

RedbridgeLife

summer 2019

Ambitious for Redbridge

www.redbridge.gov.uk

Redbridge puts on gloves to fight crime



London Borough of
Redbridge



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HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings listed are held at the Town Hall, Ilford at 7.15pm unless stated otherwise.

Council Meetings

Thursday 19 September 2019

To ask a question at a council meeting written notice of the question must be submitted to Leontia Brewer, Leontia.Brewer@redbridge.gov.uk, by midday on the third working day prior to the meeting (ie normally midday on the Monday before a Thursday meeting).

Cabinet Meetings

Tuesday 23 July 2019 – 6.30pm

Monday 16 September 2019 – 6.30pm

If you wish to speak at meetings of the Cabinet, you must inform the Committee Support Officer by 5pm the day before the meeting at which you wish to speak. Contact: Helena Tredgold, email Helena.Tredgold@redbridge.gov.uk or call **020 8708 2351**.

Scrutiny Committees

Health Scrutiny Committee

Monday 24 June 2019 – 6.30pm

Monday 15 July 2019 – 6.30pm

Overview Scrutiny Committee

Monday 22 July – 6.30pm

Thursday 12 September 2019 – 6.30pm

People Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 11 July 2019 – 6.30pm

Place Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 10 July 2019 – 6.30pm

Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 17 July 2019 – 6.30pm

External Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 4 July 2019 – 6.30pm

Wednesday 11 September 2019 – 6.30pm

Education Panel

Thursday 5 September 2019 – 6.30pm

Public participation at meetings is welcomed. To find out more information go to www.redbridge.gov.uk/publicmeetings or contact: Kalbinder Benning, tel: **020 8708 2465** or Jilly Szymanski, tel: **020 8708 2739**.

Councillor surgeries

Many councillors hold regular surgeries in their wards or can be contacted directly to make an appointment so residents can discuss concerns or ask for help. To contact your councillor or find details about surgeries, go to www.redbridge.gov.uk/councillors or call **020 8554 5000**.

Local Voices Matter

Improving our neighbourhood together

Are there problems in your local area?

Do you want to help change things?

Come to a Local Forum meeting.

Let's find solutions together.



East Neighbourhood
24th July

Isaac Newton Academy
Primary, 468 High Road,
Ilford IG1 1FY

6.45-8.30pm



www.redbridge.gov.uk/localforums



Welcome to the Summer edition of Redbridge Life

Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal reflects on the transformation of the borough and outlines the priorities and challenges ahead



Councillor Jas Athwal
Leader, London Borough of Redbridge

Over the past five years we have achieved so much as a council.

In 2014 we were faced with a challenge, how to improve services despite unprecedented government budget cuts.

None of us came into politics to manage decline, and so although we were losing over 50 per cent of our funding, we chose not to slash and burn and instead looked into innovative options to provide more with less.

Even with this resolve, it has not always been an easy journey and some hard decisions have had to be made. However, five years later, I believe we can be extremely proud of what we have achieved:

- Every single library in Redbridge remains open
- 98 per cent of our borough's children are educated in good or outstanding schools
- We have built the first council houses in Redbridge in 10 years
- King George Hospital remains open

It is easy to take our successes for granted but the truth is that Redbridge is exceptional. As other councils cut services to the bone, we are thriving.

In fact, we have been rated the 6th most productive council in the country – an incredible achievement when you consider our funding position of 117 out of 125 unitary authorities.

A lot of our success is due to a raw determination to improve life for our residents, to make Redbridge a better place to live, work and socialise now and in the future.

That is why we've campaigned relentlessly to save our hospital.

That is why we've pledged to build brand new community hubs – enhancing our existing libraries and bringing even more services together in one place.

That is why we've invested in our enforcement team and rolled out CCTV and ANPR cameras across the borough.

For my Administration, it is not enough to just keep the council ticking over, it is not enough to do the bare minimum and provide just what we're obliged to by law. It is not enough to stand still and see our high streets fall into disrepair and decline, to see our NHS services cut and our police force decimated.

Instead, we are putting Redbridge on the map:

1. Revitalising our public spaces with a new food market in the town centre, £4.2M investment into Hainault Forest Country Park, and brand new cycle routes across our borough.
2. Building new infrastructure to support our growing population with plans to increase GPs services, protect and potentially expand KGH, expanding our good and outstanding schools so every child can get an excellent education close to home, and providing library services, leisure centres and art and cultural spaces for all.

3. Streamlining our services by bringing waste management in-house and cutting out the middle-man, cutting the council's wage bill, consolidating customer services to a one-stop-shop customer care centre and moving as many services online as possible.

We have achieved transformational change by securing investment and using that investment to support bold new initiatives like the ones I've mentioned.

However, what I am most proud of are the smaller wins which impact our residents everyday lives. Like improving our parks so they continue to attain Green Flag status, installing life-saving defibrillators across the borough, and building leisure centres in underserved wards like Loxford and Goodmayes.

And we are not done.

Redbridge has absolutely transformed over the last five years and we have many more bold and innovative plans to take us into the future.

We still face huge challenges – further budget cuts, the growth of gang culture, prostitution and knife crime, overcrowding and a lack of affordable housing, to name just a few.

However, I'm determined that we'll step up and deliver. As we have done every single year since we came into office. We have the experience, the drive and the knowledge to support residents, provide decent services and also to create the change that will enhance the lives of generations to come.

Produced by Redbridge Council

The editor can be contacted on 020 8708 3766 or email: redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk

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Next
issue out in
September

'Children's services in Redbridge are outstanding,' says watchdog

- **Services described as consistently strong and highly effective**
- **Ofsted praise political and officer leadership**
- **Staff know children well and enjoy working at Redbridge, report adds**

Redbridge Council's children's social care services have been rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted, putting the local authority among the top performers in the country.

Inspectors who visited the borough in April and May praised the council's 'exceptional leadership,' which, they noted, promotes best practice and innovation. The report also recognised that highly effective practice is understood, embedded and recognised by Redbridge Council.

The report additionally stated that 'Senior managers demonstrate relentless drive and ambition for children... leading to the provision of consistently strong and highly effective services for them.'

The council, which scored a 'good' rating from Ofsted in 2016, was judged 'outstanding' overall in a report published today, with child protection services and the quality of leadership also receiving the highest grade.

The result means Redbridge is one of the few authorities handed the top score under the new inspection framework.

Ofsted Inspectors said that services had strengthened since the appointment of the current Director of People in 2016, adding that he is 'supported by purposeful and informed political leaders and a stable and appropriately authoritative senior management team.'

Staff enjoy working at Redbridge and feel safe and well supported, the report added.

"This exemplary management has created conditions that afford workers the time, professional expertise and capacity to get to know children and young people well,' the report went on. 'This best practice secures positive experiences and good progress for children.'

The regulator found child protection services that were outstanding during the last inspection, including the 'front door,' described as a model of efficiency and excellence, have been further enhanced 'meaning that even the best services have improved.'

It also praised the council's ability to address 'emerging risks associated with gangs, county lines and exploitation' and are 'meeting these challenges well,' taking 'determined and proactive steps to improve outcomes for children.'

Children in care benefit from 'thoughtful' social workers who know them 'exceptionally well,' foster

carers feel valued and listened to and provide 'stable homes' and care leavers receive good support into adulthood, the report says.

Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal commented:

"I am delighted that Ofsted have rated our children's services as 'Outstanding'. I know how hard our Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Elaine Norman, and Council staff are working to provide the best services for our local young people and this work is clearly paying off.

"Despite losing 60 per cent of our council funding over the last decade, and being the lowest funded London borough for children's services, I have always been determined that this administration will continue to deliver for residents. Ensuring our children and young people are properly provided for is our responsibility but it is also our privilege. I want to congratulate everyone involved in both devising and delivering an exemplary service."

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Cllr Elaine Norman said:

"I'm delighted we have achieved the highest possible rating from Ofsted. Determination, hard work and an exceptional ambition to improve, from our skilled and thoughtful practitioners through to the senior leadership team, has led to this result. I'd like to thank every one of them. For Ofsted to recognise the significant progress we have made and the excellence our services for the most vulnerable children in our borough makes me extremely proud."

To read the full report visit www.ofsted.gov.uk

Outstanding for children

What the inspectors said:

"Senior managers and leaders demonstrate relentless drive and ambition for children"

"Staff enjoy working at Redbridge"

"Children who require help or protection in Redbridge receive an outstanding service"

"Highly committed political support ensures that children are given a rightful strategic priority within the wider council"

"Best practice secures positive experiences and good progress for children"

"The fostering service is highly effective, is well run and has a positive impact on children's lives"



Work Redbridge Jobs & Apprenticeships Fair

Come along to the Work Redbridge Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair on **Thursday 12 September** from **11pm to 3pm** in Redbridge Town Hall. After the successful turnout of the last Fair, Work Redbridge will be back hosting another event. It is an opportunity to meet over 40 local employers and training providers to talk to you about latest job and apprenticeship vacancies and career options in a wide range of sectors including banking, hospitality, health and social care and construction. Advisors will be available to speak about your next training or career move and help improve your CV. Make the most of the Fair, introduce yourself to prospective employers and check out opportunities that are available to you in Redbridge!

The event is open to all, no need to book, just drop in!

Look for local jobs

CV and careers advice clinic

Meet local employers

Latest vacancies & training

Sign up to the latest courses



Follow [@WorkRedbridge](https://twitter.com/WorkRedbridge)

Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/workredbridge

Work Redbridge provides help and advice to people looking for work, training or volunteering and to local businesses looking for help with recruitment and meeting their skill needs. Work Redbridge is a partnership of local organisations, led by Redbridge Council.





