

REDBRIDGE **LIFE**

GREEN GARDEN WASTE

Back again!

See page 11



ILFORD LANE

Fall in love with Ilford

See pages 8-9



EASTER REFUSE

Refuse collection dates

See page 11



Malachi Place opens its doors

**Leader Cllr Jas Athwal, Malachi Justin, and
Captain Dr. John Clifton outside Malachi Place**

Malachi Place is a partnership between Redbridge Council and the Salvation Army – a project originally inspired because of a letter and donation from Malachi Justin.

Read more on page 13.



Looking for something to do this spring?

Check out some of the best events taking place in the borough on our events calendar

www.redbridge.gov.uk/events

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Facebook

Visit www.facebook.com/redbridgelive and 'like' our page. This is a great way to find out about news, events and community activities in the borough.

HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Council Meetings

26 March 2020

14 May 2020

To ask a question at a council meeting, written notice of the question must be submitted to councilquestions@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

17 March 2020

28 April 2020

21 May 2020

If you wish to speak at meetings of the Cabinet, you will need to inform Democratic Services by 5pm the working day before the meeting at which you wish to speak. Email Helena.Tredgold@redbridge.gov.uk or call 020 8708 2203

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

Scrutiny Committees

Overview

Committee

16 March 2020

27 April 2020

20 May 2020

17 June 2020

People Scrutiny Committee

31 March 2020

29 April 2020

Place Scrutiny Committee

30 March 2020

Education Scrutiny Panel

5 May 2020

Strategy and Resources

Scrutiny Committee

1 April 2020

External Scrutiny Panel

9 March 2020

7 May 2020

Health Scrutiny Committee

11 June 2020

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

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.

The next Local Forum will be held in the East at Isaac Newton Academy Primary, 1 Cricklewood Place, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1FY

The events for the next year will be held on the following dates rotating venues throughout the year. Please mark the dates in the diary, the venues will be announced in the coming weeks at www.redbridge.gov.uk/localforums and in future editions of Redbridge Life.

13 May

20 May

2 June

9 June

Meetings start from 6.45pm for initial informal discussions with officers and councillors. The formal session will begin at 7.15pm and the Q&A session with the Leader will run from 8pm to 8.30pm.

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The editor can be contacted by emailing redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk

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Next issue out in June

LEADER'S MESSAGE

Protecting vital services and investing in what matters to you



I hope you're all well and looking forward to spring. It's so nice to finally see brighter evenings after the long dark winter months.

It's also the perfect time to blow away some of the winter cobwebs, go out and explore some of the fantastic parks and green spaces we're fortunate to have here in Redbridge.

With summer on the not too distant horizon, we're also looking forward to the arrival of Mercato Metropolitano, a fantastic offer of good food and community events. This is a vital part of our plans to develop and transform Ilford into a vibrant destination of choice.

Some of you might be aware that we set and agreed our budget last week for the next financial year. The crucial thing is that we have delivered a budget that will continue to invest in key services to help improve the borough for you, (pages 16 & 17).

And this is despite the fact we've had to save more than £180 million in just under ten years – a staggering amount of money that could have been spent on vital frontline services for residents.

We've put aside £18 million to ensure we provide compassionate care to some of our most vulnerable residents; to continue to try and do our bit to solve the London housing crisis and keep our neighbourhoods and streets clean and safe. In addition, we will be investing £10 million in our roads and highways.



In the coming weeks, you will also notice the emergence of a new multi-agency taskforce dedicated to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in and around Ilford Town Centre. The frontline team of 17 will provide high-visibility evening and late-night patrols, seven days a week, and will be made up of council enforcement officers and the police.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Project Malachi is now up and running – a groundbreaking initiative to help tackle homelessness for those people with no recourse to public funds.

It's so rewarding to see how an idea that we first put forward six years ago has finally reached fruition. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has played a part in helping make this vision a reality. There is absolutely no reason why people in modern society should be faced with the prospect of sleeping rough. That is why we will continue our efforts to eliminate rough sleeping in the borough.

I look forward to catching up with you all in the summer – and have a Happy Easter.

LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Redbridge businesses one of the first in UK to benefit from fast charging hub for electric vehicles thanks to £250k grant

Businesses in Redbridge will have access to a fast charging hub for electric vehicles, thanks to a £250k grant aimed at tackling air pollution in the borough.

The hub, one of the first of its kind in the country, is being created at the council's Ley Street Depot in Ilford, and will feature at least four fast charging points, capable of fully charging an electric vehicle in under an hour.

Targeted towards local businesses, the landmark scheme aims to encourage more companies to switch to electric vehicles, and is one of a range of environmental and air quality improvement initiatives coming into force around Ley Street, as a result of the funding.

The pot of money was awarded through the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund, after the borough successfully bid to form a Business Low Emission Neighbourhood (BLEN) in and around Ley Street in Ilford.

Initiatives under the project include widening the cycling lanes along the northern section of Ley Street leading up to the A12, installing extra cycle stands and adding more greenery to provide a natural barrier against vehicle emissions for pedestrians.

They will be delivered over a three-year period.



AVOID THE THREE-CUP SCAM

Shoppers visiting Ilford Town Centre are being warned to avoid the three-cup scam illegally being operated by street gamblers, and are advised not to participate as that will only encourage further scammers to the area.

The three-cup act is a scam, involving several people aimed at deceiving unsuspecting victims out of their money.

The Council's enforcement teams and the Police are working to target these individuals. If you have been a victim of this crime please report by calling 101 or online via the Met Police website.

LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Join us in making the Redbridge Equality Pledge

Redbridge Council became one of the first local authorities in the country to officially commit to fighting discrimination with the launch of the Redbridge Equality Pledge during Holocaust Memorial Day.

Hundreds attended the event this year as communities came together to remember Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust under Nazi persecution, as well as all those who have suffered in genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The council took up this year's theme of Standing Together to emphasise its commitment to preventing inequality by unifying local communities with the Equality Pledge. The pledge calls on everyone to consider how they can make their own personal contribution to fairness and equality by asking signatories to set out how they will help make Redbridge more inclusive.



Guests signing the Equalities Pledge

To make your pledge, visit the equality and diversity page of the council website www.redbridge.gov.uk/pledge



Cllr Jas Athwal, leader of the council said:

"The Redbridge Equality Pledge is our way of showing our commitment to making our area welcoming, inclusive and fair. As a council we have values which we are proud to adhere to and we are asking our partners, residents, neighbours and friends to share those values.

"Everyone can make a commitment towards helping make sure we are all treated equally and fairly by others, regardless of our race, gender, religion, sexuality, or disability – giving us each the freedom to be who we are."



Partnership team's mission is cleaner streets



Redbridge Street Cleaning Team

We're stepping up our fight against litter, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour after we launched a new enforcement team, and it's already showing results.

The council has joined forces with contractor Local Authority Support (Kingdom) to clamp down on those who do not clean up after their dogs, and litter the borough. As part of the partnership, we have introduced more uniformed street patrols which are out daily, and can identify hot spot areas and issue fines, when necessary.

In the first month of the scheme our patrols had issued over 1,300 fixed penalty notices for a range of offences, from spitting and dog fouling to dropping cigarette butts, cans and tissues, to keep our streets cleaner.

Yusuf Patel MBE

Yusuf Patel is passionate about his role as community engagement officer at Redbridge Council – and his commitment was recognised when he was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours.

