

# REDBRIDGE**LIFE**

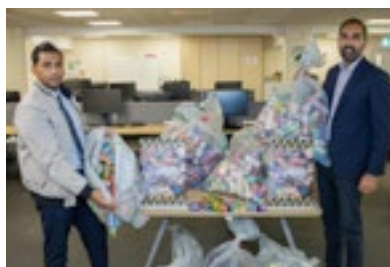
## INVESTING IN CLEAN STREETS

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## Redbridge dazzles for Christmas

Christmas events, family activities and more, pages 9 and 10





**VISION  
IS THEATRE**

PRESENTED BY  
**REDBRIDGE CREATES**

# The WONDERFUL WIZARD of OZ

**Monday 8 - Wednesday 31 December**

Redbridge Drama Centre, Churchfields, South Woodford, E18 2RB

Find out more at [vrcl.uk/wizard](http://vrcl.uk/wizard) or call **020 8708 8800**



London Borough of  
**Redbridge**



## HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings will be held in person at the Town Hall, High Road, Ilford, IG1 1DD.  
Visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk) for information, agendas, and links to view online.

### Council

Thursday 22 January **7pm**

Thursday 5 March **7pm**

### Cabinet

Monday 19 January **7pm**

Thursday 26 February **7pm**

### Planning Committee

Wednesday 4 February **7pm**

### Licensing Committee

Wednesday 13 January **7pm**

### External Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 5 February **7pm**

### Health Scrutiny Sub Committee

Monday 26 January **7pm**

Thursday 26 February **7pm**

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 15 January **7pm**

Monday 9 February **7pm**

### Governance and Assurance

Wednesday 28 January **7pm**

### General Purposes Committee

Thursday 12 February **8pm**

### Health and Wellbeing Board

Monday 23 February 2026

## Produced by Redbridge Council

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at [redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk)

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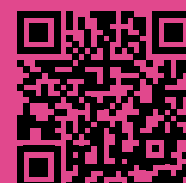
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**Next issue out in March**

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**Let's Talk Redbridge**  
have your say on our  
latest consultations  
and projects



# LEADER'S MESSAGE

## Redbridge - my home, your home, united as one community

### Dear neighbours,

As Leader of Redbridge Council, I am driven by one simple but powerful belief: this borough belongs to all of us, and our strength lies in the way we look out for one another. Redbridge is a place where different faiths, cultures and backgrounds don't just coexist – they enrich one another. That spirit of togetherness never feels more alive than during the festive season.

Christmas and New Year are moments when we have a little more time for hope, for others, and to reflect. Yet in Redbridge, celebration is year-round. My Muslim neighbours delight us with boxes of sweets at Diwali/Bandi Chhor, and we return that kindness at Eid. We call out "Merry Christmas" to friends old and new, and I am already looking forward to joining our Jewish neighbours as we mark Hanukkah and light candles together. These small, heartfelt exchanges are the threads that weave our community together and should

remind us how wrong those who seek to divide us are. My priority is to make Redbridge an even better place to call home – especially for those who need our support most. That means protecting and doing more for vulnerable children, adults with additional needs, and families facing hardship. It means building homes, improving parks, and keeping our streets clean and safe for everyone. It is why we have fought so hard for fairer funding.

I'm proud that nine of our beautiful and welcoming parks achieved Green Flag status and that nearly 600 new, genuinely affordable council homes are almost complete. Nothing has warmed my heart more than handing over keys to families who thought permanent security was out of reach. We are pressing ahead with major investment in leisure centres and sports facilities so that every child (and adult!) whatever their background, can swim, play and grow in confidence.

Most people take pride in our borough and follow the simple rules that keep it special. For the small minority who don't – whether that's fly-tipping, antisocial behaviour or neglecting shared spaces – we will continue fair but firm enforcement. Redbridge is our home and looking after it is a responsibility we all share.

As the New Year approaches, there is a lot to be optimistic about, so let's keep working together, building a borough that is fair, green, and full of opportunity for everyone. Together, we make Redbridge not just a place to live, but a place to belong.

Wishing you and your loved ones a great Christmas and happy new year!



**Councillor Kam Rai**  
Leader of Redbridge Council

## Investing in local leisure and culture

### Redbridge Council is delivering a series of improvement projects

Following the recent opening of Serenity Ilford - a new women's gym in Ilford offering a fitness studio, classes, weights, and a members' lounge - several other key investments are underway at well-loved and cherished venues across the Borough.

One of the borough's most significant investments is underway in **Wanstead**. The development will deliver new educational and leisure facilities, including an IT suite, specialist art studios, and a modern swimming pool safety system. Completion is expected by the end of **spring 2026**.

At **Fullwell Cross leisure centre**, a contractor is being appointed to carry out essential improvements to the swimming pool roof, with construction expected to start late spring 2026. The spa, reception, and studio spaces are fully operational, group exercise classes continue in Studio 1 and the Sam Ryan Studio and swimming sessions have been relocated to Loxford and Mayfield Leisure Centre.

At **Kenneth More Theatre**, plans to fully reopen this much-loved cultural venue by the end of

2026 are progressing, with a contractor set to be appointed in February 2026. While the auditorium is being upgraded, other parts of the building remain open for community use.

At **South Woodford library and gym**, refurbishment work will begin in early 2026. In the meantime, services continue through a pop-up library and relocated gym at Redbridge Drama Centre, ensuring residents can still access key health and wellbeing services.

Despite being one of the lowest funded boroughs in London, Redbridge Council remains committed to investing in the borough's future, ensuring residents have access to high-quality spaces and services that support wellbeing, learning, and community life.



Keep up to date on these projects: [www.redbridge.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-the-arts/investing-in-redbridge](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-the-arts/investing-in-redbridge)

*Councillor Namreen Chaudhry, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Communities speaking at the opening of the gym*



**Councillor Namreen Chaudhry, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Communities, said,**

"We're committed to removing barriers and making physical activity accessible for all ages and communities. These centres aren't just buildings – they're part of Redbridge life, helping people stay active, connected and proud of where they live.

"Thank you for your patience as we carry out essential maintenance. We'll keep investing, repairing and rebuilding so these spaces can be enjoyed now and for generations to come."



# Redbridge **Rapid Response Clean Team** will soon hit the streets

**CLEANER**  
Redbridge

Helping keep Redbridge clean - together, and faster than ever

Redbridge Council is stepping up its commitment to cleaner, safer streets with the launch of a brand-new Rapid Response Clean Team. This exciting addition to our Street Cleansing service not only means that when residents report urgent issues - like offensive graffiti, fly-tips, spills, or street furniture that needs urgent cleaning - we'll be able to respond faster than ever, but it also introduces a proactive approach to keeping our streets clean.

At the heart of this new service is a specially equipped vehicle, operated throughout the day by two dedicated team members. The vehicle is designed to handle a wide range of street scene issues and will also be available for out-of-hours emergencies, ensuring Redbridge remains a clean

and welcoming place for everyone. As part of its proactive role, the team will be patrolling the borough to spot issues, supplementing all our existing cleaning services.

While we've always responded to urgent reports, it often meant pulling teams away from scheduled work. With this new setup, our regular cleansing operations can continue uninterrupted, while the Rapid Response vehicle tackles ad-hoc priorities and proactively resolves problems.

This is a practical, resident-focused improvement that reflects our ongoing investment in public spaces, and our pride in keeping the borough looking its best.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP - REPORT IT!

To report a street cleansing issue, download the Love Clean Streets app **Redbridge - Love Clean Streets**  
Or report online at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it)

**Councillor Kam Rai,**  
Leader of Redbridge  
Council, with the  
Rapid Response  
Clean Team

## Zero Tolerance to Grime Crime!

Cracking down on fly-tips, untidy land and front gardens, and other grime crimes

Like you, we're appalled by the illegal fly-tipping and other grime crimes that pollute our beautiful borough. We've drawn a line in the sand with our Zero Tolerance campaign. Redbridge Neighbourhood Enforcement officers are working around the clock to identify and pursue those who are trying to bring Redbridge down. In the last 12 months, we have prosecuted 22 people for fly-tipping and the courts have issued fines totalling over £10,000. Our officers have also issued more than 430 fines at £1,000 each for illegal dumping.

