

REDBRIDGE **LIFE**

MEET THE
ILFORD
MAMMOTH

page 6



HELP OUT
BY PLAYING
YOUR PART

page 18



THE PERFECT
PLACE FOR
FAMILIES

page 23



Meet the new leader of Redbridge Council



HEAR FROM THE LEADER ON PAGE 5

RIAE Redbridge Institute
of Adult Education
Transforming lives through adult education

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MAYOR OF LONDON

HELEN TKACHENKO. FORMER LEARNER IN ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF
OTHER LANGUAGES. NOW REDBRIDGE OFFICER, HOMES FOR UKRAINE



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 Meetings

Thursday 19 September **7.15pm**

Cabinet Meetings

Thursday 12 September **7.15pm**

Scrutiny and Overview Committees

External Scrutiny Committee

Monday 2 September **7.15pm**

Overview Scrutiny Committee

Friday 5 September **7.15pm**

Health Scrutiny Sub-committee

Tuesday 10 September **7.15pm**

Committee Meetings

Planning Committee

Wednesday 3 September **7.15pm**

General Purposes Committee

Thursday 12 September **8pm**

Homes and Neighbourhoods Policy Development Committee

Monday 16 September **7.15pm**

Health and Wellbeing Board

Monday 16 September **2.15pm**

Local Pension Board

Wednesday 31 July **5.30pm**

Friday 26 September **5.30pm**

Pension Fund Committee

Friday 13 September **10.30am**

For information on how to ask a question at meetings, please email councilquestions@redbridge.gov.uk and for additional public meeting dates, visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/about-the-council/public-meetings/

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Email: antoinette.davis@redbridge.gov.uk or jilly.szymanski@redbridge.gov.uk

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Next issue out in September





Redbridge is holding its first photography competition, so get snapping and share your best photos!

From mansions to mammoths, forests to farms, and sailing to street parties, there is so much to capture in Redbridge, which is why we've launched the first Redbridge photography competition.

Entry is **FREE**. Winners will be invited to an award ceremony where their photos will be unveiled in an exhibition and featured in the autumn edition of Redbridge Life.

There are four categories under which you can submit your photos.

Redbridge Places:

Take a picture that highlights architecture and the built environment that we all live around.



Redbridge Nature:

Snap a photo of the parks, wildlife, flowers and the natural colours of our borough.



Redbridge People:

Capture moments and interactions between people, and the strength of our communities.



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.

When does the competition open and close?

The competition opened on Friday 28 June and the closing date is **Sunday 18 August**.

Who can take part in the competition?

The competition is open to everyone of all abilities. As long you live in Redbridge and are able to take a digital photo that you can share with us, we want to see your photos!

How do I get involved?

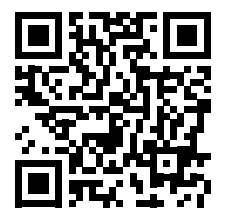
You can upload your pictures and find more information, at

engage.redbridge.gov.uk/rpa2024

or simply scan the QR code.

Good luck to everyone taking part!

upload your photos here



Apply now for a supported internship for young people with special educational needs and disabilities or autism

We're supporting young people to gain experience in the workplace with the potential for permanent employment.

Applications for supported internships, run in partnership with DFN Project Search, are now open for young people in Redbridge who are aged 16-24, with special educational needs and disabilities or autism, and who have an education healthcare plan.

After working with patients and families on the wards, Yahya moved into being a ward host, taking orders, serving food and hot drinks to patients, and keeping areas clean



Local people can apply for an internship with one of our partners in Canary Wharf, or at King George hospital, Goodmayes. Interns will gain a broad range of experience, individually tailored to their needs and talents. Each person will spend time in three different roles within the same organisation, in various areas including admin, food preparation or cleaning. Interns are supported in a kind and encouraging environment, where they are valued members of the team.

The work experience sets many people up for permanent jobs, often in the same organisation.