Yusuf was recognised for working tirelessly to bring communities together and tackle extremism through grassroot initiatives. He has organised various community events,

including a groundbreaking exhibition on Muslim heroes of the Holocaust and events commemorating the massacre of Bosnian Muslims during the Srebrenica genocide. He works with the most vulnerable communities to challenge violence against women and girls and to empower women from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds to become involved in public and civic life.



NEW SPRING COURSE GUIDE 2020 ENROL 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 course guide from one of our centres or local libraries.



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LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Spring it on!

Redbridge Council joins the Great British Spring Clean

Our Neighbourhood teams are bringing pride back to the borough by supporting community groups taking part in the Great British Spring Clean 2020.

The Keep Britain Tidy initiative, which starts on 20 March for a month, encourages families and communities to help clean up the borough's front gardens, streets and local parks.

In support, the council is lending equipment to residents and hosting community events to celebrate the work of local people in keeping the borough clean and tidy.

The team are also looking for community groups to pledge their support by signing up and taking part. You can do this through the Keep Britain Tidy website under 'Great British Spring Clean'.

This work is part of the council's Our Streets strategy which works with and for residents to help create a cleaner, greener and safer borough.

Cllr John Howard, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride, said:

"We're really proud to be part of this national event, and want to encourage local communities to also take ownership of their neighbourhoods, and join us in giving our streets a big spring clean!"

"By working together, we can achieve so much more, and make a bigger impact as a community on improving our streets."

"This is a fantastic initiative to work closely with local residents to make Redbridge a place we can all be proud of."

Organise a clean-up in your community

Organising a litter pick is an excellent way to meet neighbours and sends out a strong message that the community will not tolerate littering and dumping rubbish. The 'Litter Picking Hubs' project in partnership with Vision RCL enables residents to book and borrow litter pickers from Redbridge Central Library, Fullwell Cross, Woodford Green and Goodmayes Libraries, and help with your clean-ups.

Check out the community litter picking 'how-to' guide and borrow litter pickers from your local library hub by completing an online form on: www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets



Come along to a Community Pop Up Picnic near you!

- Bring a snack/rugs/chairs
- Eco games
- Contribute to a piece of community art
- Face painting
- Eco living tips
- Meet the Neighbourhood team and plant a sunflower seed

Friday 20 March
Christchurch Green, Wanstead
 2:30pm – 4:30pm
This is the 'launch' event for the GBSC Redbridge activities this year.

Friday 27 March
Loxford Park
 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Friday 3 April
Barkingside Recreation Ground
 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Thursday 9 April
Barley Lane Recreation Ground
 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Wheelie bin pilot is rolled out

Around 7,000 households have received wheelie bins as part of a pilot to replace black sacks for rubbish.



Redbridge Refuse and Recycling team

Redbridge Council introduced the pilot scheme to try to keep the streets cleaner and encourage people to recycle more. The move was decided after a survey in October 2018 showed the majority of residents favoured having a bin to store their rubbish and agreed that we should do more to tackle waste in the community. A wheelie bin should make putting rubbish out much easier.

Pilot areas were chosen to be representative of the borough so the bins can be tested to make sure they work as intended.

“

Councillor John Howard, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride, said:

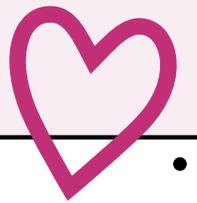
"A key aim of the scheme is to keep our streets cleaner – containing rubbish in a wheelie bin will prevent animals and birds ripping open bags and making a mess in our streets, which is unpleasant for everyone and costly to clean up. Using wheelie bins for rubbish will also help keep people's front gardens clean."

"We're testing the scheme to make sure that the bins reduce refuse tonnages and work for householders as intended, and we're eager to hear residents' views."

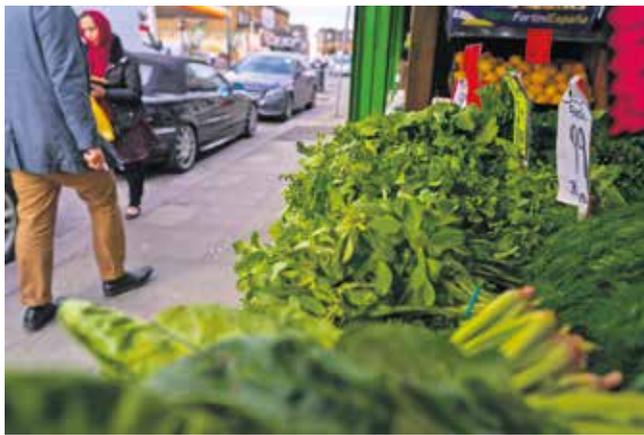
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LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Fall in love with



Ilford Lane



Residents, businesses, police and the Council have all been busy with the community campaign to clean up Ilford Lane, and through hard work, more and more people are falling in love with this bustling destination.

LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

The Lane provides the ideal combination of shopping and socialising all in one place through its vibrant mix of 325 independent shops, eateries and businesses.

These include jewellers, bakeries, restaurants, saree designers, soft furnishings, cafes, fresh produce suppliers, hardware stores, motoring supplies and service-led outlets such as dry cleaners and nail bars.

One of the most appealing aspects of Ilford Lane is its accessibility, through convenient on-street parking bays and popular bus routes. It may only be just over one mile long, but The Lane has more independent businesses than anywhere else in the borough, as 216 new traders launched their business there within the last five years.

Local resident Eamonn believes Ilford Lane is "a local diverse and vibrant community, where residents and visitors can feel safe. This is helped by the visible presence of the police and Redbridge Enforcement Officers."



Spoil your taste buds

If your passion is fresh produce or eating out then The Lane provides arguably some of the most exotic fruits on offer from its market stores. Plus, a wealth of authentic Asian eateries and cafes to suit all occasions which have helped to boost the evening economy.

Over the last two years there has been rapid growth in food and drink outlets, which have created more places for people to socialise and shop in one social area.



Why we should put the phone down

Ilford Lane is one of those unique destinations that trumps online shopping, giving an experience that can't be replicated sitting at home buying items via your phone. By visiting one of the bespoke saree shops, customers can select their materials, feel the fabric and discuss bespoke designs, while not having to worry about the added cost of delivery.

All the improvements have contributed to creating a unique destination which showcases the truly vibrant multi-cultural character of Redbridge.



Make time for things you like to do

Join 66,000 Redbridge households who have chosen to pay their council tax by Direct Debit

Choose from six dates, and instalment frequencies

Sign up by
31 May 2020 to be
entered into a prize
draw to win an
Apple iPad



Visit our website www.redbridge.gov.uk/counciltax to sign up, and for the prize draw terms and conditions.

CLEAN & GREEN

Fly-tippers pay the price for selfish actions

People who dump rubbish illegally have been counting the cost of their selfish behaviour.

Redbridge Council is clamping down on fly-tipping and in the past few months has brought several successful prosecutions, with culprits having to pay out hundreds of pounds in fines and charges.

Among them was a woman from Havering who was charged £577 after appearing at Barkingside Magistrates' Court. Su Larcombe from Collier Row admitted leaving three bags of her boyfriend's rubbish in Grasmere Gardens and Woodford Avenue. She was fined £143, and ordered to pay costs of £360 and clear-up costs of £42. A victim surcharge of £32 was also imposed.

