

REDBRIDGE **LIFE**

**NEW
AFFORDABLE
HOMES**

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**TASTE BUDS
AT THE
READY**

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**OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE**

page 25



Shop local, support your high street



**Meet our South Woodford
business owners**

ATTENTION!

Owner occupiers, tenants and landlords

LET'S MAKE REDBRIDGE GREEN

Is your home or rented property cold and damp?
Are you struggling to pay your heating bills?

If the answer is yes, the Council's Go Green scheme can help make your home warmer and cosier, save you ££ and reduce your carbon footprint.

We can provide 100% funding up to £10,000 for energy efficiency improvements depending on your circumstances.

We offer

- Solar panels, solid wall insulation, cavity wall, roof and floor Insulation

Eligibility

- Property energy performance rating of D, E, F or G
- Owner occupiers and tenants with an annual household income of less than £30,000 after housing costs
- Landlords would need to provide a 33% contribution



We have **250 grants available** and these will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

APPLY NOW ▶

www.redbridge.gov.uk/go-green

or email Housing.Standards@redbridge.gov.uk to find out more

HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings will be available to view online and some of the meetings will be held in the Council Chamber. See our website for information and links to join.

Council Meetings

Thursday 23 September **7.15pm**

To ask a question at a council meeting, please send a written notice of your question to the council questions mailbox at councilquestions@redbridge.gov.uk, by midday on Monday 20 September.

Cabinet Meetings

Tuesday 13 July **7.15pm**

Tuesday 14 September **7.15pm**

Scrutiny and Overview Committees

Overview Committee

Monday 12 July **7.15pm**

Monday 13 September **7.15pm**

People Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 6 July **7.15pm**

Place Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 1 July **7.15pm**

Health Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 7 July **7.15pm**

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 8 July **7.15pm**

External Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday 30 June **7.15pm**

Monday 20 September **7.15pm**

Education Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 2 September **7.15pm**

Committee Meetings

Planning Committee

Thursday 9 September **7.15pm**

Wednesday 15 September **7.15pm**

Licensing Committee

Wednesday 1 September **7.15pm**

Wednesday 15 September **7.15pm**

Governance and Assurance Committee

Thursday 29 July **7.15pm**

General Purposes Committee Meeting

Tuesday 13 July **8pm**

Health and Wellbeing Board

Monday 14 June **2.15pm**

Monday 20 September **2.15pm**

Local Pension Board

Thursday 30 September **7.15pm**

Redbridge School Forum

Wednesday 7 July **4pm**

Contact: Jilly Szymanski/Antoinette Davis **Telephone:** 020 8708 2465 / 2352 or

Email: antoinette.davis@redbridge.gov.uk or jilly.szymanski@redbridge.gov.uk

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Next issue out in September



LEADER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the summer edition of Redbridge Life



Cllr Jas Athwal recently met with local artist Yasmin Falahat to help restart the SPACE public art programme at Redbridge Town Hall, alongside local residents Hassan, and Eric Garcia.

Dear residents,

I've lived in Redbridge for over 50 years and one of the best things about our area is our fantastic, bustling high streets.

We have a thriving local economy made up of big brand retailers but more importantly, independent shops and cafes which, thanks to the strong entrepreneurial spirit of our local communities, make our high streets unique.

The last year has been incredibly hard on local businesses, with shops and cafes having to shut their doors during successive lockdowns and when open, adapt to new COVID-19 safety measures.

Throughout the pandemic our council has worked hard to support local businesses as much as possible, administering thousands of pounds worth of grants and helping implement COVID-19 safety measures including distance stickers and track and trace signs.

We are committed to continuing to support our high streets through the recovery and over the summer we will be stepping up this essential work. We will be making improvements to the appearance of our high streets across the borough and helping our traders to do the same. This includes fresh plants and planters, festive lights, artwork

and grants to enable retailers to revamp their shop fronts if they want to.

This summer we can all play our part by staying and shopping local, not just to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but also to show our support for local shops and businesses and make the most of the wonderful parks and green spaces we have in Redbridge.

Recently I met talented local artist Yasmin Falahat who is helping to restart the SPACE public art programme at Redbridge Town Hall and created the new beautiful artwork on display outside SPACE studios. We hope to see many new creative installations popping up in Ilford to support our plans to bring together art, music and drama to create a cultural quarter in our town centre. And through our partner, Vision, we will be hosting several exciting summer events – details of which you can find on pages 18-21.

As a council we still have work to do to address key issues in our borough. We know just how important it is to feel safe on our streets and that's why, as you will see on page 9, we have appointed Barnardo's Chief Executive Dr Javed Khan OBE as the Chair of the new Community Crime Commission.

Many of you have shared your views on how and where improvements can be made so people feel safer when living, working or travelling in Redbridge. We want to take all your ideas on board and make a real difference and I'm so pleased Dr Khan will be leading this important work.

So, despite a difficult year in Redbridge we still have much to celebrate, much to be proud of, and much to look forward to.



Councillor Jas Athwal
Leader of Redbridge Council

New homes offer a better future in the borough



Studio flats support rough sleepers back into independent living



Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal, said:

"We are committed to creating much needed, high quality and affordable homes, and to ending rough sleeping in the borough. Between them, these two new schemes are cutting the waiting time for accommodation, offering a better future for local families and providing a long-term legacy of support to those unfortunate enough to have been made homeless."

A former care home in Ilford has been transformed into 18 new self-contained, high needs supported homes for local rough sleepers.

The Ryedale scheme, in Ilford Lane, provides 'ready to move in' studio homes on two-year leases with additional support from specialist staff.

The aim is to help individuals move towards independent living.

The first residents moved into their new homes during April 2021, with all the flats now occupied.



Leader of Redbridge Council Cllr Jas Athwal, Cllr Vanisha Solanki, Manager Mel Malcolm and resident Parminder in one of the new studio flats in Ryedale.

The aim is to help individuals move towards independent living



First residents get the keys to new council homes in Marlyon Road

Thirty three new, high quality council homes in Marlyon Road, Hainault have helped cut the waiting time for accommodation for local families in need of an affordable home.

The first residents were handed the keys to five two-bedroom and 28 one-bedroom new homes during May 2021.

The development is part of our commitment to build 600 new, permanent, affordable homes by 2022.

A second phase of the development will see 48 more new affordable council homes added, with eight specifically designed for wheelchair users.



Cllr Jas Athwal, Cllr Vanisha Solanki with resident Kamlesh Gupta (centre) and three senior managers from ENGIE: Left to right... Liam Bailey, Contracts Manager, Paul Goodrich, Operations Manager, and Alisina Majlessi, Senior Site Manager outside the new Marlyon Road scheme.