To apply for a supported internship commencing September 2024, please email send.si@redbridge.gov.uk

Priya's first role involved preparing medical folders for patient appointments. Priya wanted a bigger challenge and has been working as a ward clerk on a frailty ward, admitting and discharging patients, booking scans and bloods, and answering queries from families



Travel through time at Redbridge Museum

Discover the incredible history of our borough.



After major redevelopment, Redbridge Museum will reopen this summer with brand new displays that will take you on a journey from the Ice Age to the Digital Age. Experience what it was like to come face-to-face with the mammoths that roamed Ilford 200,000 years ago, learn about wartime Redbridge and meet our Roman ancestors.

Located in Redbridge Central Library in Ilford, the much-loved free museum has been transformed into a place of wonder, where local families and visitors can learn about the history of Redbridge.

The new exhibition will showcase how local homes and town centres have changed over time – from a series of villages into a bustling suburb of London. Displays on Wanstead's Roman villa and Redbridge's oldest buildings sit alongside exhibits about the borough's rural past.



Links to the East India Company are uncovered, showing how trade with India funded some of the borough's finest houses in the 1700s, including Valentines Mansion. The exhibition also looks at how Redbridge's green spaces were once home to Victorian orphanages and asylums.

History is brought to life through evocative recreations of an Edwardian front room and a 1930s kitchen, complete with memories from local people. You can also explore the archives of the adjacent Redbridge Heritage Centre.

Discover how the two World Wars impacted the borough and learn about two famous Woodford personalities, former Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, and suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst. Redbridge's vibrant cultural diversity is also celebrated through a range of fascinating personal objects donated by local people.

For information on opening times, please visit visioncl.org.uk/museum

Family fun will be at the heart of the Museum. Exciting interactive exhibits, puzzles and games are scattered throughout the galleries. A children's area for under-fives features historical role play and dressing up, and a London bus to ride in! The Museum will also deliver an educational programme for schools.



The Museum involved the local community throughout the redevelopment, which was carried out by Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure, thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, Art Fund, Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe, and the Friends of Valentines Mansion.

Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Communities, Cllr Namreen Chaudhry, said



"Redbridge has a rich and varied history which is important to celebrate. Our council funds the free Redbridge Museum to make sure local people can continue to learn about our local area, and to preserve historical artefacts and information for future generations."



Introducing **new Council Leader Kam Rai**

Cllr Kam Rai previously served as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration.

At the Full Council meeting on 25 July, Cllr Kam Rai was elected as the new Leader of Redbridge Council, following over a decade of serving the borough as a councillor in Goodmayes ward, and six years as Deputy Leader.

Cllr Kam Rai grew up in Redbridge, raising his three children locally while working in financial services and supporting a local homelessness charity.

Cllr Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said

"I feel so fortunate to represent the place I call home, where we have outstanding schools, safe neighbourhoods, and wonderful parks.

"Redbridge is a special place, with close-knit and welcoming communities, busy high streets, beautiful green spaces and lots to do – we really have everything we need right on our doorstep, with more on the way.

"Since becoming a councillor in 2014, I have seen first-hand the challenges facing local councils across the country, with rising demand for services, and government funding cuts.

"In Redbridge, we have always risen to the challenge of protecting the vital services local people rely on and innovating to deliver more with less. As the finance lead for the Council, I've set a balanced budget every year, and as Leader I want to build on this legacy – making sure our borough gets the best value for money."

Cllr Rai was first appointed to the Cabinet shortly after his election in 2014 and has held the finance portfolio for over a decade. Cllr Rai also led on Leisure and Culture between 2020 and 2023, before taking over responsibility for Regeneration in 2023. Over this time, Cllr Rai helped deliver the £7 million Hainault Forest regeneration project, bringing a new playground, café and craft workshops to the park, and committed to doubling the size of Fairlop Waters Country Park.

Cllr Rai takes over from Cllr Athwal, who served Redbridge as Council Leader for over a decade before stepping down following his election as the Member of Parliament for Ilford South.

"We have an incredible opportunity ahead of us in Redbridge. We already know our borough is a great place to live, work, and visit, but there is work to be done to make sure every single one of our neighbours can build a good life. I will work closely with local people, and our partners in the Police, the Greater London Authority, and Government to bring in investment and our fair share of resources.