Another fly-tipper, who illegally dumped the contents of a garage, ended up nearly £2,000 out of pocket.

Mohammed Khan, 35, of Ripplegate Walk, Barking, was spotted on security TV emptying the bulky

contents into a residents' bin area on the Ray Lodge Estate, Woodford Green.

In court he admitted that he and his brother had disposed of the waste from his late father's garage store room, as he was selling the property. Both men pleaded guilty to fly-tipping. Each had to pay a fine of £1,384, the council's costs of £417.50 and a victim surcharge of £138, totalling £1,939.75.

Cllr Jas Athwal, the Leader of Redbridge Council, said: "Redbridge is our home and no one has the right to dump their rubbish on our streets. Our enforcement team will track them down and we will prosecute."

"Our message is simple. Those who choose to ruin our local environment will be caught and they will face the consequences of their selfish behaviour."

Redbridge Enforcement Officer



Easter collection dates

Your normal rubbish and recycling collection dates may change over the Easter period. See the table below:



Normal scheduled collection day

Due on

Collected on

Friday 10 April

Friday 10 April

Monday 13 April

Tuesday 14 April

Tuesday 14 April

Wednesday 15 April

Wednesday 15 April

Thursday 16 April

Thursday 16 April

Friday 17 April

Friday 17 April

Saturday 18 April

GREEN GARDEN WASTE



The Garden Waste service will run from Monday 6th April to Friday 27th November and will be a fortnightly collection.

Please note that it is a fortnightly service, and the borough is split into WEEK 1 and WEEK 2. So if residents are a week 1 collection, their service will end on Friday 20th November.



OUR STREETS

Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods

LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Redbridge first in the UK to offer pioneering family therapy service for young people at risk of joining gangs

A ground-breaking new family therapy service aimed at preventing and reducing youth crime has been launched in the borough.

It is the first time the innovative Families Functional Therapy-G service – branded as Families Are Forever – has been delivered outside of the US, and will offer a bespoke family therapy programme for families where young people are deemed at risk of becoming involved in gangs.

The borough will be working in partnership with Cambridgeshire based company, Family Psychology Mutual, to deliver the therapy sessions to eligible families.

Under the programme, a specialist clinical therapist will work with the young person and their family, over a three to five-month period, to build on relationship strengths to overcome negative patterns of behaviour.

Families Are Forever was given the green light, following a successful bid by the council and Family Psychology Mutual for £781,055 through the Youth Endowment Fund.

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

“Deterring young people away from gangs and criminality is an absolute priority for us.

“We want to give our young people the best opportunities and start in life, as well as the support they need, when they need it.

“This innovative new service will help us provide the support and expertise needed to intervene where young people have been identified as being at risk of gang involvement and exploitation.”



Cllr Elaine Norman and Redbridge Officers at the launch of Families Are Forever

Capital Letter Housing

Work to help homeless families in Redbridge is taking a further step as the London-wide Capital Letters scheme gets underway.

The council has joined 12 boroughs in the innovative scheme to provide extra homes for residents at risk of becoming homeless. Backed by nearly £38 million of government funding, Capital Letters allows the council to lease more homes and ensure vulnerable families have safe, long-term and stable housing options. You can find out more by visiting the London Councils website: www.londoncouncils.gov.uk



LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS



Cllr Rai, Deputy Leader, Cllr Farah Hussain and Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal

£5 million centre for homeless people opens in Ilford

A brand-new £5million centre to help tackle homelessness in Ilford, East London, has opened its doors to help those in need of a roof over their heads.

Project Malachi is a joint venture funded to the tune of £5million by the Salvation Army and Redbridge Council. The building is made up of 42 self-contained flats, finished and decorated to provide safe and comfortable homes. It is also the first of its kind to specifically support rough sleepers who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) in this way.

Malachi Place offers a radical new approach to help people escape a life of rough sleeping, creating a new kind of homelessness hostel, with an integrated bicycle refurbishment social enterprise.

Malachi Place will provide year-round accommodation and support for people who have been sleeping rough. The Salvation Army will provide specialist 24-hour on-site support for residents to help them deal with the many issues that led them to sleeping rough, like domestic violence, childhood trauma, relationship breakdown, as well as mental ill health.

Leader of Redbridge Council, Councillor Jas Athwal, said:

"It is fantastic that Malachi Place is now up and running – a ground breaking joint initiative to help tackle homelessness for those with no recourse to public funds.

"It is so rewarding to see how an idea that we first put forward six years ago at a council committee has finally reached fruition. I'd like to say a big thank to you to everyone who has played a part in helping make this vision become a reality. There is absolutely no reason why people in modern society should be faced with the prospect of sleeping rough. That is why we will continue our efforts to eliminate rough sleeping in the London borough of Redbridge."

Chigwell Road temporary housing opens

People have now moved into the new temporary accommodation in Chigwell Road, South Woodford, a council housing scheme to accommodate more than 100 homeless residents.

Councillor Farah Hussain, Redbridge Council's cabinet member for housing and homelessness, said: These new homes in South Woodford are just one way we are tackling the housing crisis in the borough.

"We have a rolling programme to purchase 300 homes over the next few years and a joint project with other London boroughs to secure accommodation for people in need. The council is also directly delivering 600 council houses for local families.

"This housebuilding programme will account for a large part of the council's strategy to build 1,000 affordable homes by 2022, and means it will become the largest provider of new social homes in the borough."



Rooms at the new temporary accommodation in Chigwell Road, South Woodford





GET ACTIVE

Spring is on its way

It's that time of year when the weather starts to get better and the nights get lighter, so why not make the most of the parks and open spaces Redbridge has to offer.

Whether it's pottering around on the allotment or making the most of our outdoor gyms and play areas, why not get out and about to enjoy the fresh air and make some time to see what's on our doorsteps.

We're encouraging residents to take more opportunities to get fit and active in parks and open spaces, giving them the chance to enjoy their local area and embrace what the borough has to offer.

If you have some spare time on your hands and would like to enjoy the great outdoors, then why not help us to keep our parks and open spaces looking great? It's a great way to exercise, meet new friends and help the environment, all at the same time.

For more information visit www.visionrcl.org.uk or email nature.conservation@visionrcl.org.uk

You can:

- gain valuable practical experience in conservation
- keep yourself fit and healthy
- help as often or as little as you like – we hold volunteer days on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year
- work in a safe environment – tools, safety equipment and training are all provided
- thrive in the laid back atmosphere – everyone works at their own pace and there are plenty of breaks
- spot local wildlife and learn more about ecology



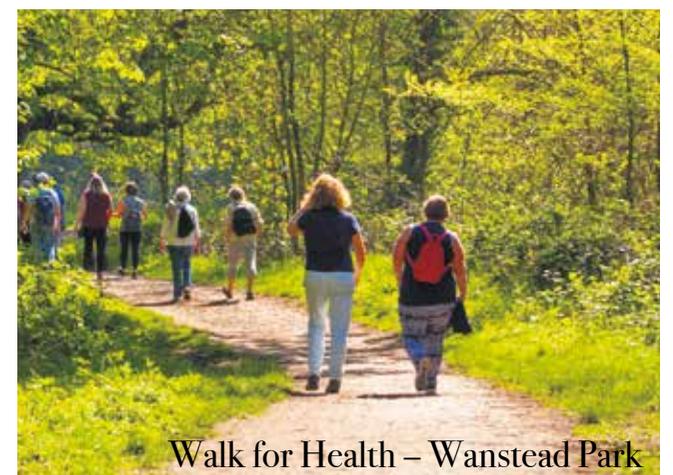
Allotments



Clayhall Park



Valentines Mansion Park



Walk for Health – Wanstead Park

LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Tell us

Redbridge Council's Customer Voice initiative has continued to grow, with the website's chatbot getting more intelligent, more transparency and data sharing to improve services and a brand-new area on the website making it easier than ever to share issues.