ENGIE to deliver three more affordable housing projects across Redbridge

Following the success of Old Mill Court and the first phase of Marlyon Road, ENGIE is pleased to be delivering another 84 homes within the borough. The three projects, all of which are starting in July 2021, will see much needed affordable housing delivered to the council.

The first project, Avenue Court, will see 27 brand new homes with balconies and shared amenity space. The new homes include 10 flats within two new blocks, two bungalows and 15 flats as part of rooftop extensions on existing buildings. Heathcote & Glade Court will also be developed to offer 33 new homes in the form of 14 one-bed, eight two-bed, six three-bed and five four-bed properties.

Finally, Shakespeare Square will include eight one-bedroom, six two-bedroom, seven three-bedroom and three four-bedroom flats.

The flats will be spread across two four-storey blocks and one five-storey block as well as a mansard roof extension, (a roof with two pitches on each side which is a way of adding extra space, effectively adding an extra floor), which will contain four residential flats.

At ENGIE, we understand that some of the builds will be in close proximity to residents in occupation, but we are committed to open communication and minimising disruption. We have employed a resident liaison officer who will introduce themselves to all residents affected before the build begins and will be a support throughout the construction phases.

These are exciting new developments for Redbridge, and we look forward to helping many more people move into affordable housing.





2021/2022

OUT NOW

NEW ADULT COURSE GUIDE

Learn with Redbridge Institute, online or in class, choose from a range of courses to suit you and enjoy learning in a safe way.

- Our Advice and Employability Hub provides help to get you back to learning or work.
- Study online for a brighter future. Our Level 2 and 3 qualifications can be completed in as little as 12 weeks and are supported by our experienced and well qualified assessors.
- Many online CPD certified courses available, in as little as 4 hours you can refresh your CV.
- Essential digital skills courses will help you get on in life and at work.
- Arts and craft workshops are Covid-secure and are ready to welcome you back.
- Chromebook loan scheme for learners who need them.

Visit our website to see our full range of courses and book online now.



Free courses for eligible learners

Contact us:

020 8550 2398

enquiries@redbridge-iae.ac.uk

Follow us: @rediae   

www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



#WhyWeCare



Redbridge foster carers have shared why they care for the borough's most vulnerable children, by recording their own poem in support of the Foster Care Fortnight **#WhyWeCare campaign**.

If you have a place in your heart and home to foster, join our fabulous team of foster carers, please call us on **020 8708 6068** or email **fostering@redbridge.gov.uk**

Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering to book a space at our next **virtual information session** or to view our **foster carers inspirational poem**.

Child Friendly Redbridge

Young people from across the borough have identified their priorities for the Child Friendly Redbridge programme, as part of our journey towards recognition as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly Community.

The priorities chosen are:

- safe and secure
- being healthy
- place (thinking about the air we breathe and how spaces are designed and used).

We are now busy working to address these priorities. The council and its partners will seek to tackle issues raised by young people around harassment faced by young women, accessing help and support for young people experiencing mental health issues and climate change. We are also working with the police on how we help create safer routes to schools.

Naomi Danquah, Child Friendly Cities & Communities Programme Director at UNICEF UK, said:

"This is a huge milestone in the borough's journey towards recognition as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly Community and we're excited to see how the community comes together over the next few years to take action in these important areas."

UNICEF UK also provided training sessions on children's rights and youth governance to more than 40 young people from across the borough. The sessions, which explored the importance of putting children's rights into action in the community, were attended by Child Friendly Redbridge Ambassadors, young people from the Youth Council and other youth groups.



This is a huge milestone in the borough's journey towards recognition as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly Community

Keep up to date with the programme at www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly

Help us protect women and girls from violence in Redbridge

Help us
STOP
violence against
women

Our borough needs to be a safe place for everyone. All women and girls who live, work or visit Redbridge should always feel safe – whether they are walking down one of our high streets, using public transport or visiting a park.

We are taking steps to make Redbridge a safer place by:

- establishing a Redbridge Crime Commission to investigate and address the root causes of crime
- signing up to the Mayor's Women's Night Safety Charter
- appointing a Women's Champion for Redbridge, Cllr Saima Ahmed
- inviting thousands of women and girls across the borough to share their views and experiences, through two 'Women's Safety' surveys and a series of online listening events.

From these conversations, it's clear that many women and girls in Redbridge feel unsafe at home, on the street and online. Working alongside the Police, Transport for London, British Transport Police and our community partners, we are determined to hold individuals to account, invest in improvements to make our neighbourhoods safer and work alongside communities to challenge inappropriate behaviour.

Street harassment can be defined as any unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This includes but is not limited to:

- **staring**
- **unwanted gestures**
- **catcalling**
- **sexually suggestive comments**
- **following someone**
- **indecent exposure.**

Our vision is to make Redbridge a great place for people to live, work and visit. The results of the survey and listening events will be used to target local resources and action in the areas that will have the biggest impact on women's safety. We will share these with you in the next edition of Redbridge Life. Together, we can all make Redbridge safer for women and girls.

One
conversation
at a time



Cllr Saima Ahmed, said:

"This is such an important piece of work that needs to be at the forefront of not only our safety policy but our advancement for equality.

We really need to understand the issues that affect women and girls in Redbridge so we can provide effective and meaningful solutions to ensure they feel safe whether that be in the home, at work, or in the community. I look forward to this new journey, and hope I can make a difference in our area."

#stopviolenceagainstwomen





A new independent Community Crime Commission is aiming to cut crime across the borough. The panel, made up of experts and local community leaders, is being led by Dr Javed Khan OBE, Chief Executive of the Barnardo's charity. As well as leading Barnardo's, Dr Javed Khan OBE advises the government and local authorities in a range of areas and was recently recognised for his work with an OBE.

The commission board will select its priorities through a mix of feedback from communities, local crime statistics and the impact of a crime on its victims. It will then make a series of recommendations on how to tackle these crimes and reduce their root causes.

Dr Javed Khan OBE said:

"I am very excited to be leading such an innovative committee, tackling the types of crime that Redbridge residents tell us concern them the most. This is one of several ground-breaking projects underway within Redbridge Council, aiming to cut crime and its causes. I couldn't be prouder to be so directly involved within one of them."



Jas Athwal, Leader of the council, explains why the new CCC is so beneficial for residents:

“Establishing a Community Crime Commission has been a priority of mine and I'm glad to see that we have accomplished another milestone.

I want the people of Redbridge to have a say in how we tackle crime in the borough and involving experts and local leaders is a great way to ensure we are engaging with the community.

