

# Members' Briefing



**Barking &  
Dagenham**

 [click to watch video](#)



## **Leader's borough update**

In his video this week, the Leader mentions last Friday's visit by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to The Wharf Studios, one of two film studios being built in the borough - a special moment for our community.

As we are approaching the festive holiday, the Leader acknowledges this can be a tough time for some with the cost of living crisis and reminds residents who are struggling to reach out and there is lots of support available from the council and its partners.



### **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.

Since last Thursday, 14 December, residents can now 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.

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## Changes to bin collections over the holidays

Our bin crews will be working hard over the festive period to collect rubbish and keep the borough tidy.

Residents are being urged to help by cutting down on waste and recycling as much as they can.

They can use our [handy online guide](#) if they are not sure how to get rid of something.

This year there will be the following changes to bin collection dates.

If your usual collection date is	Your collection will be on
Monday 25 December 2023	Wednesday 27 December 2023
Tuesday 26 December 2023	Thursday 28 December 2023
Wednesday 27 December 2023	Friday 29 December 2023
Thursday 28 December 2023	Saturday 30 December 2023
Friday 29 December 2023	Tuesday 2 January 2024
Monday 1 January 2024	Wednesday 3 January 2024
Tuesday 2 January 2024	Thursday 4 January 2024

Wednesday 3 January 2024	Friday 5 January 2024
Thursday 4 January 2024	Saturday 6 January 2024
Friday 5 January 2024	Monday 8 January 2024
Monday 8 January 2024	Tuesday 9 January 2024
Tuesday 9 January 2024	Wednesday 10 January 2024
Wednesday 10 January 2024	Thursday 11 January 2024
Thursday 11 January 2024	Friday 12 January 2024
Friday 12 January 2024	Saturday 13 January 2024

Bin collections will return to normal on **Monday 15 January**.

We have already sent this information to residents and local businesses in the post and they will find it in the middle of the special Christmas booklet – they can tear it off and stick it on the fridge.

Residents can also check their collection dates on our [website](#).

**... and for rubbish we do not collect**



If residents need to get rid of something that can't be picked up as part of the household bin collection, they can take it to the tip.

The opening times at Frizlands Lane tip are a bit different during the festive period:

- Sunday 24 December – 8am to 4pm
- Monday 25 December – Closed



- Tuesday 26 December – Closed
- Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 December – 7.30am to 4.30pm

Residents can find out more including information on our other local tips [here](#).

Residents can also use our [bulky waste collection service](#).

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### **Christmas tree recycling points**

The council does not collect real Christmas trees, but residents can take them to be recycled at the car parks on the following dates:

Thursday 4 January, 9am to 3pm at Barking Park (South Park entrance)

Friday 5 January, 9am to 3pm at St Chads Park (West Road entrance)

Saturday 7 January, 9am to 3pm at Central Park (Rainham Road North entrance)

Residents are being reminded to please remove tinsel, decorations and stands before dropping the trees off. They can also take their Christmas trees to Frizlands Lane tip.

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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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## **Council launches partnership to support local business**

Local businesses across are now able to grow their business, get support and opportunities to build capacity thanks to a partnership between the council and Barking Enterprise Centre (BEC).

The Amplify programme is a brand-new business support initiative funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The 18-month programme offers a tailored package of support to build the capacity of key local supply chains in growth sectors particularly film, care and food.

The programme will help create, safeguard and improve local jobs by supporting local business growth, create awareness and help them take advantage of new local support chain, commercial space and market opportunities in both the public and private sectors.

It will also help to increase the number of local businesses that are able to bid for and win contracts with the council and other local partner organisations.