**CUSTOMER
VOICE**

Customer Voice was launched in 2018 and the Council have been focussing on developing new ways of working and improving services based on customer feedback and data. As a result, stronger communities can be built and better conversations can be had, both digitally and face to face, to benefit and support residents.

Newly developed corporate complaints and insights data is now available to residents on the Redbridge Council website and in-depth monthly analyses have been rolled out across services to identify key areas of improvement. This data will be used to galvanise change and help recognise the root cause of complaints in order to solve any underlying issues.

Upgrades to the chatbot hope to engage residents by making it simple to report faults and complain without having to call the Contact Centre, which will free up call centre staff to deal with complex enquiries. The chatbot has already helped reduce the number of telephone enquires about bin collections by 25 per cent and more reductions are expected with the increased functionality.

Cabinet Member for Transformation and Engagement Cllr Helen Coomb said: "We're really keen to find new ways to engage with our residents and improve the customer experience. It's clear the chatbot has proved a real hit with our residents, who have benefited from a simple, quick and clear route to the information they need. Importantly, the reduction in the volume of calls to our contact centre following the launch of the bot has enabled customer service staff to concentrate on the more complex enquiries raised with us. The project's success has reinforced our belief that digital technology can improve the services we offer and we will now be looking to explore the potential of chatbots to help with our engagement."

A brand-new area of the website, dedicated to making it easy for customers to tell the Council what's wrong and what's right with services, has been designed to simplify and streamline the process of raising issues with services. These pages will signpost residents to the quickest way to resolve a problem and a new complaints form will make it easier for the authority to identify the best immediate solution for an issue as well as recognise larger areas of improvement within the service and the Council as a whole.

www.redbridge.com/tell-us

sue.austin@redbridge.gov.uk is interested in hearing from residents that would like to be part of a customer feedback group sharing experiences of your contact with us, reviewing new digital processes and helping us to shape customer service at Redbridge council.



2020/21

A BUDGET THAT DELIVERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF REDBRIDGE

Redbridge Council has once again committed to investing in key services to help improve the borough for its residents.

Redbridge Council has been recognised as a high-performing, low spend council that has arguably been punching above its weight for some time, especially considering the level of savings it has been forced to make over the past decade, as the Deputy Leader, Councillor Kam Rai, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources of Redbridge Council explains:



“Redbridge has seen an average 63% reduction in funding over the past decade. This means we’ve had to save more than £180m in just under ten years – a staggering amount of money that could have been spent on vital frontline services for residents.”

“Government funding hasn’t taken into account that demands have increased in Redbridge. We have the eighth lowest-level of funding per head of population of any unitary council in the country, and are among the lowest-funded councils for both adults and children’s social care.”

“Despite these huge pressures, residents still wake up in the morning to see their bins picked up every week; all libraries and parks in the borough remain open, we continue to protect our most vulnerable residents and we are supporting the police in keeping people safe and tackling anti-social behaviour.”

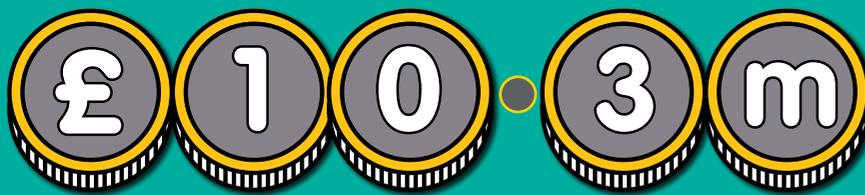


These are just of some of the investments Redbridge Council is making in the coming year and beyond.

A total of £17.4m will be invested in improving our roads and highways



The Council is planning to invest £17.4m into roads across the borough, including £13.5m of funding for road resurfacing with the remaining £3.9m to be invested in improving the condition of existing highways.



Investing in education and in services to keep our most vulnerable children, young people and adults safe

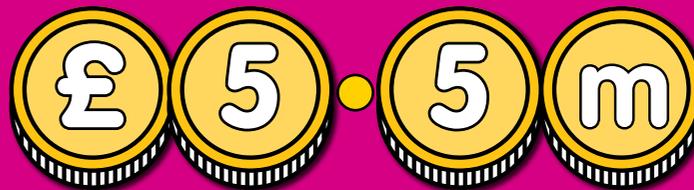
This money will ensure that we provide compassionate care to some of our most vulnerable residents and invest in their education.



Housing

We will continue to build new council housing and affordable properties to address the historically low levels of social housing in the borough. Including the purchase of temporary accommodation to help tackle the housing crisis until we can find residents a permanent home in Redbridge.

Temporary Accomodation



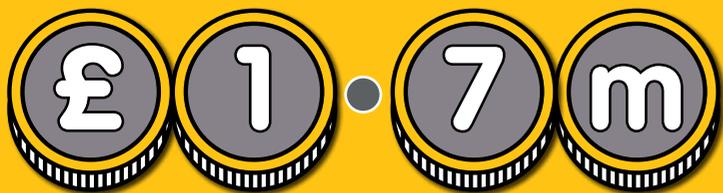
Keeping our neighbourhoods clean, tidy and safe



This will be invested in street cleaning, enforcement and tree planting, while also modernising services and supporting residents, to take more control of neighbourhoods.



Investment in other services, including CCTV and emergency planning



We are investing in other services and we will continue to improve safety for residents through improved CCTV and preparing for any unforeseen civic emergencies.



Tackling climate change



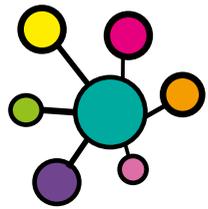
The Mayor of London has awarded Redbridge Council £500k to be one London's Business Low Emission Neighbourhoods. Businesses in Redbridge will have access to a fast charging hub for electric vehicles. The hub, one of the first of its kind in the country, is being created at the council's Ley Street Depot in Ilford.



Leisure

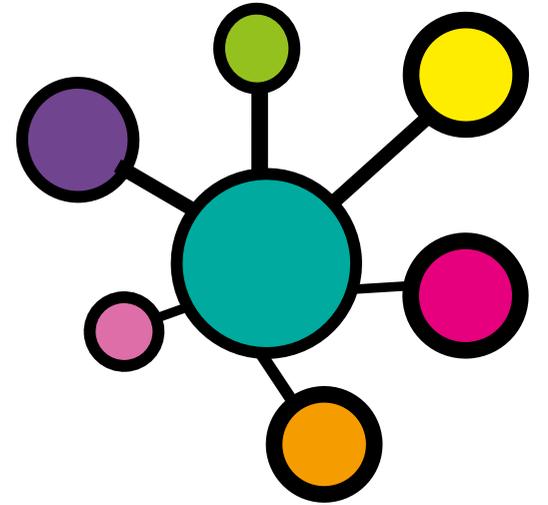
Through wise and innovative investment, Redbridge Council will renovate Ashton Playing Fields in Woodford Bridge. Redbridge Council will also continue the transformation of Hainault Forest County Park, in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund, and deliver the new swimming pool in Wanstead.