I am looking forward to hearing the valuable feedback the commission will give to us. ”



Dr Javed Khan OBE will be supported in his work by a panel of commissioners. To find out more about them and the work of the commission, visit the Redbridge Community Crime Commission website at:

<https://crimecommission.redbridge.gov.uk/>

How to report an incident

- Always call the police on **999** if you are in immediate danger.



- If you experience behaviour that makes you feel uncomfortable on public transport, report it to the British Transport Police by texting what, when and where to **61016** or call **0800 40 50 40**.



- If sexual harassment escalates into violence, threats or sexual assault report this to the police on **999**. Please report any non-emergency harassment to the police on **101** so they can investigate.

- You can report any form of street harassment you experience or witness to the Council. The form is on our website in the Report It section. Click on **Report Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**.



Community heroes awarded 'Freedom of the Borough'

What do a 111-year-old Marathon runner, an award-winning vlogger, two charity founders and a leading figure of the Three Faiths Forum all have in common?

They are the first recipients of the 'Honorary Freedom of Redbridge for 19 years!

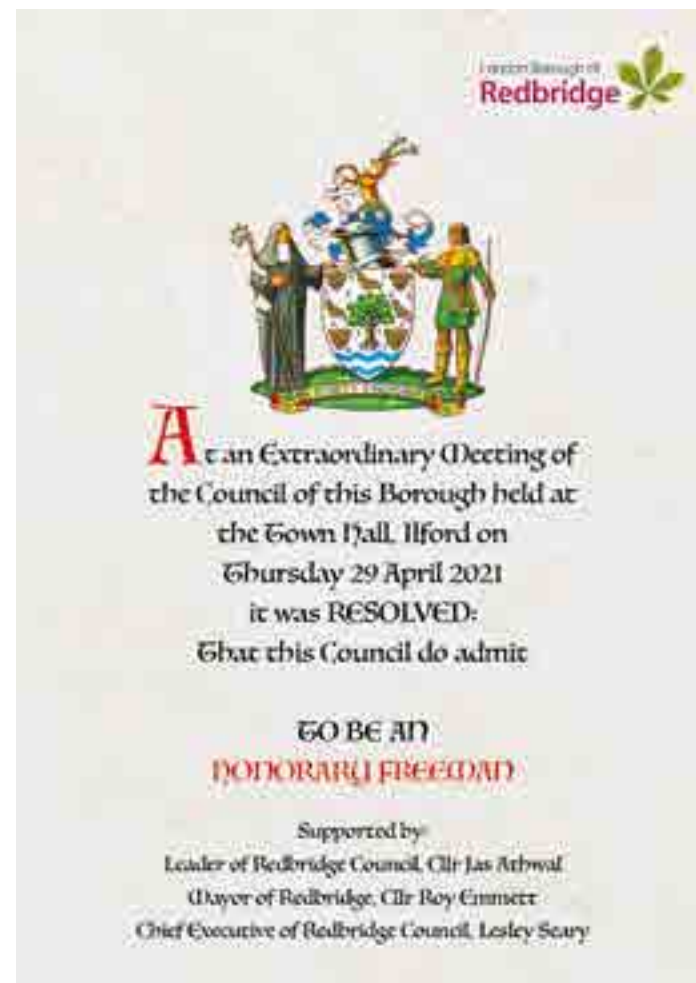
In recognition of all the hard work throughout the pandemic, we resurrected our Freedom of the Borough accolade, the highest honour we can bestow on a resident, as we want to shine a light on some of the amazing people in Redbridge.

We now intend to make this a permanent feature, as we want to showcase the strength of our communities and thank individuals for their outstanding work and commitment to helping others.



Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr Roy Emmett, said:

"The last year has been so difficult for so many people, and yet community spirit and the kindness of strangers has shone through. This has highlighted how many amazing people we have in Redbridge."



Ghazanfar Ali, from Seven Kings, has lived in Redbridge for more than 50 years. He has taken a leading role in combatting extremism. His role in forging close relationships across faiths is the glue that brings and holds people together whatever their background, whatever their differences.



Isaac Harvey, from Ilford is our youngest 'Redbridge Freeman' at just 25-years-old. Harvey is an award-winning vlogger, producer of short films, poet, and charity fundraiser. A strong advocate for equality issues, he has promoted initiatives for people with disabilities, which is even more remarkable as Isaac was born with a form of limb hypoplasia syndrome.



Avril Mills, BEM, from Epping holds the British Empire Medal, awarded in 2014 for her services to children and young adults. She set up Hainault-based charity 'The Dream Factory' in memory of her son, Oliver, who died from leukaemia aged nine. She has been instrumental in fulfilling dreams for more than 500 young people with severe disabilities and life-threatening conditions.



Ruth Salahi, from Ilford founded the Woodford Bridge-based 'Hopes and Dreams' charity which granted wishes to terminally and critically ill children. For 28 years she helped make life a bit happier for ill children and their families before retiring in 2018.



Fauja Singh, BEM, from Ilford is known as the Turbaned Tornado. At 111 years old he is a world-renowned marathon runner – despite having only started running aged 89. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2015 New Year Honours for services to sport and charity.

Friends of Loxford are revitalising their local area



Over the last few years, people who live in and around Loxford and Clementswood have **come together to revitalise their neighbourhood.**

Local residents Clare and Linda, explained:

"We're working with Vision, the council and local businesses such as Wingate Builder Merchants, to breathe new life into the Loxford Park Pavilion and Loxford park.

Loxford Park Pavilion is a hidden treasure and we've cut back wild overgrown bushes to reveal an oasis of greenery, blossom and plants.

We're nurturing a home for all the amazing insects, animals and birds that live in this sanctuary. The Pavilion is now alive with the sound of bees, birds and so much more.

We've created fantastic art such as watering cans pouring forth streams of beads, and the most exquisite jewels forged from bottle tops.

Old tyres are now blooming with flowers, pallets have been repurposed to make benches for people to rest on and we've even created miniature water gardens to offer a tranquil home to nature's amazing creatures.

Local artists and young people also created a very special volleyball mural, which will sit proudly, overlooking the Pavilion's golden sand.

During the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, we came together and discovered the most precious gift of friendship and community."

Volunteers meet every Saturday morning at the pavilion, between 8am – 10am to either collect litter or support restoration projects. New residents are very welcome to join! Simply email: friendsofloxford@gmail.com

In addition to the Pavilion, the group is working closely with Vision and the council to improve other local green spaces, including a planter at Baxter Road, Ilford.