"We do have challenges, and the role of councillors is to bring our communities together, to represent everyone fairly, and be a voice for the voiceless. I commit to working tirelessly to improve our borough and to leave no one behind. We cannot do this alone – every one of us has a responsibility to make Redbridge cleaner, greener and safer, and if we all do our bit, we will succeed."



Love Iford, a mammoth town

Iford has been home to many creatures over the ages, but perhaps none are as impressively majestic as the steppe mammoth.

A discovery of mammoth proportions was unearthed in Iford in 1864, when workers were digging clay to make bricks, close to Iford Lane. The bones they found turned out to be one of the best-preserved mammoth skulls ever found in Britain, and it's around 200,000 years old.

This mammoth is a steppe mammoth, larger than a woolly mammoth, and taller than a double-decker bus. It's amazing to think that these stately creatures walked on the very same land that we do; Iford and the surrounding areas were their home long before it was ours.

It's not only mammoths that roamed across our local area. Bones from Ice Age elephants, rhinoceros, giant deer and even lions were discovered in the area in the mid-1800s.

You can see a life-size replica of the mammoth skull near Redbridge Museum in Redbridge Central Library, where it proudly looks over the main staircase. Redbridge Museum has recently

been completely redeveloped and features a special display about the Ice Age discoveries in Iford.

Now, 200,000 years after the steppe mammoth traversed our borough, Iford is adopting the mammoth as our town's mascot. It's a strong, resilient and majestic animal, recognising the incredible history of Iford and befitting our larger-than-life town centre.

You'll soon see our friendly mammoth popping up all over the town, so why not visit Redbridge Museum, meet him face to face and find out a bit more about our local mammoth and some of the other impressive creatures that once called Iford home?

Competition!

Would you like to name our Iford mammoth mascot?
Send your suggestions to community@redbridge.gov.uk

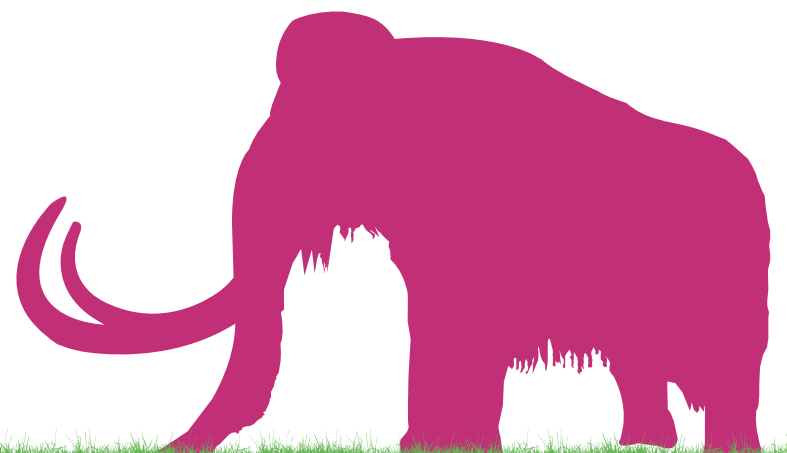
Competition supported by Time 107.5 FM



The Ice Age animal bones found in Iford had been preserved by the River Thames that used to flow through the area



**LIVE
IFORD
LOVE
TOWN**



FREE ENTRY

WANSTEAD FESTIVAL

Sunday 15 September
11am to 6pm • Christchurch Green

ATTRACTIONS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Art Trail workshop | Children's Rides |
| Classic Cars | Sports demonstrations and displays |
| Delicious Street Food | Holistic Zone |
| Pop up Pub | Strolling Performers |
| Dog Competition | |

And much more!

Call out for potential sponsors, exhibitors, performers and caterers!
This popular event regularly attracts thousands of people who come together to enjoy a fun filled day full of attractions. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to showcase your business!

ATTRACTIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

For more information contact redbridge-events@visionrcl.org.uk
or visit visionrcl.org.uk/wanstead-festival



A CAREER WITH OVER 300 ROLES



Join Essex Police



Visit the Essex Police website today

London Borough of Redbridge

Empower a young child Foster for Redbridge

Imagine having the power to change a young person's life for the better.