NEW ADULT COURSE GUIDE 2019-20 OUT NOW



**Gain qualifications and learn new skills
Many courses are free for eligible learners**

Redbridge Institute 'bringing educational opportunities to those who might otherwise miss out'
Overall FE Provider of the Year TES Awards March 2019

Visit our website or pick up your free copy of our prospectus from one of our centres or local libraries.

| www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk
| 020 8550 2398
| enquiries@redbridge-iae.ac.uk

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MAYOR OF LONDON



prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the uk

but the condition is responsive to treatment if detected soon enough.

The most common symptoms of Prostate Cancer are:

- Having to rush to the toilet to pass urine
- Difficulty in passing urine
- Passing urine more often than usual - especially at night
- Pain on passing urine, but this is rare
- Blood in the urine or semen, but this is very rare

Please seek medical advice early if you, or somebody you know, is experiencing these symptoms.

APPLE is a locally run charity. If you would like more information about us and our monthly support group meetings, please visit our website www.appleprostate.co.uk or contact us on:

E: info@appleprostate.co.uk T: 07505 816973. Charity No. 1086824



association of prostate patients in london & essex

Firefighters donate 1,000 smoke alarms

The borough's firefighters have donated 1,000 smoke alarms to reduce fire risks in privately rented homes across Redbridge.

Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal and Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness Cllr Farah Hussain received the alarms at Ilford Fire Station.

They joined the London Fire Brigade (LFB) Borough Commander Jamie Jenkins, local firefighters and council officers to speak about the importance of smoke alarms that are regularly tested and to highlight the responsibility of private landlords.

Landlords are required to install and test smoke alarms in their tenants' homes.

The smoke alarms that are being donated will be distributed by the council's housing team during property visits and events such as the Landlord and Tenant forums.

Cllr Hussain and Cllr Athwal both thanked the LFB for donating the alarms.

Cllr Athwal said: "We are extremely grateful to the London Fire Brigade for all they do to keep us safe in Redbridge."

Cllr Hussain added: "Thankfully there is a long term downward trend in the number of fires, deaths and injuries but even one death is too many. I urge private sector landlords and letting agents to ensure that smoke alarms are located on every storey of their rented properties to keep tenants safe as you can't risk with people's lives."



Council gets tough on blue badge fraudsters

Redbridge Council has successfully prosecuted six blue badge cheats as part of a major new crackdown on abuse of the parking permits.

Magistrates handed down fines and costs totalling nearly £4,000 to the fraudsters caught misusing blue badges on the borough's streets.

They described the offences as 'despicable' at the hearing on 24 May at Barkingside Magistrates' Court.



The court proceedings mark the start of a tougher approach to people who abuse blue badges, which help people with serious mobility issues and disabilities manage their lives more easily through greater freedom and flexibility to park in the borough.

Cllr Helen Coomb, Cabinet Member for Transformation and Engagement, said:

"Blue badges are a vital lifeline for many of our most vulnerable residents, helping them maintain independence and access to their local community. Abuse has been going on for too long and we are taking a zero-tolerance approach to the selfish criminals who reduce parking spaces for genuine permit holders who truly need them. These prosecutions send a very clear message: if you

misuse a blue badge, we will find you out and you will be prosecuted. We are committed to protecting disabled parking provision and I'm pleased to say there are more prosecutions on the way."

Blue badges can only be used by the named badge holder, either as a passenger or driver. Misuse is a criminal offence and can result in a maximum fine of £1,000.

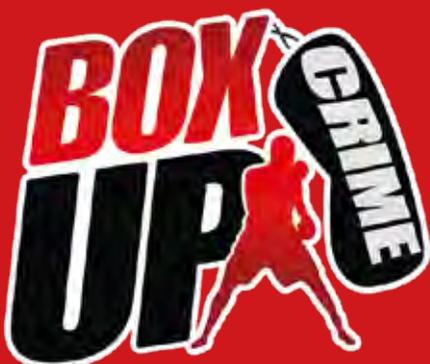
For more information on the blue badge scheme in Redbridge, go to www.redbridge.gov.uk/parking/blue-badge

To report suspected blue badge fraud, call us on **0800 633 5267** or email whistleblow@redbridge.gov.uk

Councillors and boxers put on gloves to fight crime



Redbridge Council launches innovative project to tackle serious youth violence in Redbridge.



Earlier this year, the council successfully bid for a £500k grant to go towards a partnership with Box Up Crime, a social organisation that uses boxing to turnaround the lives of young people who have been involved in crime.

Its innovative work has helped reduce serious youth violence in Barking and Dagenham by 25 per cent and pupils getting into trouble at school by 28 per cent.

Founded by Stephen Addison MBE, Box Up Crime helps deter young people from getting involved in crime and gangs by offering a mixture of boxing training, educational training and mentoring.

The launch put Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal, local councillors and members of Box Up in a boxing ring to showcase the ground-breaking work of Box Up and encourage children and young people to sign up.

Speaking at the launch, Stephen Addison MBE said: "It's not about just setting up a boxing club, it's about creating an environment where young people feel safe and can aspire to be what they want to be – that's what we want to do here in Redbridge. Box Up crime has a clear message, we're trying to beat up crime because crime has stolen dreams from our young people."

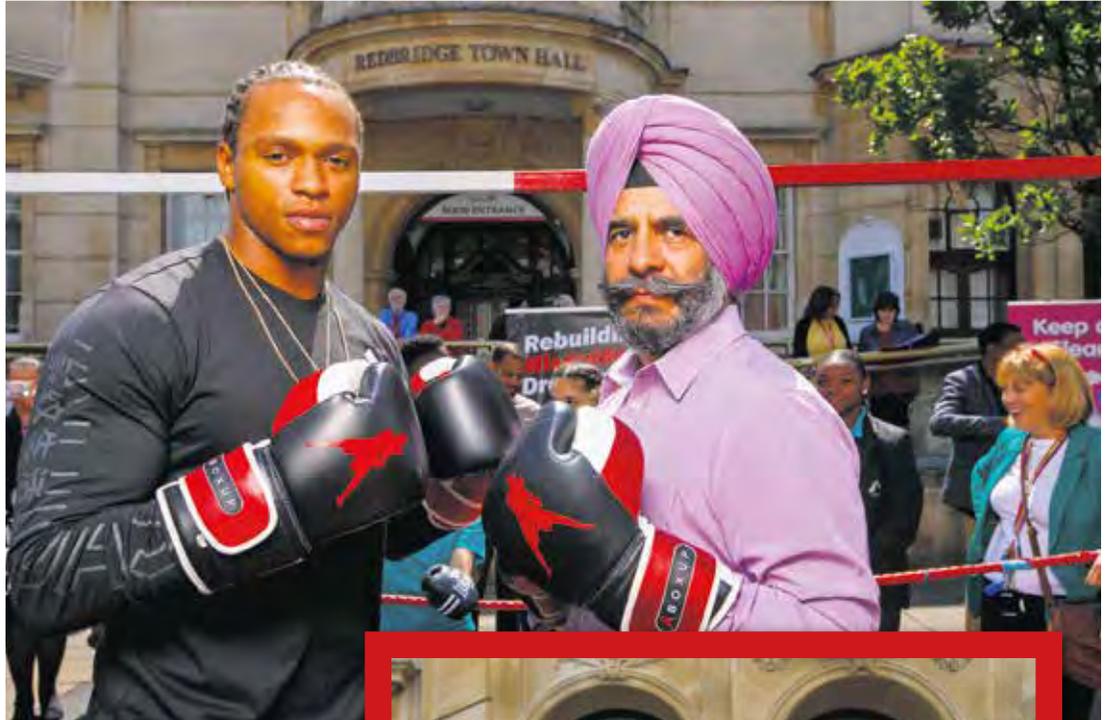
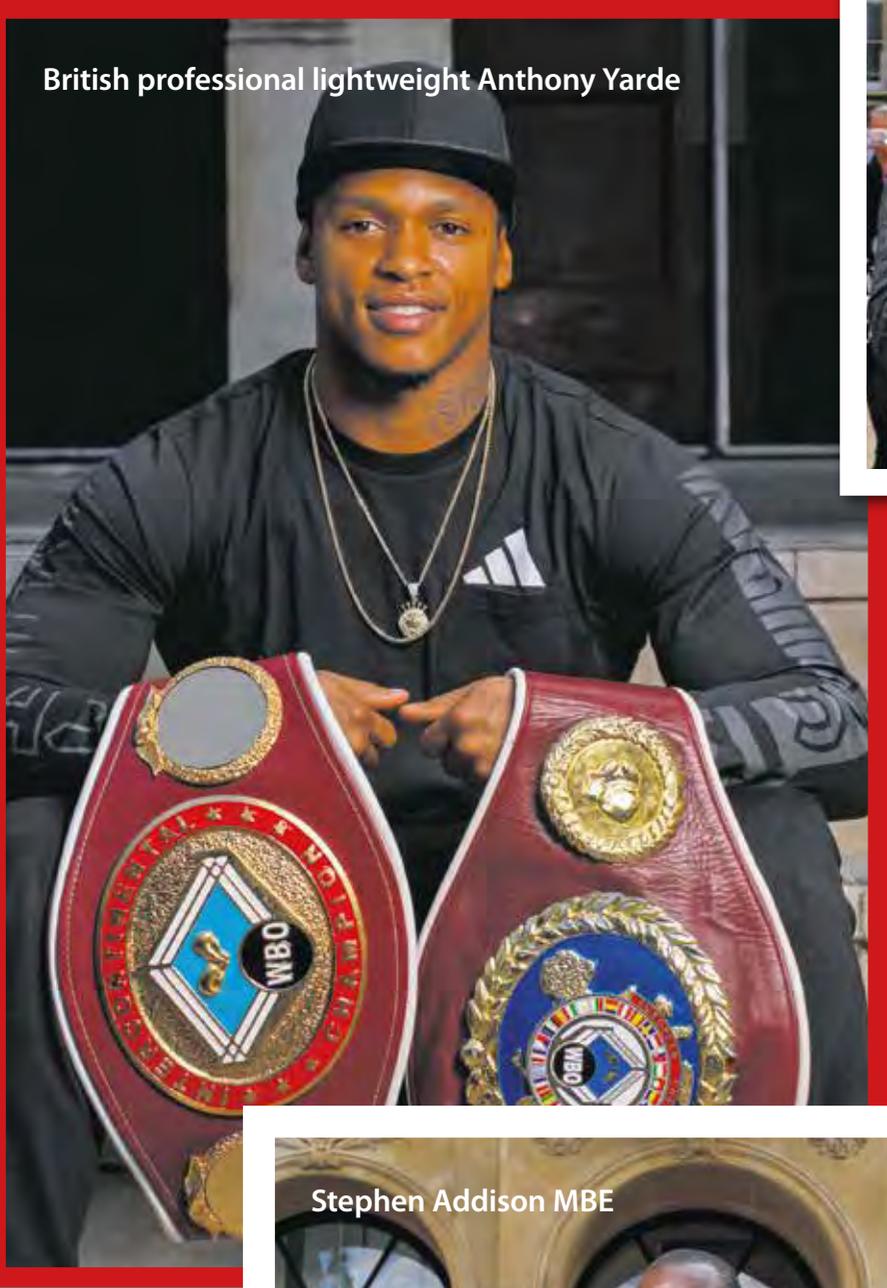
At the event, Cllr Jas Athwal said: "We really need to congratulate Box Up for their amazing work in guiding youngsters out of a life of crime and into a life filled with opportunity. We are committed to giving our young people every possible chance to lead safe and full lives by providing the support they need to reach their potential. I'm really proud to be teaming up with this fantastic organisation which will help protect our children and young people."