HUB NEWS

Community hubs take shape – with help from you



Residents at the Seven Kings co-design workshop

a feasibility study of the Gants Hill site which will run from now until the summer. The successful architects, RCKa, will be working with local people and leads from the council and NHS. We will shortly be inviting people to apply to be on a community stakeholders group, which will also be advertised through council channels.

If you're interested in getting involved in the process, please email antigua@mutualgain.org

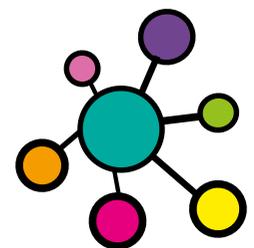


Exciting times are ahead as our community hub plans take shape.

The community hubs aim to become the centre of civic and community life in their neighbourhoods and enhance and improve services for local people. Each hub is being designed with local people to ensure that it responds to the unique needs of its community. The message from the council is – please get involved to shape this programme for the future.

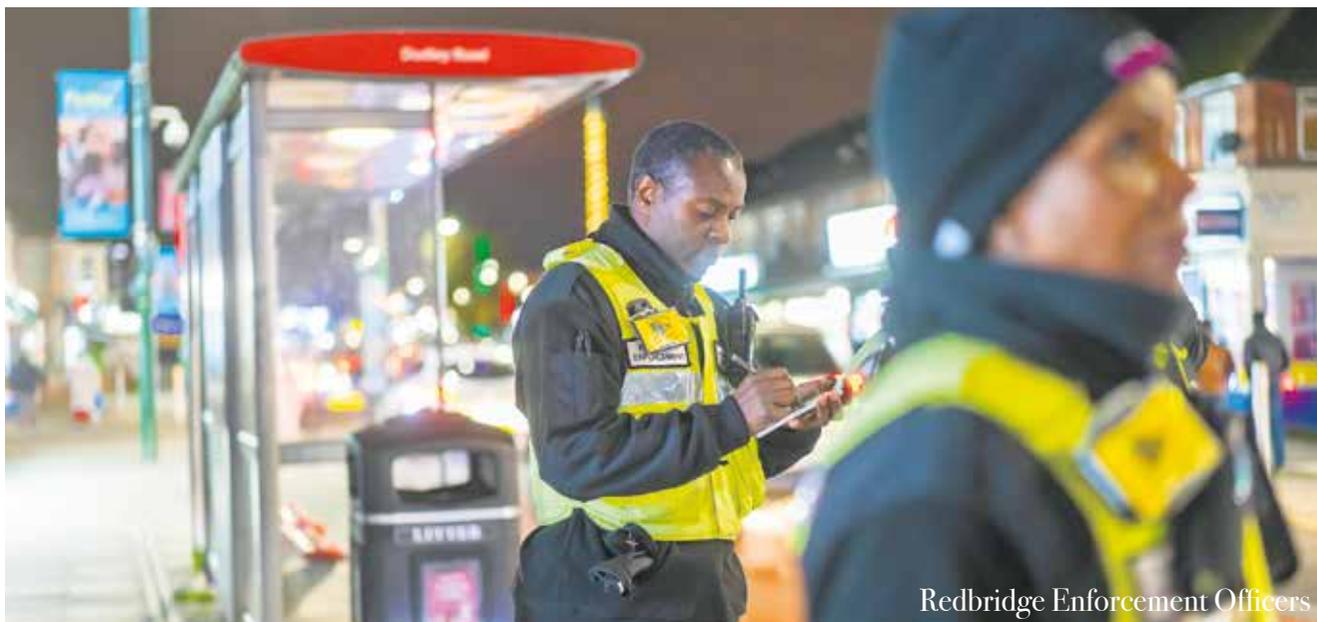
The Seven Kings community hub is working towards being part of a planning application to be submitted in spring, so we held a co-design workshop recently bringing together local residents, council service leads and NHS representatives to agree on layout options. In Gants Hill, a joint panel of residents and council staff have appointed architects to undertake

You can find out more about the community hubs on the council website www.redbridge.gov.uk/hubs



LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Behaviour changing initiatives to be rolled out in Redbridge to help tackle prostitution in the borough



Redbridge Enforcement Officers

Redbridge has been given the green light to trial initiatives aimed at changing the mindset and behaviour of local people engaging in prostitution, thanks to a £20,000 grant.

The funding boost from the Local Government Association (LGA) will support the council in developing and implementing initiatives aimed at changing the attitude and behaviour of those soliciting prostitutes in the borough.

By changing the behaviour of those who purchase sex locally the council is hoping to see a long-term improvement to the local environment in South Ilford, while also helping reduce the need for regular enforcement action.

The LGA grant is in addition to a raft of successful measures already in place to help tackle prostitution and support women, who are often victims, to move away from this type of harmful and dangerous life.

This includes increased police and council enforcement presence on Ilford Lane, the use of CCTV and ANPR cameras and the ground-breaking Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which bans attempts to buy sexual services from another person in a public place.

The PSPO empowers enforcement officers and police to issue on-the-spot fines to those caught breaching the order.

The council will now work towards a plan for the grant funds to explore, test and evaluate methods of changing behaviour. This includes a range of initiatives from developing messaging for campaigns, leaflets, community engagement and display boards to community champions. The aim is to change views so that those soliciting prostitutes understand that:

- women engaging in prostitution are often victims of trafficking and coercion, who would choose a different life
- there is a lack of consent if the person being paid for sex is trafficked and being forced into prostitution.

The goal is to also shift the community's mindset by changing their anger towards women involved in prostitution into an intolerance towards the men in the community who are driving the demand for the service.

Leader of the Council Cllr Jas Athwal said:

"We're already doing a lot of good work tackling prostitution in the borough, working closely with the police and local community, and have seen a huge decline in on-street prostitution.

"However, it's equally important to focus on changing the mindset and behaviour of those engaging in this type of practice to ensure a shift in attitude that will help deter local people from purchasing sex to begin with.

"We very much welcome this grant and will put it to good use, building on the excellent work we've already delivered by putting initiatives in place that focus on changing people's behaviour."

Clare, a member of the local Residents' Group said:

"Tackling this kind of issue is quite complex, and there needs to be more than just one approach, which is why the community, police and council are trying to work together on this.

"I think an additional more informative approach to tackle attitudes and behaviours of those engaging in prostitution is a great step forward in finding more long-term solutions for the area.

"It's about educating people about the criminal element of what they are doing, how it affects lives and neighbourhoods, and ensuring people really understand the consequences of their actions on not just themselves, but also others."