Thanks to your reports, and the hard work of our officers, we are making a big difference.

### Newbury Park

We've been taking targeted action working with local landowners in hot spots, including this bit of private land in Newbury Park that was becoming a local dumping ground for rubbish. After speaking with the owner, the land has now been secured and there have been no more fly-tips there since.

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



### South Woodford

Our Street Cleansing Team worked their magic in South Woodford recently to remove this eyesore graffiti.

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



Scan the QR code to  
report street issues like  
the ones above

**ZERO TOLERANCE**



# Redbridge seizes £50K of illegal vapes in just one week



Single-use vapes were banned earlier this year by the UK Government due to health risks and their appeal to children and teenagers through sweet flavours and colourful packaging

Council officers seized 4,000 illegal vapes in just one week as part of a zero-tolerance crackdown. The haul, worth £50,000, came from just six shop inspections carried out by Trading Standards officers.

Businesses caught stocking and selling these illegal vapes face an unlimited fine, or a prison sentence of up to two years.

This latest operation signals Redbridge Council's commitment to a safer, vape-free borough, with fresh investment in Trading Standards to tackle harmful and illegal goods.

**Councillor Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety, said,**



"I am expanding our Trading Standards team by recruiting new officers and the goal is to visit every vape shop in the borough. To those selling illegal and harmful single-use vapes to our children and young people, know this: We are coming, we will seize your goods, and we will prosecute you. Take this as notice that Redbridge will not stand for unsafe and illegal products being sold to young people."



Councillor Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety, and Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of the Council view some of the seized vapes at the Ley Street depot

The crackdown is backed by the launch of 'Say Something Save Someone', a new anonymous reporting tool for children and teenagers. Developed by London Trading Standards, young people can report concerns such as illegal sales or giveaways, allowing authorities to act fast.

**Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said,**



"We will not allow illegal vapes to threaten the health of our young people. Redbridge is taking action, and we won't stop until every shop is playing by the rules. This crackdown shows we mean business."

**ZERO TOLERANCE ZERO TOLERANCE ZERO TOLERANCE**

Got something to report?

If you see retailers selling illegal or harmful vape products, you can report them by visiting: [www.londontradingstandards.org.uk/say-something-save-someone](http://www.londontradingstandards.org.uk/say-something-save-someone)





# Budget

## 2026/27



## Protecting services while facing tough choices

### Council prepares for 2026/27 budget

Redbridge Council runs over **400** services

Redbridge Council is preparing its budget for next year against one of the most challenging financial backdrops in decades. Rising demand for housing and social care, combined with historic underfunding, means the borough faces a significant budget gap in 2026. Last year alone, Redbridge spent £52 million on temporary accommodation. What was once an emergency measure has become routine, with nearly 3,000 households in temporary housing and 8,000 people on the waiting list.

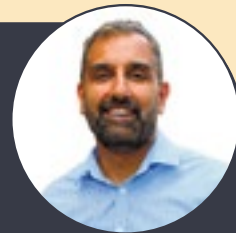
#### Budget – we’ve been underfunded for years, and you deserve better.

Since 2010, Redbridge has lost over **£160 million in annual funding**, and fair funding has been promised for too long. Over the last year, we’ve been making the case for change – with the support of local MPs and by working together, we are hopeful. We’ve fought your corner for a long time, and now the door has opened with ministers and government advisors. Painstaking work is paying off, and we wait in hopeful anticipation for the Government’s announcement in the coming days.

IMPOWER, an independent consultancy that works with councils across the country to improve efficiency and demonstrate value for money, confirmed that Redbridge is the most productive council in London, ranking number one for efficiency. This evidence has been crucial in showing Government that we are doing everything possible locally – and that fair funding is urgently needed.

Despite these pressures, the council has worked tirelessly to protect the services residents value most. Weekly bin collections, libraries, children’s centres, and parks have all been maintained – and even improved – thanks to strong financial management and working innovatively.

#### Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said,



“We’ve made the case to Government, including meetings at Number 10, and they are listening. We’ve fought hard to ensure our Borough gets its fair share. Without this lobbying, services like libraries and children’s centres could have been at risk. We’ve kept them open and even opened new facilities, because we know how much they matter to you. There are tough times ahead but working with a Government that’s listening, we can make Redbridge an even better place to live.”



#### Councillor Vanisha Solanki, Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, said,

“We’re proud that Redbridge has been ranked number one in London for efficiency and productivity. But the reality is clear: without fairer funding, we cannot meet rising demand and protect essential services. That’s why your views are vital. Please continue to complete our budget survey and tell us what matters most to you.”

Although the council is hopeful of an improved financial settlement following the Government’s Fair Funding Review, we will still pursue further financial support from the Government whilst improved funding kicks in, and as we always do, will continue to fight for Redbridge.



#### Have your say by Friday 19th December

Visit [engage.redbridge.gov.uk/budget-2026-27](https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/budget-2026-27) to share your priorities and help shape the future of local services.





# New service ‘helps you become the best parent you can be’

Redbridge Council and the NHS have launched a new service to support vulnerable families, from pregnancy through to a baby’s first birthday

The **Family Help: Pre/Post-Birth Service** aims to help parents build confidence and care for their children safely, reducing the number of babies taken into care. Officially launched by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Kam Rai, and Wes Streeting, the Labour MP for Ilford North, the service offers practical support and guidance during pregnancy and the early months of parenthood.

The service was officially launched at the Mini Explorers Centre in Ilford, with Ilford North MP Wes Streeting attending and giving a keynote speech. He praised the service as “joined-up, compassionate support” and said Redbridge was “leading the way.”

**A local mum who benefited from the service said,** “The service has changed my life. I was struggling mentally, but with the support I received - help with caring for my baby, guidance to Citizens Advice, and support to overcome depression - I’m extremely grateful.”



**Councillor Lloyd Duddridge and Ilford North MP Wes Streeting at the launch**



**Councillor Lloyd Duddridge, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, said,** “The service is a bold step forward and shows how early help can make a big difference.”

**Local mum Carolina Tavares, said,** “I have received so much help from the team, and they have been so good to me. They help you become the best parent you can be.”

## Future Leaders UK: Opening doors for local young people

Future Leaders UK is an award-winning organisation that began right here in Redbridge and is now transforming opportunities for thousands of young people locally and across the country



Founded by local teachers five years ago and backed by funding from Redbridge Council, Future Leaders UK was created to tackle a challenge common to many: while our schools achieve excellent results – consistently above the national average – grades alone don’t guarantee access to top careers. Too often, talented young people lack the networks and confidence that

open doors to universities, apprenticeships, and professional pathways.

Future Leaders UK bridges that gap. Through a free, year-long programme, students aged 16 to 18 gain leadership skills, mentoring, and real-world experiences that build confidence and ambition. Participants attend workshops, university

residentials, and work placements with leading employers, from the NHS to global firms. They visit places like Oxford and Cambridge, and even Downing Street, all experiences that broaden horizons and inspire big dreams.



**Councillor Vanisha Solanki, Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, said,**

“When we first heard the idea about Future Leaders, it was a no-brainer that we needed to support it, and I’ve seen first-hand the impact it’s having. By connecting young people with role models and opportunities, Future Leaders UK ensures that talent - not background - determines success. It’s a scheme that was made in Redbridge and is creating a generation of leaders both locally and nationally.”