Local businesses can find out more about the programme and sign up at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJFBVJsNW\\_1UI4Xi2DUAsFdIGa\\_nx-NA552x0McFSHyTJ5vMw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJFBVJsNW_1UI4Xi2DUAsFdIGa_nx-NA552x0McFSHyTJ5vMw/viewform)



**Six residents awarded the Leader's Recognition Award for help with last summer's fire**

Six local heroes who help displaced residents from last summer's fire have had their selfless services recognised by being honoured with a Leader's Recognition Award by Cllr Darren Rodwell, Leader of the council.

The award is being presented to Chris Pollard, Daniel Scotcher, Nicola Scotcher, Tracy Simona, Dave Raby and Liam Stropp.

They were nominated for the award for their selfless service, going over and above the call of duty to support distressed residents following the unfortunate fire. They were on hand to offer immediate help and support to households who had been displaced, providing that support all through the night.

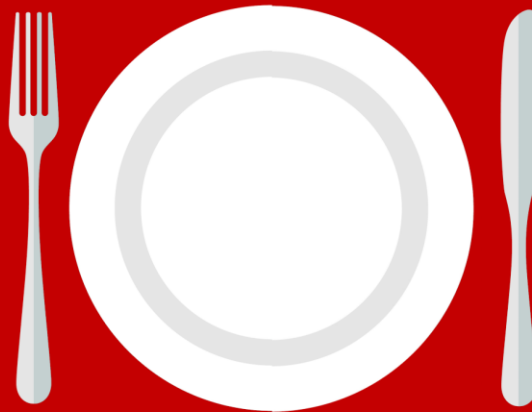
The prestigious Leader's Recognition Award is given to residents who show courage and bravery in helping others as well as a strong community spirit. The award was presented at the Daggers home game against Wealdstone last Saturday.

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**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](http://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.

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## 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](#).

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## Around the council

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### **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](mailto:bric@lbbd.gov.uk) or telephone 020 8227 2777/07977 017133.

You can also visit the website at: [www.lbbd.gov.uk/BRIC](http://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](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).



## **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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### **Rising numbers of homeless refugees in London**

London Councils has released new research revealing the growing number of refugees and asylum seekers becoming homeless after leaving Home Office accommodation in London.

Between September and October this year, there was a 39 per cent increase in refugees and asylum seekers making homeless presentations.

[Cllr Grace Williams, London Councils' Executive Member for Communities,](#) [said](#): “Boroughs are deeply concerned by the situation, which will only get more dangerous as winter sets in. Those granted asylum need adequate support for settling in the UK, yet too often are forced into sleeping rough on the streets.

“At a time when London already faces enormous and unsustainable homelessness, pressures, the government urgently needs to prevent this happening. A longer move-on period for those leaving Home Office

accommodation is crucial, as well as funding for the councils whose local services provide vital support and sanctuary for those in need.”

This coincided with London Councils hailing [the launch of a 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](#) from the start, driving the project forward alongside homelessness charities, the GLA and Bloomberg Associates.

### **London businesses urge government action on climate change and affordable housing**

The results of the seventh annual London Councils and [London Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) (LCCI) Business 1000 survey have been released.

Surveying more than 1,200 London businesses, the findings show that businesses think the next UK government should prioritise tackling climate change and increasing affordable housing (joint at 29%), followed by improving public transport (27%) and easing international trade restrictions (26%). The survey also found out that businesses strongly support greater devolution of powers to local councils, including more control over skills, housing and infrastructure investment.

[Mayor Jason Perry, London Councils' Executive Member for London's Future](#), said: “Businesses have faced unprecedented challenges in recent years and now the increasing cost of doing business, driven by high housing costs and inflation, is putting them under further strain.

“There is a clear need for further devolution to strengthen business across the capital, London government currently controls around 7% of the tax raised locally, compared to New York’s 50%.

[You can read more about the findings of the 2023 survey.](#)

### **Green Skills for transition to Net Zero**



London Councils has highlighted that skills shortages are preventing the green economy from achieving climate goals.

