

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Council marks Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day, which takes place each year on 27 January, is a time to remember the six million Jews who were murdered under Nazi persecution and also the genocides that have sadly followed across the world.

The date, which marks the anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, is also a chance to honour the survivors, learn more about the past, and take action to create a safer future.

The 'Fragility of Freedom' is the theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day and is a time to reflect on how freedom is fragile and vulnerable to abuse.

As part of this year's commemorations, a flag-raising and candle lighting event was held outside Barking Town Hall, and a minute's silence was observed. Residents also had the chance to hear from Holocaust survivor Susie Barnett BEM, who shared her remarkable story about the horrors she and her family faced in Nazi Germany during World War II.



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.



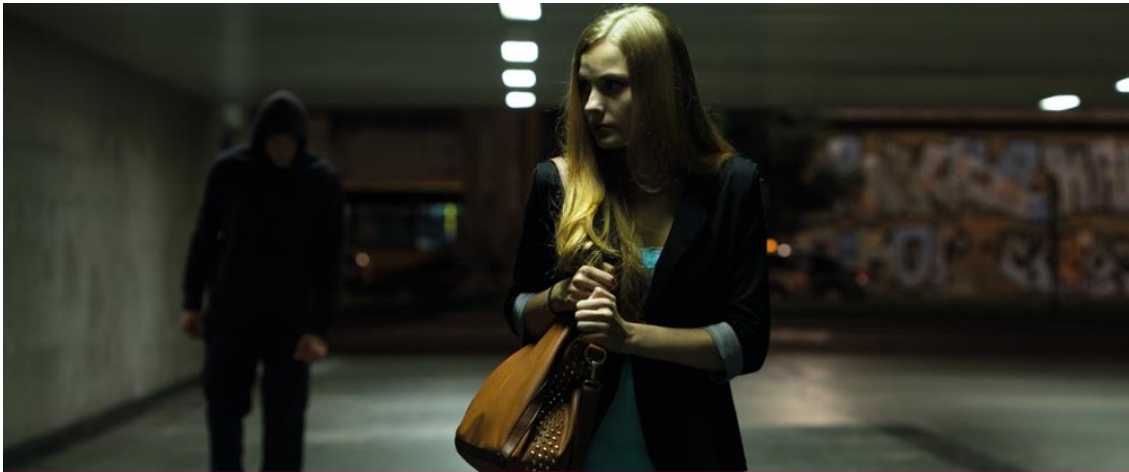
National Apprenticeship Week 2024 kicks off on 5 February

[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.

A number of events will be taking place throughout the week and include:

- 5 February – Council employee apprenticeship presentation lunch
- 7 February – Apprenticeship Careers Fair at the BLC
- 8 February – Local business apprenticeship seminar
- 8 February – Schools Apprenticeship Levy information Session
- 9 February – Celebration of Learning event



Women's Safety Forum

Tuesday 30 January,
6pm to 7pm

If you would like to join
email csp@lbbd.gov.uk

In partnership with




Residents invited to join Women's Safety Forum

Making sure women feel safe while out and about in the borough is a priority for

us. Every two months, we hold our Women's Safety Forum, and we want residents to come and have your say.

Our next meeting is taking place on:

 Tuesday 30 January

 6pm to 7pm

 Microsoft Teams

We are quite interested to hear the views of our residents as what they have to tell us could make a difference.

Residents who wish to attend, can email csp@lbbd.gov.uk.

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 for our 2024 Women's Empowerment Awards close this Wednesday

Nominations for our 2024 Women's Empowerment Awards which celebrate the amazing achievements of women who live and work in the borough close this Wednesday.

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](#).

**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

Cost of Living Support
Helping you through tough times

We're still supporting residents with the cost of living

Now more than ever, as the temperatures drop, some 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 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.



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

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

Provisional 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement

London Councils has formally responded to the government's consultation on the provisional 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement.

The response makes it clear, despite the planned 4.6% increase in core spending power, London boroughs' overall resources will remain 15% lower in real terms than in 2010.

Boroughs in the capital still face a funding shortfall of at least £500 million in 2024/25, driven by enormous pressures on services, especially adult social care, children's services, and homelessness support.

The local government finance system is broken and needs comprehensive reform. Without significant investment and funding changes, further Section 114 notices are likely.

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

London Councils will also be making a representation to government ahead of the Spring Budget, due to take place on 6 March.

Refugee integration

As [Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, OBE outlined in a House of Lords debate on refugee integration](#), boroughs are providing vital support to new refugees to help them rebuild their lives in London.

London Councils is calling on the government to fund this vital work to help refugees avoid homelessness and contribute to our country.

Counter terrorism training

The Counter Terrorism Alliance – a joint partnership that brings together the knowledge of policing, the private and public sectors to counter terrorism – provides a free, online training platform, educating businesses and the public on how to spot signs of suspicious behaviour and understand what to do in the event of a major incident.

[If you are interested in finding out more, you can register to attend ACT Awareness e-learning here.](#)

By-election results

Four by-elections took place in London boroughs on Thursday 18 January.

In the London Borough of Hackney, the by-election for Cazenove Ward was won by Conservative candidate Ian Sharer. [You can read the result in full on the LB Hackney website here.](#)

Two by-elections took place in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. The Teddington ward was won by Liberal Democrat candidate Richard Baker, while the by-election in Hampton North was won by Liberal Democrat candidate Carey Bishop. [You can read both results in full on the LB Richmond website here.](#)

In the London Borough of Wandsworth, a by-election in the Tooting Broadway ward was won by Labour candidate Sean Lawless. [You can read the result in](#)

[full on the LB Wandsworth website here.](#)

Last Tuesday, 22 January also marked 100 days until Londoners go to the polls, on Thursday 2 May, to elect a Mayor of London and 25 London Assembly Members. Following the passing of the Elections Act, London Elects is reminding Londoners of some important changes to the way we vote, including the need to show photo ID at polling stations and a change from supplementary voting (indicating a first and second preference) to 'first past the post' in the Mayoral elections. [You can read more on the London Elects website here.](#)

This week's coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 26 January – [Dagenham: 'Police incident' closes major road in east London.](#)

Evening Standard, 24 January – [Which London boroughs have the lowest measles rates? Capital's least protected areas revealed. Mentions Barking and Dagenham.](#)

Hope not hate, 24 January – [Billy Bragg helps Hope not hate celebrate 20 years opposing fascism with 'HNNH @20' tour.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

BBC, 23 January – [Two arrested after fatal collision with pedestrian in Barking.](#)

Evening Standard, 22 January – [Superloop bus network must expand to cover more of outer London, Mayor told.](#) Mentions Beam Park station.

Evening Standard, 21 January – [Revealed: six-figure profits made by home sellers in every London borough in 2023 – how does yours compare?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

QA, 19 January – [Safeguarding the next generation: How a London school is](#)

[using technology to tackle inappropriate behaviours and give students a voice.](#)
Mentions Barking Abbey School.

Media Releases

[Dagenham trader caught with illegal cigarettes fined thousands of pounds.](#)

[£800,000 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 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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