The power to re-shape a future.

There are over 300 children in Redbridge who are unable to stay with their families each year.

You could be the one to transform a life and provide the change that they need.



If you would like to know more about fostering for Redbridge Council:



Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringlife

Call us on 020 8496 3437

Email us hello@localcommunityfostering.co.uk

London Borough of Redbridge

Are you looking after a child who is not your own?



- is the child under 16 (or 18 if they have a disability)?
- are you NOT the child's step parent, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent? This also includes host families to overseas students
- do you plan to have the child with you for more than 28 days?
- this is called '**private fostering**' and we must be LEGALLY notified to ensure the child is safe

Please contact Redbridge Children's Services
020 8708 3885 CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk
or visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY changes to bin collections

OUR STREETS

Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods

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:

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



CLEANER Redbridge



Make use of the Reuse and Recycling Centre for your summer clear out

Chigwell Road Reuse and Recycling Centre



If you're having a summer clear out, did you know many items can be recycled or reused via the Chigwell Road Reuse and Recycling Centre? Don't forget to check opening hours over the August bank holiday, at eastlondonwaste.gov.uk/chigwell-road/

Flood Awareness Roadshows

Head to our summer roadshows to find out what we're doing to reduce flood risks in the borough, and steps you can take to help protect your home from flooding.

We are seeing the impact of climate change on our borough with more frequent bouts of flooding from torrential rain.

To help reduce flood risks and protect local homes, we've been working with partners to put measures in place, like rain gardens and drain sensors, that will tackle flooding and reduce its impact.

Head to one of our community roadshows to get advice on how you can help protect your property from flooding, what to do in a flooding emergency, and view demonstrations of anti-flooding devices that can be used around your home.

Other partner agencies have also been invited to join the roadshows, including the Environment Agency, Thames Water, and Thames21.

Our teams will be on hand to update you about recent projects aimed at reducing flood risks in the borough, provide information on how we're helping protect local homes in areas prone to flooding, and give you information about the new flood risk management strategies the borough has developed.

You can find advice, information and tips on our flooding website, at www.redbridge.gov.uk/flooding



To attend, simply turn up to any of the roadshows listed below. No booking required:

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 31 July	4pm–6.30pm	Fairlop Waters Café, in Fairlop Waters Country Park, Barkingside
Wednesday 7 August	4pm–6.30pm	Valentines Park Café, in Valentines Park, Ilford

Redbridge introduces **new parking payment service that accepts cash**

Local people now have more parking payment options available to them thanks to a network of PayPoint sites that also accept cash payments for parking.

There are over 100 retailers and businesses in the borough signed up as PayPoint outlets, enabling people to pay for a wide range of services, which also now includes parking payments.

To locate your nearest PayPoint, go to **consumer.paypoint.com**. Outlets feature the PayPoint logo and signage on their building facades to help people easily identify them.

To use PayPoint for parking payments:

1. Park your car in a 'paid for parking' space
2. Note the location code displayed near to the space. Go to your nearest PayPoint outlet, which can be found at **consumer.paypoint.com**
3. Tell the outlet that you want to pay for parking, and give your location code and duration of parking
4. The PayPoint outlet will create your session and charge you the correct amount



Paypoint machine used by retailers

PayPoint is being offered as an additional option alongside the existing method of payment via RingGo, using the RingGo app, visiting the RingGo website, or by calling RingGo on 0203 046 0010.

RingGo is still the main way of paying for parking across the borough, and registering for a free RingGo account is quick and easy. Customers without a smart phone can still pay for parking by phoning RingGo on 0203 046 0010.



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of Redbridge

CREATIVE
PEOPLE
AND
PLACES

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

MAKE YOUR SUMMER FLY HIGH

Enjoy **free** creative activities this summer with Colours of Redbridge

The things you wanted, made real:
Food Festival ▪ Street Art ▪ Fashion Design ▪ Truck Art
Kite Making ▪ Lantern Parade ▪ Languages Café
Street Parade ▪ Dance for Fitness

www.colours.red



REDBRIDGE REWIND

Exploring the Rich History of our Borough

Summer celebrations in Redbridge

Each year our community comes together to enjoy summer festivities including street parties, summer fairs, and outdoor theatre in our parks. Let's look back to see all the different types of summer celebrations hosted across Redbridge.

