

REDBRIDGE**LIFE**

**HAINAULT
FOREST**

Restoration is
starting soon

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**ON YOUR
BIKE**

Take advantage
of affordable bikes

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**REFUSE
COLLECTION**

Easter collection
dates

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Step into Spring

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

Sign up for the latest news



Facebook

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



Instagram

Follow our Instagram page for the best photos from across our borough.
www.instagram.com/redbridgecouncil



Twitter

Follow us on Twitter [@redbridgelive](https://twitter.com/redbridgelive) for latest news as it happens and updates such as changes to services, news announcements and consultations.
www.twitter.com/redbridgelive



YouTube

Keep up to date with our latest videos by subscribing to our YouTube Channel.
www.youtube.com/redbridgei



Email

Subscribe at www.redbridge.gov.uk/redbridgelive to receive free monthly emails about local news, events and services.

HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings will be online. See our website for information and links to join.

Council Meetings

Thursday 25 March **7.15pm**

To ask a question at a council meeting, please send a written notice of your question to the council questions mailbox at councilquestions@redbridge.gov.uk, by midday on the third working day prior to the meeting (i.e. normally midday on the Monday before a Thursday meeting).

Cabinet Meetings

Tuesday 16 March **7.15pm**

Tuesday 20 April **7.15pm**

If you would like to speak at a Cabinet meeting on an agenda item, please inform our democratic services officer by 5pm the working day before the meeting at which you wish to speak. Contact: Helena Tredgold, email Helena.Tredgold@redbridge.gov.uk or call **020 8708 2203**

Councillor surgeries

Due to COVID-19, there are currently no councillor surgeries. Please contact councillors by email or over the phone www.redbridge.gov.uk/councillors or call **020 8554 5000**

Scrutiny Committees

Overview Committee

Monday 15 March **7.15pm**

Monday 19 April **7.15pm**

Monday 17 May **7.15pm**

People Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 31 March

7.15pm

Wednesday 5 May **7.15pm**

Place Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 30 March **7.15pm**

Tuesday 4 May **7.15pm**

Education Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 6 May **7.15pm**

Health Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 17 March **7.15pm**

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 1 April **7.15pm**

Monday 10 May **7.15pm**

External Scrutiny Panel

Monday 8 March **7.15pm**

Wednesday 12 May **7.15pm**

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 16 March **5pm**

Make time for things you like to do

Join 67,000 Redbridge households who have chosen to pay their council tax by Direct Debit.

Residents can choose from different instalment dates and frequencies when they pay their council tax by **Direct Debit**

Sign up by **31 May 2021** to be entered into a prize draw to win a **tablet device**

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



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

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Next issue out in June

LEADER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring edition of Redbridge Life



Dear residents,

A year ago, we had just started to hear about COVID-19, and its impact in other countries. Twelve months on, and we are all too familiar with the virus and living with the devastation it has caused.

The Prime Minister recently outlined the steps that will complete England's roadmap out of lockdown. I am pleased we now have a plan, but we are not out of the woods yet and we all must remain vigilant and adhere to COVID-19 rules to keep Redbridge safe. We're working closely with schools so they're made as safe as possible before opening more widely, with regular testing on offer for staff and students (for the full roadmap, please see page 13).

While protecting public health remains our priority, we are also looking ahead to our recovery, and our focus is very clearly on regrowth and regeneration.

Recently, we received news of an additional £500,000 from the Greater London Authority to support further regeneration in Ilford Town Centre. The money will be used to improve our public spaces, create a Cultural Quarter and encourage enterprise.

The funding comes alongside the imminent arrival of covered food and drink market, Mercato Metropolitano Ilford, and SPACE art studios.



The proposed new Cultural Quarter will have a civic and community hub, new library, theatre and leisure facilities.

This is particularly important for our younger generation who I know have been hit hard by the pandemic. I am keen that we harness the young talent within our borough so that people who grow up in Redbridge can continue to live and work here if they want to. To make this vision a reality, we need quality, affordable housing, job opportunities and thriving, vibrant highstreets – which is why we're building 600 new council homes and working with local businesses to match local skills with local opportunities.

Our budget for the next financial year is deliberately solid and steady. We remain low-cost, high-quality, but we also need

to rebuild our financial resilience, support local economic recovery, and take forward our ambitious plans for Redbridge.

It is no secret that councils up and down the country face serious financial challenges as the true cost of COVID-19 becomes clear, made even harder coming off the back of ten years of austerity.

Our commitment to you is that we will continue to deliver the services you care about and deserve and we'll work with you to invest in the future of our borough.

Councillor Jas Athwal
Leader of Redbridge Council

CLEAN & GREEN

New woodland project lays down roots in **Seven Kings Park**

Five thousand extra trees have been planted in Seven Kings Park as part of a project to create new woodland space in the borough.



The new biodiverse area will offer natural green space for residents to enjoy, and for wildlife to thrive across a stretch of woodland north of Seven Kings Park.

The joint initiative between the council, its partner organisation Vision RCL, and the environmental charity, Trees for Cities, lay its roots down with a series of socially distanced planting days at the park.

Among the species of trees planted were Alder, Hornbeam, Walnut and Oak.

As the trees grow, they will create a vibrant outdoor space for people to enjoy, help clean the air, and create a natural environment to support habitats and food for urban wildlife.

The Seven Kings Woodlands project is funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Our Grow Zones are getting bigger

Redbridge's Grow Zones – a network of wild areas designed to provide new habitats for plants and wildlife – are flourishing.

Since the first Grow Zone sites were introduced in 2019, we have developed and expanded the networks to make Redbridge a haven for wildlife to create more natural green spaces.

This year, we'll go from nine sites totalling just over 10,000 square metres, to 20 sites covering just over 20,000 square metres across the borough.

Areas in the Grow Zones will only be mown once a year in late summer, or autumn, to allow the grass to grow into beautiful meadows and establish natural flowers to improve local biodiversity.



CLEAN & GREEN

One, two, tree, go! Make the most of your tree pit!

We had another great year for our Adopt a Tree Pit scheme with over 1,000 successful applications made this year.

The popular scheme gave residents, schools and local community groups the chance to help beautify their neighbourhood by adopting their very own tree pit to bring to bloom.

This year saw 1,300 tree pits adopted, beating last year's figure of 900 – and nearly every ward in the borough has taken part for 2021.

The fun and interactive scheme will help make the borough's streets more attractive, as well as support wildlife including bees and birds.

The Barron family, from South Woodford, successfully applied to re-adopt their tree pit from last year.

Speaking about their tree pit, mum Lucy said:

"We really enjoyed taking on a tree pit in our street last year. The children loved spending time clearing out the weeds, planting wildflower seeds and taking care of their tree pit. It was lovely seeing it come to bloom. We used it as an opportunity to learn about gardening.

