



## **Council welcomes sentencing of go kart operator following tragic death**

A go kart company based in Barking has been ordered to pay almost £120,000 after it was found guilty in court for an offence under s3(1) Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 which resulted in the tragic death of a teenage girl.

The case was heard on Wednesday 3 April at Romford Magistrates' Court following the company's guilty plea at a previous hearing on Thursday 14 March.

Capital Karts Trading Limited, of Unit 1 Rippleside Commercial Estate, Barking, Essex IG11 0RJ, operating as Capital Karts, were ordered to pay a fine of £90,000, costs of £29,021.18 and a Victim Surcharge of £190, totalling £119,211.18.

On 6 August 2021, 15-year-old Ruwaida Adan visited Capital Karts as one of a party from a Newham youth group on an organised trip to go go-kart racing at Capital Karts in Barking.

Although she did not always wear one, Ruwaida was wearing a hijab or religious headscarf that day and despite Capital Karts' health and safety policy and procedures stating that "loose clothing" was to be removed and that checks were to be carried out by race marshals before racers were seated in the karts, she was able to start racing with her hijab concealed beneath the race suit provided by the venue.

The investigation, carried out by Barking and Dagenham Council Health and Safety Officers, found that whilst appropriate safety procedures were articulated in the company's health and safety documentation, there was a failure to ensure and to monitor that they were consistently implemented.

Capital Karts Barking closed in June 2022. Capital Karts is now located at Canary Wharf, although it is operated by Capital Karts London Limited, another company within the same group.

---



## **Dare to be different - Autism Acceptance Week**

Last Tuesday, 2 April, councillors and staff joined colleagues from the Sycamore Trust to raise a flag outside the Town Hall to celebrate Autism Awareness Week, which runs from 2 to 8 April.

Each Year the Sycamore Trust marks #daretobedifferent day to raise awareness around autism and the difficulties autistic people face fitting into society on a daily basis.

Autistic people face discrimination and barriers across all sectors of society – in the health and social care systems, in education, in employment, and everywhere in between. It is crucial that autistic people, and their families and carers, can access tailored information, guidance and support to overcome those barriers, along with opportunities to explore their interests, develop skills and build friendships for fulfilled lives.

---



## **Ready for Adulthood – mental health referrals for young people**

The mental health charity MIND is looking for referrals for their **Ready for Adulthood 6-week face-to-face programme** which will take place **Fridays from 4 to 6pm at The Vibe, 195-211 Becontree Avenue, Dagenham RM8 2UT.**

[The programme is aimed at 17 – 25-year-olds who are struggling with their mental health.](#) The sessions will be interactive and will be delivered in an engaging way with fun activities and group discussions.

To be eligible, applicants must be residents of Barking & Dagenham, aged 17-25 with mild-medium symptoms and low risk. Interested applicants will need to [complete an application form.](#)

---



## **Residents asked to have their say on library services**

Residents are being asked to have their say on our borough's libraries, including the improvements they'd like to see, and to share ideas on ways to innovate our services.

Their feedback will help us to improve and further shape our libraries to ensure they remain vibrant community hubs that cater for the needs of everyone.

[Residents can have their say online.](#)

---

## **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

---



### **You HAF got to see this year's Easter Programme**

Our Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Easter programme is here, and we're telling parents they HAF to get involved!

There's plenty of food, footy and fun activities to keep the kids entertained.

Free spaces are available for those eligible for free school meals as well as paid places - everyone is welcome to join the fun!

Residents can check out the HAF Easter Programme schedule [here](#).

---

# Measles: Are you protected?

You need **2 doses** of the **MMR vaccine** for lifelong protection.

If you haven't had **both doses**, you could be at risk.

Contact your GP practice and book an appointment if you're not up to date.

## Residents urged to make sure their children get the MMR vaccine

Residents may have seen in the news recently that there have been outbreaks of measles in the West Midlands and areas of London.

Sadly, the current outbreak of measles is not surprising given the low take up of the MMR vaccine over recent years and it spreads easily between people who have not been vaccinated.