First held in 1720, the Fairlop Fair in Hainault Forest was one of the most famous and largest fairs in the country. The event attracted over 70,000 east Londoners every year, coming to eat, drink, gamble, and watch entertainers and circus performers, all centred around the enormous Fairlop Oak tree.

"The area around the celebrated Oak of Hainault Forest was lined with a multifarious range of theatrical representations, shows, wild beasts, and other monstrosities..."
Bell's New Weekly Messenger,
5 July 1835



Print of Fairlop Fair from 1815,
Redbridge Heritage Centre

The Woodford Cycle Meet took place nearly every year from 1883 to 1914. In 1883, cycling was a recent invention and hugely popular. At its peak, the Cycle Meet attracted around 800 riders from 41 cycling clubs, and 70,000 spectators. The cyclists rode through Wanstead, Woodford, and Epping Forest, in fancy dress on decorated bicycles.

Bands played to entertain the huge crowds, prizes were awarded, and large sums of money were raised for local charities. As it got dark, the cyclists hung candle-lit lanterns from their handlebars as they headed home.



Woodford Cycle Meet programme from 1911,
Redbridge Heritage Centre

The Ilford Hospital Saturday Carnival ran every year from 1905 to 1914. The carnival raised money to build Ilford's Emergency Hospital and King George Hospital. Each

neighbourhood built impressive themed floats and decorated bicycles that paraded around Ilford, collecting money from the crowds.



Ilford Hospital Carnival 13 July 1908,
Redbridge Heritage Centre

It took over 50 years for a carnival to return to Ilford. Redbridge Carnival ran from 1969 to 1999, in Melbourne Fields in Valentines Park. By 1979, the carnival attracted around 10,000 people and had raised £10,000 for local charities. The carnival included a Carnival Queen, a funfair, and a procession of decorated floats.



Redbridge Carnival Queen from 1980

This summer, you can enjoy an exciting programme of events including Redbridge Holiday Mega Mix until 30 August, and Wanstead Festival on Sunday 15 September. Find out what's on, at visionrcl.org.uk/events

Explore the history of our local celebrations at the new Redbridge Museum. See page 4 for more information on what you can find at the renovated museum.



REDBRIDGE FABULA FESTIVAL

A celebration of books and culture in and around your library!

Join Redbridge Libraries this summer for a lively programme of author and illustrator events, performances and creative workshops. There's something for everyone!

**fabula
reading
challenge**

Take part in the Fabula Reading Challenge – where YOU get to set your own reading targets.



For more information, visit
visionrcl.org.uk/fabula



**TASTER
SESSIONS**

**AGES
5 YRS+**

**REDBRIDGE
HOLIDAY**

**MEGA
MIX**



**CINEMA
or SWIM
for £1**



29 JULY TO 30 AUGUST

Challenge yourself to try something new this summer!

We have a variety of activities for you to come and get involved with:

- Inclusive & Adapted sessions
- dance & theatre
- digital workshops
- nature / bushcraft
- interactive library activities
- music
- sports
- and much more!



Advanced booking required.
visionrcl.org.uk/megamix
Open to Redbridge Residents only

London Borough of
Redbridge

working towards
**child
friendly
Redbridge**

Vision
Redbridge Culture & Leisure



Let us know about **YOUR LOCAL HERO!**

Our borough is full of kind and wonderful people who do great things for their local community, but we don't always get to hear about them. We think it's time to shine a spotlight on the everyday heroes that help make Redbridge a great place to call home.

Meet... **SHARON DAUGHTERS**

Sharon, 58, from Ilford, has lived in our borough for over 30 years, and has become a friendly, supportive figure to many in the area. She drops in for chats and checks on elderly members of the community, especially those who might be experiencing isolation, loneliness, or difficulties in leaving the home, and often lends a helping hand with chores such as shopping. "Being able to help people in my community is something that is important to me", said Sharon, "We all need someone to lean on at times, and we all have it in us to be a friend to someone in need."

