

# REDBRIDGE**LIFE**

EMPOWERING  
WOMEN TO  
FEEL SAFE

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NAME AND  
SHAME THESE  
FLY-TIPPERS

page 12



WINTER  
VACCINES NOW  
AVAILABLE

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## Supporting our neighbours through the cost of living crisis





## Redbridge Council Pest Control

### What we do

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

### Pests we treat and cost

Rats / Mice*	£142
Cockroaches	£175
Bedbugs*	£243
Pharaoh Ants*	£189
Garden Ants*	£108
Wasps* 1 nest	£72
subsequent nests	£40
Fleas*	£150
Commercial premises starting from (non-food premises only)	£204

### Pest control officers will

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

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

\* The charges for these services are reduced by 50 per cent for residential owner occupier who are in receipt of 85 per cent or more council tax reduction

## Are you selling your property?

We're currently buying 2,3,4 and 5 bedroom properties under our purchase and repair scheme.

### Interested?

To find out more, please contact our Property and Estates team via our email address on:

**estatesinstructions@redbridge.gov.uk**  
or telephone **020 8708 6684**

## HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings will be available to view online, and some 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 join online.

### Council Meetings

Thursday 22 September **7.15pm**  
Thursday 17 November **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](mailto:councilquestions@redbridge.gov.uk)

### Cabinet Meetings

Thursday 20 October **7.15pm**  
Monday 14 November **7.15pm**

### Scrutiny and Overview Committees

#### Overview Committee

Wednesday 19 October **7.15pm**

#### People Scrutiny Committee

Monday 17 October **6.30pm**

#### Education Scrutiny Panel

Monday 28 November **7.15pm**

### Place Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 29 September **7.15pm**  
Monday 17 October **8pm**

### Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 18 October **7.15pm**  
Tuesday 8 November **7.15pm**

### External Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 3 November **7.15pm**

### Committee Meetings Planning Committee

Wednesday 21 September **7.15pm**  
Monday 3 October **7.15pm**

### Pension Fund Committee

Friday 25 November **11.30am**

### Governance and Assurance Committee

Tuesday 22 November **7.15pm**

### Health and Wellbeing Board

Monday 21 November **2.15pm**

Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Havering Council, Town Hall, Main Road, Romford, RM1 3BB

For Council, Cabinet and Planning meetings, contact: **democratic.services@redbridge.gov.uk** (0208 708 2203)

For Overview and Scrutiny bodies, contact: **scrutiny@redbridge.gov.uk** (0208 708 2739)

For Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, contact: **anthony.clements@oneSource.co.uk**

### Produced by Redbridge Council

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**Next issue out in December**



# LEADER'S MESSAGE

## Welcome to the Autumn edition of Redbridge Life

### Dear residents,

The loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has had a resounding impact on so many of us across Redbridge, and I know many of you will be experiencing a very personal grief. Personally I have found attending vigils in our borough and hearing people share their fond memories of Her Majesty has helped immensely, and I hope you have all been able to find your own way of processing the loss of our Queen.

As we head into Autumn and the weather grows colder, I know many of our neighbours will be feeling trepidation over the rising cost of energy bills. The cost of living crisis has hit families across Redbridge hard and many who are struggling to make ends meet may feel they are facing an uncertain winter.

No child should ever go hungry, no family should struggle to heat their home, and no one should feel alone when times get tough.

That is why I've made sure our council is stepping up support in every way we can to help local people navigate through these challenging times.

So far our Welfare and Benefits team has helped put more than £750,000 of unclaimed benefits and support into the pockets of local people, but we appreciate that there is more to do. So we're funding community groups and charities, administering direct grants to local people and creating a one-stop-shop for welfare, work and financial advice. For more information on the support available please turn to pages 14 and 15.

As well as providing additional support for local people, our council is continuing to invest in the future of the borough – making sure everyone who lives in Redbridge has access to a top quality education, world-class sporting amenities to live healthier

lives, and beautiful parks and green spaces to enjoy all year round.

That's why we're pushing ahead with plans to deliver a new outdoor swimming lido in Valentines Park, doubling the size of Fairlop Waters, and creating clean-air zones around our local schools.

We believe in the future of Redbridge and are committed to making sure our borough is the best possible place to live, work and raise a family.

### Councillor Jas Athwal

Leader of Redbridge Council



## Redbridge Foodbanks offer lifeline to local people

National foodbank charity, the Trussell Trust, operate four foodbanks across Redbridge, providing much-needed food, essential items and toiletries to local people in need.

As the cost of living rises and times become tougher for many Redbridge residents, pressures on local foodbanks, which rely on volunteer support and donations, are increasing. You can support the foodbank by volunteering time or by donating essential items, please visit [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org) for more information.

Since 2020 Redbridge Council has contributed £575,000 to local foodbanks and charities to support local people, with an additional £120,000 of funding provided this summer.

Earlier this month, Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal met with volunteers at the Jubilee Church Foodbank in Ilford.



### Jocelyn Davis

"I was asked to start a small project here by the Church, that was 12 years ago – we just had a small cupboard with 4 shelves. Now we have a much bigger operation. The help we offer is so needed, we have a whole raft of people coming for help from all different walks of life. It is great to have passionate volunteers here to help us serve the community."



### James Webber

"I stopped working and had some free time, my friends who volunteered here encouraged me to come and see what it was like. I used to do a desk job but this is so different, it's a nice atmosphere and a way of doing some good."

### Charlene Butler

"It is a delight and a pleasure to volunteer at the foodbank, it really has changed my life. Just seeing the willingness and selflessness of volunteers has enriched my life – the kind-heartedness of people has inspired me."

# World-class university set to open a campus in Redbridge



Queen Mary University of London has announced it will open a new satellite campus in the heart of Ilford to teach medicine.

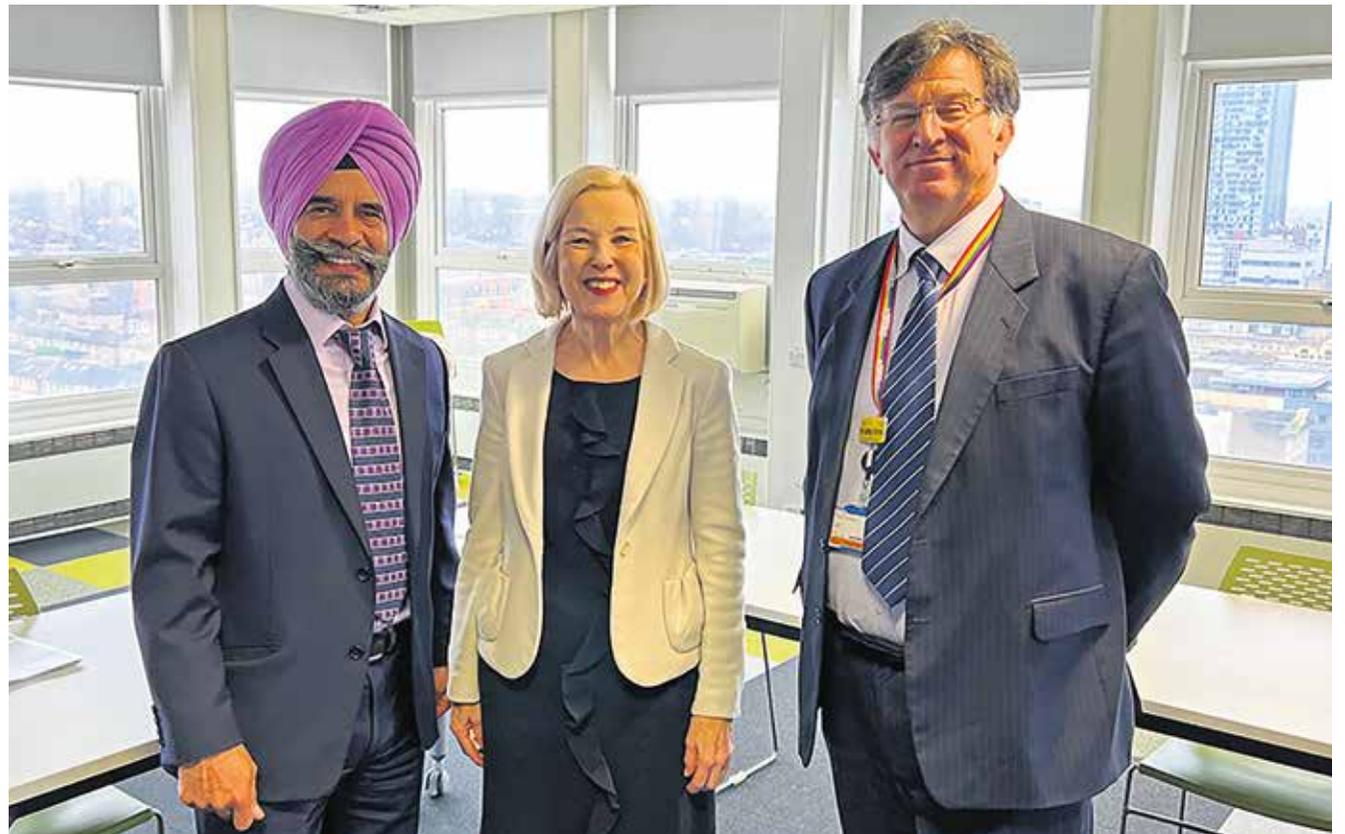
Having a world-class university in Ilford will open up doors for young people across Redbridge, giving them the opportunity to follow their dreams closer to home.