"After a successful first year, we re-adopted the tree pit and can't wait for the start of spring to plant our wildflower seeds again. The tree pit adoption is such a great community project."

We have a lot of trees and green spaces in Redbridge



Green spaces improve air quality, boost wellbeing, and provide healthy spaces for wildlife to flourish. Our borough is one of the greenest in London.





Contact us:

020 8550 2398

enquiries@redbridge-iae.ac.uk

Follow us: @rediae   

NEW SPRING & SUMMER COURSE LISTING OUT NOW

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- Basic digital skills courses will help you get learning online.
- Arts and craft workshops are Covid-secure; we are ready to welcome you back as soon as it is safe to do so.
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www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk



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COMMUNITY SAFETY

Record breaking crime survey helps us to understand your concerns

Our community safety team launched the first residents’ crime survey in November.

Huge thanks to everyone who contributed to this, we've had an overwhelming response with more than 2,300 residents sharing their views.

Thank you to everyone who also attended one of our 28 virtual crime engagement sessions, more 300 residents got involved. They reinforced to us that tackling domestic abuse needs to remain a priority for the council.

Because of such great resident engagement, we are pleased to announce the council is launching a Community Crime Commission (CCC). This will help us to focus our crime and safety priorities at a local level.

The CCC will have your neighbourhood at its heart. The CCC will have a board of community

leaders and experts whose responsibility it is to look at the priorities set out by our communities, and how the police, the council and other public services can improve their response to these issues and concerns.

Residents can support the CCC by volunteering to be part of a crime focus group. The group will look beyond crime and will provide an opportunity to get involved in a range of council initiatives. Some volunteers will have the opportunity to sit on the board. You will help to make official recommendations to the council and the Community Safety Partnership on how public services are run.

You can volunteer here www.redbridge.gov.uk/community-crime-commission



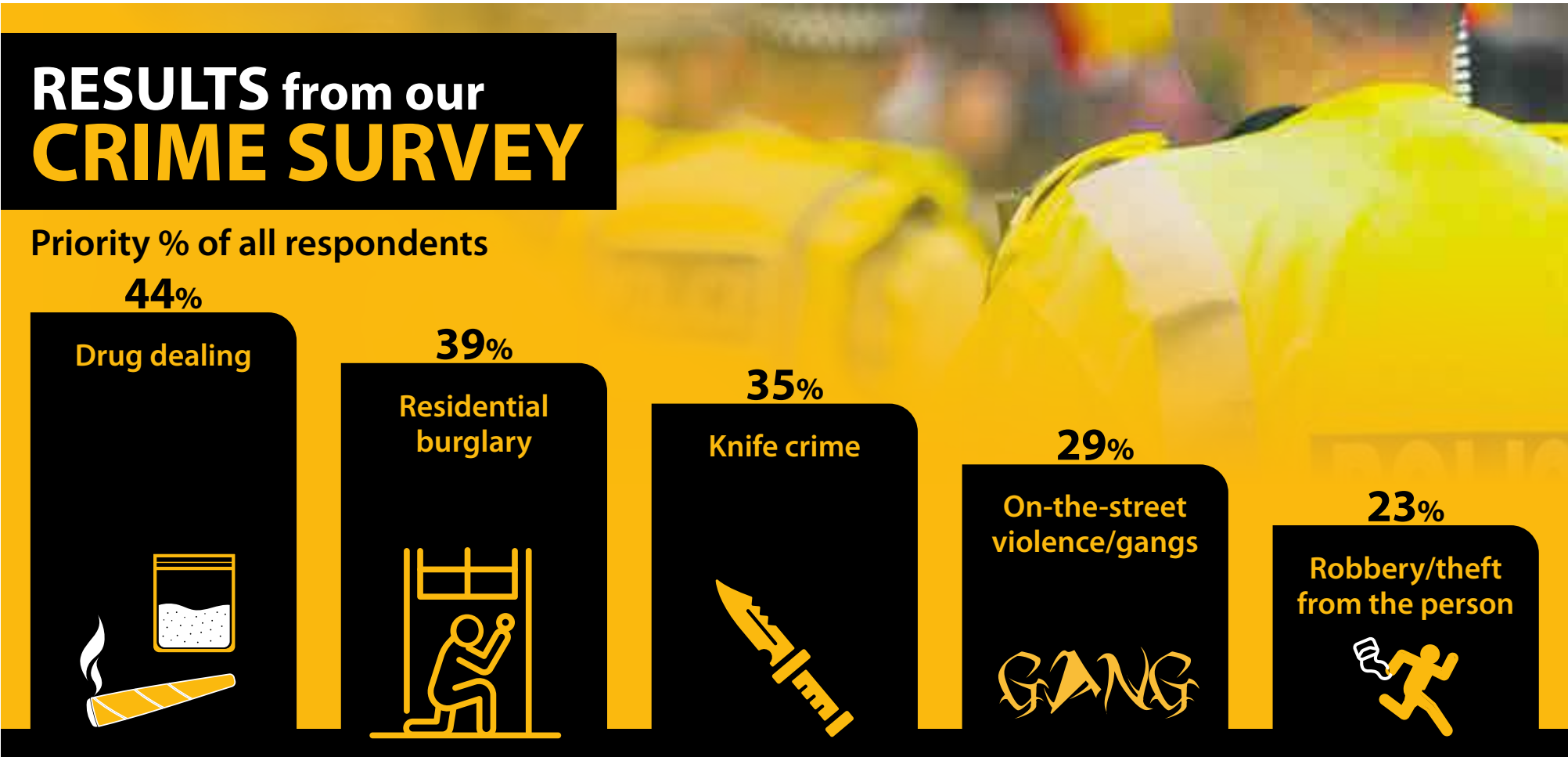
Examples of the type of work the CCC might recommend include:

- the launch of award-winning youth programmes such as Box Up Crime
- the recent introductions of the two Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) in Ilford and surrounding wards.

In addition to the set-up of the CCC, the Street Watch programme will be launched this spring, where more than 80 volunteers will provide high-visibility patrols in their local area. This will help to speed up the reporting of anti-social behaviour and street care issues to the police and the council.

The CCC will build on residents’ feedback and input, so they can develop best practices to improve safety across Redbridge.

The survey highlighted that residents are concerned about:



LOCAL NEWS & UPDATES

Ilford Town Centre Regeneration

Plans to create an Ilford for All and make the town centre a modern, thriving East London hub took a further step forward last month with an extra £500,000 from the Greater London Authority (GLA).

The money will support our plans to create a Cultural Quarter, revitalising the town centre by bringing art and industry together to generate economic activity and creativity, support our artists and entrepreneurs, and revive retail.

Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal, said:

"We remain focused on breathing new life into our borough, making Ilford a modern London city and harnessing the opportunities provided by Crossrail. We owe it to present and future generations to make this happen so that we build back better as we recover from COVID-19. This is something we want to do with our residents and businesses, so community engagement will be a big part of how our plans develop."

