



REDBRIDGE



LIFE



**FAMILY
EFFORT
FEEDS
HUNDREDS**
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**CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS AS
SUPERPOWERS!**
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**ACTION
AGAINST
CRIME &
WASTE**
pages 26 & 27



ENTER THE Redbridge PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2026

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Join us for **FREE** theatre, circus,
music and dance on
a high street
near you.

REDBRIDGE OUTDOOR ARTS

Share the
experience!

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 July
Nandita Shankardass
Roots to Rise

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Barkingside on Saturdays
and
Ilford Town Centre on Sundays

Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 August
Stopgap Dance Company
RO-TES 11S:

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 September
Company DHW
GO GRANDAD, GO!



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HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Council

Thursday 24 September **7pm**

Cabinet

Thursday 16 July **7pm**

Thursday 17 September **7pm**

Health and Care

Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 15 September **7pm**

Planning Committee

Wednesday 15 July **7pm**

Wednesday 16 September **7pm**

Housing Committee

Wednesday 2 September **7pm**

Clean and Green Committee

Wednesday 9 September **7pm**

Children and Young People Committee

Tuesday 14 July **7pm**

Friday 10 September **7pm**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday 13 July **7pm**

Monday 14 September **7pm**

Governance and Assurance Committee

Monday 7 September **7pm**

General Purposes Committee

Thursday 16 July **8pm**

Safe Redbridge Committee

Tuesday 8 September **7pm**

Health and Wellbeing Board

Monday 14 September **2.15pm**

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at redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk

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visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/about-the-council/public-meetings

Telephone: 020 8708 2465/2352 or

Email: democratic.services@redbridge.gov.uk or Scrutiny@redbridge.gov.uk

LEADER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Summer edition of Redbridge Life

Dear neighbours,

It is a huge honour to be writing to you again as Leader of Redbridge Council. At the local elections, we ran on a strong record of delivery – from improving our streets and protecting local services, to investing in homes, parks and opportunities for our young people. I'm grateful to everyone who placed their trust in my colleagues and I to lead on this work.

I have appointed a new Cabinet to their positions and am glad to be joined by eight colleagues who are committed to Redbridge and have the energy and ideas to make a difference. You'll hear directly from them later in this edition.

We begin this new term with a clear plan for the future, shaped by what residents have told us matters most: safe neighbourhoods, decent homes, opportunities for young people and support for those who need it most. This is an agenda for all of Redbridge, regardless of how you voted. Our borough's strength lies in its unity – in the way people from across the borough come together with a shared pride in the place we call home.



Cllr Kam Rai with Baroness Casey, Wes Streeting MP, Mark Santos and service users at Link Place, Hainault

We've already started work on the ten pledges we made to you. We are investing £35 million to fix roads and pavements, making everyday journeys safer and more reliable. We are strengthening street cleansing and introducing new recycling wheelie bins for every household, helping to keep our neighbourhoods clean and well maintained. We are also committed to protecting the Freedom Pass, because we know how important it is for

many older and disabled residents across our borough. Alongside these commitments, we are determined to deliver the high-quality local services residents rely on day in, day out.

Housing remains one of the biggest issues facing our borough. That's why we are moving ahead with plans to bring 1,000 new genuinely affordable homes to Redbridge. We are also continuing our work to attract investment into our borough, supporting regeneration projects that create jobs, improve local areas and help unlock opportunities for residents. A safe and secure home provides the foundation for everything else in life, and we will continue to make that a priority.



Cllr Kam Rai with Freedom Pass users at Seven Kings Station

Creating opportunity is central to our approach. Through our Work Redbridge programme, we will work to create and identify 5,000 new jobs and apprenticeships, helping residents access secure, well-paid work. Alongside this, we are investing in education and support for families – including a new SEND school and family hubs that bring together services in one place.

We are also working to get key projects over the line for residents. Following the contractor failure at Wanstead Pool, we remain committed to completing the development and delivering the high-quality facility local people were promised.

We're also continuing to invest in the shared spaces that support healthy, connected communities. Our parks and green spaces, alongside modern leisure facilities, provide



Cllr Kam Rai speaking at the Better Life Chances conference at Seven Kings High School

opportunities for people to be active, spend time together and support their wellbeing. We will protect and enhance these assets so that everyone can benefit from them. That includes delivering repairs and improvements to the Kenneth More Theatre, Fullwell Cross Leisure Centre and South Woodford Library, ensuring these valued community facilities continue to serve residents for years to come.

There's a lot there, and a lot more that I don't have space to cover, all aimed at ensuring Redbridge is a great place to grow up, live and grow old. And we'll need your help to do that. So, we'll continue to listen and work alongside you, because the best outcomes are achieved in partnership. Your voice and priorities will continue to shape the future of our borough.

Redbridge is a place we can all be proud of – diverse, resilient and full of potential. There is more to do, but I am confident that, working together, we can build an even cleaner, safer and fairer borough for everyone.

Councillor Kam Rai
Leader of Redbridge Council



2026 local election: meet the cabinet

Following the local elections, the Labour Party remain in control of the council. Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of the Council recently announced his cabinet team that will support him to deliver an ambitious agenda across the Borough over the next four years.



Councillor Vanisha Solanki - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Shared Prosperity

Seven Kings and Redbridge have always been my home. As Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, I am committed to working hard every day to deliver for residents and help shape a brighter future for our borough. Finance sits at the heart of everything we do as a council, and it is my responsibility to ensure that every pound we spend delivers real benefits for local people. My priorities for the next year are:

1. To ensure that we share prosperity across our borough to match our residents' ambitions. This includes providing cost

of living support for those struggling, bringing new jobs and apprenticeships to Redbridge and supporting new businesses.

- 2. To make sure that Redbridge remains one of the most efficient and effective councils in the country.**
- 3. To invest in the future of our borough- to use additional government funding to provide the services and support our residents need.**



Councillor Lloyd Duddridge - Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

I am a child of Redbridge, I was a pupil at both Churchfields Primary and then King Solomon High School. It was a place that I am proud to have grown up in, the street I lived in in Woodford was my place of sanctuary, my football stadium and cricket pitch. In Redbridge we have an Outstanding children's services, don't take my word for it, Ofsted have told us it twice. We have 96% of schools as good or outstanding, and we are a UNICEF Child friendly borough, the only one in England. A record to be proud of with a promise of more. Looking forward,

my priorities are:

- 1. To turn around our SEND services so that they are London leading.**
- 2. To make sure that every one of our schools is the equivalent of good or outstanding.**
- 3. Ensure every child gets the best start in life by providing great experiences and the opportunity to learn essential skills such as swimming and how to ride a bike.**



Councillor Daniel Morgan-Thomas - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

I was a young carer in Redbridge and from my own experiences I understand how desperately needed Adult Social Care services are. Not only for our residents with disabilities or mental illness but also their families, neighbours and friends. I hope in my role as Cabinet Member to continue the journey of improvement that has already been begun for our Adult Social Services and to lead on work in partnership with NHS colleagues from the various hospitals, trusts and services that people in the borough

depend upon. My priorities are:

- 1. To guide Redbridge along the path to improvement for Adult Social Care.**
- 2. Work closely with NHS partners particularly during reorganisation in the local Integrated Care System.**
- 3. Work with partners to raise childhood vaccination rates in Redbridge.**



Councillor Jo Blackman - Cabinet Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods

I got involved in local politics campaigning for a local playground and for better access to nature for children, when my own children were young. I'm very passionate about the environment and needs of local communities. We've achieved much already but have more to do. My priorities for the coming year include:

1. Reducing waste, improving recycling rates and keeping our streets clean. Tackling problem areas and ensuring

resources like our new rapid response team are getting where needed.

- 2. Helping people to get around the borough safely and efficiently as possible as well as supporting high streets through improvements to roads, parking and transport.**
- 3. Delivering improvements to air and water quality by working with agencies like TfL, Thames Water, the GLA and Environment Agency.**



Councillor Saima Ahmed - Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Redbridge is where I chose to build my life and raise my family. Serving as a councillor is deeply personal, it is my way of giving back to the community that has given me so much. Finding a home is one of the biggest worries our residents face right now, which is why I am so focused on getting more social rent homes built and improving local living standards. I am committed to working in partnership with residents and housing providers to ensure our new Local Plan allows us to build the homes we need

while developing our neighbourhoods and protecting the green spaces we all share. My priorities are:

1. To deliver more genuinely affordable council and social rent homes.
2. To raise housing standards across the borough.
3. To bring forward a Local Plan that builds sustainable communities in our borough.