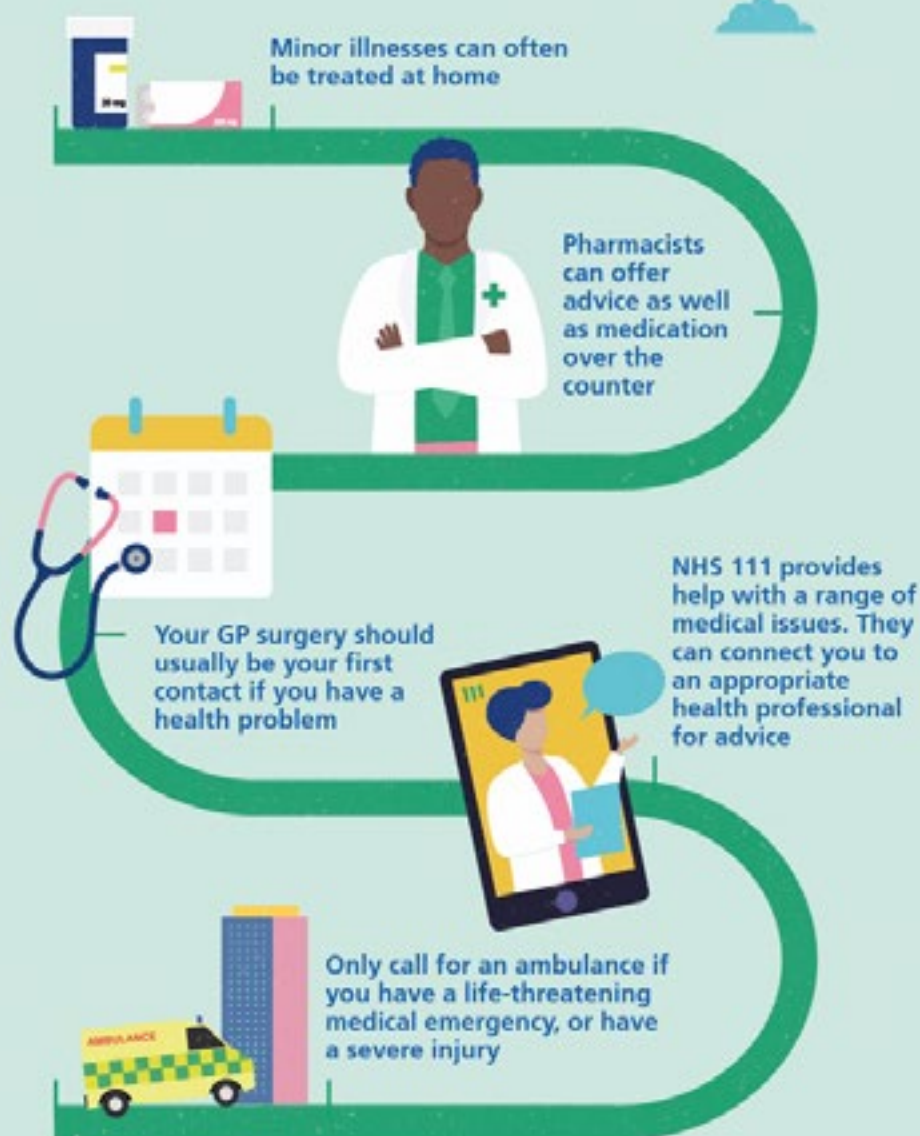
Over 5,000 young people have already benefited, and the impact is clear: 95% set ambitious goals, 98% build stronger networks, and many secure top apprenticeships or university places.



Find out more or get involved at  
[www.futureleaders.uk](http://www.futureleaders.uk)



# Your route to urgent help



# NHS



If you are overwhelmed and feel you can't cope, you can contact your local mental health crisis line.

Call NHS 111,  
select option 2.

24 hours a day,  
365 days a year.

## Unwell child?

High temperatures, sore throats, coughs, aches and sprains are common and can be treated at home.

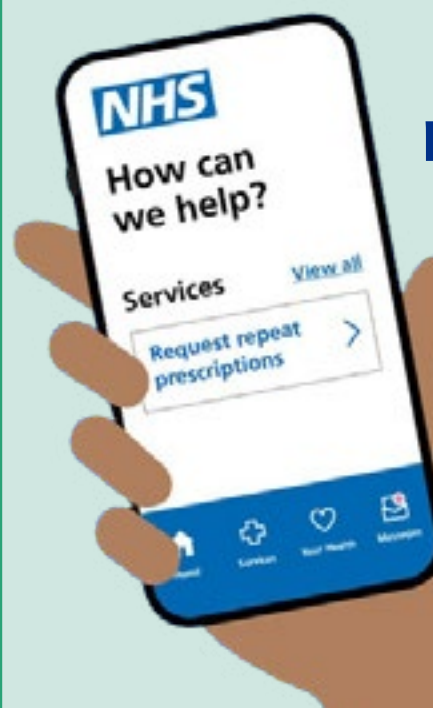
Your local pharmacist or your GP can help.



Scan me



## Download the NHS App and turn notifications on



GET IT ON  
Google Play

Download on the  
App Store



# Things to do this Christmas

This December, the borough is filled with festive family activities sure to bring out the Christmas cheer in everyone!

## Visit Santa's Christmas Workshop

13, 14, 20, 21, 22 & 23 December  
Times available from 9.45am to 4pm  
Redbridge Drama Centre

Step into the magic of Santa's Workshop and watch his busy elves prepare for the big day! Enjoy the elves' interactive Christmas show, create your own festive decoration to take home and write your letter to Santa in the cosy elves' workshop. Then, meet Santa Claus himself in his enchanting grotto. The cheery elves will even help snap a photo of your visit using your own phone or camera.

They can't wait to meet you!

Tickets are £15 for children 3 years and over.  
The experience will last approximately 45 to 60 minutes.

## Christmas Market on Ilford High Road

Every day except Wednesdays  
until 4 January 2026  
9am to 6pm

Experience the magic of the season in the heart of Ilford! Discover Christmas chalets bursting with sights, scents and flavours to delight the whole family – from global street food to handcrafted gifts, jewellery, decor and fashion.

A perfect day out for the whole family.

Ilford High Road  
Christmas market



## See The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

14 to 31 December

Redbridge Creates Theatre Company are thrilled to present  
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz at Redbridge Drama Centre!

This Christmas, get ready to twirl through a twister and land in the colourful **Land of Oz**, where magic sparkles, friendships blossom, and anything is possible! With surprises around every corner, this enchanting stage show is a treat for the whole family, whether you're 5 or 105. Come see why there's truly no place like home!



This production  
is based on the  
original story  
**The Wonderful  
Wizard of Oz** by  
L. Frank Baum



Book these events,  
or find more Christmas  
activities at [visionrcl.org.uk/events/christmas-fun-in-redbridge](https://visionrcl.org.uk/events/christmas-fun-in-redbridge)

**VISION**  
REDBRIDGE  
CULTURE & LEISURE

London Borough of  
**Redbridge**





# Redbridge lights up for Christmas!

Redbridge has sparkled with festive cheer with thousands of people attending Christmas switch-on events across the Borough.

Starting at Wanstead and finishing at Fullwell Cross, Barkingside, events also took place in Hainault, Seven Kings and Valentines Mansion.

The Ilford Christmas Light Switch-on, organised by Ilford BID was also a true community celebration, featuring live music, family entertainment, and plenty of seasonal magic. Local performers lit up the stage, while children enjoyed crafts, rides, and a visit from Santa himself. The lights illuminated the High Road, and crowds were also treated to two dazzling firework displays and a drone show to cap off a great day and night.

Thank you to everyone who attended and took part in the celebrations!





# Are you winter ready?

## Stay protected

## Stay well



### Get your flu vaccine

If you:

- are pregnant
- are aged 65 or over
- have certain long-term health conditions



### Stay warm

Layer clothing and heat your room to at least 18°C.



### Stay healthy

Keep a healthy diet and stay as active as possible.



### Get your Covid-19 vaccine

If you:

- are aged 75 or over
- are immunosuppressed



### Stock up

Make sure your medicine cupboard is fully stocked.



### Stay connected

It can be hard for some people to go out in the winter - stay in touch with others.

Many people needed hospital care last winter.

Scan to find out how to stay well





# Major investment continuing in road resurfacing and flood protection

**SAFER**  
Redbridge

We're protecting homes and improving travel by combining cutting-edge flood prevention technology with major road resurfacing works

**Better roads mean better journeys, which is why our highways team have been hard at work to get through our annual road resurfacing programme at pace.**

Over 70,000 square metres of roads have been completed already this year - equal to the distance from Ilford train station to Brentwood.

This work is ensuring key routes and neighbourhood streets used by schools, local businesses and essential services are repaired and improved.

The works are part of a ten-year investment plan to make roads smoother, safer, and more resilient for everyone, with the pavement resurfacing programme next on the list.