The additional money follows an earlier grant of £1.8 million from the GLA and will be used to improve:

- landscaping of public spaces
- accessibility into and around Ilford through lighting
- creatively making use of empty spaces for pop-ups, like shops, children's play areas or spaces for community groups to use.



Ilford regeneration

Ilford Station Southern Entrance

New entrance to the London end of Platform One (Ilford Hill) – work now complete and plans to open soon.

Western Gateway

Plans to transform the arrival into Ilford with improved access, cycle lines and pedestrianised town squares, complemented by key infrastructure and much-needed housing.

Mercato Metropolitano

The timber frame for the outdoor market is being assembled and work will continue on site through spring and summer with plans to open in a COVID-19 safe way post lockdown.

Public realm

Repaving of the high street is due for completion in the summer making it cleaner and more attractive.



Credit @louistfilm

Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal unveiled the new artwork in Ilford Town Centre

Leading street artist Ben Eine and fellow artist Dotmaster were commissioned by the council to transform the walls of Janice Mews, in Ilford. Using their bold and distinctive styles they aimed to capture the emotions of current challenges, including COVID-19.

LOCAL NEWS & UPDATES

Hainault Forest restoration starting soon

This year, restoration work at Hainault Forest is set to revitalise this beautiful green space.

The site will benefit from new visitor facilities and improved footpaths and signage, while the locally listed Foxburrow Barns will be restored with the addition of a new café, visitors' centre and venue hire facility.



Several craft workshops will be set up for artisans to work and sell their products, the farm will be re-focused on animals, and an exciting new play area will be created.

The project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, as well as The Mayor's Fund at the Greater London Authority and the council. We are also working closely with our partners, the Woodland Trust, to improve access and links across the forest to preserve and enhance this nationally key area of ancient woodland in London.

For further information and updates visit

www.visionrcl.org.uk/hainault-restoration



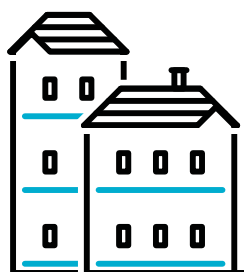
Old Mill Court opens its doors to new residents

26 new council homes at Old Mill Court in South Woodford were officially handed over to the council at the beginning of March by the building contractor.



This is one of the most significant projects in the borough, being the largest council development to date. It consists of 22 two-bed and four one-bed flats.

Many of the new occupants had previously been homeless and living in temporary accommodation.



Leader of the Council, Cllr Jas Athwal, said:

"Having a dry, warm and safe place to live is a basic human right and we are determined to make rough sleeping in Redbridge a thing of the past. We also need affordable homes that enable strong and diverse communities that contribute to the richness of our borough."

A more in-depth look at this development will be in the next issue of Redbridge Life.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS YEAR'S BUDGET

The impact of COVID-19 is something which will continue to be felt across our communities for some time to come, which is why our commitment to maintain and protect the services you want and need is more important than ever.

As the vaccination programme rolls out and the light at the end of the tunnel gets brighter, it is vital we maintain focus on delivering critical services and investing in our borough.

Despite ten years of austerity, continuing cuts to local government funding, and the financial pressures of COVID-19, our ambitions for Redbridge remain on track, including:

- a new leisure centre at Wanstead High School
- an ambitious expansion project to double the size of Fairlop Waters
- major highways and infrastructure improvements
- new affordable housing
- five new Community Hubs and one Civic Hub in Ilford. These hubs will feature large libraries with additional services including GP surgeries and children's nurseries

This is a great achievement, given that across London alone there has been an average cut in local government funding of 63 per cent, and we are still waiting to hear how the government will make good on its promise to compensate councils for the loss of income and ongoing cost of supporting our communities through COVID-19.

It is the combination of government cuts and reduced funding that has led us to the reluctant no-choice option of increasing council tax by 4.99 per cent at such a difficult time.

The overall increase is made up of the maximum two per cent uplift in the general council element and a further three per cent rise in the ring-fenced adult social care precept.

The rise means owners of an average 'Band D' property will now pay an annual bill of £1,425.73 for Redbridge Council's services which is an increase of 19p a day.

We are a low-spend council that has been punching above its weight for some time, and that is where we want to stay.

We've set a balanced budget for next year, without the use of reserves, and despite the pandemic, we've:

- kept every local library
- maintained weekly bin collections
- won Green Flag status for nine Redbridge parks
- opened two new leisure centres in Loxford and Goodmayes
- received an 'outstanding' rating for children's services from Ofsted
- delivered 800 food parcels to our most vulnerable residents
- helped more than 180 rough sleepers off the streets of Redbridge
- set up a Wellbeing Service and made over 19,000 telephone calls to our most vulnerable residents

There remain challenging times ahead, but we are determined to go from strength to strength and make Redbridge a great place to live and work.

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

“The COVID-19 pandemic has inevitably taken a significant toll on our financial situation, but despite this we still have a strong and enviable track record as a high-performing, low spend council.

Our residents will continue to see us invest in and protect vital children's and adult social care services, while keeping our streets clean, focusing on safety, investing in council homes and delivering better leisure centres and award winning parks for residents to enjoy.”



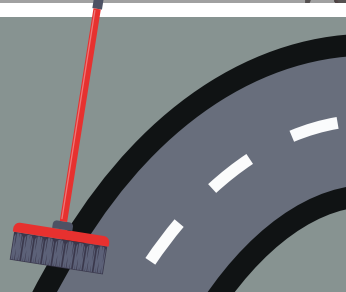
Some of the ways we use your council tax to invest in our communities

Waste and recycling

We collect more than
106,000 tonnes
of domestic waste
and recycling from
102,400
homes every year



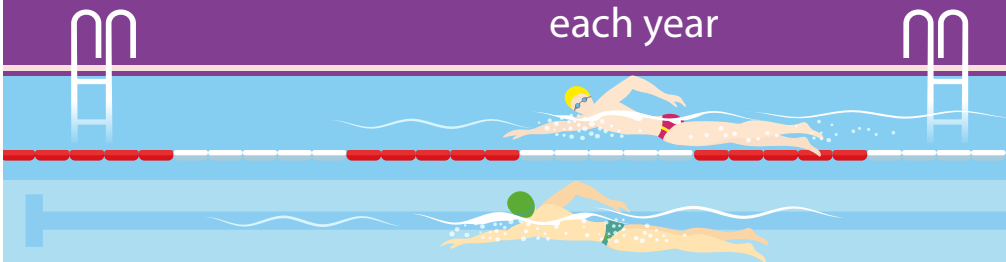
We sweep approximately
594 kilometres
of roads a year



Leisure

Our leisure centres, before
COVID-19, were visited by

1,135,226 people
each year



Libraries

Libraries in Redbridge issue
1.4 million items a year and
receive **1.7 million** visitors