Councillor Sunny Brar - Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Community Safety and Cohesion

Having grown up in Redbridge, I know how important safety and community cohesion is for residents. Over the next year, my priorities will be:

1. To ensure that residents feel safe and confident in their communities by tackling antisocial behaviour, environmental crime, fly-tipping, and other issues that negatively impact daily life.
2. To bring together people from all backgrounds, faiths, and cultures to build stronger, more connected communities. I want to support initiatives that foster

understanding, celebrate diversity, and encourage residents to play an active role in shaping their neighbourhoods.

3. To work with residents and the public to produce a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy which works to prevent abuse and support victims.

I plan to deliver my priorities by working closely with residents, community organisations, council officers, and partner agencies to ensure that local concerns are heard and acted upon.



Councillor Helen Mullis - Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture

Since becoming a councillor, I've thrown myself into the role and I love the people you meet, the stories you hear and the things you get to be involved in that you most likely wouldn't otherwise. I'm really excited to be appointed to the cabinet and especially to the Leisure and Culture role. As someone born and raised in Redbridge, I understand how much of the Leisure and Culture offer is ingrained in people's shared experience. I've already seen from my work as ward councillor the difference that great leisure and culture opportunities can make to the wider flourishing of communities and I intend to work hard to ensure our Leisure and Culture is the best it can be by:

1. Overseeing the reopening of Fullwell Cross, South Woodford Library and Kenneth More Theatre as well as working with partners to bring forward exciting new projects such as a climbing centre.
2. Maintaining our nine Green Flag Parks status and creating four new pocket parks.
3. Ensuring that our great leisure and culture offer is inclusive, accessible and enjoyed by as many people as possible



Councillor Judith Garfield - Cabinet Member for Strategy and Modernisation

As a long-term Redbridge resident and the Director of a small local charity for 28 years, I have been actively involved in a number of community groups, giving me a deep understanding of the needs and priorities of local residents. My priorities for the next 12 months are:

1. To ensure that residents are actively involved in shaping council services, with clear and accessible channels for their feedback and input.

2. To streamline and modernise our services so they are simpler, more accessible and more responsive to the needs of our communities.

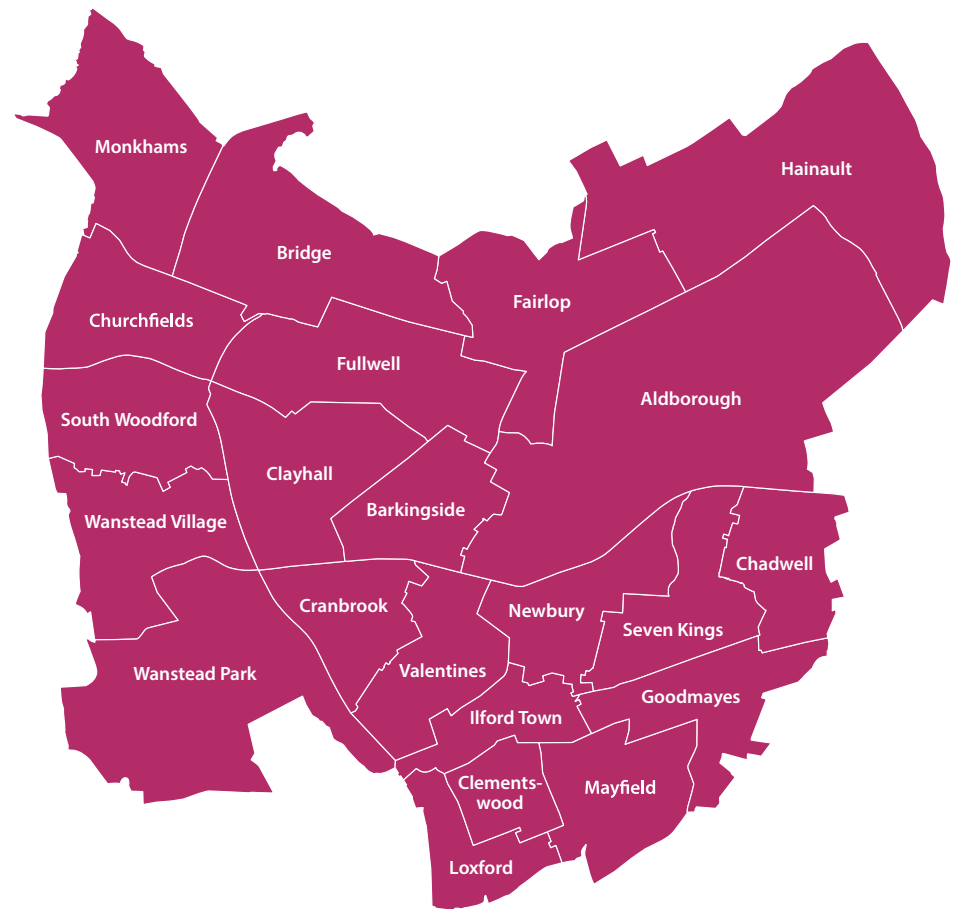
3. To break down barriers across the council to deliver a more coherent, efficient and resident-centred experience.

2026 local election results

At the beginning of May, people across Redbridge voted to choose who would represent their local area on the council.

The elections gave residents a chance to have their say on the issues that affect everyday life in the borough and decide who they want to make local decisions.

The Labour Party won 43 seats, Redbridge Independents won 9 seats, the Conservative Party won 5, the Green Party also won 5 and Reform won 1 seat. This means that the council continues to be run by a Labour-led administration.



Aldborough			Barking			Bridge		
Jyotsna Islam Labour Party	Lebo Phakoe Labour Party	Kam Rai Labour Party	Harminder Singh Bal Labour Party	Syeda Ferdause Pasha Labour Party	Martin Sachs Labour Party	Stephen Adams Conservative Party	Adam Joiner Conservative Party	Josiah Moseley Conservative Party
Chadwell			Churchfields			Clayhall		
Touseef Afzal Redbridge Independents	Niamh Atkins Green Party	Bert Jones Labour Party	Lloyd Duddridge Labour Party	Judith Garfield Labour Party	Guy Williams Labour Party	Kalpana Bose Labour Party	Kamal Hussain Qureshi Labour Party	Jamal Uddin Labour Party
Clementswood			Cranbrook			Fairlop		
Fazlul Haque Redbridge Independents	Zulfiqar Hussain Labour Party	Muhammed Javed Labour Party	Mushtaq Ahmed Labour Party	Mohamed Shukry Haleemdeen Redbridge Independents	Feza Haque Redbridge Independents	Bob Chattaway Labour Party	Erza Doda Labour Party	Yogesh Saini Labour Party



Visit the link below or simply scan the QR code to discover who your local councillor is:
<https://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx>



Fullwell			Goodmayes			Hainault		
								
Matthew Goddin Labour Party	Linda Mullis Labour Party	Vibhu Taneja Labour Party	Shorif Akhonda Labour Party	Ben Cornish Labour Party	Prabjit Gurm Labour Party	Shah Ali Labour Party	Neil Anderson Reform UK	Helen Mullis Labour Party
Ilford Town		Loxford		Mayfield		Monkhams		
								
Saima Ahmed Labour Party	Hossain Mohammed Enamul Redbridge Independents	Foyzur Rahman Labour Party	Mazhar Saleem Labour Party	Sahdia Warraich Labour Party	Noor Jahan Begum Redbridge Independents	Rishi Sharma Bhagi Labour Party	Harneek Kaur Labour Party	Joel Herga Conservative Party
Monkhams	Newbury			Seven Kings			South Woodford	
								
Clark Vasey Conservative Party	Sunny Brar Labour Party	Syeda Choudhury Labour Party	Thavathuray Jeyaranjan Labour Party	Imran Ahmed Redbridge Independents	Vanisha Solanki Labour Party	Nav Johal Labour Party	Beverley Brewer Labour Party	Kallan Greybe Green Party
South Woodford	Valentines			Wanstead Park		Wanstead Village		
								
Monika Patel Green Party	Alex Holmes Labour Party	Rashida Choudhery Redbridge Independents	Marwan Elfallah Redbridge Independents	Milli Richards Clack Green Party	Emma Shepherd-Mallinson Labour Party	Jo Blackman Labour Party	Daniel Morgan-Thomas Labour Party	Sue Whitehead Green Party

ENTER THE Redbridge PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2026

Win great prizes by sharing
photos of our borough

It's time to get your cameras ready because our Redbridge Photography Awards competition is back for the third year running! Let's showcase the charm of our borough's parks and gardens, vibrant local community, and its historic and iconic structures.

