

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Leader's borough update

In his video this week, the Leader reminds residents that nominations are now open for the Women's Empowerment Awards which honour the achievements of women who live or work in the borough.

He also urges residents to keep their gardens tidy by signing up to our Green Garden Waste collection service, which will see their green waste collected fortnightly between March and December.

The Leader ends by informing residents of the temporary closure of the

Broadway Theatre and reminds people about warm spaces available during the cold spell and encourages them to check on vulnerable family, friends and neighbours to make sure they keep warm.



Residents encouraged to sign up for council's Green Garden Waste service

Residents are being urged to sign up to the council's Green Garden Waste service ahead of collections beginning in March.

The service, which costs £50 for the year, collects, and recycles flowers, weeds, leaves, grass cuttings, twigs and hedge trimmings.

Launched in 2017, the service saw over 7,300 residents sign up last year.

Residents can now take advantage of 19 fortnightly collections between March and December if they sign up before Wednesday 14 February.

The Green Garden Waste service has proved a significant part of the council's efforts to meet the Mayor of London's target of having a 50 per cent recycling rate by 2030.

Residents can sign up for the Green Garden Waste service at lbbd.gov.uk/green-garden-waste-collections.



We've launched three Family Hubs

Children, their families and those with special education needs across Barking and Dagenham will be able to benefit from a range of support services with the opening of [three new family hubs](#).

The family hubs were launched on Thursday, January 18, at the Dagenham Learning Centre. Families and community members came together to commemorate the grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a day filled with activities.

Families actively participated in arts and crafts activities, creating a vibrant atmosphere, with children especially enjoying the face painting!



On your bike - B&D's new bike scheme to help residents get moving!

January's a great time to get active and start making healthy lifestyle choices – like taking up cycling.

That's why we're so pleased to have recently launched Try Before You Bike in collaboration with Peddle My Wheels. The scheme lets people who live, work or study in the borough buy a bike for as little as £30 a month!

The application process is simple – choose your bike, set up a monthly payment plan, get it delivered to your doorstep and away you go!

Find out more about this brilliant scheme open to residents here:

<https://befirst.london/cycling-home-for-christmas/>

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



Nominations are now open for our 2024 Women's Empowerment Awards

Nominations are now open for our 2024 Women's Empowerment Awards which celebrate the amazing achievements of women who live and work in the borough.

This year we have nine special award categories which include:

- Community Project of the Year
- Community Impact Award
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Educator of the Year
- Health and Wellbeing Champion of the Year
- Woman of Courage
- Jodie Chesney Young Community Champion of the Year
- Anne Eastlea Lifetime Achievement Award
- Barking and Dagenham Woman of the Year 2024

Nominations close midnight Wednesday 31 January and can be made [here](#). Please do submit your nominations and encourage residents to put forward inspirational women who live and work in the borough.



**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.



Apprenticeship Jobs Fair

Residents are being invited to an Apprenticeship Jobs Fair which will take place on Wednesday 7 February as part of events for National Apprenticeship Week 2024.

[National Apprenticeship Week](#) (NAW) 2024 runs from 5 to 11 February and is the 17th annual celebration of apprenticeships.

The theme for this year is 'Skills for Life' and is encouraging everyone to consider how apprenticeships can help them develop the skills and knowledge

for a rewarding career and for employers to develop a workforce with future ready skills.

The Jobs Fair will take place at the Conference Room at Barking Learning Centre from 10am to 12 noon. There will be live vacancies for attendees to apply for, plus apprenticeship providers to answer any questions residents may have.

For more information, please email vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk



Things are heating up - oven fly-tipped in Wall of Shame episode 124!

New year – same old rubbish! The Wall of Shame is back with more fly-tipping caught on camera.

Recognise anyone we feature? Let our Enforcement Team know by emailing grimecrime@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

Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund, which has been vital for London boroughs over the last few years to help low-income residents with the cost of living is currently set to end in March 2024.

The government has confirmed that no decision on an extension has yet been made. London Councils believes that the funding should be extended for at least another year at the current level and [wrote to the Chancellor before Christmas to set out why](#). London Councils will continue to make further representations to government in the coming weeks on the positive impact the fund has had for Londoners and the need for its extension.

LOTI Apprentice Meet Up

The London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) will this week host the first ever meet up for apprentices working in digital, data, tech and innovation in London Local Government.

The Zoom session, on Thursday 25 January (4 to 6pm), is for apprentices working in digital, data, technology and innovative roles within London Local Government for LOTI members. For apprentices not sure if their employer is a LOTI member [can check here](#).

The meet up will be an opportunity to meet other apprentices from local authorities across London working in similar roles and learning on similar programmes. The session will also include some special guests who will share

a bit about their experiences as leaders in the sector.

[You can find out more about the Meet Up and register to join the guest list here.](#)

Lewisham Mayor resigns

[Damian Egan has resigned as Mayor of Lewisham](#) following his selection as the Labour candidate for Kingswood Parliamentary by-election, due to take place on 15 February.

The date of a by-election to elect a new Mayor will be announced in due course. Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Development and Planning, Cllr Brenda Dacres, is Acting Mayor of Lewisham in the meantime.

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

BBC News, 19 January – [Why are some London councils still afloat while others struggle? Mentions Barking and Dagenham.](#)

BNN Breaking, 18 January – [Barking and Dagenham residents brace for Council Tax increase.](#)

Broadcast Tech, 18 January – [Crew Room Academy unveils education scheme with London council.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Sustain Health, 18 January – [The shortlist for London Sport Awards 2024 have been announced.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 17 January – [London house price plunge: how much did property values fall in your borough? Mentions Barking and Dagenham.](#)

Local Gov, 17 January – [Council chiefs welcome drop in fly-tipping.](#) Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Evening Standard, 17 January – [Living in London: Essential advice for first-time buyers, renters and homeowners in 2024](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

BBC News, 16 January – [Councils in crisis: Town Hall debt levels staggering, MPs warn](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Letting Agent Today, 16 January – [Sadiq Khan's rent controls dismissed as "well-meaning but naïve"](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Building Design, 16 January – [The Davidson Prize unveils brief for 2024](#). Mentions Be First.

Evening Standard, 15 January – [Man fined £1,600 after cigarette is dropped out of car window in Barking](#).

Media Releases

[£800k restoration works underway at Valence House](#)

[East London council launches its first three family hubs.](#)

[You're not welcome! Council issues Closure Order at 16 housing blocks in Barking.](#)

[Caught red handed! Barking litterer fined over £1,000.](#)

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.

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