Redbridge issues the
highest number of
children's books of
any London Borough
(800,000)

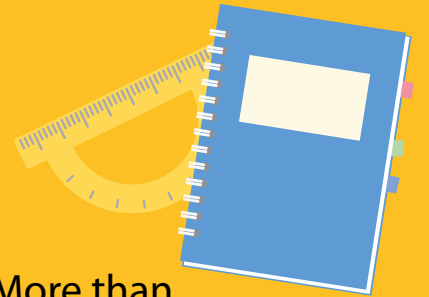


Redbridge Adult Social Care

is rated in the
top 3
services
in the country



Schools



More than

90%

of Redbridge
schools are rated

'Outstanding'
or **'Good'**
by Ofsted

Crime and Community Safety



We have invested **£1.5 million** in new
ANPR cameras and 24-hour CCTV, plus

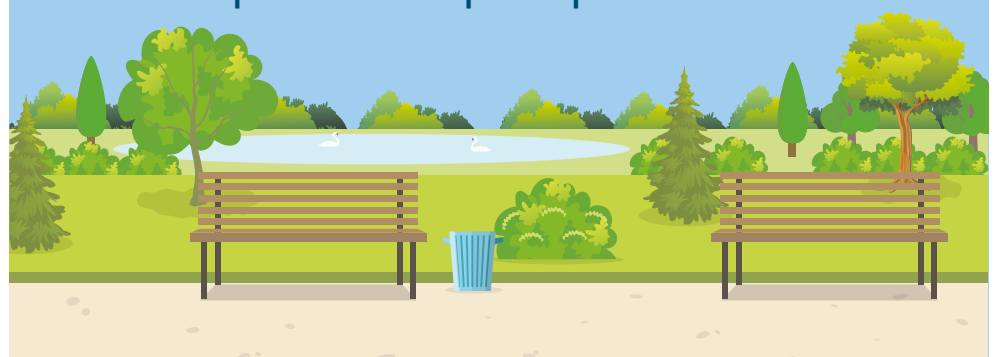
£300k

in extra enforcement in our parks

Parks and open spaces

We look after more than **50** parks, playing
fields, and open spaces

We collected **69,380 bags of rubbish**
from our parks and open spaces in 2020



Let's work together to control the virus

Millions of people across the UK have already received their first COVID-19 vaccination, with the NHS offering the vaccine to people most at risk from coronavirus first.

More than 44,000 people in Redbridge have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. If you are aged 70 plus and you haven't had your first vaccination against COVID-19, please contact the NHS to arrange a jab on www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or by calling 119.

Everyone has an important part to play in this incredible effort to protect us from COVID-19. You can help by:

- waiting to be invited for your vaccine (unless you are 70 or older and haven't been contacted yet)
- acting on your invitation and making sure you attend your appointments
- continuing to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives.

Helpful COVID-19 vaccination FAQs can be found on our Coronavirus Hub at www.redbridge.gov.uk



Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal met with Redbridge CCG Chair Dr Anil Mehta outside local vaccination centre

Annual Public Health Report – COVID-19 and Inequality in Redbridge

COVID-19 has exposed and amplified existing health inequalities in Redbridge and across the country.

Our focus over the next year is to protect and promote our population's health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will focus on:

- engaging and understanding high risk groups
- improving digital accessibility
- rebuilding confidence in healthcare services, communities and the economy
- reducing long term risk factors for COVID-19.

Read the full report at:

www.redbridge.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/annual-public-health-report



Testing and updates in Redbridge

No Symptoms

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing, also known as rapid COVID-19 testing, is another way to help detect and fight COVID-19. One in three people who have coronavirus never show any symptoms, but that does not mean they are not infectious.

LFD testing is for residents and local workers who do not have any COVID-19 symptoms and cannot work from home. The tests are quick and convenient, delivering results in 30 minutes.

You can get tested between 10am and 7pm daily at:

Redbridge Central Library

Ilford, IG1 1BP

Wanstead Youth Centre

E11 2DB

Hainault Library

IG7 4DD

Book on our Coronavirus Hub at

www.redbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-hub



Symptoms

If you have the following symptoms you must **SELF-ISOLATE** for 10 days and get tested at one of our three permanent testing sites. You can leave your house to get a COVID-19 test. Symptoms include:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

You can get tested at one of our permanent testing centres below:

Mildmay Road Car Park

Ilford, IG1 1HW

Gants Hill Library Car Park

Ilford, IG2 6SX

Charteris Car Park

Woodford, IG8 0AL



Find out more about our test sites at

www.redbridge.gov.uk/gettested or call **111**

Lockdown easing key dates

8 March

Care home visits allowed
Schools reopen
Meet with one person outdoors

29 March

Outdoor gatherings up to 6 people allowed
Outdoor sports facilities reopen

12 April

Non-essential retail reopens
Indoor leisure facilities reopen
Hospitality services reopen outdoors

17 May

Indoor hospitality reopens
Up to 30 people allowed at weddings and funerals

21 June

With hope all legal limits on social contact will be lifted
Large events and nightclubs reopen

To ensure we reach each milestone, the government has four tests that have to be met before we can move onto the next phase of reopening, these are:

- vaccine programme continues to go to plan
- vaccines are sufficiently reducing the number of people dying with COVID-19 or needing hospital treatment
- infection rates don't risk a surge in hospital admissions
- new variants don't change the risk of lifting restrictions.

The government will be assessing the data for each of these measures as we ease out of lockdown. If these measures are not met, we may not be able to move to the next step out of lockdown as planned.

Please visit **www.gov.uk/coronavirus** for the most up to date information.

CLEAN & GREEN

Introducing your new wheelie bin

The rollout of the new wheelie bins has started, but don't worry if you haven't got yours yet – we're busy delivering bins up until the end of May. It's on its way!



What you will receive, if you haven't already got it:

- 1 Your new, free official Redbridge 180 litre, dark grey wheelie bin.
- 2 A leaflet explaining how to use your new bin and make the most of your weekly recycling services.
- 3 A sticker to place on the underside of your new bin lid to remind you what goes in.



We have carried out a borough-wide assessment to check each property's suitability for storing a wheelie bin. If your property is not suitable for a bin, we will be providing you with free red sacks and instructions on how to use them from 1 March onwards.

What are the benefits of your new wheelie bin?

Keeping our staff safe. Your new bin also helps keep our staff safe while they're doing their job. Wheelie bins minimise the risks to our crew as the waste is contained in the bin so they won't have to handle ripped rubbish sacks and spilt waste. It also reduces the risk of sharp object injuries to our crew.

Keeps our streets cleaner by allowing residents to **store and contain rubbish securely**; helping to prevent animals from ripping sacks; reducing split sacks on collection days; reducing littering and clean-up costs.

Encourages residents to recycle more to maximise space in their wheelie bin and help us to achieve our 50 per cent recycling target.

