

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



'Made in Dagenham' by Royal appointment

Last Friday was a really special day as HRH, The Duke of Edinburgh visited The Wharf Studios, one of two film studios in development in Barking & Dagenham, unlocking huge opportunities and 21st century jobs for our borough.

The Duke's visit was a really special moment for our community as he witnessed first-hand our transformation, from Ford to film, as we set the stage for East London's new film industry.

As well as developing the studios, we're nurturing talent right across the borough through our [Make it Here programme](#), which will create pathways into screen industry careers, starting at primary school age, through to early-stage careers and professionals with transferrable skills.

Our focus is all about empowering our community with the right education, training, skills and access so they can seize every opportunity as we bring the big screen to Barking and Dagenham.

We'll continue to ensure our residents benefit from all the opportunities the film industry brings, as we continue to shift the film production dial towards east London.



Council Leader first to sign the rough sleeping Charter

Amid worsening homelessness pressures in London, Cllr Darren Rodwell was joined by Parm Orchard, CEO of [Connections](#) and London Councils' colleagues as the first council leader to sign the London Charter to end rough sleeping.

The [Charter](#) was created by a pan-London coalition working to end rough sleeping, and enshrines principles and actions needed to tackle the issue. London Councils has been a key partner, driving the project forward alongside homelessness charities, the GLA and Bloomberg Associates.

More than 10,000 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London in 2022/23. Boroughs provide crucial frontline support to those sleeping rough and help getting them off the streets.

Individuals, businesses, faith and community groups, charities or public bodies can go online to pledge their support for the Charter, to donate or to volunteer their time by visiting the [Charter's website](#).

You can read the full London Councils statement [here](#).



More than 330 homes go up at one of London's largest regeneration schemes

The council and Be First recently celebrated the start of construction on the third phase of Gascoigne East with a groundbreaking ceremony held with contractor Wates Group.

The latest phase at Gascoigne Neighbourhood – one of London's largest regeneration projects will deliver 334 high-quality new homes with half at discount market rent and half at affordable rent.

This £148m phase will see the building of children's play area, a small park and fantastic public realm improvements.



Free parking extended to an hour for borough residents

Earlier this year we announced the extension of free parking at on street locations and some council-owned car parks.

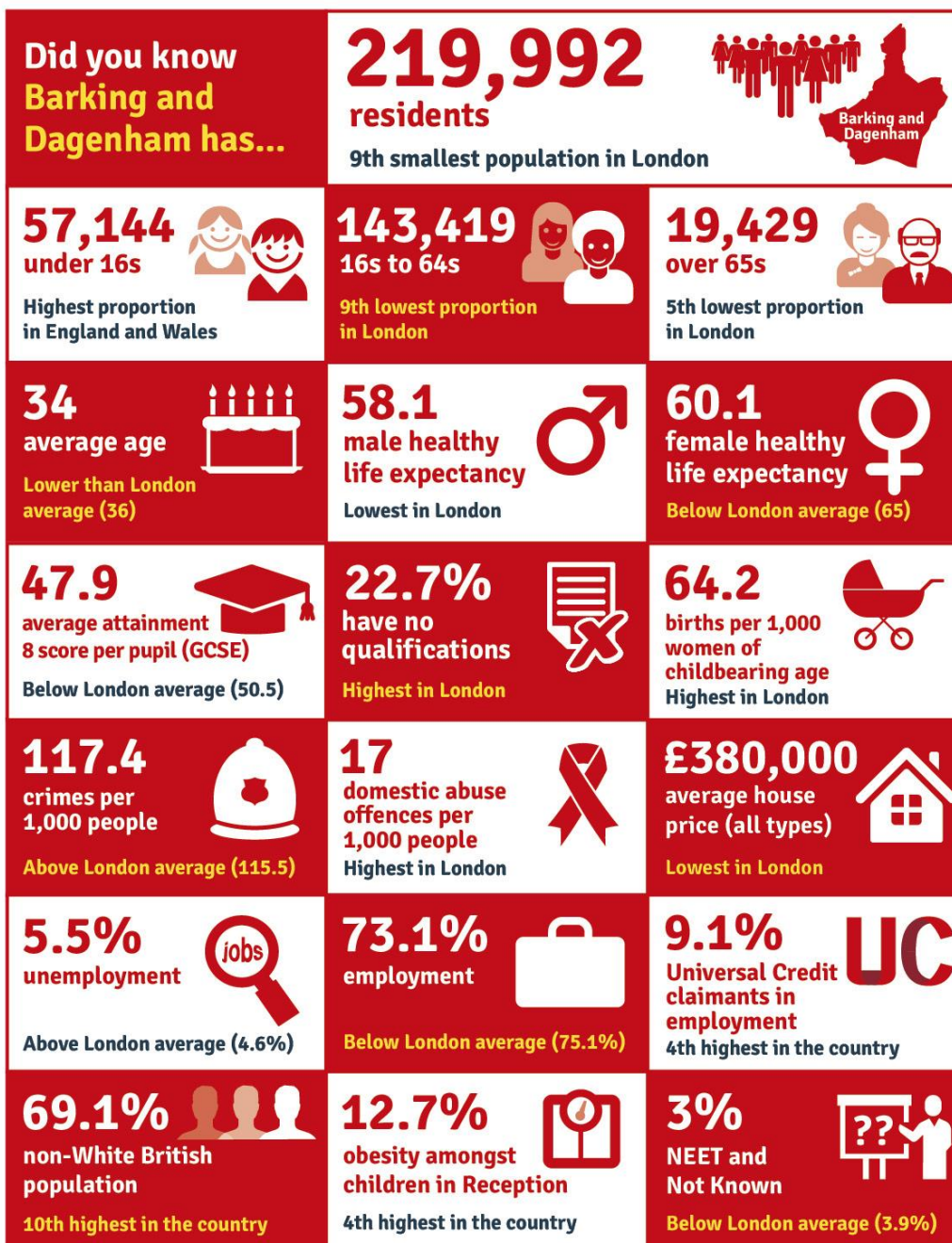
From Thursday 14 December, residents will now be able to park at small shopping parades (on street) and at existing and future Pay-by-Phone locations for free for one hour – an increase from the previous 30-minute offer.