The competition is free and open to everyone of all ages and capabilities – simply share a digital photo from within the borough to enter! Shortlisted participants will be invited to an awards ceremony. Winning photos will also feature in an exhibition and the autumn edition of Redbridge Life.

Check out the five categories

1

Redbridge Pets

Capture the personality of your furry, feathery or scaly friends and their special moments.

2

Redbridge Places

This category highlights Redbridge's unique architecture, historical landmarks or hidden gems. Show us your favourite place and tell us why it's special to you.

3

Redbridge Nature

Redbridge is home to beautiful parks, gardens and wildlife. Capture the wonders of the borough's nature through a peaceful forest, a tiny insect or blooming flower.

4

Redbridge Heroes

Let's celebrate the amazing people in our community. Do you know someone making a difference in the borough? Take their photo and share a few words about how they make Redbridge a better place.

5

Redbridge Young People's Award

This is a special category for young people under the age of 16. We want to see pictures of the borough through your eyes, whether it's hanging out with friends, playing sports or spending time with family.



Redbridge Pets 2025 winner
Ivaylo Mihaylov



Redbridge Places 2025 winner
Emma Byrne



Redbridge Nature 2025 winner
Alan Simpson



Redbridge Heroes 2025 winner
Paul Fox

We're excited to see your
snaps of our borough's
wonderful places, people,
and wildlife!

To upload your snaps and for more information,
please visit the Redbridge Photography Awards page at
engage.redbridge.gov.uk/rpa-2026 or scan the QR code

Good luck to everyone taking part!



Meet your new Mayor



Following the recent local elections, Redbridge has also welcomed a new Mayor, Councillor Bert Jones.

Here are a few words from him looking ahead to the next year.

"It is a great honour and privilege to have been nominated as the new Mayor of Redbridge. I look forward to working with the Leader of the Council and colleagues to represent and promote the borough as best I can. I am especially keen to meet more residents, businesses and community organisations, and to champion Redbridge's diverse small business community.

"Redbridge has been my home for 20 years. I was born in Mexico and came to the UK as a child. After completing a degree at the University of Manchester, I settled here and have lived and worked in the borough ever since.

"I have served as a councillor for most of that time, representing Goodmayes since 2010 and Chadwell since 2018.

"During my year as Mayor, I hope to raise the borough's profile, support our communities and will work to bring people together. We've seen over the decades that multiculturalism works here. So, whatever challenges we face, I'm confident that we can overcome them together. I intend to work with multi-faith chaplains to bring people together from all communities. I've seen that in my 20 years in the Borough, there is far more that unites us than divides us.

"The Mayor traditionally fundraises for charity and during my mayoral year I will be supporting Parkinson's UK, Mind and Haven House Children's Hospice."

NCIL funding from council helps support beloved Disability Festival In the Park

Funding boost helps deliver inclusive, community-driven festival celebrating local talent in Wanstead

The Disability Festival in the Park returns this summer on 23 July, bringing an inclusive and vibrant festival day to Wanstead. The event features live music, performances, hands-on activities and opportunities to connect.

This year the event is being supported by funding from the Council's Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL), a levy paid by developers building new homes. The money generated from the levy is then reinvested in the borough, and has supported community led projects such as this festival, Colours of Redbridge, a project aimed at helping young people build digital skills, the Energy Café, where residents receive advice on reducing energy use and household bills and Ekota Academy, who deliver inclusive sports programmes, cycling lessons and mentoring.

Councillor Vanisha Solanki, Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Shared Prosperity, said:

"The Disability Festival in the Park, the Energy Café and Ekota Academy are examples of what happens when local ideas get the right support. These projects help people across our borough, and create spaces where people feel welcome, try something new and stay connected to their community. NCIL funding helps turn good ideas into things people can see, join in with and benefit from, with local community groups at their heart."



For more information on the disability festival, please visit:

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

For more information on NCIL funding, please visit: **<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policies/neighbourhood-community-infrastructure-funding-applications/>**



Meet James and Shan Lau - the big-hearted duo giving good food a second chance

Saving good food from going to waste is something married couple James and Shan are passionate about.

The big-hearted duo from Woodford co-founded Spare Loaf – a weekly community food sharing event that redistributes surplus food from supermarkets across London, which would have otherwise been thrown away because of “Best Before” dates.

Spare Loaf takes place every Friday, 10-11am at St Barnabas Church Hall, Snakes Lane East, in Woodford, and together with a team of 17 dedicated volunteers, Shan and James give away good quality food to the community.

Shan, age 53, said: **“Our ethos is about the ability to come together as a community to ensure food does not get wasted, and in that process if we can also help local families who might be struggling with food costs, then that is absolutely one of the biggest bonuses about Spare Loaf. Times are tough for everyone and if we can learn to share what we have, it helps everyone. All the surplus supermarket food would have otherwise gone to landfills, so this is a brilliant way to stop waste while also being a useful community resource.”**

Spare Loaf has saved over 80 tonnes of food from going to waste and has helped many local people feeling the effects of spiralling food prices.

James, age 55, said: **“It’s truly exceeded our expectations. When we started Spare Loaf we thought it would be just a local community event, but it has grown so much and has become bigger than we ever imagined. We have people from all walks of life, different groups and faiths coming to the event.”**

Shan added: **“Spare Loaf is a food sharing group and is open to absolutely everyone - no questions asked. We’re not a food bank. We don’t ask anyone to register, and we don’t take details and you don’t need a referral. Just turn up with a shopping bag, put your food in it and take it home – it’s totally free.”**



Shan and James sort and organise surplus groceries at the Spare Loaf weekly food sharing event in Woodford

James said: **“Although Spare Loaf was started by Shan and myself, we do now have a brilliant team of local volunteers who help. We couldn’t do it without them. They drive all over London in the evenings collecting surplus food from supermarkets for redistribution through Spare Loaf. We all follow**



Fresh fruit and vegetables are handed out at the Spare Loaf session at St Barnabas Church Hall

strict food hygiene guidelines and have food handling training to ensure collected food is stored correctly - and we only distribute food that is within date or is within the best before date range.”

James continued: **“Through our wonderful volunteers, we’ve also created a little community network that we can access outside of the weekly event and help distribute food to those people too. We also tend to give anything left, that is suitable, to a local animal sanctuary where it is used as animal feed.”**

Around 200 people a week access food through Spare Loaf and its community network, and on a typical week nearly a ton of food is saved from waste and redistributed back into the community through the event.

Despite both having full-time jobs and being parents, Shan and James work tirelessly with their volunteers to run Spare Loaf, and even get their daughters involved too.

Shan said: **“It’s definitely a team effort, and we all do it because we love being part of something so positive. Our daughters also pitch in during school holidays because we want to show them the power of community and what can be achieved when we all work together.”**

Speaking about future ambitions Shan added: **“Spare Loaf is such a popular event and helps so many local people. We’d love to expand it and are exploring ways to work with local businesses through sponsorship or alliances to help us achieve this.”**

What Child Friendly Redbridge means

child
friendly
Redbridge

What if you already had superpowers...
and didn't even know it? Good news. You do.

Redbridge is the first borough in England to be recognised by UNICEF UK as a Child Friendly Borough. That means adults here are working together and with children to make sure children are listened to, treated fairly and feel safe every day. It also means this is your borough too. Your ideas help shape parks, activities and places to spend time.

Ready to meet your powers?



Captain Speak-Up

"Hey world, listen up!"
You have the power to share your ideas and be heard.

Safety Shield

"Nothing gets past me!"

You have the right to feel safe wherever you are.

WOW



OH!!!

Justice Jet

"Fair for all, every time!"

You have the right to be treated fairly, no matter who you are.



POW

Play Power Hero

"Fun is serious business!"

You have the right to play, relax and enjoy time with your friends.



Dream Builder

"Today I learn, tomorrow I shine!"

You have the right to learn, grow and imagine your future.



YOUR MISSION

Which of these are real children's rights? Circle the ones you think are true:

- Having a say about your neighbourhood, what's in it, and how it's built
- Feeling safe
- Playing and relaxing
- Only doing homework forever and ever and ever
- Being listened to
- Learning new things

(Hint: most of them are real!)

Now draw yourself as a superhero.

What's your name?

What's your catchphrase?



Being Child Friendly means you belong here. Your voice counts. Your ideas matter.

And Redbridge is stronger because of you.

Here are some children from John Bramston School, explaining what children's rights are



These aren't made-up powers. They are real rights that belong to you and we're all working together to make Redbridge the best place for superheroes like you to grow up in.