Right now, the group is working with SpaceHive to raise funds for table tennis in Loxford Park, help them hit their target by visiting: www.spacehive.com/fitness-and-fun

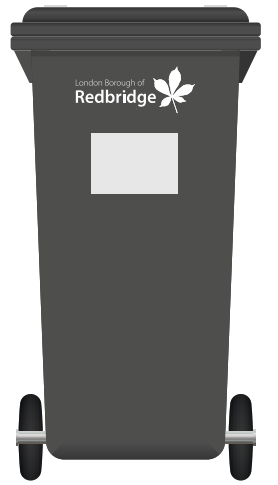
Please visit their community open day on 21 August from 11am at the Loxford Park Pavilion – full details at:

 [@ friends_of_loxford](https://www.instagram.com/friends_of_loxford)



It's been a wheelie busy few months

Our crews have been working tirelessly to get your new wheelie bins to you, and successfully finished the borough wide roll out in May. 85,000 households now have one, and your new bin brings big benefits:



Cleaner streets

Waste is stored more securely. No more leaving sacks of rubbish out for collection, which get ripped open by foxes and litter the street.



Protects crews from injury

Wheelie bins are safer for our crews and reduce risks, including sharp object injuries from handling black sacks.



Saves money

We collect 22 million sacks of household waste a year, and £18m of Council Tax payers' money goes on disposing it. Less waste, and more recycling means more money put back into services that are important to you.



Increased recycling

Only waste contained inside the bin will be collected, so the more you can recycle, the more you can maximise space in your bin. Don't forget, you can order more recycling boxes if needed: www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling



Stops dishonest businesses taking advantage of your service

Businesses should pay for their waste collection. Black sacks are anonymous, and some businesses take advantage of this by using your service to collect their waste for free. Wheelie bins clear up any confusion on collection day!



Feedback from our residents



Vicky Taylor, mum-of-two, from Wanstead Village, said:

"I'm ecstatic about my wheelie bin! It makes my life easier. I can throw my rubbish in, and move the bin around easily on collection day – and no more foxes ripping up bags of rubbish put out the night before!"



David Gilchrist, 61, from Cranbrook, said:

"I'm a keen recycler. It would take me about two weeks to fill my wheelie bin! I've also started home composting. There are lots of easy ways to reduce your waste once you look into it."

Food Waste

50 per cent of waste collected in Redbridge is food waste. In the UK it's estimated one in three bags of food bought ends up binned. An average family of four could save up to £720 a year by reducing their food waste! Discover how:

www.lovefoodhatewaste.com



Let's work together to reduce waste

Now you have your new bin, it's a great time to start thinking about ways to reduce waste. We have lots of ideas online: www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets



Changes to bin collections – August Bank Holiday:



Normal scheduled collection day

| Due on | Collected on |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday 30 August | Tuesday 31 August |
| Tuesday 31 August | Wednesday 1 September |
| Wednesday 1 September | Thursday 2 September |
| Thursday 2 September | Friday 3 September |
| Friday 3 September | Saturday 4 September |

We're cracking down on fly-tipping!

Our Cleansing and Enforcement team are working hard to clear eyesore fly-tips in the borough, and find those responsible for the mess. In addition to issuing fines to those caught dumping their trash on our streets, culprits have also been taken to court. Two recent fly-tipping cases saw offenders stung with fines and court costs totalling just over £1,000 between them.



Bouncing back: Redbridge is open for business this summer

High Streets and Town Centres across Redbridge have been welcoming visitors and shoppers again – with the borough now well and truly back open for business!

Across the borough, businesses worked tirelessly to adopt the changes and new ways of working needed to help keep you safe.

When you visit our High Streets and Town Centres please support them by scanning QR codes, and following the other systems put in place to create safe spaces.



Redbridge Council Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Cllr John Howard, said:

“We are proud to have a great variety of independently owned businesses, offering an extensive range of products and services across our High Streets and Town Centres in Redbridge. Ahead of the lockdown restrictions easing, we worked closely with businesses to provide the information and support they needed to make returning to our High Streets safe for everyone. Please continue to support your local High Street and, above all, follow the systems in place to stay safe.”

SHOP SAFE

Stay safe, stay kind, stay local

Get support for your business

Our business support service offers information and advice on how to start or grow your business, and is open to all businesses in Redbridge.

As well as providing direct help, we can also signpost you to specialist organisations and business partners.

Contact our business support team today at business.enterprise@redbridge.gov.uk

Businesses can also visit the website for information and resources available on the ‘Support for Businesses’ section at www.redbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus

Find products or services near you, with It’s local Redbridge!

It’s Local Redbridge is your one-stop directory for finding the products and services you need in your local area.

The directory is fully integrated with Google Maps, and can connect you with local business websites and social media channels – making your search easy, whether you’re at home or out and about.

The service is free for all Redbridge businesses. To add your business to the directory visit www.itslocalredbrige.co.uk and click on the ‘Add Company’ link.



Apply for a Pavement Licence

Businesses in Redbridge can apply for a licence to provide additional seating outside their premises, if there is available space:

<https://eforms.redbridge.gov.uk/apply-for-a-temporary-pavement-licence/>



The view from local business owners in South Woodford High Street

We're delighted to welcome you back in our shop, or for lessons on a wide range of instruments or singing.

Sara
Crescendo Music

"It's been so exciting to finally welcome our customers back! We can't wait to welcome everybody back and get painting!"

Karen Dunn and Tim Smith
Creative Biscuit pottery cafe

We also cannot forget Ilford Town Centre, which is continuing to grow

with the launch of Mercato Ilford and the recently opened BoxUp Gym, in Chapel Road. SPACE Ilford is also back open. Local artist Yasmin Falahat is helping to restart the SPACE public programme at Redbridge Town Hall with the theme of 'Care' at the heart of this year's events and exhibitions. A new billboard designed by Yasmin is located outside the SPACE Ilford, and aims to reflect Redbridge's multicultural residents.

Yasmin's fruit and vegetable ceramic pieces also tell the stories of local people, their journey and memories of their shared love of the food and experiences.

Bookable events and activities for all the family start in the summer. For event updates, go to spacestudios.org.uk and Instagram [@space_studios_london](https://www.instagram.com/space_studios_london)

Later next year, we are also re-launching the Ilford Market which will be an asset for local businesses and residents.



Just a stone's throw from the Town Centre is **Ilford Lane**, which offers an extensive range of independent retailers selling South Asian Fashions, fabrics, bespoke jewellery and a wide selection of bustling restaurants.