Clr Elaine Norman, Cabinet Member of Children and Young People said:

“ All London boroughs have seen the devastating effects knife crime and gang culture can have on all sections of the community. It’s our priority as a council to tackle crime and early prevention is one of the best tools we can have to steer at risk youngsters from a dangerous path. I’m really pleased that we have this opportunity to bring the innovative work of Box Up to Redbridge so we can effectively support young people out of crime. ”

British professional lightweight Anthony Yarde



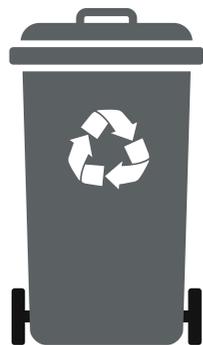
Stephen Addison MBE



Redbridge Council funds Box Up to deliver sessions on a Tuesday night at Hainault Youth Centre and a Thursday night at City Gates Church for 13 – 19 year olds from 7pm to 8:30pm and is a fantastic, free, opportunity for any young person.

Recycling and waste reduction special

Unlike most councils, Redbridge has a free garden waste service and has maintained weekly bin collections. Now the council is bringing its waste services back in-house and is piloting wheelie bin collections after residents backed the move in a major consultation. Redbridge Life looks at how the changes will create better services and streets.



Cutting out the middle-man

Ending its contract with Amey and bringing the bin collection service in-house will mean the council finally has complete control over waste collections, rather than relying on a private contractor.

This also gives the council more freedom to redesign and improve services to better serve residents. All current staff will be retained and transfer to the new council-owned company.

Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal said: "We pledged to bring our bin collection back in-house at the last election and we are delivering on that promise. This is a huge win for the borough as it ends our reliance on a private company – reducing bureaucracy and providing a better deal for the workers, for our residents, and for the council. We're saving money and improving the service."

Cabinet Member for Civic Pride, Cllr John Howard, added: "Creating a Local Authority Company means we can both reduce our costs during times of austerity and keep control of the services we run and manage. It also gives us the opportunity to trade these services and create valuable income for other frontline services."

Trial of wheelie bins after residents back the new system

The council has also announced new trials of wheelie bins in small areas across the borough following the results of a major council survey showing that a majority of residents want to move to the new system.

Some 62 per cent of residents who responded to a consultation on the council's Waste Reduction Strategy said it would be helpful to have a bin to store their waste.

Given the strength of opinion, the council intends to roll out a trial wheelie bin collection scheme to a limited number of properties in a bid to reduce waste.

Cabinet Member for Civic Pride Cllr John Howard said: "Introducing wheelie bins could be a triple win for residents and the council.

"We currently spend over £18million a year of taxpayers' money collecting 22 million black sacks of rubbish and switching to bins would produce significant savings in the longer term. The scheme also has the potential to lift our recycling rate to over 30 per cent and set us on our way to becoming a greener borough.

"We are committed to cleaning up our streets and moving away from sacks keeps front gardens clear, help us tackle the fly-tipping problem and stops commercial businesses from dumping trade waste in front gardens, which is a growing problem.

"We know our residents want great neighbourhoods and this scheme will help us reduce the impact of waste on the local environment."

Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal commented: "We have listened to residents who overwhelmingly support the introduction of wheelie bins. However, we need to make sure we iron out any issues early with a trial run – ensuring residents get a say at every step of the process.

"We are committed to making our borough greener and these new bins could dramatically increase our recycling rate while cutting down on fly-tipping, making Redbridge better for everyone, now and in the future."

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



What is the new council-owned company?

The company will be called Redbridge Civic Services Ltd. This is a Local Authority Company, known as a LAC, that is entirely owned and directly managed by the council.

Why a LAC?

A LAC also gives us the opportunity to trade as a commercial company which brings income into the council to either reinvest in waste services or to help support other frontline services we manage.

When will the transfer to the LAC take place?

The scheduled transfer date is the beginning of August 2019.

When is the wheelie bin scheme likely to start?

Once our new company, Redbridge Civic Services Ltd, starts operating we will have complete control over waste collections, rather than relying on a private contractor, and can start preparations for the trial.

Why a trial scheme?

This will give us an opportunity to iron out any issues early.

How many homes will take part in the trial?

An audit will be undertaken to establish the precise scale of and areas for the trial but it will be small-scale. The audit will consider areas of the borough which supported the introduction of wheelie bins as well as factors such as easily accessible streets and varied property types. It is anticipated the pilot will consist of 6,500 properties of different types to ensure that the sample size is large enough to reflect the borough as a whole.

Please do not present refuse for collection in wheelie bins until you are delivered an 'official' Redbridge bin and advised when the collections will commence. If you use a wheelie bin for storage please continue to take your bags out and put them on the roadside on your collection day. Currently our collections vehicles are not equipped to empty bins so if you present a wheelie bin for collection some of your bags may be left.

Residents want to recycle more

Results from the Waste Reduction Strategy survey, which attracted the highest response for an online questionnaire in 2018, showed that people want to reduce the amount thrown away – with over 98 per cent agreeing that recycling is important.

Some 96 per cent of respondents said they recycled to some extent but some said they wanted clearer information on what they can recycle. So here is a handy reminder of the things you can recycle in your blue and black boxes.



Where to leave your recycling and household waste

Recycling and refuse is collected on the same day from front gardens. Place your waste out so that it is clearly visible from the road and inside the boundary of your property, (as close to the roadside as possible), **by 7am on the day of your collection.**



Let us collect your clutter... for free

Our free bulky waste collection service is a simple and responsible way of getting rid of everything from TVs to sofas. Book a collection at www.redbridge.gov.uk/bulkywaste



Please do not to put bulky items on the roadside in the hope that others may take it away.

Bin collections August Bank Holiday 2019

Due on	Collected on
Monday, 26 August 19	Tuesday, 27 August 19
Tuesday, 27 August 19	Wednesday, 28 August 19
Wednesday, 28 August 19	Thursday, 29 August 19
Thursday, 29 August 19	Friday, 30 August 19
Friday, 30 August 19	Saturday, 31 August 19

Red bags for your rubbish

We have started to roll out the red bags to residents living above the shops in Ilford Lane between Albert Road & Bedford Road. **If you are an Ilford Lane resident please email Cleansing.Services@redbridge.gov.uk for further info.**



1000

Genuinely affordable homes for Redbridge families

Your council is at the forefront in the fight against the housing crisis. Redbridge Life reports on a major intervention to tackle the shortage of genuinely affordable homes and the latest housing development to be built for local families.

Investing £100m in houses fit for the future

Reflecting the ambition of the council's housebuilding target, the Mayor of London announced in November that Redbridge Council will receive £20 million towards its construction programme. Overall, the council will invest more than £100 million in building new homes.



Council becomes largest provider of new social homes in the borough

The single biggest challenge the borough faces is the shortage of genuinely affordable housing for local people.

Historically low levels of investment in social housing have left Redbridge with the second smallest sector in the capital.

This under supply, along with house prices increasing by over 50 per cent in ten years and private rents rising by 20 per cent over the last five, has led to long waits for social housing and numbers in temporary accommodation increasing.

The current Administration began to reverse this trend in 2015 and working with other providers, 70 new affordable homes were let last year.

Now the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Cllr Farah Hussain, has set out ambitious plans to build 600 genuinely affordable permanent homes for borough residents struggling with the impact of austerity, spiralling private sector rents and benefit changes.