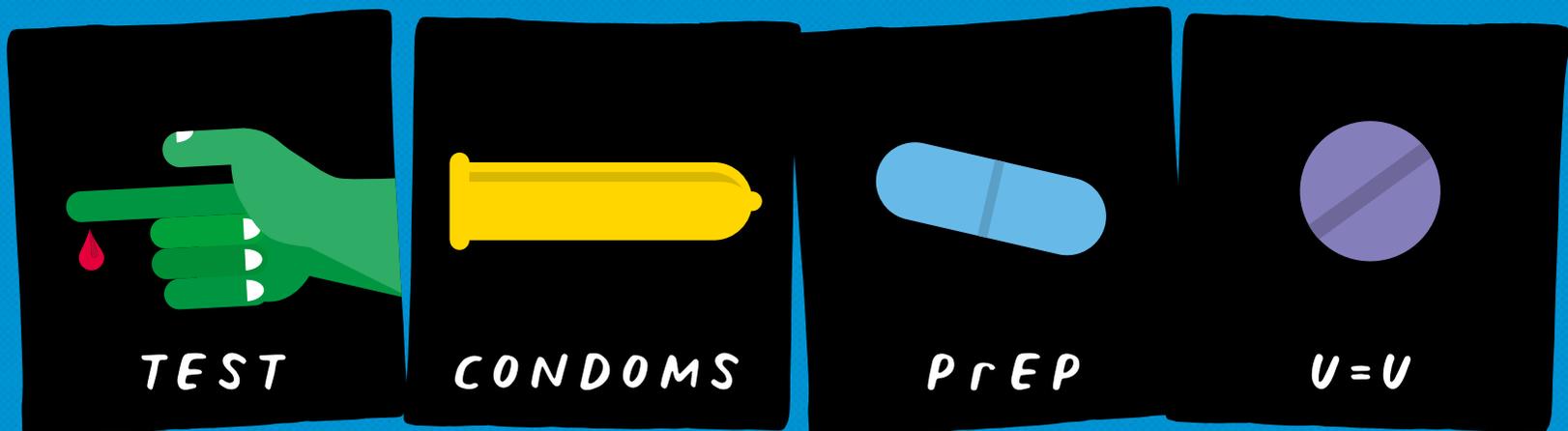
The council was awarded the LGA grant under the Behavioural Insights Programme which encourages innovation in local public services to help people make better choices for themselves and society.

More details on the programme can be found on: www.local.gov.uk

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*2015-17 DECREASE. SOURCE: PHE ANNUAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SPOTLIGHT ON HIV IN LONDON: 2017 (PUB: DEC 2018)

LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS



Sign up today to receive your email news

Want to keep up to date about local services and the latest news and events from the Council?

If so, sign up to our newsletter and get the information you want quicker and easier.

www.redbridge.gov.uk/signup

Mercato Metropolitan

Andrea Rasca, Mercato Metropolitan's Chief Executive Dreamer, has a vision to create a movement; a true revolution in the relationship between the city, its citizens and the entire food supply chain. It is in this sense that the food centric MMovement knows no boundaries for supporting communities and becomes an important socio-economic project for people with people.

Community building lies at the heart of everything we do at Mercato Metropolitan, from cookery classes for local school children, to business incubation opportunities for refugees. We work hard to ensure our markets address the needs of a broad range of residents and our rich community programmes provide many opportunities for local people to get involved.



Visuals of Ilford Mercato Metropolitan



Another of Mercato Metropolitan's sites

Our vision for Mercato Ilford is to host free cookery classes for local children to inspire and encourage healthy eating and to curate programmes that address food insecurity and lack of access to healthy food. We will provide incubation opportunities for Redbridge based businesses, supporting their development and growth. In 2019, Mercato Metropolitan launched its Founders Without Borders, a refugee focussed business incubation programme, which will be rolled out across our markets.

Mercato Ilford will also provide activities and events for members of the community, which aims to address social isolation and loneliness within communities. Mercato Ilford will open Summer 2020.

Pest Control Service

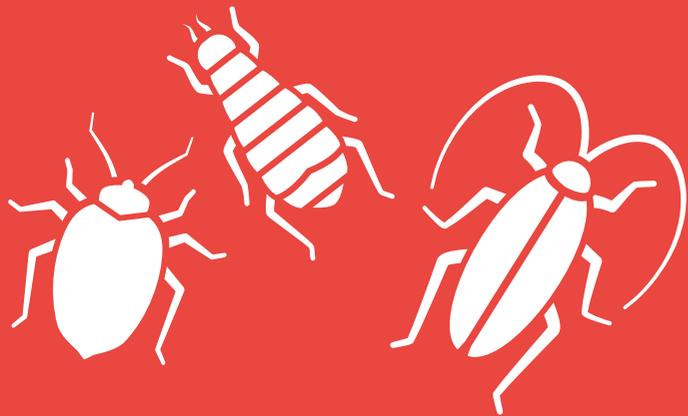
London Borough of
Redbridge 

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



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



*Subject to price increases after 31 March 2020

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LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Knife retailers in the borough join crackdown on underage knife sales

Redbridge retailers have been pledging their support for a pan-London initiative to stop illegal, underage knife sales.

The borough's Trading Standards team, in conjunction with the police, have already signed-up 16 stores to the London Responsible Retailers Agreement (RRA), with others being urged to follow suit.

The initiative follows on from a series of successful test purchases carried out by the trading standards team which showed 97 per cent of traders that were tested in the borough refused to sell a knife to a customer without proof of age – one of the most successful rates across London.

Under the RRA, which is being rolled out across the capital with a focus on smaller, independent stores, retailers pledge to:

- understand the basic requirements for the safe storage of knives
- follow the **ASSESS-CHALLENGE-CHECK** process for selling age-restricted goods
- know when and how to contact police with suspicions of knife crime or where staff feel threatened by customers

The initiative was developed jointly by London Trading Standards (LTS), the Metropolitan Police and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to help restrict access to knives for under 18s.

Leader of the Council Cllr Jas Athwal said: "The Responsible Retailers Agreement is an important step forward in restricting access to these dangerous weapons for under 18s, and I urge all our local knife retailers to sign up to it. For more information, or to sign your business up to the RRA please call 020 8708 7086 or email TradingStandards@redbridge.gov.uk



Redbridge retailers pledging their support on the crackdown of underage knife sales

Blue badge fraud convictions

We are among the top local authorities in the country for securing blue badge fraud convictions.



The council's crackdown on blue badge fraud has led to it being ranked as one of the best in the UK for securing convictions against those using the permit illegally.

Figures released by the Department of Transport ranked Redbridge in the top 11 for boroughs across the country that successfully prosecuted against blue badge fraud last year.

Redbridge only started its campaign against Blue Badge fraud last year, making the league table ranking all the more impressive.

As part of the on-going campaign the council has checked hundreds of badges, with most cases brought to court involving people using someone else's badge to avoid paying for parking.

Prosecutions brought to court by the council last year included a passenger who was also fined alongside the driver after the duo found themselves in the hot seat for misusing the permit in the borough.

Other successful prosecutions have also resulted in driving bans. Redbridge Council is taking a tough stance against this type of crime to ensure the protection of its disabled parking provision.

Cllr Helen Coomb, Member for Transformation and Engagement said: "I'm really proud of how far we have come since starting our campaign last year, and we are not stopping so let that be a warning to those using blue badges illegally in the borough.

"There are robust rules in place to ensure that blue badges are not misused. The permits are issued to people who face real difficulty in getting around and are a vital lifeline."

Blue badges should only be displayed if the Blue Badge holder is travelling in the vehicle as a driver or passenger, or if someone is collecting the Blue Badge holder or dropping him/her off and needs to park at the place where the Blue Badge holder is being collected or dropped. Misuse is a criminal offence and can result in a maximum fine of £1,000.