Saves money. The council currently disposes of around 22 million rubbish sacks each year which costs £18m. We also collect the 5th highest amount of rubbish in England. **Wheelie bins will increase the efficiency of collections**, helping to **save money that could be spent on other services like schools, social care or road maintenance.**

Stops businesses taking advantage of household collections. Businesses have a legal responsibility to ensure that all waste is stored, transported and disposed of without harming the environment. Businesses must pay to have their waste removed by a licensed waste operator. Business waste should not be collected as part of the household collections.

What you need to do

- start using your bin straight away. It replaces the existing rubbish sack collections. Please place your rubbish sacks in the new wheelie bin. You **MUST** make sure all your rubbish is contained within the bin – we cannot empty any other bins or collect rubbish by the side of your bin
- your collections will remain the same as normal
- normally, we would need you to put your bin or red sacks and recycling out by 7am on your collection day. Instead, whilst we are under COVID-19 restrictions, we ask that you do this by 6am or the night before.



CONTACT US

www.redbridge.gov.uk/wheeliebin

For regular updates on your recycling and waste services sign up to our newsletter www.redbridge.gov.uk/signup or follow us on social media @redridgelive

CLEAN & GREEN

OUR STREETS

Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods

Privately owned wheelie bins

You can only use the Redbridge bin that we have provided. Other bins cannot be emptied. We want to be fair to all residents, so we want everyone to use the same size container. Also, our collection vehicles may not work properly or safely with other types of bins. We will also be offering a bin amnesty, giving residents the chance to have any unwanted wheelie bins disposed of free of charge. Look out for information tags on your privately owned bins.

Residents living in flats and shared houses

We are currently assessing flats and shared houses to establish the best way to collect your recycling and rubbish. We will be in touch once the assessment is complete to let you know what happens next.

Using your new bin

Only use your wheelie bin for things you can't recycle. These include drinks glasses, plastic bags, nappies, food pouches, drinks cartons, black bags, broken crockery, broken toys, crisp packets, polystyrene, Pyrex, pet waste, plastic pots, tubs and trays and food waste.

Please use your weekly recycling service as much as possible. This will help to reduce what you need to put in your wheelie bin so there is enough space for your rubbish.

We're here to help

Need a recycling box?

You can request as many as you need. Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/wheeliebin There is a £3.50 charge for delivery. Alternatively, you can collect recycling boxes free of charge from our Ley Street depot.

Need a larger or smaller bin?

We can provide a larger bin where there is a clear need and certain criteria are met, including families of five or more, or those with more than one child in nappies. Smaller 140 litre bins can also be requested.

To request a smaller or larger bin you will need to complete our online form. Your request will then be considered, and we will let you know our decision.

Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/wheeliebin

Need help with your collections?

If you struggle with moving bins, boxes or sacks we can provide an 'assisted collection'.

Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/wheeliebin



Green/Black box recycling

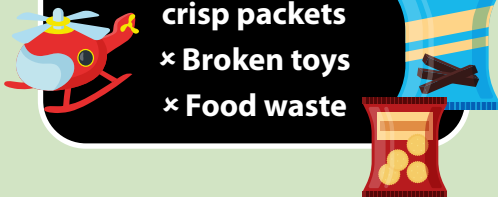
Yes please

- ✓ Glass bottles
- ✓ Food jars
- ✓ Plastic bottles
- ✓ Drinks cans
- ✓ Food cans
- ✓ Empty aerosols



No thanks

- ✗ Drinks glasses
- ✗ Broken glass or Pyrex
- ✗ Broken crockery
- ✗ Plastic pots, tubs, trays and food pouches
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Plastic bags and crisp packets
- ✗ Broken toys
- ✗ Food waste



Blue box recycling

Yes please

- ✓ Newspapers & magazines
- ✓ Catalogues
- ✓ Egg boxes
- ✓ Loo and kitchen roll tubes
- ✓ Junk mail and envelopes (including window envelopes)
- ✓ Cereal & food boxes
- ✓ Greetings cards
- ✓ Phone directories (inc. Yellow Pages)
- ✓ Cardboard packaging

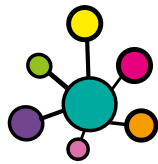


No thanks

- ✗ Shredded paper
- ✗ Takeaway food boxes
- ✗ Food waste
- ✗ Drinks cartons
- ✗ Nappies



Full steam ahead with Community Hubs



More than 100 residents have taken part in online workshops to co-design Community Hubs in Gants Hill and Seven Kings – a council initiative to bring services closer to the community and meet local need.



The council's Community Hubs programme is working with residents to bring together different facilities across the borough to improve the quality of services for residents. Five hubs are planned, as well as a new civic centre in Ilford, that will bring together council services such as libraries, GP surgeries and

children's centres. This enables local people to come together and run their own activities. The other planned hubs will be in Hainault, Woodford and Wanstead

Feedback from those who took part in the online workshops showed 84 percent agreed that the co-design process improved the design or project brief, and 95 per cent felt they'd been given an opportunity to express their views.

Residents praised the co-design process for helping them gain new knowledge (86 per cent), 75 per cent said it enabled them to connect with new people in their area, and an impressive 94 per cent wished to stay involved in the process.

Find out more and how you can get involved by visiting:

letstalkredbridge.uk.engagementhq.com/community-hubs

Our Schools, shaping the next generation



Congratulations to those of you who recently found out which secondary school your child will be going to in September.

This is an exciting time, particularly after all the challenges of the last year, and marks the next chapter of school life.

Redbridge has many of the best schools in London, with almost every school ranked as 'good' or 'outstanding' by OfSTED.

Following the introduction of our voucher scheme for Free School Meals at Christmas, we're delighted to announce that this will be extended to cover the forthcoming Easter break, when we will also run a holiday activity programme borough wide.

For more details, please visit

www.visionrcl.org.uk/events/childrens-events



Foster for Redbridge

and change a young person's future

The current pandemic has enabled us to really reflect on what is important in our lives. It has made us feel real empathy for others who have been in truly difficult circumstances.

Over 200 children in Redbridge are unable to stay at home with their families. Unable to feel protected. Children are our priority and every young person deserves to be cared for, loved and supported.



If you have space in your heart and your home to love and protect a child and change their life by fostering, please get in touch:

Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering

Call us **020 8708 6068**

Email us fostering@redbridge.gov.uk

Ready, Steady, Census – 21st March

You will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives the Office for National Statistics (ONS) the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales.

Completing the census is important because it ensures organisations from local government to charities can put services and funding where they are needed most.

Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the ONS, explains:

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part. We have made it easier for people to take part online while paper questionnaires are available for those who need them.”

How do I complete the census?

Households in Redbridge will receive letters with unique access codes allowing them to take part online from early March. The census will take around 10 minutes per person to complete. It’s easy to do and can be done on any device, including a computer, laptop, tablet or mobile phone.