Sharon's passion to help others led her to start Tea's Company – a venture offering tea and cake days in the community. Through Tea's Company, Sharon helps ensure local people who may be vulnerable, or going through a difficult time, are supported and not alone.

Since starting the sessions at St Margaret of Antioch Church, it has grown in popularity, tackled isolation, and brought people of all backgrounds and faiths together to encourage new friendships and connections. Sharon's passion to help those around her recently earned her a very deserving Mayor's Community Award.

Sharon receiving her Mayor's Community Award



Meet... **RAYLA BEGUM**



Rayla, from Goodmayes, has always been passionate about bringing communities together to help create close-knit, supportive neighbourhoods. The mum-of-four finds ways to help, support and inspire those around her, from encouraging social action, and creating support networks for local people, to leading litter picking sessions, to help keep her local area clean and tidy. The start of Rayla's many community-inspired endeavours was through events she organised at Mayespark school, including activities and camping on the school field. For some of the local children taking part, it was the first time they had experienced archery or camping.

Rayla found a way to support new mums by forming a local play group, encouraging new mums to meet, share stories and make new friends.

Her passion for sustainability led her to create a World Book Day costume-making workshop, where parents made costumes from scratch using recyclable materials – helping keep costs down, while creating environmentally-friendly outfits.

Rayla set up the first Play Street in her local area, enabling children to play outside safely, and neighbours to socialise and get to know each other better.

In recognition of her inspiring community work, Rayla was presented with the Mayor's Community Award.

Rayla organises community litter picks



What's on our doorstep



Tamer Aygul, owner of Barkingside favourite Cafe 104, said



"We always have a diverse range of people coming into our café, and they all get along well. Barkingside has a lovely sense of community; it's very family-orientated and feels safe."

Georgia Mednick, who was born in Barkingside, said



"I was raised here, so it will always be my home. I like that we still have a busy high street and the leisure centre is nice and central. I do love the independent coffee shop scene."

Redbridge Life is exploring our town centres as part of a special new feature. First up is Barkingside.

Barkingside is a hidden gem on the outskirts of east London.

Barkingside, a town with its own unique identity, offers the best of two worlds. It's a haven of peace and calm, perfect for those seeking a suburban lifestyle. Yet, it's also part of the London Underground Central Line network, ensuring a quick and easy commute to the bustling city and vibrant West End.

Barkingside is the quintessential family home, with many excellent schools and green spaces nearby. It's little wonder Barkingside is a highly sought-after location for property hunters.

Tamer, owner of Cafe 104, likes the strong sense of community in Barkingside



A leisurely walk down the High Street reveals a thriving and buzzing town centre, boasting a desirable mix of eclectic restaurants to cater to everyone's taste buds.

It is also home to many small grocery stores serving fresh fruit and vegetables, independent coffee shops, DIY stores, electrical retailers and clothing shops.

The most notable landmark in Barkingside is Grade II listed Fullwell Cross Library, designed by renowned modernist architect, Sir Fredrick Gibberd. The library was opened on 20 March

Georgia is a big fan of Barkingside's cafe culture



1968 by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, the Lieutenant of Greater London.

Redbridge Council recently announced that Fullwell Cross Library will benefit from a significant modernisation programme after being awarded nearly £400,000 in grant funding.

The modernisation will create opportunities for local people to engage with innovative technologies, develop new audiences for the arts, offer affordable meeting and recreational spaces, and provide an inspiring and inclusive children's library, suitable for all children at various stages of childhood.

The team at Rossi Bros will welcome you with open arms



Make sure you visit Rossi Bros Ice Cream. People travel from all over east London to sample their many delicious flavours.

Give your child the **best start in life**

Protect your child against childhood infections and tooth decay.

Childhood infections like measles and whooping cough can be serious, and even life changing. The NHS free childhood immunisation programme offers your child the best protection.

If your child has missed a vaccine, it is never too late to check if they can catch up.