The direct housebuilding programme will account for a sizeable part of the council's overall aim of creating 1000 affordable homes in the borough, placing it at the forefront in the fight against the housing crisis.

This bold intervention to tackle the shortage means the council will become the largest provider of new social homes in the borough.

Cllr Hussain said: 'We appreciate the very real challenge Redbridge families face finding genuinely affordable housing. To ensure the availability of safe, secure and good quality accommodation for local people caught in the housing crisis we are doing what we can by starting our own construction programme to build 600 genuinely affordable homes in the borough. These properties will provide Redbridge families with the opportunity to give their children the very best start in life which would otherwise be impacted by poor quality accommodation.'

Ten new homes for residents

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the start of work to build the next wave of genuinely affordable homes for Redbridge families.

The new Kielder Close development, in Hainault, will provide ten two-bedroom council properties for rent, with local people expected to move in by March next year.

The project is being wholly funded by Redbridge Council as part of its commitment to deliver 1,000 affordable homes by 2022.

Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal and Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness Cllr Farah Hussain were joined by contractors Aspen Build and officers for the ceremony.

The energy efficient homes are being built on a former brownfield site – one of many underused or vacant parcels of land the council is redeveloping with quality new permanent housing.

Cllr Hussain said: "We know the difference that a permanent, decent and affordable place to live can make to a family. This project is just one example of our proactive approach to building genuinely affordable family homes for local people on our waiting list. Turning under-used brownfield spaces like this into homes helps us to tackle London's housing



crisis at a local level. The council has worked very successfully with the building contractor Aspen Build Limited previously, with three developments shortlisted for this year's LABC London Building Excellence Awards so we are confident that they will deliver another excellent scheme and the new residents and neighbours will be very happy."

Cllr Athwal commented: "I am proud that our administration is building the first council houses for a generation in Redbridge. London is in the grip of a housing crisis and in Redbridge alone we currently have just under 5,500 people waiting for a home. This development will provide a fresh new start for 10 local families."

Keeping local people engaged every step of the way

Of the 1,000 planned new affordable homes in Redbridge, 600 will be built by the council with the rest delivered in partnership with the private sector and housing associations.

The council's construction programme will see homes built all over the borough, including underused pockets of land such as former garages as well as existing estates.

The council is taking care to provide plenty of opportunities for residents to have their say at each of the stage of the construction programme, set out below:



How will you be involved at each stage?

- We will be asking for your views, keeping you informed and including you in discussions at each stage through a variety of methods including:
- consultations
 - social media
 - requests for online or written feedback
 - drop-in workshops for residents
 - newsletters
 - showcase events for residents
 - displays
 - opportunities to meet the contractor



Tackling CRIME

Redbridge Council is standing up to crime and we're not backing down

The government's £1bn cuts to policing has hit Redbridge hard so we've been looking at clever ways to fight crime. Redbridge Life reports on a number of initiatives to keep our streets safe.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPRs):

We are investing £3.5m in state-of-the-art CCTV and ANPR cameras to counter trouble hotspots around the borough and protect against all types of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Driving crime out of the borough with new ANPR initiative

Redbridge has become the first London borough to adopt an innovative new scheme that flags vehicles linked to criminal activity when they enter the borough.

Working in partnership with the police the council has installed 41 ANPR cameras and 14 ANPR display boards across Redbridge.

The boards are the first of its kind to be used in a London borough and displays registration plates as vehicles enter Redbridge. Any plates found to match those on the police ANPR database will automatically be flagged to police for action.

Where legal and legitimate vehicles enter the borough and pass the display boards there will be no action other than the vehicle plate flashing on the screen.

This latest crime-fighting initiative from the council was implemented following a public consultation where 90% were in favour of the display boards.

Police reports have revealed that in the month following ANPR installation, 676 were flagged for gangs and burglary activity.

Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal said: "We all know that council and police resources are limited after endless government cuts but we will not let this prevent us from serving the residents of Redbridge and providing the services they deserve. The innovative use of ANPR display boards is just another example of our commitment to find new and clever ways to drive criminals out of the borough."

We are investing
£3.5m
in state-of-the-art
CCTV and
ANPR cameras

The council is working with the police, partners and voluntary groups to crackdown on criminal activity on both Ilford Lane and Ilford High Road.

Over the last few weeks alone, the police and council enforcement officers have made 70 arrests for drug possession, shop lifting, robbery, possession of offensive weapons and public order offences with a further 47 people being stopped and searched.

This is part of a wider operation launched in May to combat crime and make these areas safer.

Extra police and enforcement officer patrols is one of the raft of measures introduced to tackle street prostitution in Ilford Lane.

Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal said: 'Putting in extra resources is absolutely the right thing for the council and police to do. We want to clean up Ilford Lane and the High Road and it's clear our partnership efforts are putting a stop to the illegal activity.'

Redbridge hosts tri-borough serious youth violence summit

Community leaders, experts and the police gathered together in May for a major summit on how to tackle youth violence in east London.

It is the second in a series of top level summits being organised by Redbridge, Havering and Barking and Dagenham councils.

The event focused on ways to end the rising levels of youth violence and improve the lives of children, teenagers and young adults.

Key speakers led conversations about what national and regional support is available for schools and organisations and the new public health approach which will see all agencies working together to help young people out of crime.

Also in attendance were teachers, social workers and the youth offending officers to discuss ways to tackle the complex root causes of violent crime among young people and importance of early intervention.

Further summits across the tri-borough will be taking place later this year.

70
arrests for drug
possession, shop lifting,
robbery, possession of
offensive weapons and
public order offences

Residents to help co-design next community hub in Gants Hill

With discussions with the community on the Seven Kings community hub well underway, engagement with residents on the proposals for the Gants Hill's community hub is next in line.

Last year the council unveiled plans to work with residents to co-design six state-of-the-art community hubs that will enhance public services across the borough.

The hubs will combine council and other public services in new, highly accessible buildings in the heart of neighbourhoods across the borough – providing a central access point to health, social, cultural and other local resources residents need in one convenient location.

Residents have been developing the plans for the first ever community hub in Seven Kings by responding to surveys and attending interactive sessions and sharing ideas on what services they want delivered from it. They will shortly be asked to review the initial proposals and will ultimately work with the design team to design the new spaces within the hub.

It is really important that we hear from you on the design and content on the services you want in your locality.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Jas Athwal

said: "The community hubs will become the beating hearts of our communities. Our vision is to provide the very best services to the community through them, which could see libraries, leisure uses or cafes co-located with a dedicated community space but that's entirely up to our residents. This is a really exciting opportunity to work proactively together and build stronger relationships by working closely to design and determine what the future of our most valued services look like. I strongly encourage residents to come along to a session and have their say on what they'd like so we can deliver the best services they need and want."

Help us shape the Gants Hill community hub

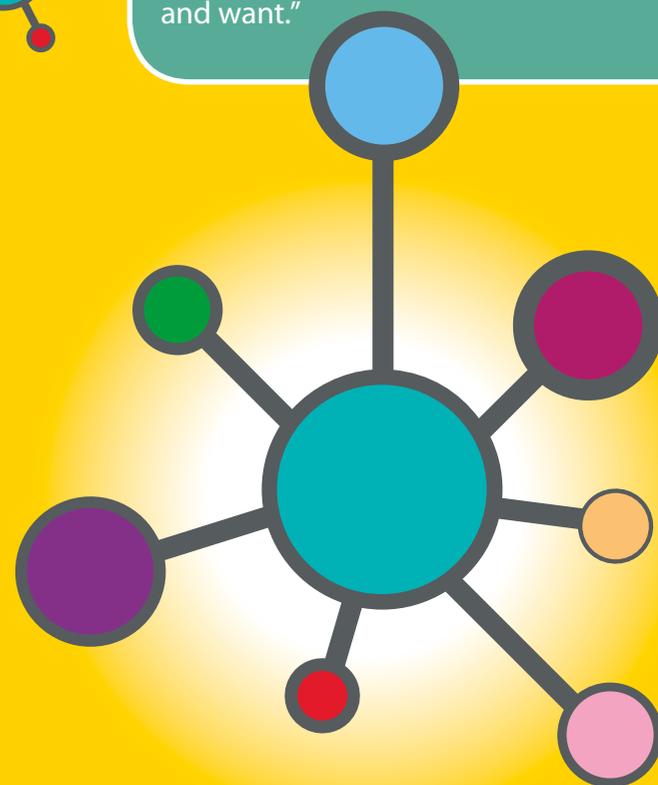
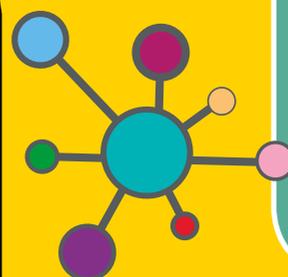
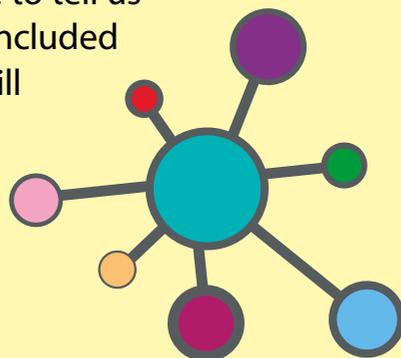
The online consultation began on 10 June and will continue for 12 weeks.

The first public consultation session will take place at

Redbridge Institute
Gaysham Avenue
Gants Hill, Ilford
Essex, IG2 6TD

Wednesday 10 July
2.30pm to 5pm or 6pm to 8pm
with further sessions to be arranged.