Find out more



[www.redbridge.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/highways-maintenance-and-resurfacing-information](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/highways-maintenance-and-resurfacing-information)



Berkeley Avenue, Clayhall



Fencepiece Road, Fairlop



Gaysham Avenue, Gants Hill

## Advanced underground flood defence technology installed in Wanstead Village.

Below ground, new flood defence technology is also helping protect homes and businesses from heavy rainfall. Following success in Seven Kings, the Hydrorock system has now been installed in Hermon Hill and Wellesley Road, Wanstead Village. These underground blocks act like giant sponges, soaking up rainwater and slowly releasing it into the sewer system to prevent flooding.

Across the borough, Redbridge's flood prevention measures can now hold over 1.6 million litres of rainwater, roughly the same as 64,000 five-minute showers or 9,000 full wheelie bins. Without these defences, that water could flood roads, overwhelm sewers, and damage homes and businesses.



Hydrorocks works taking place at Hermon Hill



Hydrorocks work completed at Hermon Hill



# CALLING ALL LANDLORDS!



## Selective Licensing Schemes

If you're a landlord or agent and you operate any rented property, you may need to apply for a property licence.

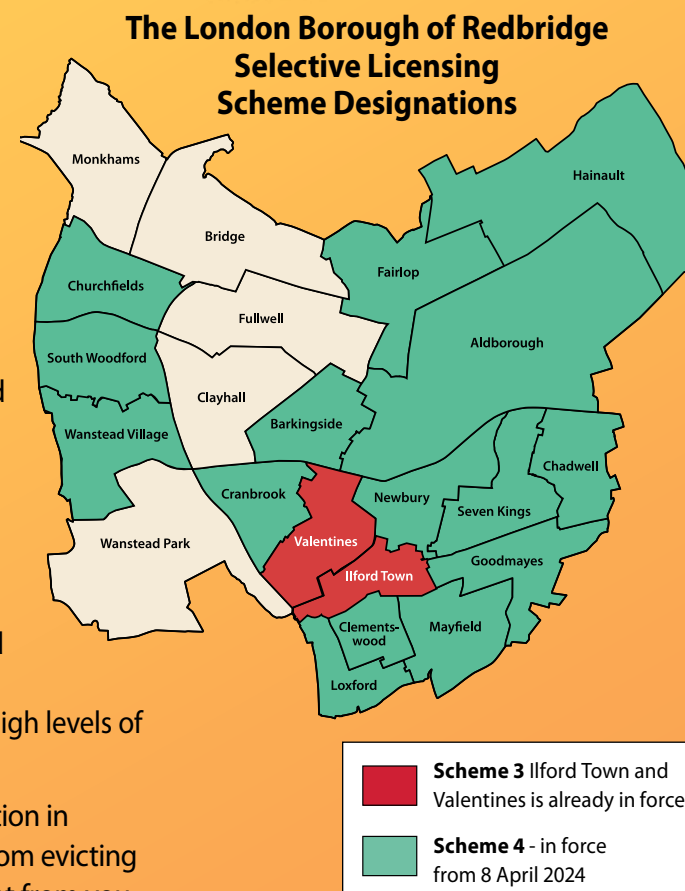
Redbridge Council has two selective licensing schemes in place. Selective Scheme 3 (2 wards) has been in operation since **1 November 2023** and applies to rented properties within Ilford Town and Valentines wards.

Selective Scheme 4 (15 wards) came into force on **Monday 8 April 2024**. The wards affected are: Aldborough, Barkingside, Chadwell, Churchfields, Clementswood, Cranbrook, Fairlop, Goodmayes, Hainault, Loxford, Mayfield, Newbury, Seven Kings, South Woodford and Wanstead Village. These schemes require landlords or agents of most private rented properties in these areas to apply for a selective property licence. To apply, visit <https://propertylicensing.redbridge.gov.uk/>

If you already have a selective licence for a property in these wards and it is still in date, the licence will remain in force until the expiry date shown on the licence. These new schemes were introduced after a full public consultation and confirmation by the government, who were satisfied that these schemes will contribute to an improvement in general housing conditions in the areas, and that private rented housing in the designated area is experiencing high levels of deprivation, high levels of migration, and significant and persistent antisocial behaviour.

Failing to get a property licence can result in receiving a civil penalty of up to **£30,000** or prosecution in Court, where the fine is **unlimited**. Additionally, not having a property licence may prevent you from evicting tenants using the 'section 21' process. Tenants may also be able to claim back up to 12 months' rent from you, via a **Rent Repayment Order (RRO)**. The Council will normally publish any prosecutions, enforcement, or legal action in the press and update the Greater London Authority's (GLA) public Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker and government intelligence databases.

To find out more information and check whether your rental property needs a Selective or any other type of Licence, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/landlords/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/landlords/)



## Additional HMO Licensing Scheme

Redbridge Council approved a new five-year Additional Licensing scheme for small Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) across the whole borough. Additional HMO property licensing is now a legal requirement, as of **Monday 18 September 2023 until 17 September 2028**.

This means that any property which is rented to three or four occupiers forming two or more households that share (or lack) a toilet, personal washing facilities or cooking facilities needs to have an HMO Licence.



This includes certain converted blocks of flats (known as Section 257 HMOs), but only where all accommodation units are privately rented, and the building and accommodation units are in the same ownership or control. This includes buildings within mixed use developments or above non-residential premises.

The introduction of this new HMO Licensing Scheme comes after a full public consultation. Overall, it was found that there are significant issues such as poor housing conditions, ineffective management, crime, and antisocial behaviour persisting within HMOs in the borough.

For more information on whether your rental property needs an Additional (HMO) Licence, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/landlords/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/landlords/)



**ZERO TOLERANCE ZERO TOLERANCE ZERO TOLERANCE ZERO TOLERANCE ZERO TOLERANCE**



# “Studying at Redbridge Institute of Adult Education has changed my life”

Judith is thriving in Redbridge after completing her course

Judith Guarte Lee moved from the Philippines to be with her husband, after they met through an online support group for people with cerebral palsy.

In the Philippines, Judith's disability - affecting the left side of her body - limited her opportunities, and arriving in the UK was daunting, as she spoke very little English.

She took advantage of Redbridge Institute's Community Learning Programme called Keeping Up with The Children. This helps parents support their child's learning through adult education. It was here that her dream of working in childcare began.

Judith enrolled in an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) course and later progressed to a Childcare course – taking confident steps toward a brighter future.

“The skills and confidence I gained led me to volunteer at a Nursery and within weeks I was offered a permanent role and now work as a Childcare Practitioner.

“Learning has helped me overcome barriers I have faced my entire life. My English has improved and my self-worth soared, teaching me the importance of positivity.

“I’ve always wanted to work with children, especially after my son was born. I want to show him - if you put your heart and soul into something - good things can happen!

“I’m incredibly grateful to Redbridge Institute, who has inspired me to believe in myself and follow my dreams.”



Judith Guarte Lee is the proud winner of The Mayor of London, Learning for Personal Progression Award

Redbridge Institute is rated “outstanding” by Ofsted and supports residents to gain skills, qualifications and confidence they need to start or to develop their careers. Find out more: <https://www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk/>



Redbridge Institute  
of Adult Education  
*Transforming lives  
through adult education*

## NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER *Ready for a fresh start?*

Join our Careers in...

- **Adult Social Care**
- **Health**
- **Construction**

... and take the first step towards a rewarding new career!

**Enrolling now for January 2026**



[www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk](http://www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We've got all your waste services wrapped up this festive season

CLEANER Redbridge

OUR STREETS

Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods

Christmas 2025 and New Year changes to bin collections

Due on	New Collection Date
Week commencing 22 December	
Monday 22 December	No Change
Tuesday 23 December	No Change
Wednesday 24 December	No Change
Thursday 25 December	Monday 29 December
Friday 26 December	Tuesday 30 December
Week commencing 29 December	
Monday 29 December	Wednesday 31 December
Tuesday 30 December	Friday 2 January
Wednesday 31 December	Saturday 3 January
Thursday 1 January	Monday 5 January
Friday 2 January	Tuesday 6 January
Week commencing 5 January	
Monday 5 January	Wednesday 7 January
Tuesday 6 January	Thursday 8 January
Wednesday 7 January	Friday 9 January
Thursday 8 January	Saturday 10 January
Friday 9 January	Monday 12 January
Week commencing 12 January	
Monday 12 January	Tuesday 13 January
Tuesday 13 January	Wednesday 14 January
Wednesday 14 January	Thursday 15 January
Thursday 15 January	Friday 16 January
Friday 16 January	Saturday 17 January

Stay up-to-date on bin collections over the holiday period  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/rubbish-collection/holiday-collection-dates](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/rubbish-collection/holiday-collection-dates)

Christmas tree recycling is back!