Redbridge has a proud history of educational excellence. We're home to some of the best schools in London and 95 per cent of our schools are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

As a first step, Queen Mary has taken space on the 12th floor of Lynton House, a Redbridge Council building located in central Ilford. The space will be used for educational purposes, enabling medical students to learn both in the classroom and in a mock ward environment.

Queen Mary University of London is ranked among the best universities in the country and is one of 24 leading UK universities who make up the prestigious Russell Group.

Active teaching is expected to take place in Ilford from 2023.



(L-R) Cllr Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge Council, Professor Stephanie Marshall, Vice Principal of Education at Queen Mary's, and Professor Anthony Warrens, Dean for Education/Director for Health Sciences Education at Queen Mary's

## Anyone for a game of tennis?



Tennis courts in 10 Redbridge parks will be improved thanks to investment from the Lawn Tennis Association.

The funding, which has been agreed in principle, will be used to upgrade 30 courts at parks including Barkingside Rec, Barley Lane Park, Clayhall Park, Elmhurst Gardens, Goodmayes Park, Loxford Park, Ray Park, Seven Kings Park, South Park, and Valentines Park.



**Cllr Kam Rai, Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, said:** "We've invested heavily in local leisure facilities to open-up a range of sports and fitness activities to local people

to help them stay fit and well. Thanks to grant funding from the Lawn Tennis Association, we're pleased to announce upgrade works to 30 tennis courts across Redbridge. We know there are some budding Andy Murrays and Emma Raducanus in our borough, and the Lawn Tennis Association's grant funding will help to open-up tennis to more local people through better courts and opportunities to receive coaching, including free sessions."

In addition to improving the quality of court surfaces, there will also be an enhanced local tennis programme, including free sessions.

The funding will also pay for access-controlled entry gates and an online booking system managed by Vision – the council's leisure partner – to ensure residents and groups can reserve slots online.

This will benefit players at peak times, maximise court usage, increase participation and support Vision's sustainable operation and maintenance of courts to a high standard.

The LTA and UK Government are jointly investing over £30 million to refurbish public tennis courts across Britain and support a new generation of players to get into the sport.

# Celebrating the talents of disabled people in Redbridge

Huge thanks to everyone who attended the annual Disability Awareness Festival – the day was a great success.

The free festival reached out to thousands of people to celebrate the talents and skills of people with disabilities, whilst spreading awareness and helping break down barriers between those with disabilities and the wider public.

Festival goers enjoyed various fun activities, including games, sports, live music, arts and crafts exhibitions, and a wide selection of food and drink. There was also a live performance from a Freddie Mercury tribute act.

The festival was organised by Redbridge Council and its partners at Vision, Uniting Friends, Redbridge Forum and One Place East.

The festival is now in its tenth year, having started in 2012 as a relatively small, low-key event, and has grown every year since. We look forward to seeing more residents there next year.



“Events like this are really important because it gives a sense of community and means that we can come to an event as a family where we recognise people and feel welcomed.”

**Adam**

Redbridge resident and father of a son with Autism



**Councillor Mark Santos, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, said:**

“The festival is a great opportunity to celebrate the lives of people with a disability in our community. The event also showcases the services provided by the council and our partners in the NHS and Voluntary sector, supporting people to live independent and fulfilling lives.”



## Redbridge in Conversation

The London Borough of Redbridge has an ambition to put the passion, skills and knowledge of our diverse communities at the heart of everything we do.

We are launching Redbridge in Conversation, bringing together all of the conversations the council is having with local people, businesses and visitors to our borough.

Redbridge in Conversation will empower local people to impact and be a part of the work Redbridge Council is doing to transform our borough into the best place to live, work and visit.

Our first Redbridge in Conversation event will take place on 6 October in Loxford and will focus on the cost of living crisis.

**When:**

Thursday 6 October

**Where:**

Loxford Polyclinic, 417 Ilford Lane, IG1 2SN

**Start time:**

4.30pm doors open

**Refreshments and cost of living update:**

5.30pm

The Household Support Fund team will be on hand to advise on council support with

meeting food, energy and water costs. The team can also advise on accessing essentials like warm clothing, sanitary products, soap, blankets, boiler servicing, or buying appliances like freezers and ovens. There will also be an opportunity to hear from the Leader of Redbridge Council Cllr Jas Athwal and ask any questions.

There will be entertainment for children and young people as well as refreshments.

Please join us to get advice, support, and share your opinions on how we can best work together to alleviate the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis.



<https://letstalkredbridge.uk.engagementhq.com/redbridge-in-conversation>

# Celebrate Black History Month



So many of you told us how inspiring and uplifting you found last year's culture and events offer during Black History Month. This year's programme is even more jam packed with events and activities for all ages throughout October.



**Carol Ellison, Chair of the LBR BAME Network, said:** "Black History Month represents knowing what makes us unique, and learning from our experiences as we strive to grow and improve for the future."

## Black History Month celebrations will run from 1-31 October, and highlights include:

### 1 October

**Black Brits Community Fair** is back with a two-day extravaganza celebrating the best of black British culture. On Saturday, the fair will be packed with information stalls, advice sessions and seminars on health and wealth, business and entrepreneurship, personal development, mental health and wellbeing.

**Open 12pm-5pm**

**Entry is FREE at Redbridge Central Library**

### 2 October

**Black Brits Community Fair** will be filled with music and delicious food. On Sunday, stalls by local entrepreneurs will feature fashion, jewellery, skin care, beauty products, soft furnishings, gardenwear, arts and educational products.

A fun day for all of the family!

**Open 10am-6pm**

**Entry is £2 per adult and £1 per child at Redbridge Central Library**

### 15 October

Ilford will be hosting a **Food Festival**. Join them on Ilford High Road next to Redbridge Town Hall for a day of **FREE** activities **from 12pm**. The event will feature live music and dance performances, market stalls and family trails. A full schedule can be found at: [www.inilford.com/events/ilford-food-festival](http://www.inilford.com/events/ilford-food-festival)



### 22 October

#### Ageless Teenagers BHM Rice & Peas Tea Party

Enjoy Caribbean cuisine and entertainment with ITV's number one people's project in London, (voted by the public), 'Ageless Teenagers'. The event also includes complimentary tea/coffee, a rice and peas lunch plus dessert. During the afternoon, residents can enjoy raffle giveaways, live entertainment, dancing and more.

**Open 12pm-5pm, £15 entry**

**Mayfield School/Leisure Centre, Kinfauns Road, Ilford Essex IG3 9QN**  
**FREE parking**

Email: [info@agelessteenagers.com](mailto:info@agelessteenagers.com)  
or visit: [www.agelessteenagers.com](http://www.agelessteenagers.com)

### 22 October

#### Pop 'n' Paint The Pride of Africa

Create a stunning portrait using the map of Africa for you to take home. Vibe to the rhythmic sounds of Afrobeats and learn some fun facts about black history, whilst playing fun games!

**1pm-3pm**

**Suitable for 14 years and under, and costs £10 per child at Fullwell Cross library**

### 16 October

#### Black Victorians Exhibition

is an engaging and curious dance performance that highlights and celebrates the diverse black presence in 19th and early 20th century Britain.

Inspired by 19th century studio photographs of black men, women and children, the piece explores a complex and often forgotten black presence in pre-Windrush Britain. Portraits will be on display 1-15 October at Redbridge Central Library.

**Performances at 1pm & 3pm**  
**Ilford High Road, FREE to all**

### 24-28 October

#### Black Entertainment Past, Present and Future

Young people can join an exciting workshop exploring the contribution of black people to the entertainment industry, and 13-18 year olds will have the opportunity to design and create a digital game with black characters during half term. **10am-3.30pm, Monday-Friday** at Cranbrook Baptist Church, Wellesley Road, Ilford, IG1 4JT. Please contact AWSG Youth (Adanna Women's Support Group) and book via [adannawomensgroup@gmail.com](mailto:adannawomensgroup@gmail.com)

### 29 October

#### Pop 'n' Paint Superhero Saturday

Transform yourself into a superhero and create a cool portrait to take home. Vibe to the latest party tunes and learn some fun facts about black history, whilst playing fun games!

**1pm-3pm**

**Suitable for 14 years and under costs £10 per child at Redbridge Central library**

Redbridge Libraries  
are hosting a programme  
of events and activities  
for Black History Month  
during the month of  
**OCTOBER**

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Join us for

- Arts & Crafts
- Storytelling
- Workshops
- Book Chat
- Author Talks
- Entrepreneurs Market

For the full programme of events visit

[www.visionrcl.org.uk/blackhistorymonth](http://www.visionrcl.org.uk/blackhistorymonth)



London Borough of  
**Redbridge**

*Vision*  
Redbridge Culture & Leisure



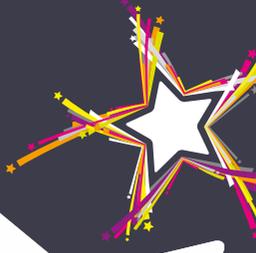
## REDBRIDGE FABULA FESTIVAL

3-8 October

**FABULA** FESTIVAL

**Fabula Festival** is a unique celebration of arts and libraries and their power to transform lives. Join us during Libraries Week for a lively programme of performances, children's events, author talks, workshops and the very best in literature, music, drama, dance, film, art and technology.