The census includes questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity.

For help, completing the census, including translations and accessible formats, please visit **www.census.gov.uk** You can also phone the contact centre on **0800 141 2021** for help and advice.



Making it easy for everyone to take part



You will receive a letter with an access code



Go to **www.census.gov.uk** and enter your access code to get started

If you can, offer help to family and friends who need support to fill in the form.

census 2021

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Get involved in our outdoor activities this spring!

Peddle My Wheels: Try Before You Bike

Get involved in cycling with Peddle My Wheels, a new scheme supported by the council.

Gary Bravo said:

"This new try before you bike scheme was the reason I got back on a bike for the first time in 20 years. During the first lockdown, my mental health took a wobble and I started gaining weight. Since then, I lost the weight I gained, I've completed 10 fitness challenges and cycled 700 miles in six months."

For more information, visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/cycling



Cycle sisters

An award-winning charity, which aims to inspire and enable Muslim women to cycle, now has 115 members in Redbridge since receiving a grant from the Council and a TfL Cycling and Walking Grant.

They provide training to inexperienced and new cyclists, and organised bike rides for the more confident rider. Those without bikes are welcome to use our pool bikes in Valentines Park.

Local resident, Zainab, said: "Cycle Sisters is an amazing group and has opened up a whole new life for me. I have done two charity cycling events since joining."

For more information, contact salam@cyclesisters.org.uk or visit www.cyclesisters.org.uk/redbridge

Facebook www.facebook.com/CycleSisters/

Instagram @cyclecistersuk



Top tips for getting active include:

- 1 Going for a walk
- 2 Setting up your own training circuits using household items like tin cans as weights
- 3 Doing ten-minute workouts on NHS Better Health website www.nhs.uk/better-health
- 4 Following instructor-led videos on NHS Fitness Studio which includes: aerobics, strength and resistance and Pilates www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-fitness-studio
There are also classes for getting active with a disability

Exercise is a great way to improve mental health by helping to reduce anxiety, depression and negative moods



HEALTH & SUPPORT

Get active with Street Tag

Residents can earn points while they exercise and get involved in friendly virtual competitions by downloading the Street Tag app.

The app launched in October, and our first winners were Glade Primary School and community group Musical Masons, who received cash and voucher prizes.

The active Street tag users amassed 40,480 miles and collected more than 194,000 virtual tags in Redbridge by walking, cycling or running during the winter competition.

Get involved by visiting www.streettag.co.uk or download the **Street tag App via the app store or Google Play**




VISION Fitness on DEMAND

Exercise from the comfort of your home!
Choose from a range of classes:

- Yoga & Meditation
- Core
- Aerobics & Dance
- Heritage Walks
- Strength
- Performing Arts
- Running






Join now!
£10 per month
for unlimited access

www.visionrcl.org.uk/fitnessondemand

We're getting ready to welcome you back!

While our leisure centres have been closed, we have been preparing for your safe return by putting additional safety measures in place.

When our leisure centres re-open you can expect:

-  Advanced online booking
-  Repositioned gym equipment to allow for social distancing
-  Hand sanitising stations throughout the centre
-  Additional cleaning measures between classes and equipment use
-  Sessions with reduced numbers

Vision RCL are following the Government's advice and guidelines closely and will re-open our gyms when advised it is safe to do so. For the latest updates on COVID-19 impact on services, please visit our website

www.visionrcl.org.uk



Mental health support

Mental Health Direct

24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
You can get mental health help and advice by calling **0300 555 1000**



Redbridge Talking Therapies

You can get support by calling **0300 300 1554**
– option 1 (9am–5pm, Mon-Fri)
or self-refer online by visiting www.mytalkingtherapies.org.uk

Kooth

Free support for young people between 11 and 18 years of age at www.kooth.com



Find more services, including our interactive mental health map and an online quiz to develop a Mind Plan on our Coronavirus Hub at www.redbridge.gov.uk

CLEAN & GREEN

Bloomin' Business and Bloomin' Schools **keep Redbridge blooming**

Our popular Bloomin' Schools and Bloomin' Business initiative was back again for another year and saw nearly 50 businesses and various schools across the borough join in.



Businesses and schools taking part were given floor or rail planters from the council, along with bulbs and flowers.

Those taking part pledged to adopt, bring to bloom and care for the planters to help bring splashes of colour to the borough's streets and neighbourhoods.

When in full bloom, the planter will showcase a range of flowers including lavender, daffodils and tulips.

The project was funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).



Tune in Tuesdays

New online workshops to help you go green

Want to learn how to recycle like a pro, cut down on food waste, or become a green hero? Log into 'Tune in Tuesdays' for all the answers.



Our Neighbourhood Team is running a series of new online workshops on selected Tuesdays at 12.30pm.



The half-hour sessions are aimed at teaching residents on how to reduce waste and become more eco-friendly to create a cleaner and greener borough. They will cover a wide range of topics from compost to community gardens, recycling, and reducing food waste.

There will also be opportunities for those taking part to share their own top tips.

To find out more about the workshops, including dates and topics, and how to join the online sessions go to: www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/campaigns

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 2 April	Friday 2 April
Monday 5 April	Tuesday 6 April
Tuesday 6 April	Wednesday 7 April
Wednesday 7 April	Thursday 8 April
Thursday 8 April	Friday 9 April
Friday 9 April	Saturday 10 April

CLEAN & GREEN

Free Green Garden Waste service starts in April

Our **FREE** Green Garden Waste service will run from **April to November**



Week 1 Garden Waste Collection
6 April to 19 November

Week 2 Garden Waste Collection
12 April to 26 November



You can check online to see **what Week your Garden Waste Collection is** nearer the time





Every household has been supplied with a **green garden waste bag**. Information will be released soon about **collection points for replacement bags**





Green garden waste collection is a **fortnightly service**

To find your collection date visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/garden-waste



You can also take your garden waste to **Chigwell Road Reuse & Recycling Centre**

Chigwell Road Reuse & Recycling Centre

Chigwell Rd Reuse
Woodford, Woodford
Green IG8 8PP



Open weekdays
Monday to Fridays
7.30am to 4.30pm

Open weekends
Saturday and Sunday
8am to 4pm

Open bank holidays
8am to 4pm

Remember green waste is **ideal for composting** alongside waste from your home

It's also a fantastic natural way to **dispose of garden waste**



You can put the following into the green waste bag:

- ✓ grass cuttings
- ✓ hedge trimmings
- ✓ prunings and small branches
- ✓ weeds and leaves
- ✓ dead plants



YES PLEASE

Do not include:

- ✓ building rubble
- ✓ household or food waste
- ✓ paints and liquids
- ✓ logs and tree stumps
- ✓ plant pots and polystyrene
- ✓ turf or soil

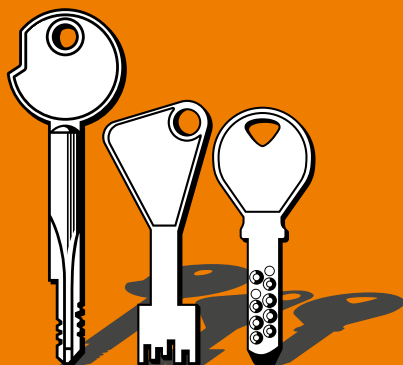


NO THANK YOU

Join us for our next virtual Redbridge Landlord Forum

**Thursday 15 April 2021
From 7pm to 8.30pm**

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



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

Want to know more about housing enforcement?