The Green Skills report released last week mapped London government skills activity to help cut carbon emissions and achieve net zero. It sought to identify gaps, duplication and areas that need better co-ordination, as well as setting out some of the main skills, challenges and opportunities in the green economy.

[Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, London Councils' Executive Member for Skills and Employment, said:](#) "London boroughs are committed to achieving net zero and doubling the size of the green economy by 2030.

"The Green Skills report shows why we need a real focus and long-term funding for green skills. We also need clear strategic direction from national government so the whole country is pulling together on developing the green economy, as well as greater devolution to councils so we can have the powers and autonomy to get things done."

### **Transformation in Barnet**

Last week marked the [opening of Brent Cross West](#), the first major new mainline station in London in over a decade.

The Thameslink station will serve the new £8 billion Brent Cross Town development, which includes 6,500 new homes and a new university campus for Sheffield Hallam University. It also has one of the largest air source heat pump installations in Europe and will be net zero by 2030.

Mayor Sadiq Khan joined Barnet residents and rail enthusiasts for the opening early last week.

[You can see more about the project here.](#)

### **By-elections**

A by-election took place in Hayes and Coney Hall Ward, Bromley on 7 December, won by the local Conservative candidate, Josh Coldspring-White.

[You can read the full results on the Bromley website.](#)

On 29 November, there was a City of London by-election in Farringdon Without Ward. Suzanne Ornsby KC won for Temple and Farringdon Together.

[You can see the City of London elections on their website.](#)

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

**Port of London Authority, 13 December** – [Report recommends three electric ferry crossing options for east London.](#) Mentions Barking Riverside.

**Fish Focus, 12 December** – [City Corporation's food school takes shape in Barking and Dagenham.](#)

**Property Reporter, 12 December** – [Adding a basement can boost the average London home's property value by 54%.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**British Cinematographer, 11 December** – [HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Wharf Studios.](#)

**Public Sector Executive, 11 December** – [Rough sleeping charter for London.](#) Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**Medium, 11 December** – [Why are councils sending vulnerable people to court?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Mail on Sunday, 10 December** – [We have waited two years for Barking Council to return a property we rented to them.](#)

**City AM, 9 December** – [Exclusive: London councils are half a billion in the red. Council tax will go up – but will it be enough?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Knews Media, 9 December** – [Welcome to new London, by John Rogers.](#)  
Mentions Barking Riverside.

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## **Media Releases**

[An update on recent communication.](#)

[Protect your children against measles with the MMR vaccine.](#)

[An update on council finances – December 2023.](#)

[PGGB Royal Patron His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visits Barking and Dagenham's the Wharf Studios.](#)

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## **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](mailto:leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk)

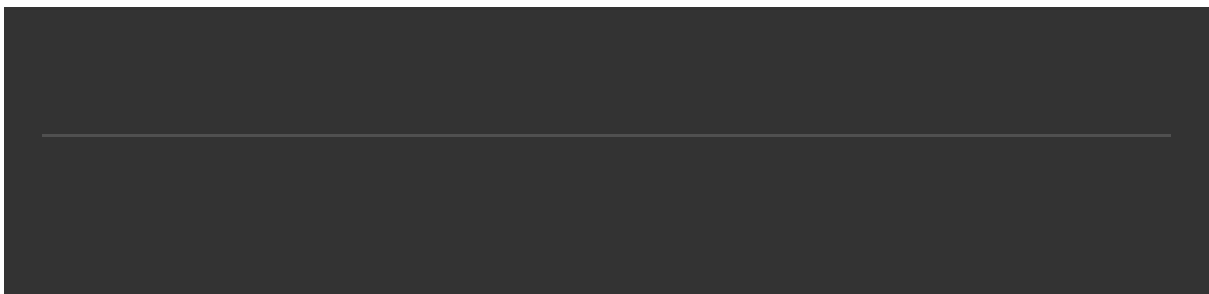
If you are interested in joining any or all of these courses, please email: [leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk) or [lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk)

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, across 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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