There's something for all ages, tastes and abilities! For more information visit [www.visionrcl.org.uk/fabula](http://www.visionrcl.org.uk/fabula)



## Active Stars

managed by Vision Redbridge Culture & Leisure

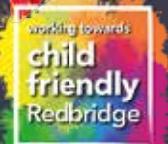


### 12 WEEKS TO BE A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER FAMILY

Free, fun family-focused healthy lifestyle course for 4 – 11 year olds and their families.

Come along to access 12 weeks of healthy eating and lifestyle advice, healthy cooking sessions and behaviour change support along with fun games and physical activity sessions!

Let us help you create long-term healthy habits for your family to help you feel great and live your best life!



*Vision*  
Redbridge Culture & Leisure

For further information:  
[www.visionrcl.org.uk/activestars](http://www.visionrcl.org.uk/activestars)  
[activestars@visionrcl.org.uk](mailto:activestars@visionrcl.org.uk)





# Eye in the sky over Redbridge is keeping you safe

**SAFER**  
Redbridge

In the skies above Redbridge, there is a high-tech network of CCTV cameras watching 24/7 to keep people in our borough safe. While most people think CCTV cameras are only used to prevent crime, their usefulness goes far beyond that.

## Top 10 interesting facts about the Redbridge CCTV network



The number of cameras covering our borough increased from **239 in 2012 to 721 in 2022**. That's a 202 per cent increase. Redbridge is within the top 10 for best coverage of all 33 London boroughs.



Our camera network has geographical reach across the whole borough, with **most cameras located near high footfall areas** such as town centres and high streets. The main towns covered are Ilford, Seven Kings, Goodmayes, Barkingside, Gants Hill, Manford Way, Wanstead, Woodford and South Woodford.



Our CCTV team support the council's enforcement team with **live information about issues** such as fly-tipping to catch offenders in the act. Live coverage has also been used to catch shoplifters, and in some instances, the operators have been able to **deploy police to serious violent incidents and drug dealing incidents**, or alert police to people carrying weapons, and therefore preventing serious incidents from occurring.



Quite a few CCTV control room staff have **worked in either the security or emergency services**.



CCTV operators undergo **ongoing training and accreditations** to keep them sharp. They are also required to obtain specific traffic management qualifications. Operators also develop enhanced observational skills which enables them to **identify key characteristics and mannerisms of offenders**.



We have **invested more than £1 million** upgrading the network from low-tech analogue cameras to mainly high-quality, high-definition digital cameras. Some have 32x zoom which means the sharpness of the images they produce can be crucial to securing convictions.



We have provided more than **14,500 hours of CCTV footage** to the police in one year supporting them to **find and convict offenders**.



In November 2021, we launched our mobile CCTV vehicle (The CCTV Challenger) which can be deployed anywhere in the borough, acting as a **highly visible presence** to reassure communities and deter anti-social behaviour.



**Cllr Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Crime, Safety and Community Cohesion, said:**



"We have invested heavily in increasing the council's CCTV network across Redbridge and ensuring that it is monitored 24/7 to help deter criminals and to support the police in tracking down offenders and bringing them to justice. Helping to keep our neighbours and local communities safe is one of our top priorities, and our investment in our borough's CCTV network is part of our wider work with our partners to crack-down on crime."



**Wall of Shame** – which shows footage of people committing environmental crimes – uses footage from our CCTV control room.



**Our CCTV operators have also helped people at risk**, including those who have fallen ill, and they have also referred rough sleepers to services. Operators actively monitor areas to make sure lone females are safe. Plus, they provide **evidential CCTV footage** to insurance firms and solicitors to assist in civil claims, as well as providing footage to police to capture and prosecute offenders.

# Women's Safety and Empowerment in Redbridge



Addressing violence against women remains a priority for the council as we continue working towards making Redbridge a healthier, cleaner and safer place to live, work and visit.

Women's safety was one of the priority areas that emerged from the ground-breaking Redbridge Community Crime Commission, which conducted one of the largest public consultations in the history of the borough last year. As part of the consultation, the Redbridge Community Crime Commission ran a women's safety survey which revealed that 65 per cent of women and girls in Redbridge have felt unsafe when out in our borough.

## Cllr Saima Ahmed, Redbridge Women's Champion, said:

"We know from listening to shared experiences, meeting and engaging with local women from across our borough that violence against women and girls remains widespread in our society.



"As Women's Champion, I am working closely with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Crime, Safety and Community Cohesion on a range of initiatives in partnership with the police adopting a multi sectoral approach, and including the community to help make women living, studying and working in Redbridge be and feel safer."

## Taking Action

As part of our commitment to tackling violence against women and girls, the council has been hosting women's safety walks across the borough. These walks provide an opportunity for women and girls to identify places where they do not feel safe and to share suggestions and ideas on how these spaces can be improved. As a direct result of feedback from the walks we've taken action, improving street lighting, rolling out CCTV, and cutting back overgrown foliage.

This follows the installation of two Enforcement Hubs in Hainault and Ilford, bringing police and council enforcement officers into the community and deterring criminal behaviour. A third Mobile Enforcement Hub patrols the borough, targeting crime hotspots and providing a reassuring presence.

The police have also been putting on 'Walk and Talk' events across the borough, and holding walk-in sessions in local libraries in Woodford, Wanstead, Ilford and Gants Hill.

For more information on crime and community safety please visit the council website, at:  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/crime-and-public-safety](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/crime-and-public-safety)

If you witness a crime or have concerns over someone's safety, report it to the police on **101** or if it's an emergency always call **999**.



## Empowering local communities

We're fortunate in Redbridge to have fantastic community groups working to engage and empower women and girls, and create safe and healthy environments.

### Why not join a local group and find out more?

- Walk It Out, founded in 2021, creates safe spaces for women to walk and cycle together in local parks, as well as providing mentoring and workshops for women and girls. Find out more on their instagram page, at: [@walk\\_it\\_out](https://www.instagram.com/walk_it_out)
- East London based Adanna Women's Group aims to empower women through education and business enterprise, and hosts monthly zoom meetings. They are currently looking for mentors. For more information, visit: [www.adannawomensupportgroup.com](http://www.adannawomensupportgroup.com)

There are also various female-only physical activity initiatives in Redbridge which are a great way to meet new people and work on fitness in a positive and safe environment.

- Muslimah Sports Association offers women a safe and positive environment to participate in a number of different sports without compromising their religious or cultural beliefs, including football, badminton and triathlon. For more information, visit: [www.muslimahsports.org.uk](http://www.muslimahsports.org.uk)
- Redbridge Council's Leisure partner Vision offers a female-only BoxFit class on Tuesdays at Hainault Youth Centre for girls aged 14–18 years accompanied by an adult relative.
- All Star Kickboxing Academy in Woodford runs several female-only classes and offer free taster sessions. For more information, visit: [www.allstarkickboxing.com](http://www.allstarkickboxing.com)

# Enjoy Autumn in our stunning Redbridge parks

As we move into Autumn and the leaves begin to change colour, why not explore the wonderful green spaces in Redbridge before the shorter winter days set in?

Across Redbridge, there are more than 40 parks and open spaces, from local play parks to huge country parks, offering a huge variety of activities including children's play areas, outdoor gyms, cafes and sports facilities, including tennis courts and cricket pitches.

We recognise the value that parks bring to our borough and the importance of local people and visitors having areas to enjoy nature and unwind. That's why the council has invested extensively in Redbridge parks, delivering new playgrounds, outdoor gyms and sporting facilities, plus nature conservation projects and accessibility upgrades like new paving and lighting, making sure our parks can be enjoyed by everyone.

To keep our parks safe, the council launched a mobile park patrol service earlier this year called Park Guard to prevent and detect anti-social behaviour. The patrol is on duty seven days a week providing support and assistance to park visitors in partnership with the police, Redbridge Council's enforcement teams, friends of parks groups, and volunteers.

Our commitment to local parks has been recognised by the prestigious Green Flag Awards, with nine of our parks once again receiving Green Flags, acknowledging their high quality, conservation efforts, community involvement and the hard work of park staff.

**Cllr Kam Rai, the Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, and Cabinet Member for Finance, Leisure, and Culture, said:**



"Our parks and green spaces are havens, places local families can enjoy, people can visit, and wildlife can thrive. We are committed to investing in our parks, making improvements so they can be enjoyed now and for years to come. It's a great honour to have our parks recognised once again with Green Flag Awards, a testament to the hard work of our incredible volunteers and park staff."