The public meetings in Gants Hill will give local residents an initial chance to tell us what services they would like included in the Gants Hill hub - which will serve Gants Hill, Barkingside, Clayhall, Fullwell and Valentines – before design work starts later in the year.



The survey, background of the hubs programme and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on our website:

www.redbridge.gov.uk/gantshillhub



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Ilford for you for me for all

Ilford town centre is undergoing significant transformation and Jas Athwal, Council Leader, has ambitious plans for the area. Redbridge Life reports.



Ilford town centre is entering a new era in 2019, with three major projects in and around the Town Hall set to launch.

Renowned for its large street food operation in Elephant and Castle, Mercarto Metropolitano will bring its exciting offering to Ilford in time for Christmas. When it opens, Mercarto Ilford customers will be able to sample an array of good food, community events and produce from local entrepreneurs given the opportunity to operate within the covered market.

Plans to create a buzzing arts hub also received the green light from planners earlier this year. SPACE, a leading contemporary visual arts organisation, are creating studios, a gallery and exhibition space for a summer opening in the Town Hall.

The final piece of this £5m plus regeneration project – collectively known as The Spark Ilford – will be provided by Things Made Public through affordable business start-up space and support for budding entrepreneurs.

Council Leader Jas Athwal says he is 'excited that Redbridge will be a place people will

come to enjoy a night out at the theatre, dinner with friends and a buzzing social atmosphere with all the facilities of a modern town centre.'

'I'm ambitious for our borough and want to reclaim Ilford's place as the heart of a modern east London,' he said. 'Spark Ilford will kickstart the transformation of the High Road with art, enterprise, food and culture.'

But as Cllr Athwal's comments make clear, this is just the beginning of Ilford's regeneration journey, which will include a modern theatre, a brand-new leisure complex and a state of the art library – all in our town centre.

Ilford for you for me for all

£1.8m

Funding support from the Mayor of London for Spark Ilford

Revitalising Ilford

Work is now underway to deliver the council's longer-term masterplan for the town centre, through a coordinated programme over the coming years.

Cllr Athwal picks up the story: "We have made a strong commitment to developing Ilford into a vibrant destination that brings our communities together. We are already seeing a lot of new housing coming forward in the town centre but I am determined to balance this with more facilities and benefits for our existing communities. The Ilford Prospectus set out ambitious plans for a new cultural quarter at the heart of the town centre and we are now moving forward to make this a reality."

"Over the next 10 years we will see new cultural spaces, sports facilities, schools, universities, colleges and community facilities. The council will be using its own land holdings around the Town Hall to kick start things over the next year."

Meanwhile the Kenneth More theatre has served Ilford well for 50 years but it now



45

Small businesses to be supported by Spark Ilford

40

The number of workspaces created by SPACE

100

Artists to benefit from the creative studios at SPACE

£5.3m

Total investment in Spark Ilford

JUNE 2019

Old market closes 30 June. Summer high road events timetable July-December

JULY-AUGUST

SPACE Ilford Artist Studios (3rd & 4th floors)

SPACE Ilford gallery and exhibition and accessible artist studios

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

The Muse to be complete building from Things Made of Wood are food and beverage bar, accessible co-working space, meeting rooms

Mercato Ilford, covered food market and hydroponic farm at the

needs a larger space which can put on West End standard productions befitting our creative and vibrant community.

A new theatre will expand on the KMT's legacy, ensuring generations to come are inspired and amazed by bigger and better shows close to home.

Plans are in development for a modern theatre and a leisure complex, with a swimming pool, in the town centre alongside a new state of the art library.

Cllr Athwal commented: "The council is determined to deliver the facilities our community deserve. For too long Ilford has been neglected and now I am working to

deliver a brand-new theatre, a new swimming pool and a bigger and better library for all our residents to enjoy."

The regeneration strategy for Ilford also involves enhanced public realm designed to benefit the residents and visitors to the town centre. The £15m transformation is due to be completed this year and includes high quality paving, new trees, pocket parks, informal play sites, new seating and more street cycle stands.

“ Cllr Athwal said: In Redbridge we want regeneration that will benefit all of our residents. The people of Ilford deserve the very best town centre possible, and I'm very much looking forward to seeing the council's plans take shape in a way that gives all of our communities a first-class leisure, cultural and retail destination. **”**

59
Jobs created by Mercarto Ilford

NEW
Theatre, swimming pool & state-of-the-art modern library

£15m
Invested in street improvements for the area

50,000+
Total number people expected to visit Spark Ilford

BER
located at Janice Mews
de Public. There
businesses, café,
pace and
ood market and
Town Hall car park

JANUARY 2020
Phase 2 of the Public Realm.
The proposed improvements will continue from Phase 1 along the pedestrianised Ilford High Road – starting towards the East (past Town Hall)

MARCH 2020
New market offer with new market provider for Ilford high street.

Ilford

Ilford set to spark

Design proposals for all three Spark Ilford projects are underway to kick-start the development of the Cultural Quarter that will transform Ilford both day and night.

This includes a buzzing arts hub and gallery, community food market, artist studios and affordable workspace.

Make way for The Muse

Things Made Public are set to transform Janice Mews, a disused empty space in Ilford into a creative workspace for start-up businesses.

The Janice Mews building is a former carpet warehouse near the Town Hall and Things Made Public are set to give the building a new lease of life.

Part of the Spark Ilford, the building will be transformed into affordable work spaces for local start-up businesses, giving local performers and artists a platform to showcase their talent and develop their ideas.

One of the three Spark providers we've partnered with, Things Made Public CIC are dedicated to the development of the cultural quarter and passionate about creating a thriving, community led space that not only champions entrepreneurship but also gives the community a place to relax, eat, think and do.

Calling it The Muse, Things Made Public CIC will manage the development of the building and be an exciting addition to the landscape of Ilford town centre.

The upper floor of The Muse will be transformed into an subsidised co-working space, complete with 62 individual desks and two meeting rooms, ready for local entrepreneurs to inhabit whilst embarking on their journeys into the world of business.

Tailored business support will also be available for all tenants whilst free business networking events and seminars will be held regularly for the community to attend.

Downstairs is due to become the soul of the town centre by boasting four food units for local, start-up culinary tycoons to launch their restaurant enterprises.

All food vendors will receive free business support, assistance with branding and marketing, alongside a fitted kitchen to create and sell their mouthwatering delights.

Alongside this, a jam-packed cultural events programme will run five nights a week, showcasing the best of local talent, community activity and educational collaborations, ensuring that there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Set to open in November 2019, The Muse will be a playground for makers, thinkers and doers, that combines co-working space, business incubation, cultural activity and food all under one roof.

Whether its launching your business empire, finding a cosy spot to curl up with a cup of tea and a book or meeting with friends to enjoy a night out with great food and fantastic, live local talent, The Muse will take Ilford by storm in 2019, becoming the place to be for the local community and beyond.

Could you be a muse?

Things Made Public are looking for dynamic entrepreneurs to join their family. Whether you are a web developer or graphic designer, an animator or accountant, a barista with a coffee shop dream or a cake making extraordinaire, The Muse could be just the place for you.

For more information on renting a desk space or food outlet please contact lauren.martin@thingsmadepublic.com



SPACE breaks new ground in Ilford

Building work has begun at the rear of the Town Hall to create a new art gallery and artists' studios.

SPACE, a leading visual arts organisation, is transforming the former Town Hall lending library into a free public art gallery, complete with new ramped entrance from the old carpark on Clements Road.

Inside the building, rooms are being partitioned to create space for 35 studios for artists in the borough with building work due for completion by the end of Summer.

Come and join SPACE on social media:

- ➔ Facebook
- ➔ Instagram
- ➔ Twitter

If you are interested in finding out more about the studios on offer, head to our website <http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/studios/ilford-35-new-studios/> where you can sign up to the SPACE Ilford studios viewing list.

Space Open Call

Calling all artists and gamers

SPACE's Art + Technology programme is looking for the next round of artists for its Focus – Next Residency. This year's residency theme is Deep Play. With gaming infiltrating every aspect of our lives, from collecting loyalty points to measuring steps on your Fitbit, how might game design be used to imagine an alternative future?

UK-based artists and artist duos are invited to submit their proposals for this three-month residency at our new Art + Tech studios at SPACE Ilford. To find out more and apply go to SPACE's website: <http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/art-technology/focus-next-open-call-2019-2020/>

Application deadline

Mon 24 June 10am

Residency

September to December 2019 & January to March 2020



Helping Redbridge breathe

Find out how we're tackling air pollution

We're determined to be at the forefront of improving air quality to ensure Redbridge is one of the cleanest and greenest boroughs in London. We know air pollution is a top concern for our residents and that's why we are proposing a number of key actions to reduce toxic air and keep our residents and visitors safe from its harmful effects.

Air quality action plan

Evidence shows that spending time in areas with high levels of air pollution can worsen asthma symptoms and damage lung function.

We are currently looking to create a refreshed air quality action plan to set out how we will continue to ambitiously tackle poor air quality in Redbridge.

Plans have been published for consultation and public responses will shape the council's new Air Quality Action Plan for the next five years.

Proposals include additional parking charges for 'dirty' diesel vehicles and introducing a low-emission neighbourhood in Ilford to help reduce car use by creating segregated cycle lanes.

Residents are encouraged to have their say by completing an online survey which can be found on our consultations page on the website.

Air filtration in schools

Pupils at two schools in Redbridge will benefit from cleaner air thanks to funding from the Mayor of London and Redbridge Council.

The Mayor, Sadiq Khan and the council have provided William Torbitt and Oakdale with a £10K starter grant – £20k in total – for the installation of air purifiers in classrooms to help protect against exposure to transport related air pollution.