WHY REDBRIDGE IS SO GREAT

child
friendly
Redbridge

Hi all, My name is Taha Akhtar and I am a part of The Redbridge Youth Council.

The London Borough of Redbridge offers a wide range of extracurricular opportunities. Redbridge features programmes such as Mega Mix, Redbridge youth centres and the Redbridge Youth Council, which provide a platform for young people's voices to be heard.

Mega Mix is a platform that provides short 'taster' sessions of different sports and activities such as swimming, cricket, football and more. The aim of the programme is to try new activities. Personally, I have taken part in their swimming courses. As well as this I am currently part of the Redbridge Youth Council.

The Redbridge Youth Council is a youth body (aged 11-18) that is designed to give the youth of our borough a chance to have influence in local democracy and influence in council decisions. Members of the RYC -Redbridge Youth Council- take part in campaigns such as environmental, social and poverty. Their role and purpose is to transform Redbridge into a 'Child Friendly Redbridge'.

Overall, extracurricular opportunities in Redbridge play an important role in supporting young people beyond education. By providing access to a wide range of activities, these programmes help encourage personal development, creativity, and community engagement.

Taha



Over the last 14 years growing up in Redbridge, I've had some incredible experiences. From tennis to boxing, one question that I always think about is whether the journey or the destination is more important and I believe I've found the perfect answer- it's the people that you meet along the way; the community.

School life is the most important foundation of growing up, it's where you meet your best friends, find interests and create key social experiences. The school that I go to - pushes you to aim higher. You're constantly surrounded by people who want to achieve something—whether it's academically, in sport, or beyond.

Although all of this is true, my favourite parts have been having funny conversations and incredible experiences with friends (looking at you Luke).

Outside school, sport becomes a big part of life. My personal favourite is boxing as it's a way to stay focused, disciplined, and confident.

The parks are another key part of growing up here. Whether it's training runs, casual football games, or just hanging out with friends, green spaces give you a break from the busy streets. Cricket is especially popular in summer, with games played in parks where competition is friendly but serious.

At the heart of it all is the strong community. Redbridge is diverse, but that diversity creates connection. People support each other, and that sense of unity is what makes growing up here both challenging and rewarding.

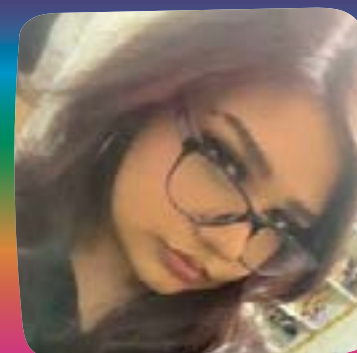
Isa

My childhood sounded like overlapping conversations in different languages and smelled like food from every corner of the world. Here in Redbridge, multitudes of languages overlap like brushstrokes of colourful wet paint. The infamous corner shops radiate beside temples, mosques, churches and cafés. On one bus ride, you can hear five different accents and ten different stories. Growing up in that kind of environment teaches you that there is never ever only one way to think, speak or exist.

For many young people in Redbridge, diversity is not merely a slogan printed onto posters but it's within ordinary life, living through the lunchboxes traded at school tables, in debates between friends, in grandparents carrying entire countries inside their memories. Whereby being surrounded by so many perspectives creates an extraordinarily loud generation unafraid to speak.

The youth voice in Redbridge is thunderous in classrooms, youth councils, community projects and conversations that persistently refuse to stay small. Young people here care deeply about safety, opportunity, culture, education and the future of the borough itself.

It's mesmerisingly breathtaking growing up in a place built from thousands of different identities. My 16 years have felt less like one singular story and more like a library overflowing with them, teaching me to hunt and love my own.



Aliyah

GALLERY



BARKINGSIDE ART CLUB

Barkingside Art Club is an inclusive arts organisation offering weekly art workshops, exhibitions, portfolio programmes and creative opportunities for children and young people aged 4-16+.

Running every Wednesday and Saturday, we inspire creativity, confidence and self-expression through visual art for all abilities.

JUNIOR CLUB

4 - 7 YEARS
WEDNESDAY
SATURDAY



Heera, 8 & Ariya, 5

"I love coming to Barkingside Art Club with my sister, Ariya. We love making art together. Ariya likes making big, big artworks and I love painting, football, and basketball. Art club helps me make my art better and spend time with my friends."



SUMMER CAMPAIGN



WE ARE CREATING
WHAT'S ON SUMMER
ART EXHIBITION
20TH JUNE

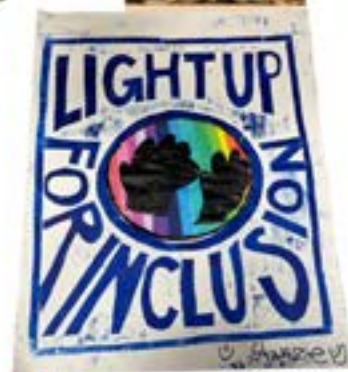
SOUTH ASIAN
HERITAGE
MONTH 25-26TH
JULY



SPECTRUM STUDIO
SEND ART CREATIVE CLUB



SCAN ME



Shanze, 17

"I love Barkingside Art Club at Fullwell Cross Library because it's the only place where I can meet other young people, make art, draw, and be creative with my friends. I enjoy visiting Barkingside High Street, going to Rowans Café, visiting Rich Hair Salon. Art club makes me feel happy, included, and connected."



YOUNG
STUDIO
SATURDAY
18-25

PORTFOLIO CLUB

8 - 18 YEARS



Khushi, 11

"I love learning different art techniques like acrylic painting and sketching at Barkingside Art Club."

I enjoy taking part in projects like Redbridge Outdoor Arts, Accept the Difference, and Light Up for Inclusion. We watch performances, create artwork, and exhibit our work for the community. It makes me feel proud to share my creativity with lots of people."



Esiyada, 19

"I started at Barkingside Art Club as a student and am now a Creative Leader and Lead Creative Ambassador. As a neurodivergent young artist, I use animation and digital art to explore themes such as loneliness, neurodivergence, and youth homelessness. The club has helped me grow as both an artist and a leader, supporting younger students and delivering projects across Redbridge. It has inspired me to continue my creative journey and make a positive difference in my community."



11-18+

child
friendly
Redbridge

BOXUP



Box Up uses boxing to inspire, educate and develop young people while promoting positive social change. Working closely with schools, it supports students with behaviour and motivation challenges, engaging early with at-risk individuals to build confidence, influence positive outcomes and improve life chances within affected communities.

BoxUp Gym welcomes everyone, from complete beginners to professional fighters. The classes support all abilities and goals, including Boxing Basics, Boxing All Levels, She Can Box (Ladies Only Boxing), and Gloves Supervised Sparring, providing a safe, structured environment to develop skills and confidence.

Whether your goal is fitness, weight loss, confidence, or competition, BoxUp Gym helps you grow stronger within a supportive community.



Young people taking a class at Box Up, which caters from complete beginners taking their first steps into boxing to professional fighters sharpening their skills

What young people can do with Box Up

Box Up uses a range of tools to support young people's development:

- Through boxing, providing free weekly training for ages 7–19, helping build discipline, confidence, and skills in a safe environment.
- Education is delivered through 'The Real Me', an award-winning mentoring and leadership programme that addresses challenging behaviours.
- Music facilities allow young people to express creativity in a professional setting.
- Through NMET+ (Nurturing Misguided Entrepreneurial Talent), Box Up encourages enterprise by providing mentorship, funding, and creative spaces.
- Careers support connects young people with employment opportunities, helping make successful and sustainable career paths more accessible.

Tyrik



My name is Tyrík Butler-Salih, 21. I discovered Box Up when they delivered boxing sessions at my school. I joined community sessions, progressed from young leader to staff, and now teach weekly Thursday classes. I also box amateurly for Box Up and recently won a fight. It has become my second family, building discipline, strength, and leadership, shaping who I am today.

Sasha



My name is Sasha White, I am 18. I joined Box Up at 13 after being bullied, with low confidence and poor mental health.

After weeks of anxiety, I attended and found support. I became a Young Leader, then a paid coach, gaining confidence, resilience, leadership skills and purpose.

Joel



My name is Joel Kodua, undefeated 147lbs English champion, Southern Area champion and Commonwealth silver medallist.

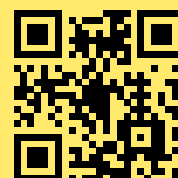
I have been with Box Up in Ilford since it opened, and it has positively impacted my life, giving me training, focus and discipline. Box Up supports young people and feels like family there.

Randy



Hey my name is Randy and I have been working with Box Up since I was 17 after being referred by my social worker Claudette when I came out of custody.