OUR STREETS

London Borough of Redbridge

Christmas tree collection services in Redbridge

Once the festivities are over there are a number of ways to ensure real Christmas trees can be put to good use. Take a look at the services available in Redbridge to help you dispose of your real Christmas trees in a planet friendly way:

Local charity Haven House is collecting Christmas trees for recycling from Monday 5 January to the end of Wednesday 7 January. They just ask for a small donation towards their charity work. Collections must be pre-booked via their link.

To find out more and book your Christmas tree collection go to <https://www.havenhouse.org.uk/Event/tree-collect-2026>

Haven House is a Children's Hospice where children can be children, even in the face of adversity. Their facilities offer a range of activities, such as music therapy, play sessions, and fun days, that enable children and families to create precious memories.

Redbridge Council will also collect real Christmas trees to recycle

To ensure collection you must:

- Leave your tree at the boundary of your property by 6am on Monday 12 January
- Remove all decorations
- Ensure your tree is clearly visible

There is no fee for the service, and no booking is required.

Real trees will be collected anytime between Monday 12 January and Friday 23 January so please ensure your tree is placed at the boundary of your property by 6am on Monday 12th January to avoid missing collection.

You can also take your Christmas tree and other items to Chigwell Road Reuse and Recycling Centre, just remember to check opening hours over the festive period.  
[www.eastlondonwaste.gov.uk/chigwell-road](http://www.eastlondonwaste.gov.uk/chigwell-road)

Christmas recycling

Don't forget to use our recycling services for Christmas cards, cardboard boxes, paper wrapping (no glitter or foil wrap please) and more.

Worried you might have too much recycling? Our crews will happily take any extra recycling you have, and if you don't have enough recycling boxes, just place additional recycling in clear bags or cardboard boxes and leave it for collection as normal.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



# It takes a **community** to help keep **Redbridge** tidy

Meet Wendy Hill from our street cleansing team



Wendy Hill has been a valued member of the Street Cleansing team for over five years. She's a friendly and well-recognised face in the Seven Kings community, where she works hard to keep the Borough we call home clean and welcoming.

Wendy was a dental nurse for over 30 years and took on the frontline role after deciding to try her hand at something new. She hasn't looked back since!

"I really enjoy what I do and feel proud that I'm able to make a difference to how the neighbourhood looks. I've been covering the same patch for five years now, so I've got to know many of the locals, and have made some really good friends in the area. I feel really happy when I've completed a shift and the area looks nice and tidy", **said Wendy.**

From clearing litter on the street, and sweeping leaves off the road, to weeding and bagging up rubbish for the street cleansing trucks to pick up, Wendy is constantly on the go.

**Speaking about her role, the grandmother of four said,** "The majority of local people are brilliant at looking after their neighbourhood, but sadly there's a small number of people who still don't do the right thing and think it's okay to drop litter on the street. It's those people who need to step up and do their bit for the community."

The most common items of litter found on the floor are "leftover food – often from takeaways - drink cartons, cans and bottles", **said Wendy.**

**She continued,** "If everyone used the street bins for litter, and took home their cartons and bottles for recycling, it would make a big difference. This is our borough, this is our home

– it is not too much to ask for someone to keep litter off the streets. Don't wait for someone to do it – that much we can all do. It takes a whole community to keep a neighbourhood clean and tidy. I'm just one part of that."

The 56-year-old is a much-loved part of the community with local people, families and businesses regularly showing their appreciation for her role in the neighbourhood.

"There are so many lovely people and families in my area. It's one of the best bits of my job. People always stop to chat or say hi. I even have a regular van driver who will always toot as a thank you gesture when he drives by and sees me clearing up the litter", **said Wendy.**

**Luca Pal, Store Manager for Lucky Food Store in Green Lane, said,** "Wendy has been helping keep the store front clean for many years, and does a fantastic job. She is a lovely lady and always has a smile for people."

**Imran Qureshi, who lives in Seven Kings, also heaped praise on Wendy saying,** "She's an absolutely brilliant person, and is always working so hard. She 100% makes a big difference to our area and we can't thank her enough."



## Wendy's shift

**6am**

Collect street cleansing equipment from the depot

**6.15am-7.30am**

Clean and clear store fronts around Seven Kings High Road and Green Lane, with another team member

**7.30am-10am**

Clean allocated roads

**10am-11am**

Lunch

**11am-2.15pm**

Clean allocated roads

**2.15pm**

Shift ends and it's off to the depot to return the equipment before heading home



# Sue's House awarded King's award

## Holistic cancer-support centre in Ilford recognised with the King's Award for Voluntary Service

Sue's House, an Ilford-based cancer and holistic help centre, has received the prestigious King's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of its outstanding contribution to the community. The centre, located at 10 Dawlish Drive, has been offering free, complementary support since 1984.

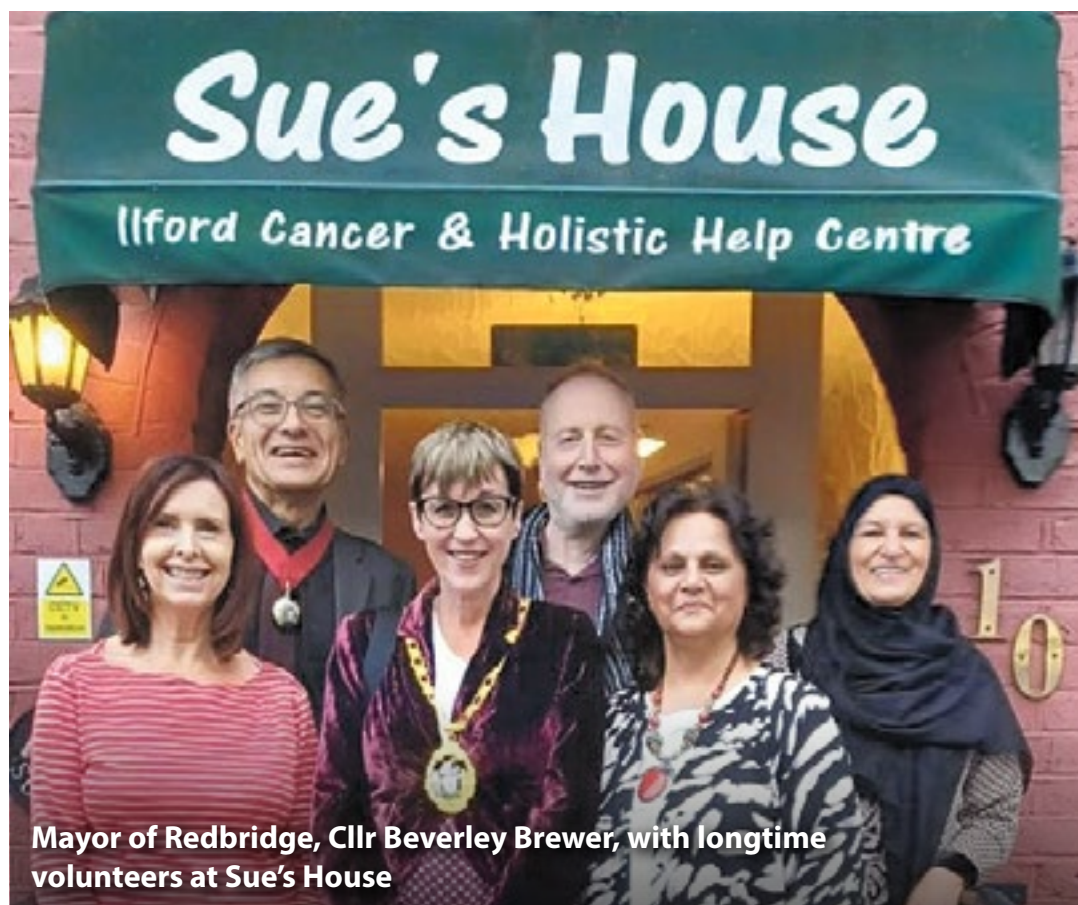
Run almost entirely by volunteers, Sue's House provides a compassionate "safety-net" for people affected by cancer - including patients, survivors, family and friends.