For residents to benefit from the free parking sessions, drivers must be registered via the PayByPhone App or by calling 020 7005 0055.

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



Barking & Dagenham

Did you know?

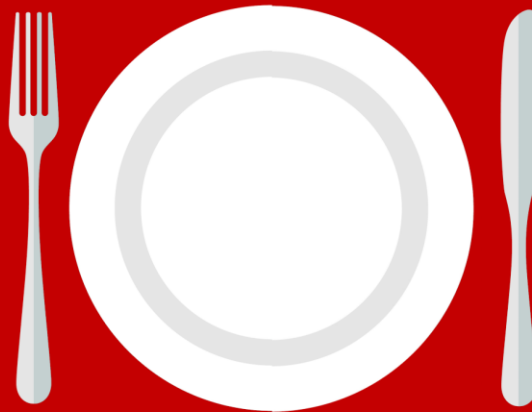
The borough infographic has recently been updated.

Did you know that 219,992 residents - 9th smallest population in London and with 57,144 under 16s, the highest proportion in England and Wales.

Find out more [here](#).



**53% OF RESIDENTS SKIP
OR HAVE SMALLER
MEALS BECAUSE OF COSTS**



**IT'S NOT OKAY.
BUT IT IS OKAY TO REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT**

WWW.LBBD.GOV.UK/COST-LIVING-SUPPORT

We are still supporting residents with the cost of living

Now more than ever, as the temperatures drop, residents will be feeling the pinch with sky high energy prices and the cost of food and shopping.

That's why we're sharing easy ways for residents to access help if they need it - from benefits and low-cost loans, through to income maximisation and signposting them to food banks, warm spaces, and wellbeing support.

There's lots of help available and it's really important that we can all talk

confidently about it.

Residents can take a look at the latest cost of living support guides which bring together the support we offer, alongside our partners in one place.

[View the Cost of Living Information Support Guides here.](#)

Residents can also drop into [Community Hubs](#) across the borough to access support face to face.



HAF is back!

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme's Winter Schedule is a festive delight, offering a diverse range of activities for children and families. From engaging in festive crafts and encountering Santa's magic to the excitement of basketball and Nerf Wars, there's a wealth of entertainment to enjoy.

What makes this programme even more special is its inclusivity. Free spaces are available for children eligible for free school meals. Additional paid places are open for everyone, allowing the entire community to join in and create

lasting memories.

To access the Winter Schedule and learn more about the exciting activities lined up, residents can visit the official [HAF Programme page](#).