I was mentored by Selvin and Stephen. I am now 19 and a personal trainer staff member at Box Up and very grateful.



child
friendly
Redbridge

You can join Box Up gyms by signing up via our website <https://www.boxup.life>

Specialised Curriculum • Nurturing Learning Environment • Yoga and Meditation lessons

SECURE YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE AT AVANTI

LIMITED SPACES IN ALL YEARS AND GOING FAST



AVANTI COURT
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Join our Avanti family
– Avanti Court is
located within Redbridge.

We warmly welcome you to Avanti Court Primary School where everyone is welcome and everybody is included. Our special ethos is embellished by our unique three-fold pathway; Spiritual Insight, Character Development and Educational Excellence centred around the development of the whole child.

Children benefit from a comprehensive and coherent learning journey from Reception right through to year 6.

Contact us today to book a tour and see our school in action – the QR code takes you directly.



Educational Insight,
Character Formation
and Spiritual Insight



Avanti Court
Rated GOOD
in all areas -
June 2022



August Bank Holiday collection dates

There will be a change to your normal household waste and recycling collection days over the August bank holiday period so don't forget to jot down your revised collection dates

Normal Collection Date	Revised Collection Date
Monday 31 August	Tuesday 1 September
Tuesday 1 September	Wednesday 2 September
Wednesday 2 September	Thursday 3 September
Thursday 3 September	Friday 4 September
Friday 4 September	Saturday 5 September
Monday 7 September	BACK TO NORMAL



Let's continue putting food waste to good use!

Since rolling out the first phase of our food waste collection service in the borough we have seen some really great results

Close to 80% of the 10,000 households who were provided with the service, under the first phase of the roll-out, are now using their food caddy - helping reduce waste in the borough.

The service started in November 2025 and so far over 250 tonnes of food waste have been collected and processed through anaerobic digestion.

This has generated enough renewable energy to heat around 25 average UK homes for a year and produced roughly 175-200 tonnes of fertiliser that can be returned to farmland, to grow more food.

The move is part of efforts to support local people to reduce food waste, improve recycling rates across the borough, and help tackle climate change.

Households under the service receive a small kitchen caddy for food waste, and a larger outdoor caddy to decant the kitchen caddy waste into. Both keep food odours in, and the larger outdoor caddy is lockable giving peace of mind that foxes and other creatures won't be able to get to the waste inside.

If you already have access to the service, keep putting your food waste to good use by feeding the caddy and not putting food in your household waste bin.

If you weren't part of the initial roll-out, don't worry you'll be getting your food waste collection service towards the end of the year. We'll be rolling out the next phase to all households from winter. Once your service starts, food waste will be collected weekly on the same day as your regular household waste and recycling collections. Keep an eye out in our next edition for full details.

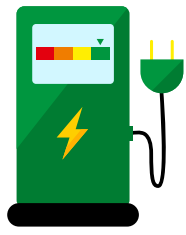


Our food waste collection vehicles are currently in production. Once they arrive, you'll be given caddies like these held by our waste collection team, so all kerbside properties can take part in the scheme

Karen, from Wanstead, who was in the first phase of the food waste collection service, said: "It's wonderful to have a weekly food waste collection. The service is reliable and a great way to make use of food waste that I can't compost."



Want to know more about our food waste collection service? Head to www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/food-waste-collections/ or scan the QR code



Plug into greener travel

We now have nearly 600 electric vehicle charge points installed on our streets, with more on the way!

We want to ensure that by 2030, every resident is within at least a 3-minute walk of an electric vehicle (EV) charge point, and with nearly 600 council chargers now installed across the borough we're on our way to charging up Redbridge!

The expansion of the Redbridge EV charging network is part of our bid to support local people to adopt more sustainable and greener travel choices, including making the switch from petrol or diesel to electric vehicles.

Transport was identified as one of the largest sources of carbon emissions in the borough, making it one of our key areas for action in tackling climate change and creating a cleaner, and greener Redbridge.

The increased number of EV charging points also gives local people without the ability to charge on a driveway the confidence to make the switch to electric, knowing they can easily charge an EV using the growing number of public charging points available across Redbridge.

Currently we have 595 council backed public chargers comprising:

- 359 slow EV charge points, mainly on lampposts, which can be used overnight by local people to charge their vehicles where they do not have front drives.
- 230 fast EV charge points.
- Six rapid EV charge points for on the go recharges.

The Council's Highways Team have also secured two additional external grants to:

- Develop and install a series of accessible EV chargers in the borough to help shape a more inclusive EV infrastructure in Redbridge.
- Expand the current EV charging network with the installation of potentially over a thousand new charge points across the borough, ranging from slow to rapid and ultra-fast.

CLEANER
Redbridge



One of the types of EV chargers you might spot around our borough

Multi-million pound roadworks deliver safer, smoother streets

A £4.8m road and footway resurfacing programme is transforming streets across Redbridge this year and next, helping create safer roads and smoother journeys for local people

Funded by the Council as well as the Department for Transport's Highways Maintenance Fund, the borough-wide programme is already underway, with the first resurfacing projects completed on Sandringham Gardens and Waverley Gardens in Fairlop. Many more neighbourhoods will also benefit as we continue to roll out resurfacing works across Redbridge.

The 2026/27 resurfacing programme forms part of a wider multiyear long-term plan, committing to sustained investment in the borough's highway network. This was also recognised nationally, with Redbridge being awarded a Green rating from the Department for Transport for its investment in road resurfacing.

The Government led rating system of Red, Amber, and Green, was introduced this year to show how effectively local councils in England maintain their roads, with Green representing top performers in various categories of scoring from road condition and investment to best practice.

Last year the Council resurfaced over 85,000 square metres of roadway, the equivalent of around 326 full-size tennis courts.

This continued commitment means better roads, improved safety, and smoother journeys, setting a positive course for the borough's streets for years to come.



The road on Waverley Gardens before resurfacing improvements



The visible road improvements following resurfacing works at Waverley Gardens



"Redbridge Institute didn't just teach me English or childcare – it helped me fulfil my dream."

LINDITA FILIPI, OWNER OF
ILFORD LANE UNDER 5'S PRE-SCHOOL

Watch
Lindita's
story



Turn learning into a career with Redbridge Institute

Lindita's life-changing story:

"When I arrived in the UK from Albania, I felt completely broken. I didn't know a single word of English. Simple things like asking for help or having a conversation all felt impossible. It was a lonely world, and one I felt I didn't belong in."

Everything changed when I stumbled across Redbridge Institute. I remember how scared I was walking through the doors, but for the first time, I felt hope. Learning English gave me more than words, it gave me confidence. Slowly, I began to feel integrated into society again.

As my confidence grew, I enrolled on a childcare course. I discovered a passion I didn't know I had. The support I received helped me believe in myself. For the first time since leaving Albania, I could see a future.

Today, I am the proud owner of a nursery at Loxford Children's Centre. When I look back at how lost I once felt, it amazes me how far I have come. Redbridge Institute didn't just teach me English or childcare, it helped me fulfil my dream."



Ready for a job that makes a difference?

All of our courses are designed to get you into jobs with the exact skills employers are looking for.

Start learning this September and take a step towards a new career.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Digital skills | English |
| ESOL | Maths |
| Early Years Childcare | Teaching Assistant |



Get in touch today! Call 020 8550 2398 or visit www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk



ILFORD & REDBRIDGE BUSINESS AWARDS 2026

REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS TO BE NOMINATED IN OUR ILFORD & REDBRIDGE BUSINESS AWARDS 2026. BUSINESSES IN ILFORD NORTH & SOUTH ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE REGISTERED AND NOMINATED. THE AWARDS ARE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ILFORD BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID).