Don't forget to all visit Barkingside, Gants Hill, and Wanstead which offer a wonderful mix of independent shops alongside high fashion, beauty salons, hairdressers, and coffee shops. Plus the "Crossrail Corridor," Seven Kings, Goodmayes and Chadwell Heath all offer a great mix of small independent retailers, restaurants, cake shops, and bars.

With so much to explore there is always a reason to visit Redbridge High Streets and Town Centres.

"We're extremely thankful to all our customers, friends and regular diners for their support throughout the lockdown periods and beyond, and look forward to welcoming them back."

Rajesh Suri
Grand Trunk Road restaurant

"Live Local, Shop Local, Love Local".

Jai Francois
Electric Galleria

OPEN

"The council and its community ambassadors have been amazing in helping us to re-open safely. Local businesses like ours serve their communities and provide much needed jobs. We all want our High Streets to grow again."

Suzanne
Sid and Evie's children's clothing and footwear

Vaccination Bus rolls into Redbridge

A vaccination bus has been touring Redbridge since April, to help further boost uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine in the borough.

The double decker bus, a partnership between Redbridge Council, the NHS and local community groups, has clinicians and volunteers on site ready to deliver the life-saving jabs to Redbridge residents.

Hundreds of residents have received their vaccine on the bus so far.

Anyone eligible for a first or second vaccination can book using the number below to get their jab. Residents can also pick up rapid testing kits or come along for information and advice.

Book the bus: Call the free phone line: **0800 038 59 29** between 8am – 8pm, seven days a week. A bus timetable can be found at: **www.redbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus**

Community groups and organisations can also book the bus. Keep a look out on our social media channels for more information.

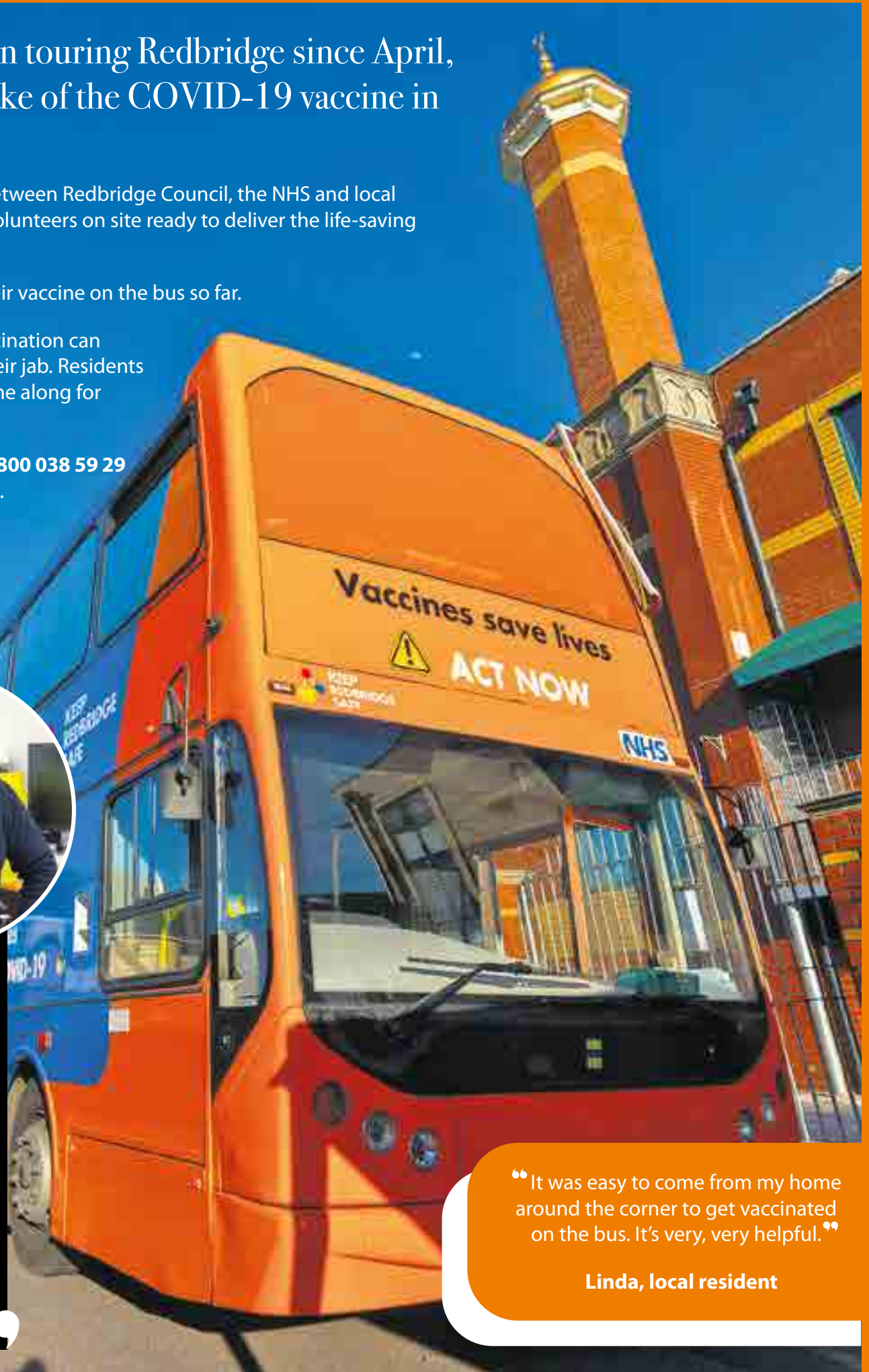


**Dr Najib Seedat,
GP at the Ilford
medical centre said:**

“I encourage people to book the vaccination bus, especially community groups as this will allow us to vaccinate more people at once in a location that work.”

“It was easy to come from my home around the corner to get vaccinated on the bus. It’s very, very helpful.”

Linda, local resident



Be safe

It was announced early this month that step 4 openings will be held off until 19th July. Weddings are still going ahead with more than 30 guests provided social distancing remains in place and the same applies to wakes.

As we remain in step 3 of the government roadmap out of lockdown we must all remember **Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air**. Under step 3, six people or two households can meet indoors whilst up to 30 people can meet outdoors. You can find out more here www.redbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus

Remember: Get tested when needed and get vaccinated when offered. If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.

To find out more about vaccinations visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations



Sanitise
your hands



Wash your
hands

Want to Stop Smoking?

FREE Stop Smoking support available in Redbridge



London Borough of
Redbridge



Call **0333 005 0095** or
Text **'Quit'** to **60777**



everyonehealth
because everyone matters

Enjoy a fun packed, active summer in Redbridge

We have lots of **great events and activities** on offer this summer to keep the whole family entertained! From **stunning country park adventures, to theatre trips and exhibitions** – there's lots to do, right here on your door step.