Supporting electric vehicles

We're making it easier for drivers to swap diesel and petrol cars for more eco-friendly versions.

Redbridge successfully secured funding from London's Go Ultra Low City Scheme (GULCS) for the installation of on-street lamp-column electric vehicle charge points in 2018/2019.

The council will be bidding for further GULCS funding enabling more charge points to be installed in the borough this financial year.

We were one of the first London boroughs to install a public rapid charge point and in anticipation of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expanding to Redbridge in October 2021, we are looking to expand the initiative across the borough, as well as charge points for commercial vehicles.

Healthy streets

Sadiq Khan awarded us more than £3 million to transform access to Ilford town centre and tackle an air pollution hotspot.

The successful bid will allow us to create segregated cycle lanes for safer travel and bridges for pedestrians and cyclists over the River Roding and Aldersbrook.

Improved access to open space along the river Roding valley and cycle links to Wanstead, Stratford, Barking and Essex are also part of the transformational scheme to reduce car use, improve air quality and turn local areas into safer, greener and healthier places for Londoners to live.

Redbridge is one of only 11 councils in the capital to receive funding in 2019 from the Mayor of London's Liveable Neighbourhoods programme.

St Peter and St Paul's school children with Leader Councillor Jas Athwal





The Mayor of London has just announced the council has successfully bid for £200,000 to help fund its Redbridge Clean Air Zones.

Protecting children from air pollution and traffic

As part of the air quality action plan, we're proposing to create "Redbridge Clean Air Zones" that will make the journeys to and from school a whole lot healthier.

In Redbridge, outdoor air pollution comes primarily from vehicle exhaust fumes, particularly older diesel vehicles.

In bold efforts to protect school children from air pollution and traffic, the council are proposing to create "Redbridge Clean Air Zones" by closing roads leading to schools at the start and end of the day.

A consultation for a pilot scheme to close roads around Saints Peter and Paul's Primary School in Ilford is underway.

Teachers and students from SSPP Primary School are in full support of the plans and are strong campaigners in the battle for a greener environment.

The school's headteacher, Sue Johnson spoke about the proposals: "SSPP are very excited to be involved in this project as a Rights Respecting School, we care about the environment and the health and safety of our children. We are hopeful this initiative will allow the children to ride their

bikes to school safely and breath cleaner air. The roads will certainly be much safer outside the school. It's a winning solution all round for the children."

Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal said: "We have a duty to protect our children's health, both as a council and as part of the community ourselves. Targeting congested areas outside of schools will cut down on pollution caused by traffic and also make roads much safer for children and families. We know that air quality and safety is a top concern for parents and that's why we want to introduce Redbridge Clean Air Zones to build a cleaner and safer environment for our residents and mitigate the impact pollution has on local young people."

Cllr John Howard, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride, said: "London's toxic air is having a hugely detrimental effect on the lungs of children and young people. This is an extremely important

project that will enable us to tackle air pollution by cutting down on congestion during the school run and promote active travel by encouraging pupils and parents to walk and cycle. The programme will also create much safer roads for children travelling to and from school. We are committed to improving air quality in the borough and the new traffic restrictions outside these school entrances will contribute towards this."

Signs will notify drivers that the roads surrounding the school can only be accessed by cyclists and pedestrians at the displayed times, unless vehicles receive an exemption.

Exemptions will apply to residents and business in the zone, or a blue badge holder requiring access.

Vehicles that are not exempted and enter the closed street during the peak times will be identified by automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras and issued a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

Hainault Forest's £4.2m National Lottery funding set to create lasting legacy for future generations

Redbridge Council has been awarded £4.2m for the restoration and preservation of Hainault Forest to its former natural and wild state.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund announced the award last month paving the way for the ancient woodland to be revived and ancient species to be protected, including 11 varieties of bat.

Among them, the rare Barbastelle bat which was spotted there in 2017, the first time it had been seen in London for 50 years, with further recordings in 2019.

The former royal hunting forest is one of the best examples of medieval woodland still in existence and the rare sighting of the Barbastelle bat proved just how important Hainault is for wildlife.

Surrounded by rapidly increasing and diverse communities the forest is also a vital green space, with 500,000 visits projected annually.

The investment marks a new chapter in the forest's history and will help bring back to life habitats and species that were in decline. It will also leave a lasting legacy for future generations. Redbridge Council has also pledged £1.5m to support the project.

Under the plans three currently derelict historic listed barns will also be restored with space for community, education and commercial events. Families will be able to use the main barn to play and discover the stories of the forest and farm.

Foxburrow's Farm will also get a major upgrade and animals telling the story of the site's natural history will be introduced including black fallow deer, dormice and a rabbit warren.



Leader, Cllr Jas Athwal with Park Ranger Claire Oliviero



Cllr Mark Santos, Cllr Roy Emmett, Cllr Joe Hehir and Park Rangers Francis Castro and Claire Oliverio

Some of the species the project will help survive and thrive are:

- ☑ Eleven species of bat, including rare Barbastelle
- ☑ Barn, Tawny and Little owls
- ☑ Mistletoe
- ☑ Badgers
- ☑ Great crested newts
- ☑ Veteran trees, including hornbeam and oak
- ☑ Fallow deer
- ☑ Hawfinch
- ☑ Marsh sow thistles
- ☑ Common toads
- ☑ Hedgehogs
- ☑ Stag beetles
- ☑ Nightingales



Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal said: "This is fantastic news for Hainault and for the whole of Redbridge.

"Hainault Forest Country Park is one of our iconic parks and this generous funding will enable us to upgrade the space and protect the park for many generations to come."

He added: "We greatly appreciate this support from the National Lottery and look forward to preserving the legacy of Hainault Forest for a long time to come.

"The investment will allow us to more effectively protect habitats and species that are currently in decline."

Stuart Hobley, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Area Director London and South, said: "Hainault Forest is a vital green space for people and wildlife in London but it is declining and at risk.

"Nature and communities are key priorities for National Lottery funding in our new strategic framework and the plans for Hainault Ancient Forest are set to achieve fantastic benefits for both. We are delighted to support the project and look forward to seeing the forest return to its wild best!"

Martin Solder, Chair of Vision Board of Trustees, said: "As Chairman of Vision – Redbridge Culture & Leisure, I am delighted that Redbridge has been successful in its application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund to secure £4.247m to restore Hainault Forest.

"It is a site with so much potential as a regional visitor attraction but also not forgetting the heritage and health value for those that live in the borough. With a growing population, the value of open space is of primary importance and this investment will create a lasting legacy for the site and future generations."

Toby Bancroft, Woodland Trust Regional Director, said: "Congratulations to Redbridge Council. This much needed funding boost for Hainault Forest will help secure the future of this magnificent urban oasis.

"We're looking forward to exploring how we can support the project's successful delivery, creating a place where wildlife can thrive inside the M25 and a treasured space for the community."

150 Fines issued to tackle rogue landlords in Redbridge

Housing Enforcement Officers have issued 150 fines to rogue landlords caught breaking property licensing laws in Redbridge.

Under a zero-tolerance stance against illegal operators in the rental sector, the council is using powers under housing and planning law to enforce hefty fines of up to £30,000 as an alternative to prosecution.

Landlords who have already fallen foul of the crackdown have had the eye-watering fines issued for failing to licence their rental properties, or breaching the conditions of their licence.

Licensing trouble hotspots within Clementswood and Valentines wards – where only 60% of rental properties were currently licenced – were among the first areas targeted for enforcement action.



Cllr Farah Hussain, Redbridge Council Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, said:

“Licensing laws help protect our most vulnerable tenants

which is why we operate a zero-tolerance stance against landlords who think the law does not apply to them. The enormity of the fines reflect that and help us send a clear message that rogue landlords are not welcome in Redbridge.”

Landlords across the borough are also being advised of regulation changes which now mean that ALL rented properties that are houses in multiple occupation (HMO) are required to be licenced and comply with mandatory HMO management regulations.

LANDLORDS

Please check whether your rental property requires a licence. If you are found to have an unlicensed property and you do not comply within seven days then the council will proceed with enforcement action



View from the Cabinet

Councillor Sheila Bain,
Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Enforcement



With London's population growing, building more homes in Redbridge is a necessity. That's why we are seeking more innovative ways to deliver the borough's housing need, through a design-led approach.

To support our growth ambitions, we want to hear the views of residents, homeowners and developers on our draft Housing Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The SPD plays a big part in how we make planning decisions. It provides details on how we apply policies and gives more information on what will and won't be accepted in a planning application for domestic alterations, conversions, HMO's and small housing developments.

Many residents have expressed concerns about the impact of houses in multiple occupation (HMO's). Currently in Redbridge

planning permission is only required for large HMO's of seven or more people. However, we have agreed to introduce the regulation – known as an Article 4 Direction – which removes permitted development rights for small HMO's across the whole borough from 6 December 2019. It means all property owners must obtain planning permission to rent their property out to three or more people who are not a family household. During the consultation there was overwhelming support for the new planning regulation, which will have an important role in raising housing standards in Redbridge, and is included in the draft SPD.

The overall key aims of the SPD are to positively manage increased housing development, and to ensure that it helps to enhance the character of the borough without having an adverse impact on the environment of existing residents, and as such helps set a course for an improved built environment in the borough.

Please log on to our website consultation hub at <https://engagement.redbridge.gov.uk/>, have a look at any documents and take the opportunity to comment. Your views are important to us, and all feedback will be analysed and used to inform our decisions moving forward.