THERE ARE OVER 20 CATEGORIES TO PICK FROM INCLUDING:

Ilford Best Café & Dessert Business Award	Ilford Best Finance Business Award	Ilford Best Hospitality Business Award
Ilford Best in Customer Service Award	Ilford Best Independent Business Award	Ilford Best Large Business Award
Ilford Best Legacy Business Award	Ilford Best New Business Award	Ilford Best Retail Business Award
Ilford Employer of The Year Award	Ilford Best Business Social Media Campaign Award	Ilford Business of The Year Award
Ilford Best Market Trader Award		
Redbridge Arts & Culture Award	Redbridge Beacon Award	Redbridge Best Sustainable Transition Business Award
Redbridge Health & Wellbeing Champion Award	Redbridge Safety & Security Excellence Award	Redbridge Social Value Award
Redbridge Business of The Year Award	Redbridge Best Media Business Award	Redbridge Best Child Friendly Business Award
Redbridge Apprenticeship Excellence Award		



REGISTER NOW
1ST MAY - 30TH JUNE



ARTISTS | PERFORMERS VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF ART CULTURE | CREATIVITY

Ilford is set to burst into colour this summer with
Annual Mural Art Festival

**SHOWCASE YOUR
WORK FOR FREE!**

🕒 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm 📅 15th-16th August

- 📍 Ilford Town Centre (by Redbridge Town Hall)
- 📍 SPACE Ilford
- 📍 Exchange Ilford (Cranbrook Rd. Entrance)
- 📍 Bodger Building Station Rd. (Opposite Ilford Station Cranbrook Rd.)
- 📍 Ilford High Rd. (Between Popeyes and Boots)
- 📍 Chapel Rd. (Opposite Stylex & next to Going Greek)
- 📍 Chapel Rd. (Opposite Sainsbury's)
- 📍 Chapel Rd. (Champs / Bar 21)
- 📍 Cranbrook Rd. (By The Great Spook of Ilford)



WHAT'S HAPPENING... inILFORD 2026

facebook.com/ilford x.com/ilford instagram.com/ilford www.inilford.com inILFORD

ALL RIDES
REDUCED
PRICE!
(12-2PM DAILY)

EVERY THURSDAY
★ FREE ★
PUNCH N JUDY
SHOW!

FAMILY
FUN!

GREAT
DAYS OUT!

MEMORIES
THAT LAST!

FAIRLOP WATERS
BARKINGSIDE IG6 3HN

★ OPEN FROM ★
SAT 22ND JULY
TIL
SUN 6TH SEP

★ OPEN 12 TILL 7PM DAILY ★

JOHN PARNHAMS
KIDZWORLD

FAIRLOP WATERS • BARKINGSIDE IG6 3HN

12 TILL 2PM
DAILY
★ ALL RIDES ★
REDUCED
PRICE!

EVERY FRIDAY
DINOSAURS
APPEARANCES!

OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE!

SAFE, CLEAN
FUN!

SOMETHING
FOR EVERY AGE!

Young entrepreneurs shine at Redbridge Social Enterprise **Dragons' Den**

Students pitch innovative ideas to drive positive change across the borough

Redbridge students showed great creativity and community spirit at this year's Social Enterprise Schools Dragons' Den competition. The event was held at City Gates Church and run by the Social Enterprise Academy with support from Redbridge Connexions.

Six schools from across the borough took part. Students shared their ideas with a panel of experts, including Smita Solanki from Careers Hub East and Adrian Anthony and Ned Mitham from SAP. The young people presented a range of thoughtful ideas, such as community flowermaking workshops to support wellbeing, "Bottle Buddy" lanyards to help with accessibility, and reward schemes to encourage people to pick up litter.

Fast Aid from Ilford County High School won first place and received £100 for their pitch. Bloom Scrolling from Ursuline Academy came second and received £75. Several other teams were awarded £50 prizes for areas such as sustainability, teamwork, branding, research and strategy. Schools taking part included Little Heath School, Redbridge Home Tuition, Caterham High School, Ursuline Academy Ilford, Ilford County High School and Oaks Park High School.

The programme, now in its third year of funding from the London Borough of Redbridge, helps young people in Secondary, SEND and Alternative Provision schools build confidence and develop skills to make a positive difference in their communities.



Students from Oaks Park High School who took part in the competition

Councillor Lloyd Duddridge, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, said:

"Our young people continue to impress with their creativity, confidence and commitment to improving their communities. The ideas presented today were thoughtful, ambitious and rooted in real world issues that matter to them. I'm incredibly proud of every student who took part, and grateful to the Social Enterprise Academy for providing such a powerful platform for their talent to shine."



Coming through your letterbox soon!

Discover Redbridge

Your guide to everything to enjoy across Redbridge this summer.



Redbridge & Epping Forest Branch

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY GROUP

Our group offers friendship, support, and information about Parkinson's for you, your family, and carers. We organise regular events and activities, join us and meet other like-minded people in your area!

When: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 11am–1pm.

Where: Broadmead Baptist Church, Chigwell Road, IG8 8PE.

Everyone is welcome!

For more information Contact:

Valerie 07956 169028 (Branch Secretary)

Email: RedbridgeEppingForest@Gmail.com



PWR!Moves®
CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR



Join our Parkinson's Boxing Classes led by Jagdeep, an accredited Parkinson's-specific exercise instructor.

Diagnosed with Parkinson's himself, Jagdeep brings lived experience and expert guidance to every session. Classes include a mix of group activities and one-to-one instruction, all in a **non-contact** format. Workouts focus on brain-body coordination, helping improve posture, balance, and agility.

You'll also find a warm, welcoming community where social interaction is just as important as physical movement.



When: Every Friday, 2:30 – 4pm.

Where: Ashurst Drive Baptist Church, Ashurst Drive, IG2 6QH
Jagdeep: 07790 997168

WANSTEAD FESTIVAL

Sunday 13 September

11:00 - 18:00

Christchurch Green Recreation Ground

Invite your friends and family to Wanstead Festival for a brilliant day out with great entertainment!

Get ready to enjoy live performances, delicious street food, arts and crafts, sport demos, holistic wellbeing zone, dog competition, pop-up pub, exciting immersive activities, and much more.



**VISION
ISPARKS**

FREE ENTRY



Scan the QR code or visit:
vrcl.uk/wansteadfestival to learn more



A Borough where people feel they belong

New survey shows majority of residents say the borough is a great place to live, with confidence in council performance increasing

A new independent survey has revealed strong resident satisfaction across Redbridge, with people praising the borough as a welcoming, family-friendly place to live, with strong schools, diverse communities, and a growing sense of local pride.

The survey gathered feedback from 1,114 adults through face to face household interviews, as well as 258 young people aged 10 - 18. Education emerged as one of the borough's biggest strengths, and residents also expressed growing confidence in how the Council is performing. Communication with residents has also received a major boost. With strong results across community cohesion, resident satisfaction and communication, the findings suggest Redbridge continues to build on its reputation as one of London's most diverse and family-oriented boroughs.

The following infographics explore these themes in more detail, bringing residents' voices and experiences to life.



I see and hear my council



Almost **nine** in **ten** residents feel they are kept informed about the services and benefits that the Council provides



87%

of residents
feel they belong
to their local area

"Neighbours
are very friendly
and look after
one another."

Connected through community

We get on well



Almost **nine** in **ten** agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together

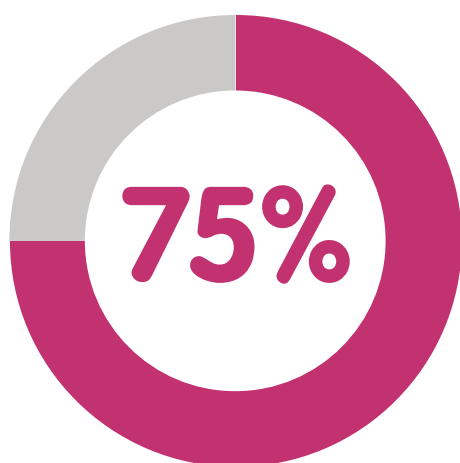


71%

agree people
in their area
pull together
to improve the
environment



A well run and effective council



of residents are **satisfied**
with how the Council is run

+11%
since
2021

"I have my
school, friends
and family here.
I also have nice
neighbours."

Love for the borough



Nine out of **ten** residents are **satisfied**
with Redbridge as a place to live

+10%
since
2021

Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said,

"It was very important for the council to carry out this in-depth research with residents to hear exactly how they feel about our borough. It's great to see the positive picture these results paint of our borough. I'm proud that so many residents feel good about living in Redbridge. However, we know we can't stop here, and there is still more to do."

"Building an even better borough is a responsibility we all share. As a council, we will continue to work closely with partners, including the police, to keep our streets safe. But we also need residents to play their part, by taking pride in our borough, not littering or fly-tipping and reporting issues when they see them."

"It's only by working together that we can ensure Redbridge remains a place we can all be proud of."



Check out three new independent businesses on your doorstep

Visit the additions shaping our community whether it's for a meal out or to get creative



Local resident and owner, Lisa, showcasing her shop / one of her displays

Craft & Co

Craft & Co is a beautiful new craft workshop in South Woodford, offering a creative and fun space for both adults and children.

It's ideal for anyone looking for a relaxed, screen-free activity, whether visiting solo, with friends, or as a family. Take home personalised art pieces and practical items including pencil cases, glasses, hair accessories, brooches and more. Prices range from £5 to £20. No prior experience needed, just your imagination!