Please check your child's Red Book to see if they have missed any vaccines or check with your GP. Find out more, at www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

Good oral health is essential for overall health and well-being. Baby teeth play a crucial role in a baby's development, as they help your baby to smile, talk, and eat solid foods. In 2022, almost a third of five-year-olds living in Redbridge had experienced tooth decay.



To protect your baby's teeth, make sure to brush them twice daily as soon as the first tooth appears, only give milk and water to drink, and avoid adding sugar. You should take them to the dentist when their first tooth comes through.

You can find a range of resources and advice to help improve your baby's oral health in Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil, Urdu and British Sign Language on our website, by searching Oral Health for babies and Children, at www.redbridge.gov.uk

Redbridge Holiday Clubs

Redbridge Council runs free Holiday Clubs for eligible children through school holidays.

The free local clubs offer a range of activities, from football and basketball to arts and crafts and drama, plus a nutritious lunch, and a chance to meet new people, have fun, and make new friends.

Find out more, by visiting www.redbridge.gov.uk and searching 'HAF'



Cllr Mark Santos,
Cabinet Member for
Adult Social Care and
Health, said



"By staying up-to-date with your child's vaccinations and looking after their teeth, you can make sure they have a healthy, happy childhood."



We can all support young people who are leaving care

Young people leaving care require additional support.

When it's time for a young person to leave the care system, Redbridge Council continues to support them as much as possible.

The local community can also play an important role in ensuring young people leaving care have all the opportunities they deserve to build a good life in the borough. Local businesses and community groups can make a huge difference by offering mentoring or pastoral guidance, providing opportunities to enter the world of work, supporting care leavers when moving into their first home, or giving concessionary access to sport, leisure and cultural activities.



Cabinet Member, Cllr Namreen Chowdhury and council staff shared advice and guidance



The event took place at Redbridge Town Hall

Recently, Redbridge Council invited local businesses and partners to the Town Hall in Ilford, to hear from young people and consider how they could provide ongoing support. The event was attended by Redbridge's 'Community Parents' including Redbridge Councillors, the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF, local private sector partners, and other representatives from the local community.

Local care-experienced young people shared some of the unique challenges they face as they approach adult life. Living independently or getting a new job can be more daunting for those without supportive families to fall back on.

Cllr Lloyd Duddridge,
Cabinet Member
Children, Young People
and Education, said



"Across Redbridge care-experienced young people are doing incredible things, achieving their dreams and building good lives. As a community, we can help by providing opportunities, support and guidance, empowering care-experienced young people to thrive."

At the event, organisations pledged to provide training opportunities, driving lessons and cinema tickets for people leaving the care system, to help give them opportunities to build a stable and happy future.

Could your organisation provide support with work experience or local discounts? Please register your interest, at engage.redbridge.gov.uk/socl



Discover Redbridge this summer

There's so much to see and do across the borough.

Get wheelie good at cycling

Whether you've been cycling for years or would like to learn, Redbridge Cycling Centre has something for everyone.

Practice your skills on the BMX track, enjoy a relaxed cycle with your family or friends on the purpose-built road, or train on an off-road track.

The centre also offers repairs and servicing to get you pedalling again.

If you'd like to learn the basics or improve your skills, you can receive individual or group coaching by a qualified coach.

Visit our Discover Redbridge website for more information, at www.redbridge.gov.uk/discover/directory/redbridge-cycling-centre/



Enjoy a bike ride with a friend. Don't stress if you don't have a bike, because the centre provides a large range of hire bikes that are suitable for riders of all abilities

HEALTHY Redbridge

It's a-boat time

Seek out some tranquillity this summer by taking a boat out on the lake in Valentines Park. Each boat can fit up to five people and dogs are welcome on board too, so no one has to miss out!



First-timers are more than welcome, and life jackets are provided for everyone.

You can hire a boat every day from 1pm to 7pm. How do you book? You don't have to! Buy your tickets on the day from the boathouse in Valentines Park.