It's not Santa – Gurney Close toy dumper spotted on Wall of Shame

The [filthiest show](#) on the web is back with an episode heaving with fly-tippers caught on camera.

If you know or recognise any of the culprits featured, email grimcecrime@lbbd.gov.uk now.

Around the council



Residents interested in a career in construction invited to get in touch

Residents interested in a career in the construction industry are being invited to get in touch with the Barking Riverside Innovation in Construction Centre (BRIC).

The BRIC training centre in Barking Riverside is offering construction training and qualifications plus brand-new test centre facilities where interested residents can book for their CITB Health, Safety and Environment tests. They will also be able to gain a Level 1 Health and Safety in Construction qualification.

On successful completion of the course, participants will gain the green CSCS labourer card which will allow them to work safely in the construction industry. Staff at the BRIC will also assist participants in gaining other industry related construction cards.

To find out more please contact bric@lbbd.gov.uk or telephone 020 8227 2777/07977 017133.

You can also visit the website at: www.lbbd.gov.uk/BRIC



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

Cost-of-living preventing Londoners from reducing carbon emissions by saving energy

Almost three-quarters of Londoners (73%) say the cost-of-living crisis has made it more difficult for them to take action to help prevent climate change, new polling commissioned by London Councils reveals.

In the fourth year of research polling by London Councils to gauge Londoners' understanding of climate change, respondents also said that cost is a barrier which limits Londoners from choosing greener heating or energy options, despite the fact that actions such as insulating their home could save them money in the long term.

London boroughs are responding to this challenge by improving the social housing they own to make it more energy efficient – for example by installing new wall insulation. Boroughs are also shifting how they use their planning powers so they incentivise developers to make newly-built homes and buildings energy efficient by design.

[Cllr Kieron Williams, London Councils' Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Environment](#), said: "It is sobering to see that the cost-of-living crisis prevents Londoners from taking action on issues that are important to them, such as investing in climate action.

"68% of Londoners have grown more concerned about climate change over the past 12 months. It is inspiring to see that their motivation to take action to address climate change is consistently high year on year. Many are already making sustainable choices, such as recycling old clothes and electronics.

“Decision makers in London boroughs, national government and businesses must harness this motivation to bring in a new sustainable way of living that drives the green economy. That way, we can truly address the climate emergency, bring down people’s bills and bring in a greener, cleaner and healthier London from the ground up.”

By-election result

Aby-election took place in the Highgate ward in LB Camden on Thursday 30 November. The by-election was won by Green Party candidate Lorna Russell.

[You can read the result in full here.](#)

Aldermanic elections

An aldermanic election took place at the City Corporation the week before last.

[All Aldermanic election results can be seen here.](#)

This week’s coverage in the national and regional media

Jewish Chronicle, 7 December – [‘Schools strike for Gaza’ organiser glorified Hamas.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 6 December – [Revealed: the London borough named UK’s happiest place to live. Mentions Barking and Dagenham.](#)

Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, 5 December – [A great EYEdea.](#) Mentions Cllr Maureen Worby.

Gov.uk, 4 December – [Local Authority Urgent and Emergency Care Support Fund 2023 to 2024: grant determination.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Local Government Lawyer, 4 December – [Local authority land, injunctions and newcomers](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 4 December – [London house prices: the boroughs where homes have become least affordable since 2013](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Guardian, 3 December – [Turner Prize 2023 – and the winner should be...](#)
Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Sun, 2 December – [Parking rage: shock moment thugs kick and punch parking warden in face over ticket before fleeing in car as teen 16, and two men arrested](#). Mentions Barking.

BBC, 2 December – [Warm Banks in London: Where can you find them?](#)
Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Thousands of pounds of illegal goods seized during two-day trading standards operation](#).

[Litterer ordered to pay over £1,000 for dumping in Barking and Dagenham](#).

[Award all round for east London's Trading Standards Team](#).

Members' Training

Training from the Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

Data and managing council performance – free introductory training for councillors - Friday 1 March 2024, 10am to 12.30pm

This introductory training session will focus on data and the role it plays in managing council performance. The programme which has been developed in association with King's College London has been designed for councillors.

The session will cover the following topics:

- what is data?
- common ways in which data is analysed and presented
- key questions to ask of our data
- performance management – measuring what matters.

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, across 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.

Copyright © [2020] |London Borough of Barking and Dagenham|, All rights reserved.

This email was sent to lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham · Town Hall · 1 Town Square · Barking, London IG11 7LU · United Kingdom