Cllr Kam Rai, Deputy Leader of the council said:

"We want Redbridge to be a thriving cultural quarter for local people and visitors. Access to great creative facilities is so important, which is why we're continuing to invest in the Kenneth More Theatre, Redbridge Drama Centre and Music Service, all of which are now run by our council partner Vision and as a result are going from strength to strength."

Head to www.visionrcl.org.uk/summer21 to discover everything on offer, including more details on the activities and events below.



Free exhibitions at Valentines Mansion

Art in Lockdown

A collection of works by studio artists created during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oh, You Beautiful Dolls, You Great Big Beautiful Dolls

Display of dolls from different parts of the world.

Both open every Sunday & Monday

10.30am – 4pm, until 19 July.

Free entry

Get involved with nature conservation

Our Nature Conservation Team will be holding practical workday sessions at our parks and open spaces from 21 June. It's a great way to get involved with nature conservation. The workday sessions will be size restricted, and must be booked online at:

<https://visionrcl.org.uk/workdays>



Disney favourite at Kenneth More Theatre

Watch Disney's much-loved The Little Mermaid come alive on stage.

Redbridge Create's Production of Disney's The Little Mermaid runs Friday 13 August to Saturday 21 August.

**Call the box office on:
020 8708 8803**



The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge

This year's theme is 'Wild World Heroes', and inspires children to stand up for the planet and make a difference to the environment. Get your children signed up to the challenge at our launch day on Saturday 10 July, at your local library.



Explore Redbridge by bicycle

Discover more of the borough by bicycle. It's also a great way to stay fit and active. Try cycling instead of using the car for your local trips.

Need to build your confidence? Book a free cycle training session to improve your skills on the road. For more information visit: www.redbridge.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/cycling/



Redbridge Cycling Centre

The centre is for cyclists of all abilities, from families to competitive riders. The centre has a purpose built road, and BMX and off-road tracks. For more information call the centre on **020 8500 9359**

Street Tag

Stay active with Street Tag. Get exploring as you hunt for virtual tags dotted around Redbridge. Join our Street Tag community by downloading the app (app store or playstore) or contact the Street Tag team:

www.streettag.co.uk



Junior Badminton

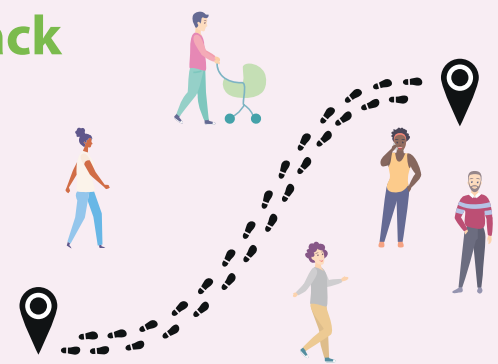
Keep your youngsters fit and active over summer with our Junior badminton course at Wanstead Leisure Centre. For more details call **020 8989 1172**

Walking for Health is back

Our Walking for Health group offers free walks for adults, meeting at various parks and open spaces across the borough.

To book a session visit:

www.visionrcl.org.uk/walking



Community events

Family fun for all! Enjoy entertainment including arts & crafts, funfair, sports activities, children's workshops, strolling performers and live performances. Food and drink stalls will be available. **Don't miss out!**

- **Our Community Festival** at Barley Lane Recreation Ground on Sunday 8 August
- End of summer finale **Wanstead Festival** at Christchurch Green on Sunday 12 September

Parnhams Funfair are back this summer at Hainault Forest, Fairlop Waters and Melbourne Field. For more information visit www.parnhamfunfairs.co.uk





Coming to a Library near you... the **Summer Reading Challenge 2021!**

WILD WORLD HEROES

WILD WORLD HEROES arriving in your local library and online. Be inspired to stand up for the planet and help make a difference in this nature-themed reading challenge.

Launching across **Redbridge Libraries** on **Saturday 10 July**
(please note this will be delivered in line with government guidance.)

Presented by **The Reading Agency** and delivered in partnership with **Redbridge Libraries**.



For more information visit

Are you a citizen of the EU, EEA or Switzerland?

You will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to live, work, study and access state benefits in the UK.

Ring **020 8514 9540** or email **euss@citizensadviceredbridge.org.uk** for our support to apply for EU settled status.




Early Years are Learning Years

At Mildmay Nursery we provide creative, stimulating and age appropriate play and activities for Pre-School aged children.

We are a fully inclusive nursery registered with Ofsted and rated **Outstanding** in all areas.

Mildmay Nursery offers a warm, welcoming, nurturing and safe learning environment for children aged from 2-4 years old. Children leave highly motivated and ready for the next stage of their education.

Our qualified staff provide a high standard of care and education and we offer the government's 15 hours early years funding for all 3-4 year olds and for eligible 2 year olds.

We are now taking new applications for September 2021 onwards. Contact us to organise a tour around the nursery. All tours will be conducted in a covid-safe manner. Early application is advised to avoid disappointment.



Find us at **Mildmay Nursery, 2-4 Mildmay Road, Ilford IG1 1DT**
Phone or text to book an appointment
 Phone enquiries **020 8514 0901**
 Mobile **07587 101453**
 (You can leave a message or send a text) **mildmay.nursery@visionrcl.org.uk**



Registration number **EY432847**



Access Newspapers, Magazines, Ebooks and Audiobooks for FREE with your Redbridge Libraries card!



To access our Virtual Library visit **www.visionrcl.org.uk/digital**

Do you love books but are unable to go to a library*? Why not try our Home Library Service

Books are delivered to your home free of charge by friendly volunteers from the Library service.

Please call **020 8708 2414** or **020 8708 2420** and ask to speak to someone about the Home Library Service. Alternatively, you can email **central.library@visionrcl.org.uk**



*Available to anyone who is unable to visit a library due to health or mobility difficulties

www.visionrcl.org.uk

@RedbridgeLibs RedbridgeLibraries



Action-packed summer underway at Fairlop Waters

An action-packed summer is well underway at Fairlop Waters Country Park, with plenty to keep the family busy at the recently upgraded Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre.

Water sports available at one of Redbridge's most popular outdoor locations include rowing boat hire, sailing, canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding.

Group tuition is available for schools, families or groups of friends.

Meanwhile the ever-popular Fairlop Fair is back for another year on Saturday 31 July, with fun activities for the whole family to enjoy.

You can also have your say on the future of this much loved local parkland.

Ambitious plans to expand Fairlop Waters could see an extra 250 acres of green space added. Initial ideas from the community have included improvements like an inclusive playground, wild swimming, natural history walks and better food markets.