Services include counselling, healing therapies, relaxation, dietary advice and other supportive therapies, all designed to complement (not replace) medical treatment.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest accolade for community-led groups in the UK - a fitting tribute to the dedication and generosity of Sue's House volunteers, whose selfless work has provided emotional, practical and holistic care for decades.

One of the nominations for the award came from Cllr Tanweer Khan, Mayfield ward councillor.

**He said,** "This recognition not only celebrates the thousands of hours given freely by volunteers but also shines a light on the vital role of non-medical, holistic support in improving the quality of life for those affected by cancer."



Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr Beverley Brewer, with longtime volunteers at Sue's House

## River Roding project update



The River Roding Project has taken a big step forward this autumn. We successfully diverted the river into its newly constructed channel on 11 September 2025, which is a big milestone for the team and brings us another step closer to better protecting 1,500 properties in Woodford and Ilford.

We reshaped the riverbanks downstream of the new control structure and carried out a fish rescue to ensure no wildlife was left behind in the old channel. We then placed an earth bund to stop water flowing through the old route, while another was removed at the upstream end of the new channel, allowing water to flow freely into the new wetland area.

This breakthrough means construction can now begin on the full earth embankment, which will cross the old channel and connect to the control structure.

The project aims to improve flood resilience and enhance local biodiversity. You can find more updates, pictures and frequently asked questions on our project webpage, using the QR code opposite.

You can also contact us for further enquiries at

**RiverRodingProject@environment-agency.gov.uk**



River diversion breakthrough



# Working together to keep people safe this winter

**SAFER**  
Redbridge

Redbridge Council and Single Homeless Project are helping local people experiencing homelessness access support, shelter and services to end their rough sleeping

As temperatures drop, Redbridge Council and Single Homeless Project (SHP), the Council's commissioned outreach service, are stepping up joint efforts to support people sleeping rough in the borough. The Street Outreach Rough Sleeping Team (SORT) is out regularly, offering food, essentials, and helping people access day services like the Welcome Centre in Ilford.

**"We're here 5 days a week with Rapid Response covering weekends," says Isis, an outreach worker. "We know who is out on the streets, but people often only accept help when they're ready. Often it takes months of gentle conversation to build the trust and confidence needed for someone to come inside. Sometimes even a simple hello is the first step."**

The team, commissioned by Redbridge Council, works jointly to identify needs and refer people into accommodation when they agree to it. **"We plan our routes with the Council, so they know what's happening on their doorstep," Isis explains. "They even join us for street counts and census shifts, which helps us keep track of everyone we're supporting."**

Winter brings added challenges. When the Greater London Authority activates the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) during extreme weather, the team assess people's needs and prioritises them for emergency accommodation. **"We know how hard it gets out there," says Isis, who works closely with the Welcome Centre to secure warm clothes like gloves and shoes.**

Support is coordinated through CHAIN, a London-based platform that records who's been seen, what they need and where they've been sleeping. **"It's not just admin," Isis says. "It helps make sure no one is missed, even if they're still not ready to accept help."**

A trauma-informed, person-centred approach underpins everything. **"We refer to those sleeping rough as people experiencing homelessness, not 'rough sleepers' - language matters," Isis adds. SHP also supports access to healthcare, mental health services and immigration advice. "We do joint outreach with our transitional practice nurse, help people access health checkups, and support those coming out of prison or fleeing domestic abuse."**



The Welcome Centre in Ilford provides many services to people who are homeless from its purpose built day centre



Isis on shift with a transitional practice nurse and navigator

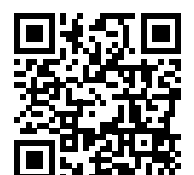
Redbridge Council also extends thanks to the many local charities and volunteers who provide vital support. Soup kitchens across the borough offer warm meals and conversation, helping people maintain dignity and connection. The SEVA team is again running its winter rucksack appeal, preparing rucksacks filled with essential items and

small treats to hand out this December. Their generosity, along with that of other community groups, plays a crucial role in helping people stay safe while outreach teams continue the patient work of building trust and supporting individuals when they're ready for change.

## Help us reach those in need

If you see someone sleeping rough, you can make a referral at [www.thestreetlink.org.uk](http://www.thestreetlink.org.uk)

It's quick, confidential and helps connect people to vital support





# A new chapter for Loxford Lane

## Welcoming families into new homes in the heart of Redbridge

Redbridge Council is celebrating a major milestone with the completion of its largest council housing development in years. Located on Loxford Lane, the new site delivers 159 modern, energy-efficient homes for local residents, built in partnership with Lovell.

Families began moving in from November, and the development is already bringing new life to the area. Designed with comfort, sustainability and community in mind, the homes offer a fresh start for local people who need it most.

Each home has been built to a high standard, with energy-saving features like air source heat pumps to help reduce bills and cut carbon emissions. Electric vehicle charging points have also been installed across the site, supporting greener travel and helping future-proof the neighbourhood.



**Councillor Saima Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, said,**



"Every day, my inbox is filled with messages from families living in overcrowded conditions, desperate for a safe place to call home. This development isn't just a collection of buildings – it's providing hope and security for those who need it most. These homes will give families the chance to put down roots and build a future. I'm proud that we're delivering high-quality, sustainable housing that will transform lives today and for generations to come."

# New voluntary sector hub to open at Janice Mews

## Bringing new life to the heart of our community

A brand-new Voluntary Sector Hub is set to open at Janice Mews in the next couple of months. This space will bring people and voluntary organisations together and provide vital services for residents.

Once open, it will be a welcoming and inclusive place where community groups can thrive. Redbridge is already full of incredible people and organisations delivering fantastic services – and we hope some of them will be able to bid to use this space at low cost, making it easier for everyone to access activities and support close to home.

**Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said,**



"This is about giving our local heroes, who quietly go about supporting our neighbours by setting up groups and support - often funded from their own pockets – the space they deserve.

"We want to create a hub where voluntary organisations – who already do great work day in day out – can run their groups, put on their activities, provide much needed support and services, or simply provide places for people to meet and help reduce loneliness."



### What's next?

In the coming weeks, we'll share more details on how local voluntary groups and organisations can apply to take space and get involved in this project. Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates.



# Redbridge's Mental Health Support Team celebrates 5 years of supporting young minds

Early mental health support in schools and colleges has helped thousands of children and parents in Redbridge thrive

**HEALTHY**  
Redbridge



The Mental Health Support Team are here to support children and young people

Since 2021, Redbridge's Mental Health Support Team (MHST) has been working closely with schools and colleges to support the emotional wellbeing of children and young people. Now celebrating five years, the team has become a vital part of the borough's education and health landscape.

MHST is made up of psychologists, social workers, therapists and wellbeing practitioners who offer early support for issues such as anxiety, low mood and behavioural challenges. The team currently works with around 40 schools and colleges across Redbridge – each assigned a dedicated Link Clinician and Education Mental Health Practitioner. Together, they deliver a wide range of support, including resilience workshops for students, trauma-informed training for staff and guided self-help sessions for parents and young people.

The team also hosts monthly Parents and Carers in Mind webinars, covering topics like anxiety, body image and social media, which hundreds of parents have rated highly. Their Break the Stigma campaign encourages open conversations about mental health across schools, homes and community spaces, including faith and cultural settings.

If you think your child could benefit from the MHST's support, check whether their school is involved and speak to their teacher or Senior Mental Health Lead. Or contact the team directly at **MHST@Redbridge.gov.uk**



Scan the QR code to find out more

## New year, new you!

### Stay active and healthy in Redbridge this winter

Staying fit and healthy is important all year round, but the colder months and the start of a new year are a perfect time to try something new and boost your wellbeing. Redbridge offers a wide range of activities and services to help residents stay active, connected, and motivated - many of them free and accessible to all.