Owner Lisa said "It's been great opening my business in South Woodford. This is a new type of business to the community, so many new people are very interested such as family, friends or people by themselves. We had to try find out what the kids like and find about what's inside their imagination, which was quite challenging. We always encourage parents to get involved as well with their kids and have a family time out, making these crafts."

Please give the workshop a call on 020 3859 2838 to check availability over the weekends.

Visit <https://www.craftncouk.com/> for more details.



A hands-on creative space for crafting unique, personalised pieces



Manager Tahiddul Islam and colleagues are ready to welcome you

Cobblers Café & Bistro

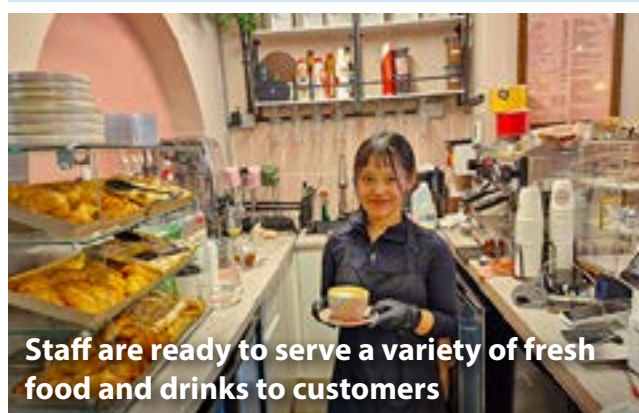
Located just a five-minute walk from Ilford station, Cobblers Café & Bistro is a family-owned cafe who provide tasty HMCcertified Halal food in an elegant setting. Enjoy breakfast, lunch, delicious pancakes and French toast options.

The name Cobblers holds special meaning to the café as the location was once an old cobblers shop which was well known to the area. Embracing the past, Cobblers was integrated, honouring Ilford's history while serving today's community.

Manager Tahiddul Islam said "Ilford community has been very supportive, and the response has been amazing. We love being part of a very multicultural community. It's a great location for the surrounding areas in East London too as it's easy to commute to and has great parking facilities."

Blue Light card holders receive 10% off

Follow on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/cobblerscafeilford/>



Staff are ready to serve a variety of fresh food and drinks to customers



Come along to The Wagon in Wanstead

The Wagon

The Wagon in Wanstead, run by two brothers and their friend, serves up a welcoming atmosphere with halal brunch dishes, creative matcha drinks, indulgent milkshakes and refreshing cocktails.

With summer in full swing, it's the perfect time to enjoy a meal al fresco in their charming garden area. Dogs are welcome too, making it a great choice for a relaxed outing.

Co-owner, Blane Porter, said "We've loved getting to know our regulars, seeing the same faces come in each week and becoming part of people's routines – that's when you know you've built something people really connect with. There is a real sense of community and people genuinely support local independents."

Enjoy 15% off in July and August when you mention 'Redbridge Life' when booking through The Wagon's website
<https://www.wagonbistros.co.uk/>



Join Co-Owner Blane (centre) and his colleagues for an outside meal this summer

Your voice, shaping housing in Redbridge

How local residents are working with the Council to improve housing services

A new group of local tenants and leaseholders is helping put resident voices right at the heart of Redbridge housing services.

The Resident Influence and Scrutiny Panel brings together council tenants and leaseholders, who work directly with the Housing Service to look at what is going well and where things can be better. They review performance, learn from complaints and feedback, and share everyday experiences that help shape decisions.

Panel members meet senior leaders, asking questions and working with officers to improve services like repairs, safety and customer care. They are supported with training so they can take on this role confidently and make a real difference.

The Panel also helps make sure housing services meet national standards and reflect what residents need and expect from their homes.

There are lots of ways to get involved beyond the Panel, including surveys, forums, focus groups and co creation projects.

Vicky Foster, pictured third from the right with fellow panel members, said:

"We may be just getting started, but our purpose is clear – to bring the 'want behind the want' to the heart of Redbridge housing. As a Panel, we'll cut through the data to reveal the real-life experiences, deeper needs, and everyday challenges behind the numbers. We'll scrutinise services closely, ask the hard questions, and work collaboratively with council staff to influence the decisions that truly matter to our communities. Because housing services shouldn't just be shaped by statistics – they should be driven by the genuine voices and lived realities of the people who call Redbridge, home."



A place to finally call home

How turning empty houses into lived-in homes is giving families security

When John* looks around his home today, he sees something he spent years hoping for: stability.

He has lived in Redbridge since the late 1990s, raising his family here and building a life rooted in the borough. But despite decades in the community, finding a stable, long-term home big enough for his family was a struggle. Like many local families, he faced a long wait for a property that met their needs.

"We were moved so many times," he said.

"Temporary accommodation, short rentals... it felt like we were always packing, always on the move. It was really stressful. I couldn't even buy a proper bed or furniture because I didn't know if we'd be asked to leave."

Everything changed when the Council's Purchase and Repair programme offered him a newly refurbished home. The property had stood empty for years, but was purchased by the Council, stripped back, and completely modernised before being brought back into use.

"When I first saw it, I couldn't believe it," John said. "It was the first place in a long time that felt like it could really be ours."

The difference has been immediate. "Living here has made life so much easier," he explained. "My stress levels have dropped. We can finally plan ahead. I can relax when I get home from work. That feeling of being secure... you can't put a price on it."

He describes the area as peaceful and says his family have quickly settled: "It's quiet, it's comfortable, and we haven't had any problems at all. We're really happy here."

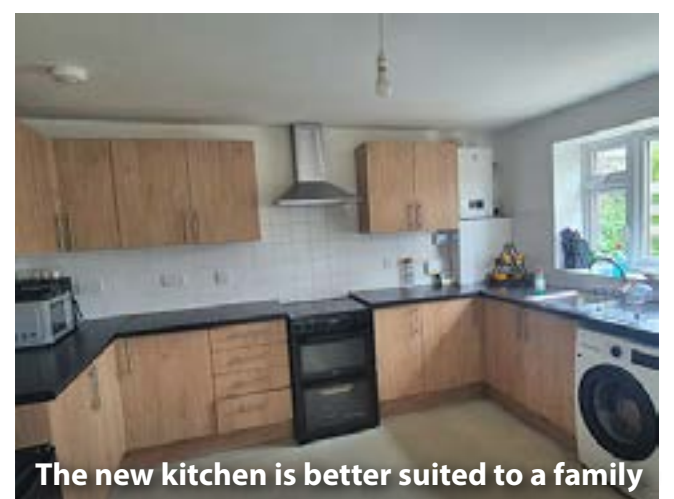
Larger council homes are in short supply across Redbridge, and families often wait many years for a property that fits their needs. That's why the Purchase and Repair programme is so important – it allows the Council to bring empty or neglected properties back into use, expanding the number of family-sized homes available more quickly than new construction alone.

For John, the impact goes far beyond the walls of the house. "This home has given us a new start," he said. "After everything we've been through, being here has made a world of difference. We finally feel settled."

*Name has been changed.



The property, including the kitchen, was in need of modernisation



The new kitchen is better suited to a family

Renting with confidence: What the Renters' Rights Act means for Redbridge residents

Clearer rules, more security and reassurance for renters

The Renters' Rights Act is now in force, strengthening protections for people who rent their homes and creating a fairer, more stable private rented sector in the borough. The changes are designed to give tenants greater security, clearer rights and more confidence in where they live.

If you rent privately, the new rules aim to make renting feel fairer and more predictable and mean you can feel more settled in your home.

There is also good news for residents on the housing register. If you move into a suitable private rented home to end your homelessness, you can stay on the register. Your priority and

original registration date stay the same, giving you a settled home now while keeping your future housing options open.

Overall, the Act is about making renting simpler, safer and more stable for Redbridge residents and landlords, helping people feel confident about where they live.

Key rights under the Act



An end to fixed-term tenancies, giving you more long-term security



Limits on rent increases to once a year with proper, advance notice



Improved standards, with clearer expectation for safe and decent housing



Stronger protection against unfair evictions, with landlords needing a clear legal reason if they need you to leave

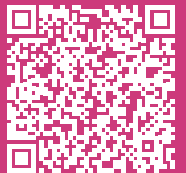


The right to request a pet in your home, with landlords needing a valid reason to refuse

Scan the QR code to visit the webpage



Scan the QR code to watch the video



Local school named UK primary school of the year 2026

Uphall Primary School, located off Ilford Lane, has recently been given this prestigious accolade by an international magazine

Education Insider, a well renowned international magazine, has crowned Uphall Primary School in Ilford as the top primary school in the UK for 2026. Uphall is part of the Thinking School Federation and has been commended for its approach to teacher professional learning. This unique approach has seen it achieve outstanding outcomes in its most recent Ofsted inspection as well as exceptional progress for disadvantaged children in Reading, Writing and Maths. As a result, Uphall was celebrated on the cover of the most recent edition of Education Insider.