**Cllr Kam Rai and Cllr Jas Athwal with Park Guard officers patrolling in Redbridge**

## Things to do in Redbridge Parks



Visit one of the largest **outdoor gyms** in London in Valentines Park



Give **bouldering** a go at London's biggest boulder park in Fairlop Waters



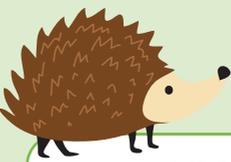
Indulge at one of our many **park cafes**



Test out your serve at one of the **tennis courts** in Barley Lane Recreation Ground



Have fun **skateboarding** in Seven Kings skate park



**Spot wildlife** at Roding Valley Park



Follow in the footsteps of a king in **Henry VIII's old hunting ground** in Hainault Forest



**Rent out a row boat** in Valentines Park or see if you've got what it takes to **sail** in Fairlop Waters

# Take pedal power up a gear for **Cycle to School Week**



Cycle to School Week takes place from 3 to 7 October and we're encouraging schools and families across the borough to use pedal power to get to school as part of the national campaign.

Organised by The Bikeability Trust, in partnership with Sustrans, Cycle to School Week celebrates cycling and the positive health and environmental benefits it brings.

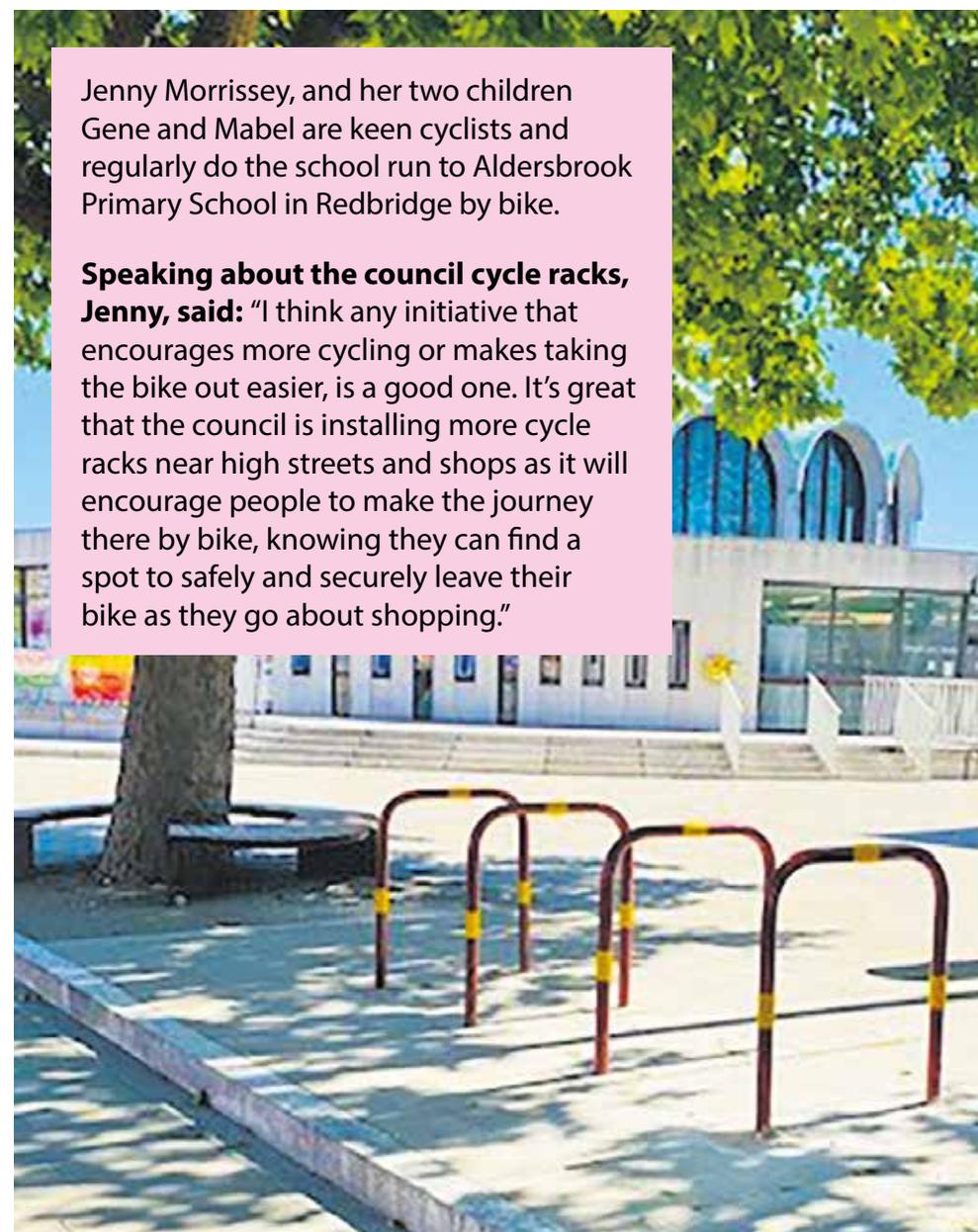
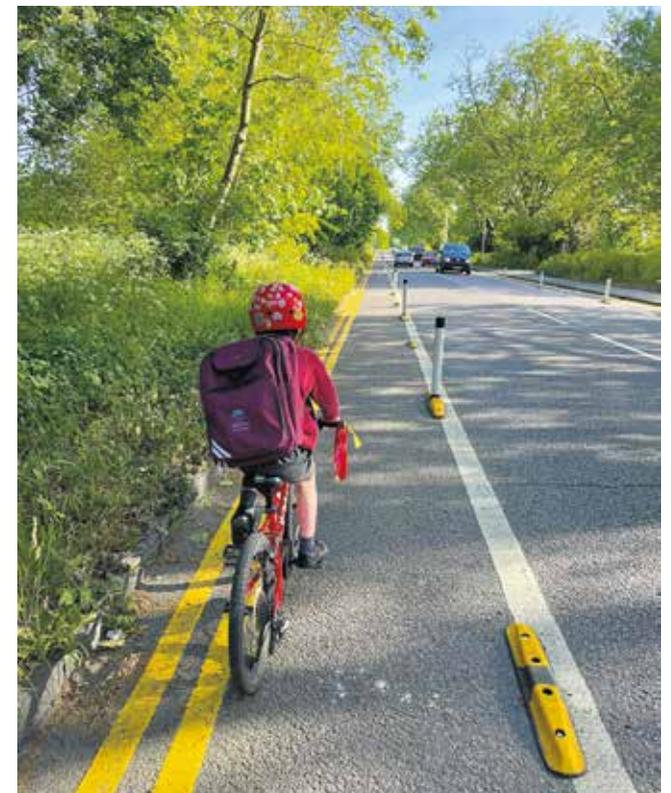
This year participants can choose between pledging to swap one car journey for cycling, cycle to school every day, cycle with their family or discover somewhere new on a cycle ride.

To make travelling with your bike even easier, we have also installed more than **100 new cycle racks** across the borough, offering residents safe and secure parking spots for bicycles to encourage more eco-friendly trips to local high streets and nearby amenities.

You can make your pledge via: [www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek](http://www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek)

Everyone making a pledge will be entered into a prize draw to win a brand new Frog City 61 Bike.

**On your bikes, get set, go!**



Jenny Morrissey, and her two children Gene and Mabel are keen cyclists and regularly do the school run to Aldersbrook Primary School in Redbridge by bike.

**Speaking about the council cycle racks, Jenny, said:** "I think any initiative that encourages more cycling or makes taking the bike out easier, is a good one. It's great that the council is installing more cycle racks near high streets and shops as it will encourage people to make the journey there by bike, knowing they can find a spot to safely and securely leave their bike as they go about shopping."

## Over 60?

Being active can help you stay healthy, energetic and independent as you get older.

We have something for everyone.

- Wellbeing Walks
- Group Exercise Classes
- Become a member, includes swimming, gym and group exercise classes for just £30 per month.



For further information:  
[visionrcl.org.uk/over60s](http://visionrcl.org.uk/over60s)  
[active.redbridge@visionrcl.org.uk](mailto:active.redbridge@visionrcl.org.uk)



# Redbridge Wall of Shame is catching grime crime offenders and deterring fly-tippers

**CLEANER**  
Redbridge

Since its launch earlier this year, Redbridge Wall of Shame has led to the identification of several grime crime offenders and helped reduce fly-tipping in previous hotspot locations.

**OUR STREETS**  
Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods

**REDBRIDGE**  
**WALL OF SHAME**

W-AUG-02 W-AUG-21 W-AUG-48 W-AUG-54 W-AUG-58  
W-AUG-60 W-AUG-62 W-AUG-74 W-AUG-79

**If you can help identify any of the culprits, please contact us on:**  
**Cleansing.Services@redbridge.gov.uk**

Redbridge Wall of Shame has become a powerful resource in the fight against fly-tipping, empowering local people to help bring fly-tippers to justice by reporting anyone they can identify from clips showing people dumping rubbish on the street.

Over the last six months since launching, on average an offender a month has been identified from the Wall of Shame and issued with £400 fines as a result of public tip-offs from those who viewed the clips.

The initiative has also seen a positive impact in two Ilford locations. Dudley Road and Ley Street previously regularly featured on the Wall of Shame as a hotspot for people dumping rubbish. Both locations have since seen a reduction in fly-tipping following us publicising images of culprits caught on camera dumping their rubbish at those locations.