Councillor Helen Coomb, Cabinet Member for Transformation and Engagement

Blue badges issued under the Disabled Parking Scheme are a vital lifeline for many of the borough's most vulnerable residents, which is why the council is taking a zero-tolerance stance against those caught using it illegally.



The misuse of blue badges has been going on for far too long and we are working hard across the borough to turn that around. Just recently the council successfully prosecuted six blue badge cheats, and I'm pleased to say more prosecutions are on the way. A clear message that this type of selfish crime will not be tolerated on any level in Redbridge.

Blue badges greatly help those with serious mobility issues and disabilities to manage their lives more easily by offering greater freedom and flexibility to park in the borough.

Importantly, it helps maintain a sense of independence and enables users to park closer to the facilities and services they require without worrying about access issues.

By using a blue badge fraudulently, it prevents those in genuine need from accessing on-street parking where and when they need it most. These selfish criminals reduce parking spaces

for genuine permit holders who truly need them.

Not only does misuse put those with disabilities to a disadvantage, but each time a blue badge is used illegally, the offender is making a personal financial gain because they are getting parking for free by avoiding using paid parking meters. There is a significant cost to the public purse.

For those in any doubt about the use of the badge, the law is very clear in saying it is for the exclusive use of the badge holder, who must be in the vehicle when it is being used. It also prohibits the badges being loaned or used 'on the badge holder's behalf'.

We're committed to protecting disabled parking provision in Redbridge so if you misuse a blue badge, we will find you out and you will be prosecuted.

New legal curbs on HMO's

Residents' concerns about the impact of houses in multiple occupation (HMO's) has led the council to extend the current planning rules.

In April, the Cabinet gave the go-ahead to introduce the regulation – known as an Article 4 Direction – which removes permitted development rights for small HMO's across the whole borough from 6 December 2019.

To find out more go to:

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/>

It means all property owners must obtain planning permission to rent their property out to three or more people who are not a household such as a family.

Currently in Redbridge planning permission is only required for large HMOs of seven or more people.

There was overwhelming support for the Direction during public consultation.

Rogue landlord enforcement

The Article 4 Direction is just one of the measures being taken by the council to improve standards in the private rented sector:

HMO licensing is mandatory. Enforcement teams are visiting all identified HMO's as part of our proactive approach to tackling rogue operators

The crackdown is also focusing on the council's expanded Selective Licensing scheme. All privately rented property in 14 wards – covering 79 per cent of the sector in Redbridge – need to be licensed to ensure they are used and occupied correctly, and are well managed.



What is a HMO?

A building is now defined as a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) if the following apply:

- it is occupied as living accommodation;
- by at least 3 people who belong to more than one family or household;
- in accommodation that is not self-contained; and
- rent is paid by at least one of the occupiers; and
- it is the occupiers' only or main residence.

Or

- it has been converted into self-contained flats; and
- the conversion does not meet 1991 Building Regulations and less than 2/3 of the flats are owner-occupied.

We want to hear your views: Consultation on draft Supplementary Planning Documents

Residents are being urged to share their views on two Supplementary Planning Documents drafted by the council.

A six week public consultation is being held between 30 May and 11 July 2019 to garner public opinion on the council's draft Housing Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Planning Obligations SPD.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) play an important role in planning decisions by providing information on how the council applies planning policies in Redbridge.

The Housing Design SPD includes guidance on domestic alterations to the home, conversions, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), and small sites housing development, while the Planning Obligations SPD provides additional information on monetary and non-monetary contributions which will be sought by the council.



Residents can submit comments on the Housing Design SPD by completing the on-line survey on the Redbridge Consultation Hub at: <https://engagement.redbridge.gov.uk/>, where you will also find an online copy of the (SPD). This option is not available for the Planning Obligations SPD.

Comments regarding both SPDs can be emailed to dpd@redbridge.gov.uk, or posted to the Planning Policy Team, Front Office Floor 11, Lynton House, 255-259 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1NN.

Online copies of the SPDs can also be accessed by visiting the Planning Policy website at: www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building, and clicking on the 'Planning Policy Consultations' link. Hard copies of the documents can be accessed at the council's main office at Lynton House, High Road, Ilford, and at the Redbridge Central Library between the hours of 9:30am and 8:00pm Monday to Friday, and 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturdays.

New Mayor 'honoured' to be elected

Cllr Zulfiqar Hussain was sworn in as the 55th Mayor of Redbridge at the council's annual Mayor making ceremony last month.

A ward councillor for Clementswood since 2010, he said he was 'honoured' that he has been given this opportunity at the meeting.

"It is a huge privilege and an honour to be the first citizen, Mayor of this borough. I would like to thank all the councillors for bestowing this honour to me. Redbridge is a multi-cultural and religious borough. It's a nice place to live and work here, I have been living in Ilford for the past 50 years and enjoy every bit of it. In the coming weeks and months, I shall try to reach out to as many people as possible." said Cllr Hussain.

The new Mayor, who lives in Ilford, spent 42 years working for the Post Office and held the role of Justice of Peace Magistrate for 22 years.

Each year the Mayor chooses a charity, or charities, to support through the Mayor's Appeal Committee. Cllr Hussain has chosen to support the Healthy Living Project

based at the Welcome Centre in Ilford and Imagine Independence Mental Health.

The Welcome Centre provides accommodation for rough sleepers as well as day services to help those who find themselves on the streets.



His second charity is dedicated to help people who are experiencing mental health issues and provides valuable support in developing skills, housing and employment.

Commenting on his chosen charities, Cllr Hussain said: "It is our duty to support our fellow residents who are not as fortunate as the rest of us. We should do our best to help and support those who are less well-off.

I am confident that all of you would support upcoming fund-raising events for these worthy causes."

During the ceremony tributes were paid to Cllr Debbie Kaur-Thiara, who has raised over £90K for ELHAP during her 2018/19 Mayoralty.

Cllr Kaur-Thiara said: "I'm extremely grateful for the privilege and honour to have served as your Mayor for this wonderful borough for the past year. I believe I will be leaving this position having represented the borough to the best of my ability. I believe, that along with the Mayor's Appeal Committee, we have had a very successful and rewarding year."

A video of the Mayor making 2019 can be viewed on our YouTube page by searching for Redbridge Council.



www.redbridge.gov.uk

OUR STREETS

Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods



As part of the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean, which ran between March and April this year, over 750 residents volunteered to clean up the borough, joining half a million volunteers across the country.

Community picnics were held to celebrate the achievements of volunteers to mark the end of the campaign at Loxford Park, Ilford and Christchurch Green, Wanstead where many community partners got involved and ran fun activities for local residents and children.

As part of the campaign, led by the Neighbourhood Street Scene Team, nineteen primary schools got involved with our Angry Rubbish campaign by entering our poster competition as well as cleaning up their local area. The winning entry was submitted by Leila from Glade Primary School and second prize went to Sameera from Grove Primary School- well done to both. Entries will be used across the borough and in schools to encourage residents to keep their neighbourhoods clean and take pride in their local area.

The Great British Spring Clean campaign was delivered as part of the Our Streets campaign, working with residents to create great streets and neighbourhoods. To learn more visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/ourstreets

King George Hospital



120/80

After years of hard work, Council Leader Jas Athwal confirms the A&E at King George Hospital will remain open

The future of the accident and emergency unit at King George Hospital has been assured.

Council Leader Jas Athwal and the Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering University Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, published an open letter in March confirming the A&E facility is safe.

'We want to be very clear, the threat of closure of the Accident and Emergency unit arising from decisions in 2011 has been removed.

There will continue to be an Accident and Emergency unit at King George Hospital,' the letter said.

'The local population has changed significantly since 2011 and is forecast to change further, there is a clear need for Accident and Emergency provision at King George Hospital both now and into the future.'

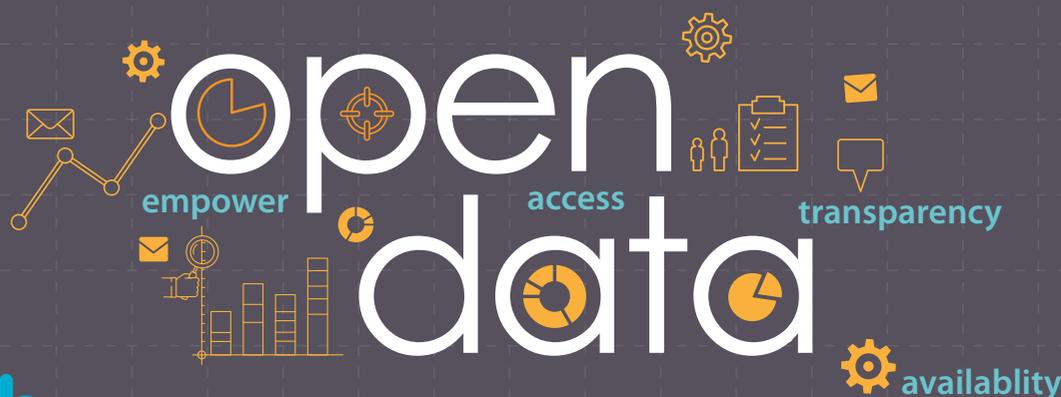
Following publication of the letter, which was co-signed by the Leaders of Havering and Barking and Dagenham councils,

Clr Jas Athwal said: "After years of hard work, I am delighted that I have been able to guarantee that emergency care will continue to be provided at King George Hospital. Our residents deserve the security of knowing their A&E is close by in times of need, and this letter provides it.

"We should be clear that KGH needs significant national investment not simply to maintain, but to improve the quality of service. It is extremely disappointing that a request for over £70m of national capital investment was unsuccessful.