Here are some great ways to keep fit and healthy in Redbridge:

**Wellbeing walks** – Free guided walks for adults, running from various parks and open spaces on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Led by qualified walk leaders, these walks offer gentle exercise, a chance to connect with local people, and the chance to enjoy nature. No booking required - just turn up.

**Gyms in Redbridge** – The borough is home to a wide selection of gyms, including both indoor facilities and free outdoor gyms in local parks. Redbridge also now offers Serenity, a newly opened women-only gym providing a supportive and empowering space to exercise.

**Inclusive hubs** – A welcoming space for individuals living with disabilities or mental health challenges. Monthly sessions across accessible venues include creative activities, gentle movement and opportunities to connect with others and local support services.

**Park runs in Redbridge** – Fun, friendly, and free weekly 5k runs open to all abilities at Valentines Park and Wanstead Flats. You can walk, jog, run, volunteer or cheer others on. Junior parkrun events are also available locally for children aged 4 –14.



**New Hainault skatepark** (opening spring 2026) – A brand-new skatepark is coming to Forest Road Recreation Ground, offering a fresh space for active fun and skill-building for residents of all ages.





# Become a Community Health Champion

## Be a voice for health in Redbridge

Community Health Champions are everyday people who live or work in Redbridge and care about the wellbeing of their community. These volunteers share trusted health information with family, friends, and neighbours - mostly through WhatsApp. It's a simple but powerful way to make sure important health messages and important local events reach people who might not otherwise see them.

As we relaunch the programme, we're inviting you to join the network of champions and tell us why Community Health Champions matter. By entering, you'll also be in with a chance to win some fantastic prizes.

### How to get involved:

1. Sign up to become a Community Health Champion using our online form
2. Look out for a welcome message on WhatsApp – make sure to save the number so you can receive future messages
3. Reply with a message telling us why Community Health Champions are important to Redbridge!

### Prizes include:

- Annual gym memberships at Vision Gym
- Spa vouchers
- Rocket Padel sessions

There's no age limit and no entry fee - just your voice and your passion for community health. The competition closes on Monday 5 January so sign up today:

[www.redbridge.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/community-health-champions](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/community-health-champions)

**HEALTHY**  
Redbridge



**Md Abdullah Mollah, owner of Caffè Milano is a community health champion**

# Festive fun returns with Redbridge's Winter HAF Programme

## Sign your child up to the free festive holiday club with meals and activities



This winter, Redbridge's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back, bringing festive cheer, creativity and exciting activities for children and young people across the borough.

Designed for families receiving benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM), HAF offers free access to enriching holiday clubs for children aged 4 to 16. Each day includes a nutritious hot meal, healthy snacks, and a wide range of engaging activities, including sports, games, arts, cooking and seasonal celebrations.

Redbridge HAF clubs are delivered by passionate teams at venues across the borough, ensuring families have access to safe, fun, and rewarding experiences close to home.



Photo:  
Redbridge  
HAF Team  
(Jam Activity  
Camp)

**Children and young people can learn new skills**

### Winter HAF sessions will run on:

**Monday 22 December**  
**Tuesday 23 December**  
**Tuesday 30 December**  
**Friday 2 January 2026**



Spaces are limited, so book your child's place now: <https://eequ.org/redbridgehaf>

Professional referrals are accepted. Learn more at: [www.redbridge.gov.uk/haf](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/haf)

### One parent said,



"The Redbridge Holiday Clubs gave my child structure, purpose, and joy over the break. They stayed active every day, learned practical skills and discovered new interests through creative and team-based activities. Most importantly, they grew in confidence and became more social. It turned the holidays into a time of real growth rather than boredom!"



# Council connects with residents at Community Activity Days

We are taking services and support directly to local people across the Borough. Our most recent events took place in Hainault and Barkingside.



As well as planting flowers to help brighten things up, officers from across the council were on hand and spoke with lots of residents about the various types of advice available, including how to find work, change jobs, and advice on financial support and benefits. Lots of people also opted to have a quick health check on the Healthy Bus.



**"This is a really lovely community event"** said Kathryn from St Paul's Church, Hainault, came to our buzzing community activity day, looking for things for her toddler group.



**Debbie, pictured on the right, from the Families Information Direct (FIND) service said,** "These events are so important as we can speak to people who need help, and point them in the right direction for childcare or other support for their family."

## What is a community activity day?

- Get benefits information and financial support
- Info and help available for families with young children
- Meet your local councillors and council teams
- Meet your local police officer



**Cllr Kam Rai meets a resident at the Barkingside Community Activity Day**

Got furniture, a fridge, or a big item to dump? Book a FREE bulky waste collection. at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/book-a-bulky-waste-collection/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/book-a-bulky-waste-collection/)

Book the Healthy Redbridge Bus to visit your community group [www.redbridge.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/healthy-redbridge-bus/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/healthy-redbridge-bus/)

Seen a fly-tip? Report it at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it/) or via the Love Clean Streets app

Interested in volunteering in Redbridge? [volunteering.communityactionredbridge.org.uk/](http://volunteering.communityactionredbridge.org.uk/)





# Working towards a whole borough that's **child-friendly**

We're on a mission to make Redbridge a child friendly borough – and have brought partners into the fold too

As part of our ongoing work to make Redbridge a recognised child friendly borough, we have been working with partners to help ensure children are heard and can make a meaningful impact on their environment, everywhere they turn. Here are a few ways our partnership work has been impacting local children's lives.



Having fun and making friends through Redbridge Youth Services



Partners and Young Advisors in Redbridge working together through the PANELS project to create lasting change for children and young people

## Redbridge Youth Service

Jenny, Senior Manager for youth services in Redbridge said,

"Redbridge Youth Service works with young people aged 11 – 18 (or up to age 24 for those with special educational needs or disabilities - SEND). We work with young people across the Borough offering informal education, issues-based discussions and learning, as well as fun activities.

"We have two youth centres - one in Loxford and one in Hainault. We also run SEND specific sessions, Duke of Edinburgh's Award (all three levels), detached sessions in parks and sessions with care-experienced young people.

"Redbridge Youth Council gives young people the opportunity to have their voices heard on matters that are important to them."

## Community Action Redbridge

Saeeda Bugtti, Youth Leadership Programme Manager, Community Action Redbridge said,

"At Community Action Redbridge, we are proud to be working in partnership with Child Friendly Redbridge to ensure children and young people's voices shape local priorities.

"Through the PANELS project, our Young Advisors have helped organise and run a world café-style workshop with 18 local stakeholders from statutory, voluntary, and NHS organisations, to explore how adults and young people can work together to improve health and wellbeing. They have also led online workshops and peer research with young people across the borough to understand what matters most to them, what good engagement with young people looks like, and how services can become more youth-friendly."

You can find out about the youth service, and get involved on our website

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/young-people/get-involved-see-what-s-on-for-you>

working towards  
**child friendly**  
Redbridge



[www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly)



# Spotlight on our local businesses

Redbridge is home to a vibrant mix of businesses that bring energy, creativity and care to our community. We spoke to three local entrepreneurs about their journey, their advice, and what makes Redbridge a great place to grow a business.



Alex stands outside the Woodford Bar & Grill

## The Woodford Bar & Grill

Alex and his team have been serving up great food, drinks and unforgettable nights in Woodford for a year. "We're a pub, but also a versatile event space - from weddings to corporate parties," **says Alex.** "Weekends come alive with music and atmosphere, and we're proud to be both family and dog-friendly." **He adds,** "Redbridge has a unique energy and strong community spirit. The local support, both from residents and fellow business owners, makes it a truly rewarding place to work and grow a business."

His advice to new entrepreneurs is "get involved in the community and understand your audience. Success here is built on genuine connection and consistency."