Head to Redbridge Wall of Shame to view footage of offenders from our latest edition:  
**wallofshame.redbridge.gov.uk**

If you can help identify any of the culprits, please contact us on:  
**Cleansing.Services@redbridge.gov.uk**

Redbridge Wall of Shame forms part of the council's ongoing work to create a cleaner Redbridge, which includes fining or prosecuting any individual or business caught illegally discarding their rubbish on the borough's streets.

Enforcement action is also coupled with other council-led fly-tipping initiatives, including community engagement work, free online workshops on reducing and disposing of waste properly, and targeted fly-tipping operations.

The council also offers a Bulky Waste Collection Service entitling residents to a free collection every 12 months (maximum of 3 items). For more details, including costs for additional collections go to: **www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling**

Residents can easily report any fly-tips they spot in the borough online through the council's Report It page:  
**www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it**

All fly-tips made known to the council are recorded and investigated, with enforcement action being taken if evidence is found. The council aims to clear all recorded fly-tips on council land and the highway within 24 hours of it being reported.

# Brave Binmen save Ilford family

The quick thinking and bravery of a Redbridge Council refuse crew led to the rescue of three children and a young adult trapped inside a burning Ilford home.

Nick Gardner, a refuse HGV driver from Southend, and Mark Hewitt, a refuse loader from Dagenham, were on their daily round when they spotted a fire on Mortlake Road, Ilford.

Nick said: "It was just a typical Monday morning until we saw smoke billowing out of this property. When we stopped and pulled the handbrake, I think it alerted the young boy in the front top bedroom. I shouted to tell him to keep his head outside the window, as his room was filling up with smoke. I think a neighbour gave me a ladder, and we managed to get the young lad outside to safety."

"I then kicked the front door through, and it was like a scene from London's Burning, the TV programme from years ago. At that point, two young boys darted through the front door to safety."

Mark said: "It all happened so quickly. I think the two young boys who managed to escape through the front door showed great bravery in my eyes. If we hadn't been driving down Mortlake Road that morning, I shudder to think what might have happened."



**Nick Gardner (left) and Mark Hewitt (right) pictured at Ley Street Depot**

## Keeping our residents and streets safe

Redbridge Life caught up with Raul Isla from our Enforcement Team in Barkingside High Street, who has been a street scene enforcement officer with Redbridge since 2019.

Raul's role is very proactive, with a strong focus on following up and resolving complaints from councillors, residents and businesses about issues ranging from fly-tipping to people trading without pavement licenses. Raul's patch can include anywhere in the borough from Seven Kings, Ilford and Gants Hill, to Hainault.

Raul has also been called upon to support the council's anti-social behaviour team, including a stint on Ilford Lane.

Raul always tries to adopt an education-based approach when dealing with any issues. "I love this job because we're helping make the borough a better place for people. And just our presence at times can reassure people and help diffuse situations."

"I'm proud that we do our best to educate members of the public when we approach them about any issues."

"For example, if a local trader has cluttered the high street with rubbish, we will speak to them and make them aware of their responsibilities. Nine out of ten people listen, meaning they avoid receiving any fixed penalty notices."

"I recently attended a festival in the borough where I met a monk from a Hindu Monastery. It gave me a fascinating insight, and that type of cultural learning helps me immensely in doing my job effectively," he said.

And there is a light-hearted side to Raul as he chuckles at a story about a local Elvis impersonator.

"We have this guy who turns up in our town centres with a loud amplified speaker to belt out some of Elvis Presley's greatest hits."

"He tries his best, but we must think of the local businesses – and people's ears! He always takes it in good spirits when we move him on. It's all in a day's work," he said.

**SAFER  
Redbridge**



**Raul Isla on his beat**

# Cost of living crisis:

## how we can support you during these challenging times

We know that many local people are now facing the stark reality of soaring expenses as the cost of living increases.

### FREE community drop-in sessions

The Loxford Primary Care Network (PCN) has teamed up with a variety of organisations to offer residents additional support to help improve well-being during these challenging times.

The PCN team is formed of Social Prescribers who can offer help such as accessing transportation, the Household Support Fund, or benefits. Teams can also provide help and advice on domestic abuse or mental health. Every Thursday different specialists' teams are available to discuss your needs at the Loxford Polyclinic.

A recent attendee described how she was suffering from social isolation and anxiety due to the COVID-19 lockdown. After talking to one of the PCN's Social Prescribers she was referred to Talking Therapies. Whilst waiting for her referral, the team assisted her with a taxi-card to increase her opportunities to venture out of her house, and techniques to help overcome her social isolation.

During a follow-up phone call, she said: "You will never guess where I am... I'm at Redbridge Library, booking a class to help me get out there again!"

Another pensioner told the team that he was extremely worried about the cost of living and providing food for himself and his wife. The PCN's Social Prescriber put him forward for the Household Support Fund.

He said: "I feel thankful to be able to make a difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society during their difficult times."

**The pop-up clinics are in the community corner of the Loxford Polyclinic.** Every Thursday they will host different specialist teams to help you find a way through these challenging times. Feel free to drop by, no appointment necessary.



## Here are some ways that you can get help

### Go Green Grant

One way to save money on energy bills is with the free installation of energy-efficient home improvements. You may be able to save up to £600 on your bills. For more information, please visit: [www.redbridge.gov.uk/go-green](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/go-green)



### Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund is available to support families in crisis. It is available through the benefits team, social workers, education welfare officers and Citizens Advice Redbridge. We also hold drop in sessions in different parts of the borough from time to time. We make awards to help households pay for food, energy bills, water and wider essentials such as white goods.

### Reducing bills and making your home warmer

For advice on reducing energy bills, making your home warmer and greener, and information on personalised energy grants.

For further information, visit: [www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/energy-efficiency/reduce-bills](http://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/energy-efficiency/reduce-bills)

### The following sessions can offer help and advice on:

#### Social Prescribing

Thursday 22 September 2022  
9.30am–11.30am

#### Housing & benefits

Thursday 29 September 2022  
9.30am–11.30am

#### Social isolation

Thursday 6 October 2022  
9.30am–11.30am

#### Health & wellbeing

Thursday 13 October 2022  
9.30am–11.30am

#### Disabilities & dementia

Thursday 20 October 2022  
9.30am–11.30am

#### Mental health & domestic abuse

Thursday 27 October 2022  
9.30am–11.30am

### Foodbanks

Since 2020 we have supported local foodbanks and local community support groups with almost £700,000 worth of funding in order to help get food and other essential items to those most in need.

If you need support please get in touch with the council's welfare benefits team on **020 8708 4180** to request a Trussell Trust Foodbank voucher in an emergency.



## Work Redbridge

Work Redbridge provides information, advice and guidance to any Redbridge resident aged 18+ looking for support to get into work, training, volunteering or self-employment. They also support those in work who are looking to increase their hours, change careers or find more secure employment.

Work Redbridge can help secure you an apprenticeship, a real job where you earn while you learn, gain experience and work towards a qualification.

For further information, visit:  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge/)

## Rent and Council Tax

If residents find themselves struggling to pay rent, they may be able to get help with their housing costs through universal credit or, in some circumstances, housing benefits, and help with council tax payments through the council tax reduction scheme.

For further information, visit:  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/benefits)

## Children's centres in Redbridge 2022

If you live in Redbridge and you are expecting a baby or have children aged 0 to 4 years (up to eight years for babies and children with SEND) your local children's centre is ready to help with information, advice and access to services and activities.

Find out more at:  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk)

## Free school meals

We know that things are tough for many of you at the moment, so it might be worth finding out if your child is eligible for free school meals.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a hot free school meal. However, if you receive state benefits and your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, please also make a formal application for free school meals as by doing so, your child's school will receive additional funding.

If your child is in Year 3 or above (including secondary aged children), and you receive one of the qualifying benefits, you should make an application for free school meals.

Apply now at: [www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/free-school-meals/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/free-school-meals/)

## Mental health support

Mental health problems can affect any of us. Taking care of your mental wellbeing can help you to cope with life's problems and allow you to enjoy the good things!

Now, more than ever, it is important that we take as much care of our mental wellbeing as we do our physical health.

For further information, visit:  
[mylife.redbridge.gov.uk/mental-health](http://mylife.redbridge.gov.uk/mental-health)



## Lunch clubs

We have lunch clubs that are open to anyone who lives in Redbridge, and offer a two-course hot meal for just £4.22.

The lunch clubs are as much about socialising as the tasty hot meals on offer, and we often see people making new friends when they attend.

You can also take part in fun activities like card games, chess, and bingo at each of the locations.

The location and times are below:

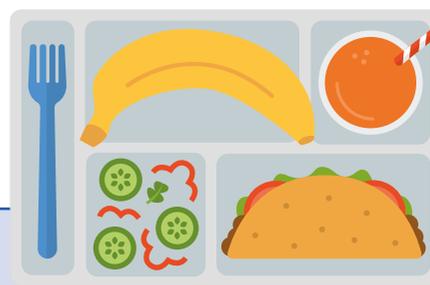
### St John's Church and Centre

St John's Road  
Seven Kings  
IG2 7BB  
Tuesdays from 10am–2pm

### Goodmayes Community Centre

616C Green Lane  
Goodmayes  
IG3 9SE  
Tuesdays and Fridays from 12.15pm–2.30pm  
(provided in partnership with Goodmayes Residents Association)

If you would like to attend one of the lunch clubs, please call **0208 501 2220** or email [dayopportunities@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:dayopportunities@redbridge.gov.uk)



## Redbridge Council

is committed to providing help, support and advice in light of increased energy, food and fuel prices.