"I know that there has been a great deal of confusion about this capital bid, with some suggesting incorrectly that our plans to improve local services is actually a new threat to services at the KGH. These concerns are unwarranted, unhelpful and are simply causing unnecessary concern. It gives me great pleasure to be able to categorically deny these rumours. Let me be clear, as our letter does: A&E services at King George will remain open. It is time for scaremongering to stop."

'Story of Redbridge' weaves together information to tell a tale of the borough



'The Story of Redbridge' is set to be an invaluable tool to anyone with an interest in the area – including those thinking of moving to Redbridge.

The easy-to-use tool shares information on a multitude of topics including population, business, income, ethnicity, education, transportation, health and wellbeing – all of which can help shape and improve decision making across all levels including from where to live to starting a new business in the area.

Community groups, the voluntary sector and contractors interested in working in Redbridge are also set to benefit as the site provides up-to-date information on the urban landscape to help tailor procurement or commissioning bids.

It also allows residents to view trends in their areas and enables users to interact with a series of maps, graphs and tables.

Clr Helen Coomb, Redbridge Council Cabinet Member for Transformation and Engagement, said:

"The Story of Redbridge brings a phenomenal amount of information together in one place, enabling local people to get the most out of living, working, or running a business in the borough. It's also another step forward in our commitment to be a borough that is open and transparent."

Redbridge Landlord Forum

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?

Come along to Redbridge Landlord Forum and find out more

Wednesday 3 July 2019

6pm to 9pm

Redbridge Town Hall, Main Hall,
128-142 High Road,
Ilford IG1 1DD



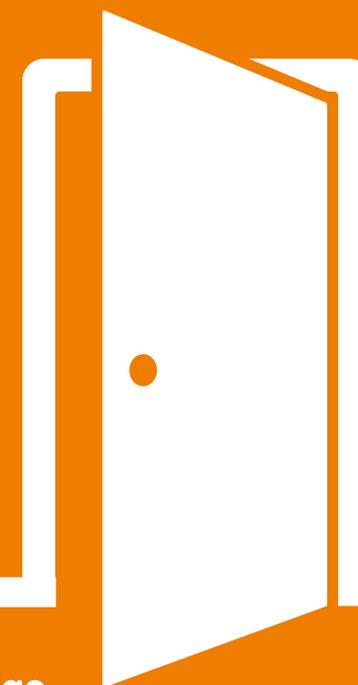
- increase awareness of legislation, policy and procedures
- access training and information
- raise concerns and help shape council policy

Refreshments will be provided

Redbridge Tenants Forum

If you are a tenant renting privately come and talk to us at our mobile tenant information sessions

Venue	Date	Time
Newbury Park Sainsburys King George Avenue, Ilford IG2 7SH	16 July	2pm-5pm
Disability Awareness Festival Christchurch Green, Woodbine Place E11 2RH	17 July	10am-6pm
Central Library Clements Road, Ilford IG1 1EA	19 July	10.30am-1.30pm
Ilford Sainsburys 55 Roden Street, Ilford IG1 2AA	23 July	2pm-5pm
Wanstead Library Spratt Hall Road, Wanstead E11 2RQ	24 July	1pm-4pm
Fullwell Cross Library 140 High Street, Ilford IG6 2EA	30 July	10.30am-1.30pm
Ilford Exchange High Road, Ilford IG1 4FA	31 July	12noon-4pm
Redbridge Foodbank 14 Granville Road, Ilford IG1 4JY	31 July	2pm-4pm



- Get your free Tenant Information Pack Guide to private renting in Redbridge
- Find out about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant
- Learn more about your landlord's or agent's rights and responsibilities
- Get advice on how to resolve difficult situations with your landlord
- Sign up for the free Redbridge Tenant Accreditation training

To reserve your place at either forum,
e-mail prslicensing@redbridge.gov.uk www.redbridge.gov.uk and search Landlord Forum or Tenants Forum

Pest Control Service

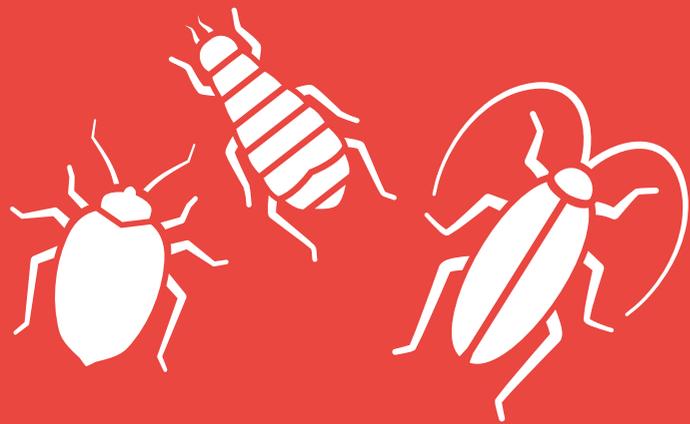
London Borough of
Redbridge 

What we do

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

What pest control officers do

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



Pests we treat and cost

Rats	£97.00
Mice	£97.00
Cockroaches	£133.00
Bedbugs	£185.00
Pharaoh Ants	£154.00
Garden Ants	£97.00
Wasps	1 nest 65.00
Wasps	subsequent nests £40.00
Fleas	£108.00
Commercial premises starting from (non-food premises only)	£176.00



Report a problem online at
customer.cc@redbridge.gov.uk
or contact us on 020 8554 5000

(contactable Monday to Friday 8.30am-6pm
– except bank holidays when we are closed)



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Foster with Redbridge Council and change a young person's future

Redbridge Council is encouraging residents to change a child or young person's future by becoming a foster carer.

Fostering offers children and young people a much-needed home and provides a stable, safe environment for a child or young person until the time is right for them to return home or move into a permanent family. Many children in our area need the support and care of foster families. They come from all backgrounds and cultures and that's why we need a wide range of foster parents that reflect the diversity within our community to provide homes where children will fit in and feel part of a family.

We asked our foster carers what they liked about fostering, here's what they had to say:

I like working for Redbridge as everything is local. The office is close for training which I enjoy and I know other foster carers that live in the borough which is handy for respite or flexi. My social worker visits monthly and if I need anything she can always pop it through my door. I feel that by working with Redbridge I am part of their team.

I have been able to participate in activities which would not normally be available to me or known about.

I had a really supportive social worker - it was like having a friend. The support and training they gave helped me be the best carer I can be.



If you are interested in becoming a foster carer,
visit us at www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering
or get in touch on 020 8708 7528 | fostering@redbridge.gov.uk.

Counselling Courses



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Email admin@elect-training.co.uk

Website www.elect-training.co.uk

Are you caring for somebody else's child?

London Borough of
Redbridge



If you are looking after someone else's child or if your child is being looked after by someone else you might be part of a private fostering arrangement.

Private fostering is when a child or young person aged 16 or under (or 18 if they are disabled) is cared for by an adult who is not a close relative for more than 28 days.

A private foster carer may be:

- a friend of the family
- the parent of a friend of a child
- an extended family member such as a cousin, great aunt or great uncle
- someone previously unknown to the child's family who is willing to privately foster a child

Help us to keep children safe and support families by notifying us of private fostering arrangements. If you are a parent or carer of a child who is being privately fostered you have a legal duty to inform your local council. If you don't you might be missing out on free advice and support.



The Child Protection & Assessment Team, Lynton House, 255-259 High Road, Ilford, IG1 1NN.

020 8708 3885 cpat.referrals@redbridge.gov.uk www.redbridge.gov.uk/privatefostering

Watch out, measles about!

Measles might seem like an old-fashioned disease, but it's making a comeback in London.

With the number of measles cases in children and adults on the rise, it's more important than ever that we're protected in Redbridge. You can do this by making sure that you and your children are vaccinated against this highly infectious disease.

The vaccine – known as the MMR – protects not just against measles, but also mumps and rubella, two other very infectious diseases that can be particularly harmful to the very young, the very old, and those who are pregnant.

The vaccine is freely available on the NHS, with two doses needed for maximum protection.

If your child is due their MMR, please make sure they attend their appointment. If you or your child has missed either MMR dose for any reason, you can arrange a catch-up dose with your GP.

Measles is highly unpleasant for everyone who catches it, and can have serious complications. Young babies, those who are pregnant, and people who have weaker immune systems (such as some cancer patients) are most at risk, but anyone who catches measles at any age may become seriously ill or even die.

Measles is best known for its red-brown blotchy rash, but even before this develops you may experience:

- cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, sneezing, and a cough
- sore, red eyes that may be sensitive to light
- a high temperature (fever), which may reach around 40C (104F)
- a few days later, a red-brown blotchy rash will appear. This usually starts on the head or upper neck, before spreading outwards to the rest of the body

If you are worried that you or any member of your family, or a child in school may have measles, please phone ahead before visiting a GP or other healthcare provider, so that they can make sure you do not risk infecting other patients.

"Measles is highly unpleasant for everyone who catches it, and can have serious complications."

Properties Urgently Wanted

Are you a landlord looking to Protect your investment?

The London Borough of Redbridge has launched a Private Rented Sector Scheme to help private landlords and lettings agents across London.

What can Redbridge Council offer you:

- Cash incentives
- Rents paid in advance
- Deposits paid
- Minimal void periods
- Tenancy sustainment, advice & support
- Direct rent payments
- No fee

If you are a landlord, we want to hear from you

Contact: Zafran Hussain Tel: 020 8708 4474 Mob: 07837 447 366

Email: zafran.hussain@redbridge.gov.uk

We do not charge for our service! Yes, it is FREE!!



London Borough of

Redbridge



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