) the week before last. Tom Simon Swaine-Jameson (Lab) was elected councillor. [You can read the results in full here](#).

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

BBC, 13 October – [Met Police: Communities traumatised by stop and search](#).
Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

BBC, 11 October – [NHS Trust says it is working to reopen birth centre](#).
[Mentions Barking and Dagenham](#).

Property Aspects Magazine, 11 October – [Local Environment Agency team slash carbon emissions](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Barking and Dagenham Faith Forum and council statement on recent events in the Middle East](#).

[Illegal waste carrier ordered to fork out almost £4,000](#).

[Barking and Dagenham Adult College gets new Principal](#).

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Information Unit (LGiU)

The LGiU are offering the following 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 the Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

Election matters: Introducing the new digital campaigning imprints regime: Tuesday 17 October, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Transparency of campaigning materials is vital to transparency and fairness at local and national electoral events. Digital imprints will help to ensure that digital campaigning is brought into the same regulatory space as print materials and increase the transparency of digital campaigning.

This session, primarily aimed at councillors but will be of interest to those working in electoral services, will briefly explore the reasons for the introduction of digital imprints and how the new regime will work in practice.

Adult social care assurance: learning from the CQC pilots and the elected member perspective: Tuesday 17 October, 10.30am to 12.45pm

The Health and Care Act 2022 puts Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance of local authorities on a statutory footing. The new duty on the CQC to assess local authorities' delivery of their adult social care (ASC) duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014 came into effect on 1 April 2023. Five end-to-end pilots of the assessment process are taking place between July and early September 2023 in Lincolnshire, Nottingham City, Birmingham, North Lincolnshire and Suffolk councils. We are reviewing this learning and preparing for the first tranche of 20 council assessments.

Finance without numbers – An introduction to local government finance:
Thursday 2 November, 6.00pm to 7.30pm

This virtual event is for newly elected members or those just looking for a refresh. The event will provide an overview of local government finance without any numbers - focusing instead on roles and responsibilities, key terminology and processes. It will give you an understanding of both what you need to be aware of in your role and what you need to understand about your authority's role. The session will cover:

- Members' role in finance
- How finance decisions are made
- Some key financial issues and terminology

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](#).

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