For more information about ways to save money and support available from the council and Government, please visit:

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

## Putting money in your pocket

Our welfare benefits team has helped put more than £750,000 of unclaimed benefits and support into the pockets of local families.

They can help residents maximise their income through benefits, and provide advice and support on a full range of available schemes to help residents through the cost of living crisis.

For further information, visit:  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/benefits/welfare-benefits-and-support](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/benefits/welfare-benefits-and-support)



# Redbridge Education Awards

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Redbridge Education Awards – recognising people in Redbridge who support young people to achieve extraordinary futures!

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to nominate people in the borough who you feel make a difference to the children and young people in Redbridge. Whether they are a childminder, teacher, work in a nursery or support in schools – if they have had a positive impact, then please tell us.

**The awards include categories such as teacher of the year, inclusivity award and champions for change.**

We have launched these awards to give recognition to those who may not always be celebrated the way they deserve. Our shortlisted nominees will be invited to a ceremony in April 2023 for an evening of entertainment, dining, and special guests and speakers.

Anyone who lives in Redbridge can nominate in one or more of our categories. The easiest way to do this is on our website: [www.redbridge.gov.uk/redbridge-education-awards](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/redbridge-education-awards). If you need help with nominating, please visit your local library who can help you, or contact: [educationawards@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:educationawards@redbridge.gov.uk)



Our lead sponsor for this year's event is Parker Smith Inclusion, who are an ethical, people-focused recruitment consultancy entirely dedicated to special educational needs or disabilities. Additional sponsors include HSBC, Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure and Wanstead Golf Club.

**Nominations for the 14 categories are open from 21 September 2022 and close on 9 January 2023**

## Time to apply for your child's school place now

Redbridge is home to exceptional schools, with 95 per cent of schools in our borough rated either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

### Back to school or starting school?

If your child is starting school for the first time in September 2023, transferring from infant to junior school in 2023, or transferring from primary to secondary school in September 2023, you must apply for their school space online at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/eadmissions](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/eadmissions) from 1 September 2022.

It is important that you let us know your six preferred schools before the deadline or you are unlikely to get a place at a school you chose. If you do not have access to the internet, you can book an appointment at Redbridge Central Library on **020 8708 2414** for help with your application.

Please be aware of the relevant admission arrangements when you make your application from 1 September 2022 and ensure that you read the Admission Arrangements 2023-2024 on the Redbridge website to understand the oversubscription criteria for the schools you are applying for.

### Infant to Junior School

Applications open 1 September 2022  
Applications deadline 15 January 2023  
National Offer Day 17 April 2023

### Primary School

Applications open 1 September 2022  
Applications deadline 15 January 2023  
National Offer Day 17 April 2023

### Secondary School

Applications open 1 September 2022  
Applications deadline 31 October 2022  
National Offer Day 1 March 2023



### Last month pupils across Redbridge received their A-Level and GCSE results.

A-Level results in the borough showed an impressive 21 per cent of students achieving AAB+ and an average points score per entry of 35.4.

### GCSE results showed that:

- 68 per cent of pupils achieved grades 5 or above in English and mathematics GCSEs
- the average attainment 8 score is 57.6
- 55 per cent of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate
- the average EBacc APS score per pupil is 5.32.

We want to offer thanks and congratulations to all our schools, teachers, support staff, students and parents for their dedication, sacrifice and hard work.



# ADULT COURSE GUIDE 2022/23 ENROLLING NOW



**Upskill  
Retrain  
Gain**  
a qualification

Free skills training  
for residents

Choose from a range of part-time courses including; Digital Skills, Maths, English and ESOL, and qualification courses including Bookkeeping, Business, Childcare and Counselling. Most of these courses are FREE\* to Redbridge residents. (\*subject to eligibility criteria)

We also offer a range of other Personal Development short courses for adults including Creative and Visual arts and health.

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



Scan me

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

020 8550 2398 | [enquiries@redbridge-iae.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@redbridge-iae.ac.uk)   

# £830,000 COUNCIL FUNDING PLEDGE to boost borough's resilience to flooding

**A range of flood alleviation measures are being installed across Redbridge over the next few years to increase the borough's resilience to flooding, and create a safer Redbridge for local people.**

The move by Redbridge Council comes as the risk of flash floods occurring more frequently increases as a consequence of climate change, and follows last year's widespread flash floods, which impacted neighbourhoods in Redbridge and across London.

**£830,000** of funding has been ringfenced by the council to help support a package of flood defence measures.

The money will introduce flood alleviation schemes in areas previously seriously affected by flooding, and ensure the borough's risk management and surface water management plans remain up to date.

Among the proposals being considered is the installation of a flood alleviation scheme at Westwood Recreation Ground in Seven Kings.

Rain gardens are also being designed for areas affected by last July's flash floods.

Rain gardens capture rainwater, trapping it where it falls so excess water can be drained away or absorbed through greenery to reduce the amount of water entering the sewer systems.

Work has also taken place in Hurstleigh Gardens, in collaboration with the Environment Agency, to reduce the risk of flooding to over 100 homes in the Clayhall area that experienced flooding in the past. Among the actions taken a raised path was installed to create a natural barrier so that rainwater can be stored and absorbed slowly into the green.

Other measures being put in place around the borough include shrub bed rejuvenation programmes to soak up excess water on the ground.

The council is also working with partner agencies including Thames Water and TfL to help reduce flood risks in the borough.



Buntingbridge Road



Clarence Avenue



Redbridge Lane East

# BE FLOOD AWARE PLAN AND PREPARE

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Do you live in an area that has previously flooded, or is in a flood risk zone? There are steps you can take to help protect yourself and your property from flood damage:



Ensure front or back gardens contain greenery, such as grass and plants, to absorb any trapped water on the ground.



Design areas around your home to divert water away from the building and road, for example a channel drain directed to your drain.



Install air brick vent covers to stop water entering through the vent.



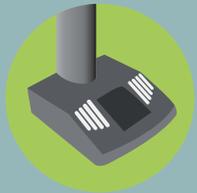
Fit non return valves on drains and pipes to stop foul water flowing back from blocked sewerage systems via toilets, plug holes and waste pipes.



Keep your grass, soil and plants healthy to help absorb water.



Install a water butt to capture and store rainwater, which can be used for the garden. This reduces the amount of rainwater going into the sewer system, which reduces the risk of flooding.



Stop leaves and debris blocking your drains by fitting drain leaf guards.

## STAY IN THE KNOW!

- Keep an eye on the weather
- Have the right information

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

Our flood information webpage has lots of great advice, including:

- how to sign up for free flood alerts
- how to check if your property is at long term risk of flood
- access to the River Roding webcam showing how high the river has reached
- advice on preparing for a flood including how to make a flood plan
- how to report flooding and who to report it to.



## BE PREPARED



Sign up for flood alerts and know what the different alerts mean



Keep a list of useful contact numbers



Have a flood plan prepared with escape routes and emergency flood kit



Ensure you have the right insurance cover for flood

## DURING A FLOOD



Make sure you know how to report a flood and who to report it to



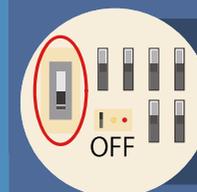
Move possessions and furniture higher up if safe to do so



Follow the advice of your flood alerts



Don't walk or drive in flood water



Disconnect gas and electricity if it's safe to do so. If you are unsure, get advice from your utility company



Evacuate when advised to

## AFTER A FLOOD



Contact your insurance company to make them aware



Get specialist advice on cleaning and repairing your home, your insurance company can help with this



If you left the property, check if it's safe before moving back in



Contact the council to get available support

# New Mayor is proud and honoured

The new Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr Thavathuray Jeyaranjan, is “immensely proud and honoured” to be selected as the borough’s first citizen.



Cllr Jeyaranjan has been a Redbridge Councillor for more than 12 years, representing Newbury ward.

A mechanical engineer by profession, he has worked in the railway sector for most of his career, with the recently completed Crossrail projects among his highlights. He led a project team responsible for tunnelling the new Elizabeth Line between Whitechapel and Liverpool Street stations.

He is taking a year away from work to focus solely on raising money for his charities and fulfilling his duty as the borough’s ceremonial figurehead.

“Becoming Mayor of Redbridge was a proud moment for myself and my family. I love being a councillor, but this is an opportunity to do something different and give back to our communities in another way,” he said.

The new Mayor of Redbridge has deeply personal reasons for nominating one of the charities he is supporting, namely King George and Queen’s Hospitals charity.

When his twin sons were born prematurely, they needed specialist care.

He said: “They both weighed the same as a bag of sugar. They were tiny and needed round-the-clock support.

“The staff at King George’s did a remarkable job, but they didn’t have enough specialist facilities at the time, and the boys needed to be transferred to Euston Hospital.