Cycling

Redbridge

Be active. Go places. By bike

From car to cycle in 2020

Help improve air quality in Redbridge by swapping one of your weekly car journeys for a bicycle trip. Cycling can help improve your health and that of others through reducing emissions produced by driving, and by increasing your physical activity. Whatever your cycling ability we should have a course to help get you out on a bicycle.

Cycle basics training

Learn to ride and improve your cycle skills this winter on one of our FREE training sessions. Courses to suit adults and children who want to get to grips with the fundamentals of riding a bicycle for the first time, or for those lacking confidence in the saddle.

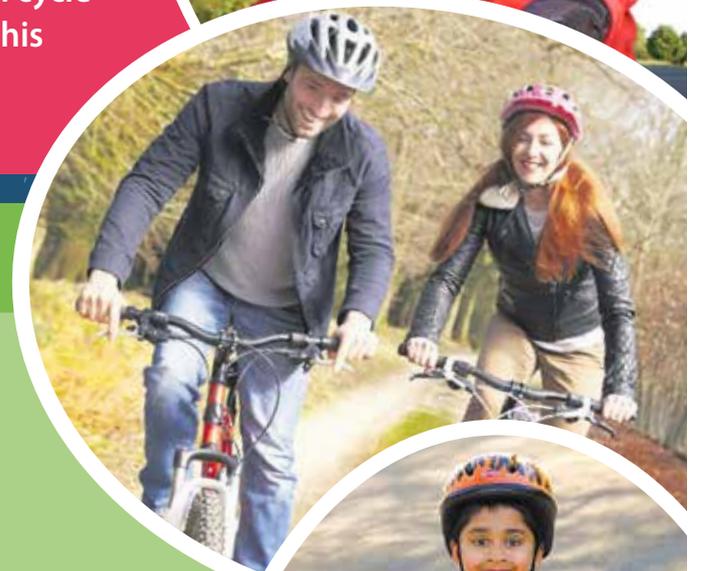
Over 4,000 Redbridge residents and children have benefitted from cycle training so far this year, why not join them.

Going further by bike

When you have mastered the basics and want to explore more of the borough by bicycle, build confidence and improve your road riding skills then book onto a Level 2 or Level 3 cycle skills course. Level 3 cycle skills training includes route planning, be that to the shops, to work or to your place of learning; as well as tackling busier junctions and road conditions.

Dr Bike at Wanstead Farmers Market

Free bike check to include adjustments and basic repairs. Held at Wanstead Farmers Market on the first Sunday of each month from 10am to 3pm



To find out more about cycling in Redbridge visit:
www.redbridge.gov.uk/cycling

To be eligible for free cycle training and activities you must live, work or study in Redbridge

LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

‘Keeping it real’ Knives and our children

The number of young people carrying knives across the borough is rising, and Redbridge Council is asking parents, carers and the community to more aware of the problem. As the chances are your child has talked about knives with friends, or heard a story about the kid who carried a knife.



Talk to your child/teenager about the law and the consequences of carrying a knife

- Carrying a knife is illegal, and carries up to four years in prison
- Police are legally allowed to stop and search a young person if they believe they are in possession of a weapon
- A criminal record could stop your child entering university, getting a job, or travelling
- Carrying a knife increases their own risk of being injured and seriously hurting someone else

TIPS TO HELP IDENTIFY KNIFE CRIME

- Know what knives you have in your kitchen and home
- Be aware of any online purchases or searches for blades
- Regularly talk to your child and be engaged with their social media
- If concerned, search their bag, bedroom or other potential hiding spaces in your home
- Remember it might not be a knife but another weapon
- Know where they are, know their friends and know where they are visiting

We all need to work together to help to make our children, our home and our community safer. For further information and support visit www.knifefree.co.uk

Got time for a bedtime story?

London Borough of
Redbridge



Library sessions

Tuesday 10 March 2020
6pm to 8pm

Tuesday 7 April 2020
12 noon to 2pm

Tuesday 12 May 2020
6pm to 8pm

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.

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

LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Improving the borough's air

Redbridge Council is reminding people of some of the simple steps they can take to improve air pollution levels in the borough.

Air pollution is currently a major concern, both locally and nationally. The financial cost of air pollution for the UK currently stands at £20 billion per year – an enormous amount of money.

Poor air quality is damaging to our health, but particularly young children and those with heart and lung problems. Being exposed to air pollution during pregnancy, and after birth, may affect the development of a child's lungs. It can also trigger serious conditions, including heart disease, and can worsen illnesses, such as asthma.

In response to this, Redbridge Council has already introduced clear air zones at Fairlop Primary School and Saints Peter and Paul's Primary School and Gordon Road Primary School last year.

The clean air zones were implemented to reduce levels of air pollution around our schools; help protect children from traffic at the school gate and to encourage more children to walk and cycle to schools.

School clean air zones mean vehicle traffic is banned from travelling past schools at the schools' start and finish times during term time only.

Cabinet Member for Civic Pride, Councillor John Howard added:

"It was only announced that the ban on the sale of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars is to be introduced in 2035 – five years earlier than previously planned.

"We are now at a critical stage and fast approaching a point of no return. It is therefore essential that we act now to improve London's toxic air to try and limit the damaging effect on the lungs of our children, young people and elderly residents."



These are just some of the simple steps you can take to improve air quality and residents' health.

- Travel by public transport
- Avoid driving and parking
- Walk on the side streets
- Avoid walking alongside busy roads
- Cycle or walk to work
- Ventilate your home when cooking or cleaning



Residents can also sign up for free airTEXT alerts, which give forecasts for today and tomorrow of pollution, UV, grass pollen and temperature. The airTEXT app is available for iPhones and Android smartphones.

To sign up, please visit: www.airtext.info

Are you caring for somebody else's child?

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

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.