Tell us your feedback, and add your own suggestions, by visiting the Let's Talk Redbridge website. But hurry – all comments must be received by the end of July 2021.

Find out more about the action-packed summer at Fairlop Waters at www.visionrcl.org.uk/centre/fairlop-waters-country-park



Explore our parks this summer



Our borough is one of the greenest in London, boasting stunning parks and open spaces.

Nine of our parks also have Green Flag Status – an award reserved for the very best green spaces in the country. A perfect spot to enjoy a picnic, or stroll with friends! Why not explore more parks this summer? Discover one near you: www.redbridge.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-the-arts/parks/

Investing in play for our children

We want Redbridge children to have access to great outdoor facilities which is why last year we invested over £230,000 in refurbishing and improving our play areas at Brocket Way, Christchurch Green, Seven Kings Park and Uphall Recreation Ground. We also installed a new outdoor gym in Valentines Park, making it one of the largest outdoor gyms in the country!

This continuous investment in play is part of our £1.6m capital investment programme. So far 21 play areas have been improved with further projects planned at Fairlop Waters, Hainault Forest and Valentines Park in the year ahead.



Be a litter pick hero for Redbridge parks

Throughout the pandemic it has been more important than ever to use our green spaces to stay active, and to help look after mental well-being. Our parks have been really busy but the increased use has created more waste. Alongside our excellent Parks Rangers, we have amazing volunteers and parks friends groups lending a hand to keep our parks clean with community litter picks.

If you would like to get involved please contact the Parks Team on parks.enquiries@visionrcl.org.uk



Hainault Forest is growing

Exciting restoration works continue at Hainault Forest to improve the area for visitors.



The once derelict old changing room block, which had been lying empty since the 1980s, has been demolished and the site is being cleared. The area will be landscaped to provide a space that can host public markets and small community events.

Throughout the restoration works, Hainault remains open to visitors and is accessible for everyone.

The farm is closed but the animals are still being cared for onsite, and will reopen in 2022 with new facilities to allow for more animals and activities for visitors.

Our partner, The Woodland Trust, has been busy planting more than 10,000 saplings in an extension to the east of the forest. If you want to get involved with further tree planting, keep your eyes on their events page as the planting season starts in November. Visit [woodlandtrust.org.uk/events](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/events)

For further information on the project see:

www.visionrcl.org.uk/hainault-restoration



Food glorious food will be coming from Mercato soon

Construction of Mercato Metropolitan (MM) in the heart of Ilford's new cultural quarter is now close to completion, with the community food market set to launch in late summer 2021. To date, over half of the sustainable timber frame has been built and by the beginning of September internal fit-out is expected to be complete.

MM has already engaged with local artists from neighbouring SPACE Ilford to create artwork that will initially be displayed around the construction site and later moved within the market, when it opens. Ahead of the big opening, a 'DreaMM' branded campaign will give Redbridge food and drink entrepreneurs the chance to trade within Mercato Ilford. The competition will be run by the MM team alongside Redbridge Cultural Consortium and other local organisations.

MM's CEO, Andrea Rasca, said:

"We at MM are heavily focused on creating a global movement to engage with local communities' residents and improve food accessibility, support local culture, and foster conviviality. Our Ilford project is a one of strategic importance for us".

Cllr Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge council, said:

"This project and the SPACE Ilford art studios are helping to regenerate Ilford by transforming space in the town centre into a vibrant market and art studio. These are both huge opportunities for the local economy, as they bring new jobs and businesses.

"MM Ilford and SPACE Ilford are both part of the Good Growth Fund (GGF) regeneration project known as "The Spark" that was developed with the Greater London Authority (GLA) to kick-start our longer-term ambitions for Ilford town centre."

An overwhelming number of local entrepreneurs and London food operators have already enquired about trading within the market.



Exciting updates in Wanstead



We're currently undertaking a major expansion of **Wanstead Leisure Centre** near Wanstead Station to provide a **25-meter length swimming pool** with **new changing rooms**, and a **new dance studio** to complement the existing gym, badminton and squash facilities. The work is due to be completed in late 2022.

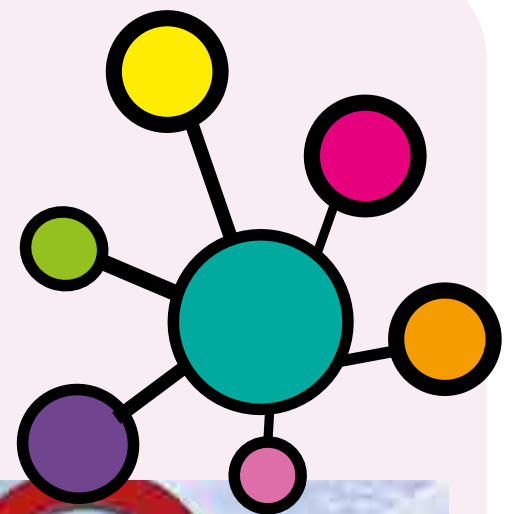
This exciting scheme is providing both a new swimming pool for the leisure centre and major improvements to Wanstead High School, which shares the same location as the leisure centre. The school will benefit from a **new teaching block, dining hall and kitchen space**.

Gants Hill research launch

Local residents, the Gants Hill Community Hubs team and University College London are launching a community research project to explore 'people and place' in Gants Hill, and to shape the future Gants Hill Community Hub.

Local volunteer researchers will be finding out more about Gants Hill and those who live, work and play across the area in the coming months. Residents will be designing the community research project with Redbridge Council and UCL University.

The Hub will provide neighbours a place to run their own activities and access services closer to them. Find out more at <https://letstalkredbridge.uk/engagementhq.com/community-hubs>



Get into work this summer

Work Redbridge is a free service that can help you to secure a job, training, volunteering opportunities, apprenticeships and much more.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Work Redbridge has helped secure good quality jobs and apprenticeships for 260 residents. If you're currently looking for work, and aged 16+, you could be next!

Our friendly and qualified advisors can offer you free support with:

- ✔ job searching and applications
- ✔ CV writing
- ✔ interview technique
- ✔ employability skills and training opportunities.

By registering, you'll also get access to a regular job vacancy bulletin. It contains local jobs and opportunities in and around Redbridge, in a range of sectors like administration, construction, education, health and retail.

Book your appointment with one of our advisors today by visiting www.redbridge.gov.uk/workredbridge or by calling **0208 708 2298**



Ramisha Ali

Data Analyst at Redbridge Council, recruited through Work Redbridge

"My advisor was extremely friendly and helpful, giving me relevant advice and helping me apply for the jobs I wanted, along with interview preparation. I'm very excited at having started my journey within London Borough of Redbridge!"



Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Kam Rai:

"For many of us, the last year has been one of the most difficult we've ever experienced. That's why we're committed to supporting people across Redbridge, who have struggled financially to get back in to work.

"As the largest employer in the borough, it's incredibly important that residents can access jobs at the council. I'm delighted to see new local talent being recruited, and look forward to welcoming many more new starters in the months ahead."

New Youth Hub provides job support and opportunities for young people in Redbridge



The Redbridge Youth Hub is a new one-stop shop launched by Redbridge Council, to support young people negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The hub allows young people aged 16-24 to get free information and advice on:

- ☑ employment opportunities
- ☑ education
- ☑ apprenticeships
- ☑ training
- ☑ managing money
- ☑ well-being services.

It also offers support from Redbridge Connexions and the Work Redbridge Employment Service, which prepare young people for jobs and match them with local education, work and training opportunities.

Visit the hub at www.redbridge.gov.uk/young-people/redbridge-youth-hub

Salise Hassan, Assistant Headteacher, Oaks Park High School, said:

"The Redbridge Youth Hub is an excellent resource for schools and parents. As it contains lots of high-quality information, advice and guidance on employment, education, training and wellbeing for young people that is crucially specific to your area."

Aged 16-24? Kickstart your career

Interested in gaining real life experience in a paid job for six months, while developing the skills you need for your future career?

The Kickstart scheme was set up by the government to help young people on Universal Credit, whose opportunities have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Redbridge Council is recruiting for Kickstart roles in areas like economic development, education, IT, planning, regeneration and more!

There are also up to 60 additional jobs available through local partners such as schools, charities and advice services.

If you're aged 16-24 and on Universal Credit, get in touch today and kickstart your career!

Visit
www.redbridge.gov.uk/workredbridge

Email
workredbridge@redbridge.gov.uk

Call
020 8708 2298



Hamza Khan

Business & Enterprise Support Officer at Redbridge Council, recruited through the Kickstart programme

"I'm very eager to get started and excited to see where it takes me. I'm looking forward to using my existing skills, and developing new ones in the world of work."

www.redbridge.gov.uk/youth-hub

Get Crowdfunding for your community project

Have you had a lightbulb moment? Got a brilliant idea for a project that will benefit your community? Then our Crowdfunding programme could help you finance that idea to make it a reality.

The Council has joined forces with Spacehive – a fundraising platform for ideas that bring local places to life. If you want to improve a local park, start a community garden, create workshops, or even open a cookery school, then we could help.

If you can get crowdfunding pledges, then we can offer some match-funding from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy fund if projects meet the selection criteria.

Cllr Kam Rai, Deputy Leader of the Council and Champion of the programme said: “The last year has been very tough for our communities which is why it is all the more inspirational to see the first projects come through as part of Community Crowdfunding. We look forward to seeing what the next round of projects will bring.

“This is an amazing opportunity for residents to improve their borough in partnership with the Council and demonstrates genuine local support for projects.”

There is lots of advice and support available for projects if you are interested in getting involved. For more information about the programme and

to register for one of Spacehive’s free workshops being held on Tuesday 29 June and Wednesday 14 July, go to the website: www.spacehive.com



Congratulations to The Cranbrook Square Garden project for successfully hitting their Crowdfunding target in the debut round.



New Councillors for Loxford and Seven Kings

Two new councillors were elected for the Seven Kings and Loxford wards in the local council elections held in May.

Both wards, which had empty seats, were won by Labour party candidates.



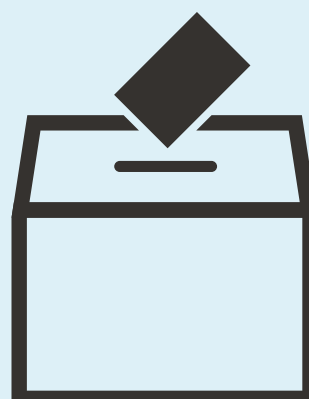
Pushpita Gupta, 50 was elected to represent Seven Kings ward after receiving 40% of the vote.

Pushpita has lived in Redbridge for 15 years. She said: “As your councillor, I’ll follow in the tradition set by my colleagues of being accessible with regular surgeries and resident drop-ins and work closely with the police to keep our streets safe.”



Sahdia Warraich, 56 was elected to represent Loxford ward after receiving 35% of the vote.

Sahdia has lived in the borough for 20 years. She has pledged to make Loxford a better and safer place to live by “tackling fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and crime”.



£100k fine for illegal home conversion in Ilford



An unscrupulous landlord who illegally converted a family home into flats has been fined £100,000.

The owner of the property in Staines Road, Ilford, was subject of an investigation by Redbridge Council’s Planning Enforcement Team due to the substandard conversion, and an unauthorised subdivision into separate flats without planning permission.

The owner was issued with fines totalling £100,000, made up of a confiscation order of £86,488, a fine of £4,000 and costs of £9,427.

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Did you know Redbridge Council offer Grants for disabled adaptations?

You may be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant and our team of Occupational Therapists can recommend home adaptations.

To arrange an assessment, you can contact the First Contact by email on Firstcontact@redbridge.gov.uk or by calling 020 8708 7333.

An Occupational Therapist will assess your needs and refer you to the Home Improvement Team.

The type of work can include:

- Installation of ramps, widening doors
- Stairlifts, through floor lifts and bathroom adaptations
- Adapting heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use



For more information please visit <https://mylife.redbridge.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grant> or by emailing HomeImprovementTeam@redbridge.gov.uk

Pest Control Service



What we do

- we offer advice to residents and businesses about how to get rid of insects or rodents
- we have effective treatments for certain types of pests and can help with identifying pests and information about what to do

What pest control officers do

- we investigate the cause of infestations and recommend a treatment
- we will give you safety information, offer proofing advice and tell you roughly how long the treatment may take



Pests we treat and cost

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Rats | £125.00 |
| Mice | £125.00 |
| Cockroaches | £156.00 |
| Bedbugs | £215.00 |
| Pharaoh Ants | £165.00 |
| Garden Ants | £97.00 |
| Wasps | 1 nest 69.00 |
| Wasps | subsequent nests £40.00 |
| Fleas | £133.00 |

Commercial premises starting from (non-food premises only).....£180.00

Book an appointment online at www.redbridge.gov.uk/book-it or contact us on 020 8554 5000 (contactable Monday to Friday 8.30am-6pm – except bank holidays when we are closed)



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the millions

already

vaccinated

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HOPE