'The pursuit of academic excellence is incomplete without investing in teachers' professional development. Only empowered educators can truly deliver what stakeholders,

such as parents demand – not just high scores but holistic development. This is exactly what Uphall Primary School offers. It ensures that educators are continually supported so that they can deliver high-quality teaching that empowers students to thrive beyond academics. What genuinely distinguishes Uphall is its uncompromising focus on teacher quality, based on the belief that the quality of education cannot exceed the quality of teacher development.'

'Led by its principal, Dr Kulvarn Atwal, this diverse primary, where over 60 different languages are spoken, has been transformed from a failing institution, twice graded 'Requires Improvement' by Ofsted, to a performer with outstanding outcomes.



At Uphall, Dr Atwal shifts the paradigm of professional learning by dedicating his role as Principal to cultivating deep professional development, including Masters-level research, peer learning, lesson study, and coaching – all focused on improving student outcomes.'

Redbridge as a borough can be very proud of the success achieved by Uphall. Uphall currently leads the Mayor of London's Talk Matters Programme, hosting learning walks for schools across London to observe dialogic teaching. The next objective for Uphall is to share practice with other schools to enable as many children as possible to benefit from The Thinking Schools approach.

Operation Vanguard: Making Redbridge cleaner and safer

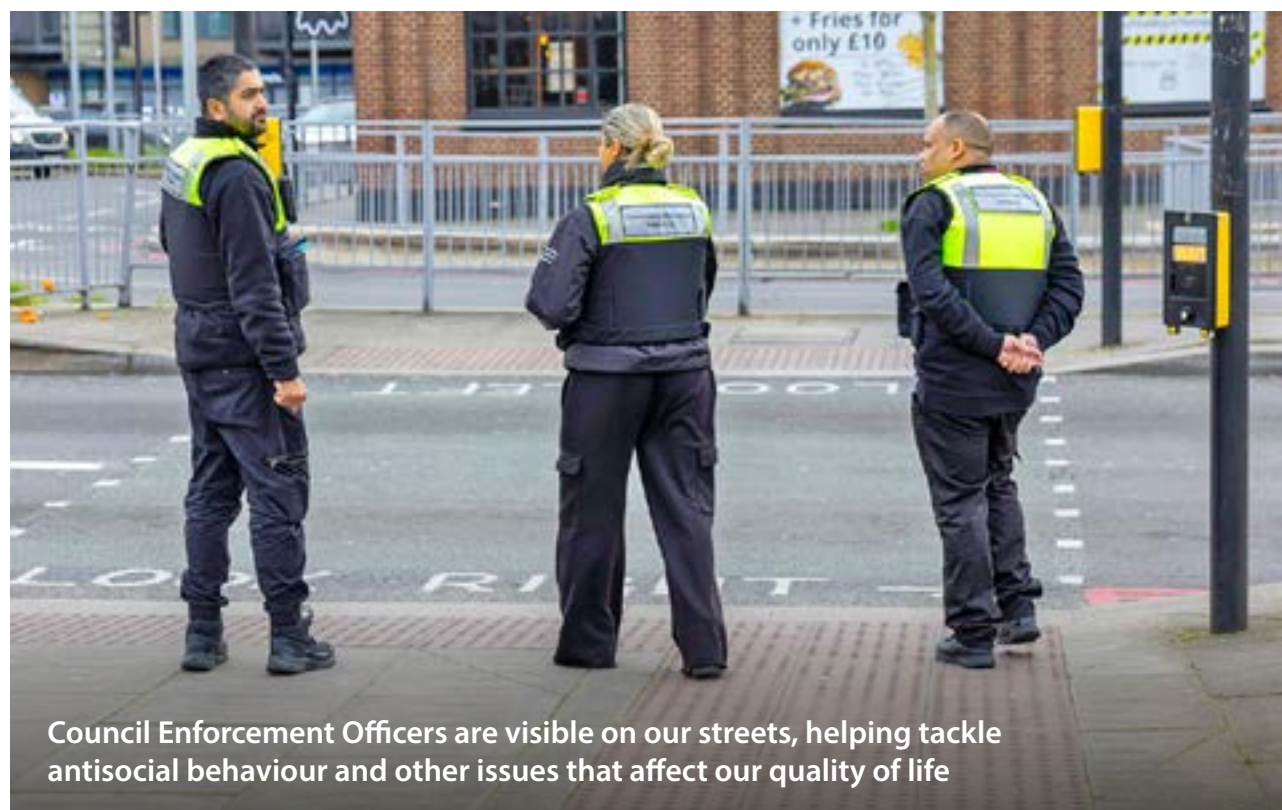
A big team effort across the whole borough is bringing real improvements

Operation Vanguard is Redbridge Council's large cleanup and safety programme. It focuses on the problems residents tell us about most often.



Teams from many services - including Enforcement, Cleansing, Housing, Police, Trading Standards, Licensing and Environmental Health work together to deal with flytipping, antisocial behaviour, unsafe shop areas and rough sleeping hotspots.

The aim is simple: listen to residents and act fast to make neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and more welcoming.



Council Enforcement Officers are visible on our streets, helping tackle antisocial behaviour and other issues that affect our quality of life

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



"Operation Vanguard is about listening to residents and taking action. Whether it's clearing dangerous flytipping, tackling nuisance behaviour, or supporting vulnerable people into services, our teams are working day and night to make Redbridge cleaner, safer and more welcoming. I'm proud of the results so far, and we'll keep pushing forward to improve our borough for everyone."



Recent highlights

- Ilford takeaway Chaat N Grill was fined £4,000 pounds for flytipping
- Vehicle seized from a repeat flytipper linked to over nineteen offences
- Two vehicles seized after investigations into dumping in South Woodford and Gants Hill car parks

Operation Vanguard will continue throughout the year, with more joint operations planned.



Councillor Sunny Brar, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Community Safety and Cohesion (second from the right), with Enforcement Officers

Helping vulnerable people and keeping public spaces clean

Teams have been visiting rough sleeping sites early in the morning. They clear dangerous waste and offer support to people who need help. Officers have carried out welfare checks, made StreetLink referrals and created support profiles so people can access services more easily. Because of this work, longstanding hotspots - including Redbridge Roundabout subways and Gants Hill — are now clear much more often

What the teams have done

- Cleared sleeping sites used by groups of around five or six people
- Removed bedding, litter, needles and drug-related items
- Carried out welfare checks and made StreetLink referrals
- Worked with Housing and outreach teams to support people with complex needs



Cutting begging and antisocial behaviour in Ilford Town Centre

Plainclothed officers are helping to make Ilford Town Centre calmer and safer. They are tackling begging, street drinking, urination and unsafe cycling. Officers have given warnings, issued penalties, taken away alcohol and seized fake goods. Residents say the town centre now feels more peaceful, with far fewer ebikes and scooters riding through pedestrian areas.

What the teams have done

- Given warnings and notices for begging, drinking and urination
- Taken away alcohol and fake goods, including fake earphones
- Reduced nuisance cycling and e-bikes in busy walking areas



Raising standards on local shop parades

Evening checks across Claybury Broadway, Woodlands Road, Belgrave Road, Ley Street and South Woodford have helped many businesses follow the rules. Officers have tackled illegal street trading, seized illegal tobacco, checked food hygiene and supported shops to improve.

What the teams have done

- Issued Fixed Penalty Notices for illegal street trading and blocking pavements
- Seized illegal tobacco and identified fake goods
- Helped businesses improve food hygiene
- Found unregistered food businesses for follow up action



Taking strong action on flytipping and environmental crime

Operation Vanguard has taken firm action against flytipping. Officers have also investigated abandoned vehicles, issued notices for overgrown gardens and carried out surveillance that led to **two vehicles being seized** from repeat flytippers. A recent success at Becketts House on Ilford Hill resulted in a long-running pavement obstruction removed, making the area safer for pedestrians.

What the teams have done

- Issued 78 flytipping fines, with more under investigation
- Investigated 34 abandoned vehicles
- Issued 69 vegetation notices and twenty-one untidy garden notices
- Seized two vehicles linked to repeat flytipping
- Cleared pavement obstruction at Becketts House



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