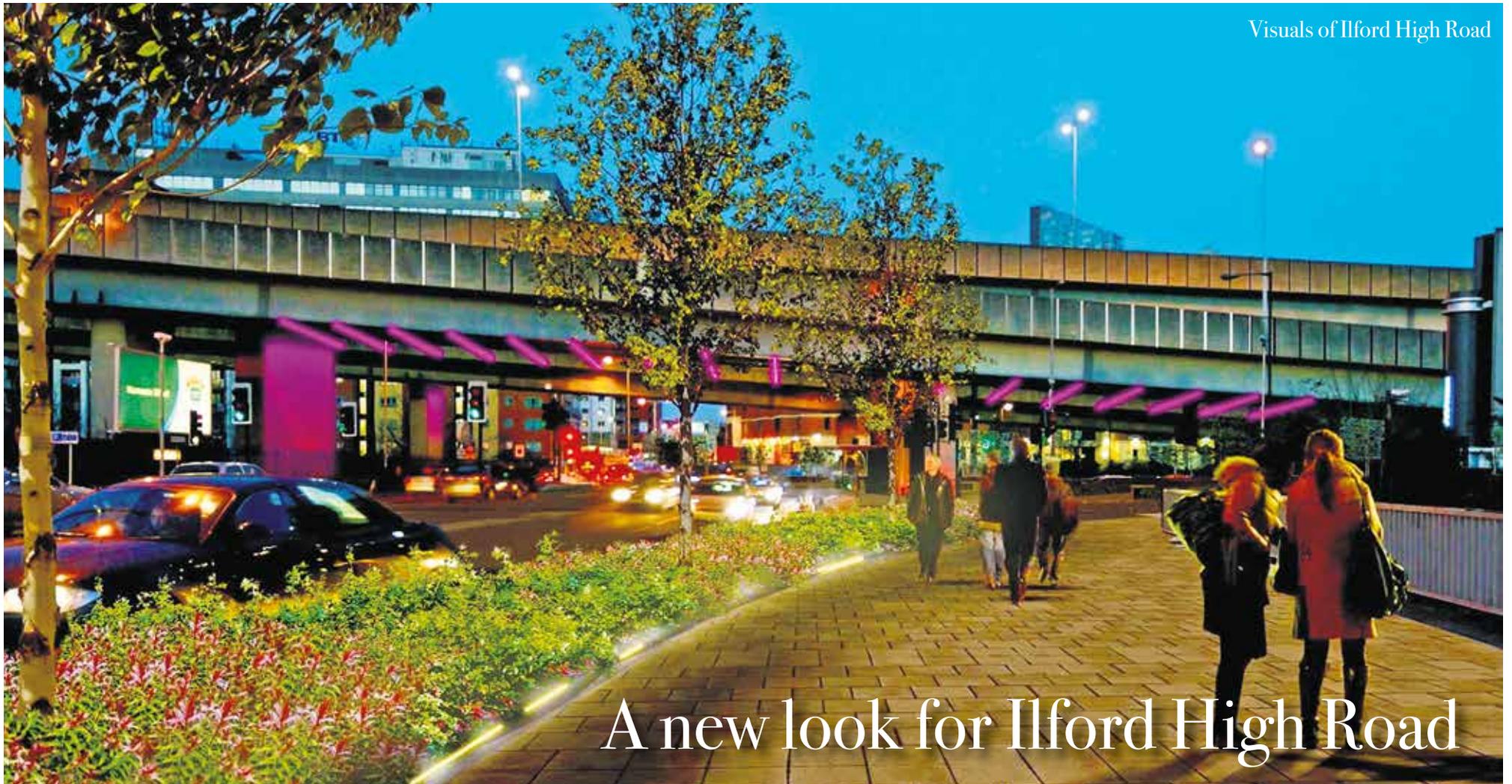
APPLE is a locally run charity. If you would like more information about us and our monthly support group meetings, please visit our website www.appleprostate.co.uk or contact us on:

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



association of prostate patients in london & essex

LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS



Visuals of Ilford High Road

A new look for Ilford High Road

The Council has made clear its intentions to lead the broader regeneration of Ilford town centre, in improving the street scene and image of Ilford high road.

The Council is committed to improving the quality of the public realm for Ilford and its vision for the future of Ilford is articulated within the Ilford Manifesto "Ilford for All" and Regenerating Ilford – Delivery Prospectus.

Ambitious plans will create new high-quality, accessible public spaces. Alongside the arrival of Crossrail, the major street improvements will help to fundamentally revitalise Ilford Town Centre.

Phase 1 of the public realm works completed in December 2018 and comprised the pedestrianised part of Chadwick Road and part of the High Road fronting the Ilford Exchange. Phase 1 has been well-received, with bike racks and benches enjoying considerable use throughout the day.

Phase 2 works will involve the transformation of Ilford Town Centre. The second phase will renew the stretch of public realm along the High Road,

connecting the Crossrail Complementary Works (CCM) to the junction of Cranbrook Road, along to Clements Road and a spur into Oakfield between Cranbrook Road.

Metis design Consultants Ltd was procured in April 2019 to develop the scheme, procure and manage the contractor, to include on-site supervision throughout the duration of the build. Development of Phase 2 has included extensive community and stakeholder engagement throughout the summer, taking into account feedback from Phase 1, and seeking views for the phase 2 concept designs, and additionally embrace our ambition to become a child-friendly borough.

The works include the laying of 5-colour palette granite paving matching that laid in Phase 1 outside the Ilford Exchange and Chadwick Road. The works will provide areas for children's play features, art exhibits, additional tree planting and rain gardens/planters, as well as enhanced street furniture and provision for market stalls.

Before the main works start, anticipated summer 2020, there are requirements to carry out pre-construction activities, to start March 2020, to upgrade the lighting in the town centre and

put in the necessary ground works infrastructure. The new lighting columns will include CCTV cameras to support increased surveillance for the town centre.

The contractor and Council will ensure the Town Centre remains 'Open for Business' throughout the construction phase and businesses and the general public pedestrian flows are not affected. The works contractor will open a pop-up shop by May 2020, for members of the public to see the high road designs and speak to the site supervisor on progress and answer any questions.

The Phase 2 public realm project will transform the town centre to promote a diverse range of activities in the town centre, including street art, outdoor performance and gallery space to create a safe, accessible and interactive environment for residents, shoppers and visitors during the day and evening. Envisaged as a smoke free zone, the town centre will promote health and sustainability, and contribute to improved air quality. Play features have been designed to encourage children and young people to be active, and trees and benches will offer shade and moments to pause in the town centre.



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"I'd been gaining weight since my early 30s. After a health check at the local GP, I was told that I was morbidly obese, and that I was suffering from high blood pressure that would require medication.

"I joined the MAN v FAT Kidderminster league in March 2018. Since then I have lost 30kgs and now have normal blood pressure.

"Everybody is in the same situation as you and the support from your coach and fellow players are second to none. Playing football, being part of a team, getting weighed weekly and scoring goals from weight loss really is a great motivator. I cannot recommend the programme enough!"

Lee, MAN v FAT Footballer



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AFTER

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MONDAYS 7-9.30PM**

MANVFATFOOTBALL.ORG/REDBRIDGE

NEWS

ANPR



operation in south Ilford leads to nine arrests

State-of-the art CCTV and ANPR cameras, funded by Redbridge Council, are helping to take offenders, knives and drugs off the borough's streets.

A recent police and council ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) operation in South Ilford led to nine arrests and 58 car stops within four hours.

During the operation, Redbridge Police recovered knives, apprehended an individual wanted for burglary and a male wanted for serious assault and for forcing a woman into prostitution. The police also retrieved a stolen moped, recovered Class A and B drugs and £16,000 in laundered money, as well as seizing two uninsured cars.

Leader of the Council Cllr Jas Athwal said: "We recognise how tough it has been for the police in recent years with significantly less funding from central government. That is why we invested £1.5 million last year in CCTV and ANPR cameras across Redbridge to tackle all forms of crime and improve community safety. Our investment is starting to have the desired effect, tackling crime by targeting and apprehending criminals.

"Further ANPR operations like this will help to take more offenders, knives and drugs off our streets and deter criminals from visiting Redbridge."

The 41 newly installed ANPR cameras across Redbridge are operated in partnership with the Metropolitan Police to target and apprehend offenders and tackle crime in the Borough. The Council's 24/7 CCTV control room links up more than 250 cameras, and over the past three years, has assisted in thousands of arrests.

41

**Newly installed
ANPR cameras
across Redbridge**

Wednesday 1st - Saturday 4th April 7.30pm
Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th April matinees 2.30pm

Tickets: Full Price £16.50 / Concessions £14

Bugsy

MALONE

*Play by Alan Parker Words and Music by Paul Williams
By arrangement with Faber Music Ltd
on behalf of Warner/Chappell Music Ltd*

After the success of Oliver! last year Redbridge Drama Centre and Redbridge Music Service are collaborating again on this timeless musical. With cast members from around Redbridge and live music this is guaranteed to be an unforgettable production!

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