Unsure about your responsibilities as a landlord?

To register your free place and receive instructions on how to access the meeting please e-mail
Prslicensing@redbridge.gov.uk

**ATTENTION! Owner occupiers,
tenants and landlords**

LET'S MAKE REDBRIDGE GREEN



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

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

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

We offer

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

Eligibility

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



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

Email Housing.Standards@redbridge.gov.uk to find out more, check your eligibility and register your interest

Funeral Plans from your local, family run funeral director

Harold Wood
Funeral Services
Plans & Stonemasonry
Est 1958

PROUD TO OFFER
Golden Charter



A thoughtful way to plan ahead

Save your family worry and expense with a Funeral Plan from Harold Wood Funeral Services. It's an easy, thoughtful way to plan ahead and beat rising costs.

Chigwell & Hainault
45 New North Road IG6 2UE
020 8501 1735

Or

Collier Row & Havering-atte-Bower
309 Collier Row Lane RM5 3ND
01708 724064

- ✓ Peace of mind for you and your family
- ✓ Specify your wishes in advance
- ✓ Protection against rising funeral costs

Harold Hill & Brentwood
64 Chippenham Road RM3 8HX
01708 376472

Or

Harold Wood & Hornchurch
43 Station Road RM3 OBS
01708 343286

GC-LIFT 26473 - 0820

Call 0800 731 1855 • Home or Office Appointments • www.hwfunerals.co.uk

Advertise in Redbridge Life

to reach 110,000 homes



**BOOK NOW FOR OUR
SUMMER EDITION**

Email

redbridgelifeads@redbridge.gov.uk



LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Court ruling orders **Barkingside** dwellings to be demolished

A Redbridge resident is celebrating winning a legal battle after a developer flouted planning laws by building a property too close to his house, blocking light to one side of his Newbury Park home.

Sivasankar Sangarappillai, the owner of a modest two-bedroom house in Buntingbridge Road, raised concerns with the developer several times, only to be told the development was within planning permission guidelines.

Redbridge Council's Enforcement Team took the developer to court, and the Judge ruled that the entire property, consisting of two dwellings, must be demolished.

Sivasankar said: "The previous house was a very small bungalow, so when I saw this huge building being built in its place, I knew something was wrong straight away. I was suddenly using electric light in two of my rooms all day long because there was a complete lack of light."

"The developer kept reassuring me everything was correct, and they were following the planning permission guidelines. They had submitted inaccurate dimensions to acquire their planning permission. Naturally, I am pleased the issue has been resolved and that the building will be coming down."

In the court case on 5 January 2021, a planning inspector dismissed the developer's claim that a neighbour does not have the right to light. The inspector upheld the council's enforcement notice requiring the building to be demolished within nine months to allow the current tenants to find alternative accommodation.

Cllr Sheila Bain, Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Enforcement, said: "Here is a perfect example of what our planning enforcement team can achieve against rogue developers. I believe this is a landmark case for Redbridge Council and sends out a very strong message to other developers who do not follow the correct planning regulations."



We won't tolerate these offences

Our Planning Enforcement Team is not tolerating this behaviour and in 2020 we served 150 notices, compared to 122 from 2016-2019.

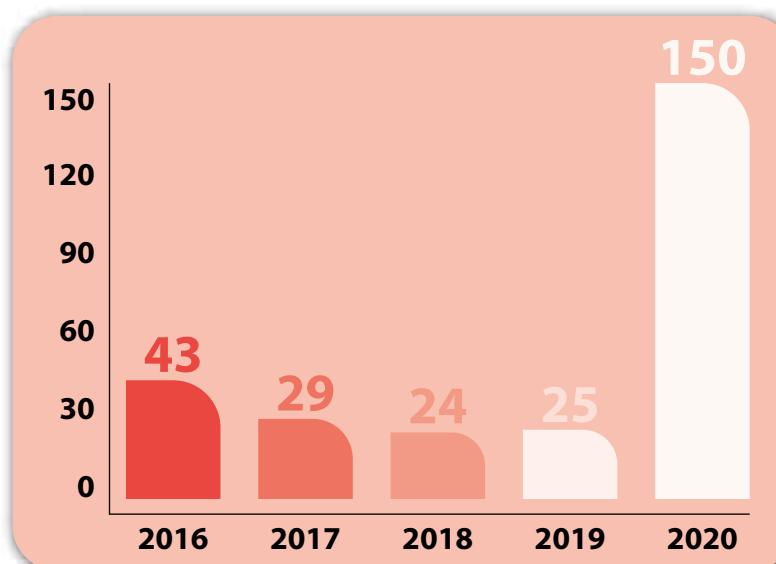
How to report a planning breach

Complete an online report form; you will need to sign-up/login to your Redbridge account or you can send your report by email to:

planning.enforcement@redbridge.gov.uk

This will allow us to keep you updated on the progress of the investigation.

Enforcement Notices served 2016-2020



This bar chart illustrates how the **Enforcement Team** at Redbridge Council has **substantially increased** its workload regarding **notices served on offenders** during the five years since 2016.





THIS MARCH IN REDBRIDGE

Join Redbridge Libraries online as we celebrate women's achievements throughout history right up to the present day.



For more information visit

www.visionrcl.org.uk/womenshistory




@RedbridgeLibs



RedbridgeLibraries

Redbridge in Bloom

now in it's 26th year! **2021**

Support the NHS with a rainbow garden
Grow your love of gardening 

We are encouraging the residents of Redbridge to grow their love for gardening as we celebrate **26 years of Redbridge in Bloom**, our amateur gardening competition.

Whatever your level of gardening expertise, help us spread a message of love and hope 'In support of the NHS' by creating your very own rainbow garden. Fill your front gardens with pretty flowers bursting with all the colours of the rainbow. **Entry is free!**

Judging doesn't require you to be in so it must be a space that is clearly visible from the road, but this could be a balcony garden or a paved front garden filled with beautiful pots and hanging baskets.

Further details can be found on the website and you can complete your application online. Closing date for entries is **5 July**, so plenty of time to create the perfect display. The closing date for school entries will be 18 June.

There are five general categories to choose from and a special category for schools which means that all ages can get involved!