“We were told that if we didn’t get them there in seven minutes, they might not survive. We had a police escort for the ambulances.

“Now, they are 29 and healthy, but it was a frightening time for myself and my wife. Being mayor now gives me an opportunity to do something in return to thank George’s for what they did for us.”

His other charity is One Place East, an Ilford charity supporting people with disabilities. He chose them after receiving glowing reports from people who use its services.

“Everyone I spoke to had good things to say, and when I looked into it myself, I saw they do a lot of really good things for our community.”

In addition to representing the borough at various events and hosting engagements, his main role is to chair meetings of the full council when the borough’s elected members meet monthly to debate issues and make decisions. It means he will relinquish his duties as ward councillor for a year.

Cllr Jeyaranjan’s mayoral year coincided with the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee which has kept him very busy during the first few weeks of his tenure. He attended a mammoth 27 street parties to celebrate the historic occasion with neighbours across the borough.

The Mayor is currently finalising his fundraising plans for the year ahead and hopes people get behind his charities.

“It’s exciting and challenging, and I’m meeting lots of fascinating people doing brilliant work in our borough, that is the real pleasure about being mayor.”

## The Mayor's Charities

### King George and Queen's Hospitals Charity

King George and Queen's Hospitals Charity is the official NHS Charity supporting two local acute hospitals: King George Hospital in Ilford and Queen's Hospital in Romford.

It works alongside Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, the Trust's staff and clinical teams to make its hospitals even better for patients and their families.

The charity does not subsidise the core responsibilities of the NHS but enhances the essential services provided by them to make the hospital journey the best it can be for everyone. Find out more at:

[www.bhrhospitals.nhs.uk/our-charity](http://www.bhrhospitals.nhs.uk/our-charity)

### One Place East

One Place East is based in Ilford. It promotes equality and inclusion for disabled people, people with lived experience of mental health problems, long term conditions and people with a learning disability and Autism.

Find out more at: [www.oneplaceeast.org](http://www.oneplaceeast.org)

## How you can support

If you or your organisation wishes to make a donation to the Mayor's Charity Appeal, please make cheques payable to 'The Mayor's Appeal' and send to:

**Mayor's Office**  
Redbridge Town Hall  
128-142 High Road  
Ilford, Essex  
IG1 1DD

Payments can also be made direct to the Mayor's Appeal account quoting the details below:

**Bank:** HSBC  
**Sort code:** 40-25-27  
**Account number:** 22198479  
**Account name:** The Mayor's Appeal  
**Reference:** Your name



# Claire Symonds takes council hot seat

When Claire Symonds was appointed to Redbridge Council's top job, it meant her career had gone full circle.

For the new Chief Executive, who has worked in local government for more than 30 years, was raised and educated in the borough, and her first ever council job was at Redbridge.

Claire understands the challenges faced by councils. She is a qualified accountant and has managed many different services, as well as major change and transformation projects for the seven councils she has worked for. She describes herself as tenacious, driven and enjoys leading change, so is well-placed to navigate the authority through the post-pandemic era and the cost-of-living crisis.

When the opportunity to lead Redbridge Council arose, it proved irresistible.

"I'm thrilled to be appointed. Redbridge is my home borough. I moved here when I was five years old and went to Christchurch Primary, Seven Kings High and Wanstead High. I learnt to swim at Seven Kings pool and spent many happy Saturday mornings in our libraries. I first joined the council many years ago and my first role was customer-facing, so I saw the impact we have on people's lives. I'm proud to be a public servant for that reason.

"I live in the borough now, so when the opportunity arose to work for Redbridge again, I couldn't pass it up.

"I've spoken to many committed staff trying to do the best they can out of a genuine desire to deliver great things for local people. A high proportion of our staff live in the borough, as I do, and so doing a good job matters even more to them.



"People look to the council first when things get tough, so we need to be ready especially when we are at the beginning of a cost-of-living crisis which is already impacting people from all walks of life. I know as a council we will be facing many challenges in the year ahead, especially with significant financial constraints at a time when demand for our services is increasing. The council cannot do everything, and we'll need residents to please work with us to also help support their local communities," she said.

Prior to joining Redbridge, Claire worked at neighbouring borough Barking and Dagenham from 2015 as deputy chief executive and chief operating officer. During the height of the pandemic and lockdowns, from March 2020 to March 2021, Claire was the acting Chief Executive. She was reappointed to this position again at the start of the year.

Now getting to grips with the hot seat at Redbridge since taking up her post in May, she has spent time meeting staff and doing walkabouts with councillors to see first-hand the local issues that are impacting residents.

# Winter Vaccinations

**HEALTHY**  
Redbridge

As winter approaches the risk of catching flu and pneumococcal diseases, like pneumonia, increase. To protect yourself and the people around you, book your winter vaccines now.

Many people will be eligible for free annual flu vaccinations and the one-off pneumococcal vaccine for adults. Babies are routinely vaccinated with the pneumococcal vaccine as part of their childhood vaccination programme.

If you're not eligible for the free annual flu vaccine and would like to pay for the vaccine, pre-booked appointments are available for around £15-£20 at most larger pharmacies.

#### Free annual flu vaccine:

- anyone aged 50+
- anyone aged 16+ with a clinical vulnerability
- residents of care homes
- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years and all primary school aged children
- all secondary school children in Years 7, 8 and 9
- all carers or those that live with someone more likely to catch infections
- all frontline health and social care workers.

#### Free pneumococcal vaccine:

- babies
- people aged 65 and over
- anyone from the ages of 2 to 64 with a health condition that increases their risk of pneumococcal infection
- anyone at occupational risk, such as welders.



## How to book your free vaccination appointments

Eligible adults, and parents of eligible children, will be contacted by their GP to arrange their vaccinations. Flu vaccinations are also available at schools.

For further information, please talk with your GP, pharmacist, or midwife respectively, or visit the NHS website.



**For more information on the flu vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine please visit the NHS website.**

## It's not too late – book your COVID-19 Vaccine now!

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over, and it is still important for all of us to take simple steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones from the virus.



Vaccination remains the single best defence against COVID-19 and it's never too late to book your first, second or booster vaccine. Simply go to the NHS website and book now.

# Learn new skills and improve your job prospects at Redbridge Institute

People living in the borough can learn new skills and gain high-quality qualifications at Redbridge Institute boosting their earning potential.

The Institute has published its new academic-year prospectus offering hundreds of exciting courses and qualifications in wide-ranging topics.

## Will Pickford, Principal of Redbridge Institute, said:

"Our range of qualification courses provide a perfect starting point for people who need to upskill, retrain to start a new career, or get a better-paid job.

"These part-time courses are offered at Level 1 (beginners), Level 2 (intermediate) or Level 3 (advanced) and are delivered in a flexible way for adults to fit study into their busy lives.

"Most of our courses are free to eligible adults and there is other financial help available too, including loans and bursaries, to make study affordable. Courses start in September and October, so enrol now to kickstart your career."

## The Institute's wide-ranging qualifications include:

- Business and Accounting
- Childcare, Supporting Teaching & Learning in Schools
- Community Interpreting and Volunteering
- Counselling and Life Coaching
- Green Skills
- Teacher Training
- Online Qualification Courses.



For more information and to apply, go to:  
[www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk](http://www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk)

# Mega Mix was a massive hit this summer!

More than 10,000 Redbridge children have taken part in Mega Mix activities during this year's summer holidays.

The unique and fun-packed programme funded by Redbridge Council and delivered by Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure offered a variety of affordable taster sessions and workshops designed to support positive physical and mental wellbeing for children and young people.

together sport, technology, art, music and dance, as well as affordable opportunities to go to the cinema and swim. We're really pleased the programme has been a huge success."

Children aged from four to 18-years old could choose from 29 different activities, including:

- **Sport:** athletics, cricket, tennis, hockey, football, and roller skating
- **Technology:** build-a-drone, LEGO Robotics, introduction to 3D modelling, and introduction to coding
- **Art:** taster arts' sessions
- **Music:** steelpan, tabla, and djembe
- **Dance & Drama:** dance, drama/theatre and bharatanatyam.

All taster sessions and workshops aimed to be inclusive, however, adapted sessions for children that would benefit from additional support were also included in the programme, including cycling, water sports, multi sports and arts and dance.

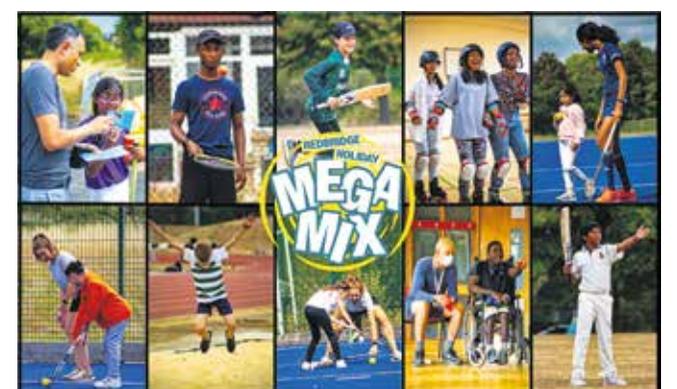
**The programme attracted 10,014 children and young people to the 342 sessions on offer.**



## Cllr Kam Rai, Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, said:

"We know the summer holidays is an expensive time and can be difficult keeping children and young people busy for so

long. We wanted to put on lots of different activities to appeal to as many interests and abilities as possible, so the programme brought



# A Spark to ignite our cultural corner

After a successful five months, Spark Lab has been integral to our plans for developing a cultural corner in Ilford and supporting local entrepreneurs.