<https://www.thewoodfordbarandgrill.co.uk>



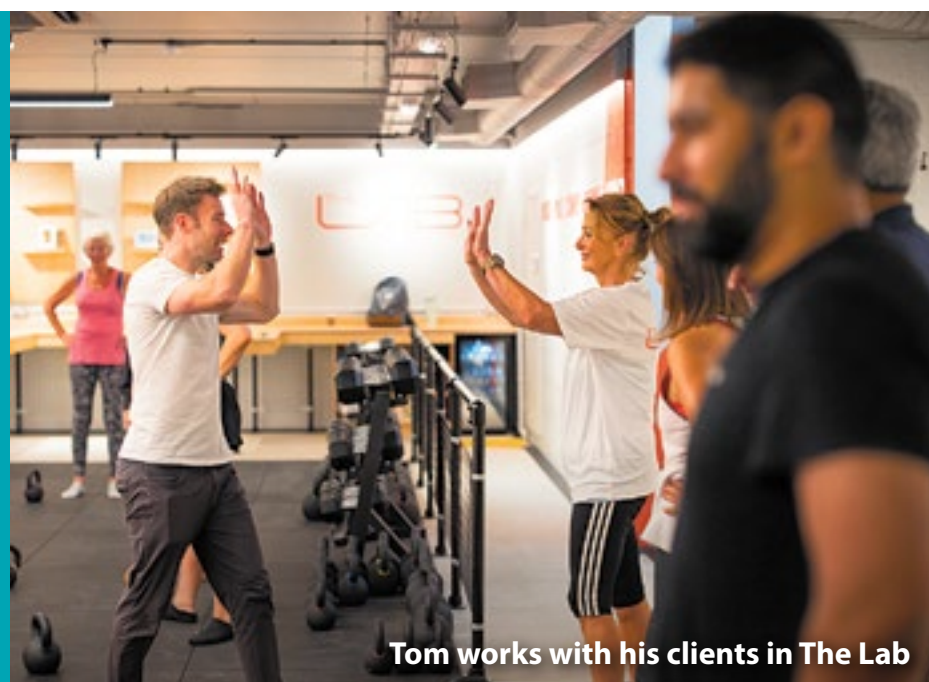
## The Lab Gym

Tom launched The Lab Gym in 2020 with just a backpack of weights, training clients in car parks and garages. His focus was on helping people move better, get stronger and build confidence through fitness. That drive has positioned him as the Padel Strength and Conditioning Coach for Team GB.

Now based inside Rocket Padel Ilford, The Lab has grown into a dedicated space for people of all levels. "Redbridge has grit and heart," **Tom says.** "The people here are determined and supportive. Running a business means becoming part of their lives, and that's something I really value."

"Start with what you have and build from there," **Tom says.** "I didn't have a polished gym or top-tier equipment, but I had a clear vision and a commitment to the people I trained. That made all the difference."

<https://www.thelabgyms.co.uk>



Tom works with his clients in The Lab



Valentina with her designs

## Vallenty Handmade

Valentina has been creating custom clothing for over 15 years, specialising in themed family wear for holidays, celebrations and special occasions. "I love turning ideas into reality," **she says.** "It's a joy to see how each piece comes to life and brings happiness to others."

Her business is rooted in passion and personal connection, shaped by years of experience and a deep love for design. Her advice to new entrepreneurs: "Believe in your idea, but plan realistically. Be patient, learn from mistakes and focus on quality and relationships. Passion and perseverance are key."

<https://vallenty.store>





# Friendship across the ages

Young scouts and older residents share stories, laughter and life lessons

A heartwarming new project in Redbridge, organised by the Public Health Team, is bringing young and old together through friendship, fun and shared experiences. Generations United has seen members of Ilford Muslim Society, 15th Ilford Scouts, aged 10 to 14, visiting residents of Oakfield Lodge care home over a 12 - week pilot. Each week, around 10 scouts join residents to swap stories, play games, and enjoy arts and crafts.

The project is all about connection. For the care home residents, it's a chance to spend time with young people, share memories and feel part of the wider community. For the scouts, it's an opportunity to build confidence, learn new skills and learn valuable life lessons from older generations – all while working towards their communication and volunteering badges.

Early feedback shows the visits are already making a real difference: residents are smiling more, feeling less isolated and forming meaningful bonds with the young visitors. The scouts, in turn, are enjoying the laughter, wisdom and stories shared by their older friends.

This is just the beginning. If the pilot is successful, the project will be rolled out to other care homes and scout groups across Redbridge, helping even more people come together and experience the magic of Generations United.



Members of the Ilford Muslim Society, 15th Ilford Scouts visit residents at Oakfield Lodge care home



SECURE YOUR RENT NOW!

RENTERS' RIGHTS ACT  
STARTS MAY 2026

- 1 Bedroom Property up to £1,500 pcm
- 2 Bedroom Property up to £2,000 pcm
- 3 Bedroom Property up to £2,500 pcm

\*Terms and Conditions Apply



Contact Us

0207 117 2671



# The Redbridge Review: 2025 in pictures

We provide over 400 services for communities in Redbridge. Here's a snapshot of some of our work this year.



**1** No one likes fly-tipping, and neither do we. This year, we've prosecuted **22 people**, and issued **430 fines** at £1,000 each to those caught dumping waste in our borough.

**2** Over **600 local people** took part in this year's ever Redbridge Photography Awards. The competition will be back next year, so keep your eyes peeled on our social media channels!

**3** We've repaired more than **10,300 potholes** across the borough this year, making journeys safer and smoother for everyone.

**4** We are delivering on our promise of **600 new council homes**, and are delighted that families are collecting keys and moving in just in time for Christmas.

**5** **2,327 children** have enjoyed our Holiday Activities and Food programme – offering fun, friendship and healthy meals during school holidays.

**6** **Three community activity days** have been held, with many more to come!

**7** Our hard-working waste and recycling teams have emptied over **10 million** recycling and waste bins this year.

**8** Students across Redbridge achieved excellent results again. **70% of secondary schools** rank in London's top half, and 35% of these are in the top quarter.

**9** Our libraries welcomed over **1.3 million visitors** and over **1.4 million books** were borrowed, the most in London.

**10** Over **10,000 children** enjoyed activities this year, from swimming and sports coaching sessions to theatre workshops, dance, and interactive library events through the popular Megamix programme.

**11** **Our Pre and Post Birth service launched**, providing support to vulnerable families from pregnancy through to a baby's first birthday.

**12** **Nine of our parks** were once again given a Green Flag award.



# Stay warm this winter with a **Warmer Homes Grant**

## Free or low-cost home improvements to help cut your energy bill

As the colder months approach, Redbridge residents could get help to make their homes warmer and more energy efficient.

The scheme offers free or low-cost improvements like loft and wall insulation, heating upgrades, solar panels, and even heat pumps. These upgrades can help keep your home cosy and reduce your energy bills.

If you qualify, a free home survey will be carried out to see what improvements are right for your property.

The Warmer Homes grant is funded by the UK government and delivered by the Mayor of London. It's part of a wider effort to help Londoners live in warmer, greener homes.



To find out more or apply, visit the Warmer Homes page on the London City Hall website or go to [redbridge.gov.uk/housing/home-improvement-grants](https://redbridge.gov.uk/housing/home-improvement-grants)



### You could be eligible if:

- You own or privately rent your home (not council housing)
- Your home has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D, E, F or G
- Your household income is below £36,000, or you receive certain benefits

## Join us for our next **VIRTUAL** Redbridge Landlord Forum

### Thursday 12 February From 7pm to 9pm

London Borough of  
**Redbridge**



- increase awareness of legislation, policy and procedures
- come and discuss your concerns with experts
- access training and information



Are you complying with your legal requirements for rented properties in Redbridge?

Want to know more about housing enforcement?

Unsure about your responsibilities as a landlord?

To reserve your place scan the QR code here or visit Eventbrite at:  
<https://RedbridgeLandlordForumFeb2026.eventbrite.co.uk>





# Foster for Redbridge Council

**We need people like you.**

It might feel like a big step, but when you foster for Redbridge Council, you're never in it alone.

You will have a dedicated supervising social worker to guide you every step of the way, you'll receive bespoke training and financial support and you'll become part of a welcome community of local foster carers.



**Foster for Redbridge Council**  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringlife](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringlife)  
020 8708 6068