Best Front Garden

Best Container Garden

Best Public House

Best Sheltered Housing/
Residential Care Home

Best Community Display

Best School Gardening Project

www.visionrcl.org.uk/redbridgeinbloom



Access Newspapers, Magazines, Ebooks and Audiobooks

for FREE with
your Redbridge
Libraries card!



Haven't got a library card? Join online now
www.visionrcl.org.uk/joinlibrary

Did you know that your Redbridge libraries card gives you access to a range of digital resources?

With our **Virtual Library** you can access PressReader for newspapers and magazines, **BorrowBox** for eAudiobooks and **Libby** for eBooks!



For more information visit

www.visionrcl.org.uk/digital



@RedbridgeLibs



RedbridgeLibraries

FIT, FED AND READ



During School Holidays
Taking place online via Zoom

5-11 yrs

Activities include

- Fun Quizzes
- Fun Recipe Ideas
- Healthy Eating
- Storytime
- Activities & Dancing
- Arts & Crafts

Sessions are **FREE** for families who are eligible for free school meals (proof will be required)

All families will be provided with a food hamper and fun activities

Limited spaces, booking is essential.

To book visit www.visionrcl.org.uk/fitfedread

For further information contact
active.redbridge@visionrcl.org.uk



Fairlop Waters centre to launch new fleet of boats

We're delighted to announce the Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre (FOAC) will reopen this summer for local user groups and school children, as COVID-19 restrictions start to ease.

Fairlop, like much of the borough, will grow in terms of population over the coming years and our plans to add 250 acres of green space at Fairlop and a much-improved leisure and water activities offer, with sailing at its heart, will support this growth. We are investing in a new fleet of boats to benefit visitors and school children.

We recently revealed plans are underway for an upgraded Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre (FOAC) as part of the broader project to improve and redevelop Fairlop Waters.

Cllr Athwal said: "I want to make it clear despite concerns over the centre not opening due to COVID-19 restrictions, there was never any intention to permanently close this fantastic facility, which has been enjoyed by people in Redbridge and further afield for more than 40 years.

"It's important to remember that we had one of the highest infection rates in the country only a few months ago, meaning that we couldn't commit to a group open sports water offer this summer for obvious public health reasons. We've thankfully witnessed a significant reduction thanks to people in Redbridge following the rules and doing everything they can to get the rates down.



Following the reduction in COVID-19 cases locally and the government's recent announcement on easing restrictions, we're delighted to go full steam ahead with reopening the sailing centre with new boats and even more activities this summer."

A public consultation on the future of Fairlop is ongoing, and residents have been invited to take part by visiting <https://letstalkredbridge.uk/engagementhq.com/our-future-fairlop>



Get involved in Community Crowdfunding

Redbridge Council's new crowdfunding programme with Spacehive.

Local groups and organisations in Redbridge have now submitted their exciting project ideas on Spacehive.

Please show your support for projects by 'liking' them, pledging financial donations or pledging volunteer time.

The pandemic has shown the amazing resilience, innovation and compassion of people within our community. As we emerge from the pandemic, it is hoped that this crowdfunding programme will become a positive springboard for a locally-led revival.

The council will match-fund projects from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL), if projects meet the selection criteria and there are sufficient available funds.

To find out more: www.spacehive.com/movement/redbridge



COVID-19 Memorial Garden



Recently the UK passed the grim milestone of 100,000 lives lost to COVID-19, with every life lost being a tragedy.

Redbridge continues to have its share of suffering. In recognition of the loss and grief so many residents feel, we will provide a place for members of our community to commemorate and remember our friends and loved ones.

We recently held a consultation so we could hear your thoughts about how we should do this. We are now looking at your responses with the aim of installing an appropriate memorial in Redbridge later this year.



LOCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Redbridge fly-tipping initiative cleans up at national awards

Keep Britain Tidy announced the borough's Neighbourhoods and Street scene Team as an award winner in the charity's Network Awards 2021, held online on Wednesday 3 February.

Our team were thrilled to discover they had beaten competition from around the country to win the coveted Outstanding Service Delivery award, which recognised their successful work tackling a rise in fly-tipping across the borough between March and June 2020 – when the first wave of the pandemic hit.



The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) also shortlisted us as finalists in their national award ceremonies.

The APSE Service Awards shortlisting saw our Street Cleansing Team nominated for 'Best Service Team' for their work in transforming street cleansing services in the borough.

Not to be outdone, our Community Engagement Team was also shortlisted as finalists by APSE for the 'Best Community & Neighbourhood Initiative' award for their community engagement project – Redbridge Growing Together.

The project focused on working with residents on a range of environmental initiatives.

Redbridge leads the charge on greener travel with new fleet of electric vehicles

We started 2021 with a new fleet of electric vehicles and are encouraging residents and businesses to also consider greener modes of transport to tackle air pollution and help reduce the borough's carbon footprint.



The 12 new electric vehicles will be charged by the newly created rapid electric vehicle charging bays at the council's Ley Street depot.

And we're not stopping there! As part of our plans for more electric vehicle charging points, we're also creating an ultra-fast charging hub at the depot specifically for local businesses.

The hub will support businesses to use cleaner vehicles and will include at least two fast charging points which fully charge electric vehicles in under an hour.

Both initiatives are part of a range of environmental and air quality improvement schemes resulting from our successful bid to form a Business Low Emission Neighbourhood (BLEN) in and around Ley Street in Ilford.

The Redbridge BLEN initiatives will be delivered over a two-year period, and have been funded by the council, the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund and EON.

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

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

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



Pest Control Service



What we do

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

What pest control officers do

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



Pests we treat and cost

Rats	£125.00
Mice	£125.00
Cockroaches	£156.00
Bedbugs	£215.00
Pharaoh Ants	£165.00
Garden Ants	£97.00
Wasps	1 nest 69.00
Wasps	subsequent nests £40.00
Fleas	£133.00
Commercial premises starting from (non-food premises only)	£180.00

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



London Borough of
Redbridge



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



Permanant COVID-19 test centres



Symptomatic test centres

For residents who have
COVID-19 symptoms.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1
Mildmay Car Park
1 Mildmay Rd
Ilford IG1 1HW
8am to 8pm | 2
Gants Hill Library
Car Park, Cranbrook Rd
Ilford IG2 6SX
8am to 8pm | 3
Charteris Car Park
Charteris Rd
Woodford IG8 0AL
8am to 8pm |
|---|---|---|

Asymptomatic rapid test centres

For residents who don't have
any COVID-19 symptoms and
are unable to work from home.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 4
Redbridge Central Library
Ilford IG1 1BP
10am to 7pm | 5
Wanstead Youth Centre
144 Elmcroft Ave
E11 2DB
10am to 7pm | 6
Hainault Library
100 Manford Way
IG7 4DD
10am to 7pm |
|---|--|--|

Residents can book an appointment online at www.redbridge.gov.uk/gettested