Measles can be extremely serious, even life-threatening - the best way for

residents to protect their children is the MMR vaccine and it is free of charge.

Any resident whose child, regardless of their age, has missed one or both doses of the MMR vaccine, needs to make sure they have the vaccine as soon as possible.

They can find out how to get their child vaccinated [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 are still supporting residents with the cost of living**

Now more than ever, 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.

[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.

---

## **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](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)

---



## **Over £250,000 in loans handed out to residents through BD Money partnership**

Over £250,000 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.

Households across the borough have saved an estimated £62,500 in interest since the partnership launched in October 2022.

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)



## 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).

---

## Local Government News

---

### Withholding details of councillors' sensitive interests and home addresses – letter to councils

On 18 March, the [Local Government Minister, Simon Hoare MP, wrote to councils in England about withholding details of councillors' sensitive interests and home addresses](#).

The letter encourages monitoring officers to look sympathetically at accommodating requests for the withholding of home addresses from published versions of the register of interests where there are legitimate concerns of violence and intimidation.

### New regime to deliver decent homes for social housing residents

From last Wednesday (3 April), [failing social housing providers will need to raise standards](#) to ensure all tenants live in decent homes and are treated with fairness and respect by their landlords.

Landlords will now be routinely inspected and held to account, to make sure they provide their residents with quality homes and services. [Those who do not abide by these new rules face a range of potential sanctions](#).

The new rules now require landlords to:

- Have an accurate record on the condition of every home, based on checks of properties so landlords can understand any problems and take action.
- Set clear timelines for the completion of repairs, maintenance and planned improvements, communicating them clearly to tenants.

- Give tenants opportunities to influence and scrutinise their landlord's services such as through meetings with tenant organisations.
- Provide tenants with information about their rights and how to make complaints.
- Publish the new tenant satisfaction measures to make it clear how tenants feel their landlord is performing and hold them to account.

### **Permanent Pavement Licensing Regime update**

The temporary pavement licensing provisions provided under the Business and Planning Act 2020 became permanent on 31 March, along with the addition of new amendments to the regime as set out in [schedule 22 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023](#).

The permanent pavement licence process retains the streamlined consent route for businesses to obtain a licence to place removable furniture, such as tables and chairs outside of cafes, bars and restaurants quickly. [The pavement licensing guidance has been updated to reflect this](#).

### **Fly-tipping: council responsibilities – Guidance**

On 28 March, the government outlined [how councils must deal with fly-tipping and the penalties they can charge](#).

[The guidance sets out the responsibilities required of councils](#).

### **ONS Local Statistics – Toolkit**

Last month, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) [launched a new service](#) that makes it easier for people to explore local statistics.

The service pulls together 57 local indicators, across topics that include the economy, education, health and wellbeing, in one place.

---



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

**Property Week, 4 April** – [Barking and Dagenham Council Leader on why public-private partnerships have driven the borough's recent success.](#) Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**Evening Standard, 3 April** – [London mayoral election: What has Sadiq Khan done to tackle the housing crisis?](#) Mentions Cllr Darren Rodwell.

**London TV, 2 April** – [London Lib Dems pledge a fair deal for leaseholders.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**City A.M., 1 April** – [Yimbys v Nimbys: The London boroughs blocking new homes.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**Evening Standard, 1 April** – [Rise of the first-time buyer: half of the house purchases in London so far this year are by new homeowners.](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

**The Big Issue, 29 March** – [Local Housing Allowance is finally going up. But is it anything more than just a short-term fix?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

---

## **Media Releases**

[Barking and Dagenham Council's ninth Women's Empowerment Awards honour borough's outstanding women.](#)

[School and community mourn the loss of long serving Governor.](#)

[Global Recycling Day stars: Meet the Dagenham pupils taking charge of battery recycling in their community.](#)

[Persistence pays off – Landlord ordered to pay almost £100,000 for illegally converted property.](#)

---

### **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](mailto: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.

---