Spark Lab has been home to a range of different businesses on a six-week rotation since launching in June, ranging from pop-up shops to printing workshops, through to the current residency Re-Wild, a community engagement project that fuses nature and environment through creative workshops delivered by talented artists.

Re-Wild will be handing over the space to the Redbridge business team at the end of September. The team is planning a range of activities to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of start-ups and businesses in Redbridge.

Activities will include workshops delivered by experts within the creative sector, and a showcase to promote the legacy of The Spark Lab as a launch pad for local entrepreneurs.

To find out more about The Spark Lab and the upcoming activities please visit: [www.ilfordsparklab.co.uk/project](http://www.ilfordsparklab.co.uk/project) or contact the business team for more information about business support in the borough: [business.enterprise@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:business.enterprise@redbridge.gov.uk)



Rabbits Road Press



Re-Wild

# A partnership that stands out in a crowd

Since partnering with Spacehive, a funding web platform for ideas, the council has provided thousands of pounds for various local projects and campaigns to help benefit local communities.

The platform allows those with ideas to generate funds from their local community via their own online page, with Spacehive providing advice and workshops.

The level or amount of funding received is decided by the council's NCIL (Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy) Funding Panel. Eligible applicant's projects are scored on how well they meet council objectives for tackling local regeneration, environmental, and social issues. The maximum funding award for projects is £10,000.

**Deputy Leader  
Kam Rai, said:**

"Our partnership with Spacehive allows for greater transparency around how funds are allocated across groups or projects, allowing borough residents to have a positive impact by contributing both time and funding to make real tangible improvements to the area they live in."



To find out more or to get support or funding for an idea you might have, visit Spacehive at: [www.spacehive.com/about](http://www.spacehive.com/about)

# Celebrating Hainault

Hainault residents have been expressing what belonging to the area means to them as part of a community creative project.

Local people and groups produced impactful artwork for a showcase of artistic talent and celebration of belonging in Hainault. The event at Hainault Forest Community Association included mosaics, art trails, oral history and photography from a number of local residents and partners, including Forest Academy and Link Place.

Visitors were able to paint and create their own mosaics to add to a larger community mosaic artwork, have their say on what makes them feel like they belong, and follow a trail to gain insights into the fascinating stories and histories of Hainault residents.

If you missed out on the event, you can see the eye-catching artwork exhibited in Hainault later this year.



**To find out more  
and get involved**

The insights gained will feed into the development of the future Hainault Community Hub, which Redbridge Council has partnered with Hainault Forest Community Association (HFCA) to deliver. The Hub will provide Hainault residents with access to services on their doorstep and a flexible space to run their own activities.

The Hub is part of a programme which also includes new purpose-built Community Hubs in Seven Kings, Woodford and Wanstead, as well as a central Civic Hub in Ilford.



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# HOME-ing in on our 2024 target

Building 600 new affordable homes for rent on existing estates by 2024 is a key priority for the council as set out in our Redbridge Plan 2022-26.

Phase two of the programme has started and will result in 282 homes being built across nine different estates in the borough, including Ilford, South Woodford, Woodford Green, Newbury Park and Barkingside, with a mixture of eco-friendly one, two, three and four-bedroom properties, each boasting a range of features including front and rear gardens, driveways and communal green spaces.



Council Leader, Cllr Jas Athwal and Cllr Vanisha Solanki, recently met with the project team to see the building work



**Cllr Vanisha Solanki, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, said:**



"I'm pleased that despite economic factors outside of our control, we're still able to get phase two of our programme up and running, and we remain on schedule to deliver on our promise to create more affordable homes for our residents."

**The programme is supported by £20 million from the GLA's Building Homes for London fund.**



London Borough of Redbridge 

## Home Upgrade Grant

The Home Upgrade Grant can provide grants of up to £25,000\*\* for properties that do not have a boiler system and use other fuels such as electric, oil, LPG or coal to heat their systems.

\*\*The amount of funding awarded will largely depend on the outcome of the property survey and the current Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating.

The scheme will offer insulating measures including: external wall and cavity wall insulation, underfloor and loft insulation. Other remedial works may be offered but this will be dependent on the existing condition of the property.

To be eligible for a grant, your property will need **\*an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D, E, F or G and a household income of less than £30k per year.**

\* If no EPC in place this will be assessed as part of the property survey.

Owner occupiers, landlords and tenants are eligible for funding. In the case of rental properties, the income eligibility applies to the tenant and not the landlord.



▶ To apply visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/go-green](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/go-green) or email [Housing.Standards@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Housing.Standards@redbridge.gov.uk)

Join us for our next **VIRTUAL** Redbridge Landlord Forum London Borough of Redbridge 

## Thursday 3 November

## From 7pm to 9pm

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



?

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 please e-mail [prslicensing@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:prslicensing@redbridge.gov.uk) or visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals/)

# Recycling made easy

**Primary School teacher Katherine Page-Bailey, from Hainault, is one of the borough's avid recyclers. She said:**

"Recycling is the minimum we can all do to help the environment. It's free to do and Redbridge has made it really easy so that it can be done by anyone. I think it's so good the council are supporting residents with workshops and information on ways to reduce waste and recycle correctly. It's nice to feel like we haven't just been left to it. Another positive step was Redbridge increasing the types of items it accepted for recycling. There really is no excuse not to recycle – especially as the help is there from the council if you're unsure about what can and can't be recycled!"

Our Neighbourhood Education and Engagement Team also welcome opportunities to speak to community, faith or social groups about recycling and reducing waste.

To request a session for your group with the team, email: [ourneighbourhood@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:ourneighbourhood@redbridge.gov.uk)

**Green Garden Waste collections will pause in November and resume again next spring.**

Check your last collection date for 2022 at:  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/garden-waste](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/garden-waste)



**There will be no waste collections on Monday 19 September, collections will resume from Tuesday 20 September.**

Usual day	New day
Monday 19 September	Tuesday 20 September
Tuesday 20 September	Wednesday 21 September
Wednesday 21 September	Thursday 22 September
Thursday 22 September	Friday 23 September
Friday 23 September	Saturday 24 September



**Good quality second-hand furniture, white goods & household items at affordable prices.**



**FREE PARKING**

**We now do house clearances!**

**We are open:**

**Mon - Fri: 9.00 am - 4.30 pm**

**Sat: 10.00 am - 2.00 pm**

Unit 1, 330-348 Uphall Road  
Ilford, Essex IG1 2JJ

**020 8553 5880**

*Supporting the work of Teen Challenge London*

**Donations collected FREE!**

[www.tclreuse.org.uk](http://www.tclreuse.org.uk)  
[info@tclreuse.org.uk](mailto:info@tclreuse.org.uk)



SCAN ME

# Redbridge is cracking down on rogue landlords

## WE WILL FIND YOU AND WE WILL FINE YOU

### Are you operating a rental property or HMO without a property licence?

The council is taking a zero-tolerance approach to non-compliant landlords who operate rental properties and HMOs without a valid licence. We are using sophisticated intelligence systems to crackdown on illegal operations.

If you are a landlord and found to be operating without a property licence you risk being fined up to £30,000 or being prosecuted. If you are found guilty, your details will appear on the Rogue Landlord Database register and you could be deemed not fit and proper to obtain a property licence.

To find out more about the type of licence you need, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk) and search private rentals



To check if your property is located in a licensable ward visit <https://my.redbridge.gov.uk/map/property-licensing> and enter your postcode.

#### Rent Repayment Orders

The Government has expanded the Rent Repayment Order (RRO) provisions. Councils and tenants can now claim back up to 12 months rent from the landlord without the need for a criminal prosecution.

#### Banning orders

The Housing and Planning Act 2016 gives Councils the power to apply to the first-tier tribunal for banning orders for persons who have been found guilty of banning order offences.

**Cllr Vanisha Solanki Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness said:**

“We will push for and use the strongest action against landlords of unlicensed properties that breach regulations.”



### YOUR COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR HELP

Are you aware of an unlicensed rental property in your street?

Check whether the property has a licence: [www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk) search licensed property or scan the QR code.



The Council can help. We have powers to tackle issues like unlicensed properties, anti-social behaviour, dumping of rubbish, and poor property conditions.

If you are concerned about a rental property, report it via [www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it)

Everyone has the right to live in a healthy and safe home.

Tenants who live **IN UNLICENSED** premises can also use a rent repayment order to claim back rent payments from your landlord.

Unlicensed rental property? See it, Say it, Report it

**CRACKING DOWN ON ROGUE LANDLORDS**



### JUSTICE FOR TENANTS

Do you know if the property you are renting has a licence? Tenants can now claim back up to 12 months rent from a landlord for an unlicensed property via a Rent Repayment Order (RRO).

Contact them at: [info@justicefortenants.org](mailto:info@justicefortenants.org)