Find out more on our Discover Redbridge website, at www.redbridge.gov.uk/discover/news/float-in-a-boat/



KIDZ WORLD

SUMMER HOLIDAY



FAMILY FAIR

FAIRLOP WATERS

BARKINGSIDE IG6 3HN

SATURDAY

27

JULY

TO

SUNDAY

1

SEPT

DINO INVASION!

EVERY WEEKEND!

OPEN DAILY

12.00

TILL EARLY EVENING

THIS IS A TOKEN OPERATED FUN FAIR

NO CASH ON RIDES ACCEPTED

1 TOKEN: £1.20 10 TOKENS: £10

TOKENS ON SALE AT THE CASH DESK



PUNCH & JUDY

with Professor James

SELECTED DAYS



KIDZWORLD

HOTLINE 07956 245531

FREE ENTRY

www.parnhamfunfairs.co.uk

Support our superb local businesses

Small businesses are the lifeblood of the local Redbridge economy.

High streets across Redbridge are thriving thanks to local entrepreneurs running fantastic small and medium-sized businesses around our borough.

These brilliant businesses help boost our local economy, offer employment opportunities for local people, and provide vital goods and services right on our doorstep.

By shopping in Redbridge, we can all support local businesses and keep our high streets buzzing. Whatever you're after, there's sure to be a business in our borough with everything you need. We caught up with local entrepreneurs to find out more about what it takes to run a business in our borough.

Customers can enjoy a wide variety of ice cream at Rossi Bros

Efe Jewellery

Efe Jewellery, run by Cuma Erdogan, has called Ilford home since 2021, offering customers same-day in-store jewellery and watch repairs. Cuma, said "We offer a range of different services, including buying gold and jewellery. The diversity of Redbridge means I interact with different customers every day, which makes trading interesting.

"My advice for anyone starting a new business in Redbridge is to carry out thorough research. As a trader, I welcome new businesses into the area as it helps to attract more customers onto our high streets."



Efe Jewellery offers a wide range of services and Jewellery for local customers



Mercato Ilford

Mercato Ilford

Mercato Ilford recently opened its doors to a wave of anticipation, excitement, and the smell of good food. Located in a transformed car park in the heart of the cultural quarter in Ilford, the new space provides local people and visitors to the borough with a stylish, vibrant, and buzzing destination where they can enjoy different cuisines and dishes from around the globe, alongside a backdrop of entertainment and music.

As one of four Mercato locations in London, including Mayfair, Mercato is set to create over 100 jobs and boost our local economy.

The Leader of Redbridge Council Cllr Kam Rai, said "The opening of Mercato Metropolitan right in the heart of Ilford is a shining example of regeneration, helping to create employment for local people, bringing in new opportunities for local traders, and encouraging visitors into our town centre."

Rossi Bros

Rossi Bros is a family run business with a history of making ice cream. It was located on Barkingside High Street for over 70 years, but the business moved to new premises across the street in 2017.

The family's deep-rooted love for crafting ice cream has been passed down through generations.

Run by three managers, Manickam, Vivek and Dakesh, the business enjoys a loyal following of customers from all over east London and nearby Essex.

Manickam, said "We like the fact that the Council always offers us lots of support. It makes it so much easier to run a business. Barkingside is a popular destination for people from all over East London. You get so many people visiting the area, which means new customers for established and new businesses."



Golden Curry

Has runs Golden Curry, an Indian restaurant on Clements Road in Ilford, and has lived in the area since the 1960's. The business prides itself on providing quality Indian cuisine for the local community to dine in or take out.

Has, said "I love working and providing for the community in Redbridge as I have been here all my life, having served generations and made many friends along the way. It is amazing to see Redbridge flourish and it gives me immense pleasure to be part of its growth."



Golden Curry offers traditional Indian Cuisine for customers to take away or eat in

From student to mentor, local award winner now supports others with employment advice

Helen Tkachenko transformed her life after enrolling on an adult language course at Redbridge Institute.

Helen and her family first arrived in the UK as war refugees from Ukraine. With little English, Helen enrolled with Redbridge Institute of Adult Education to improve her grasp of the language and quickly excelled. In recognition of her success, Helen was recently awarded at the Festival of Learning.

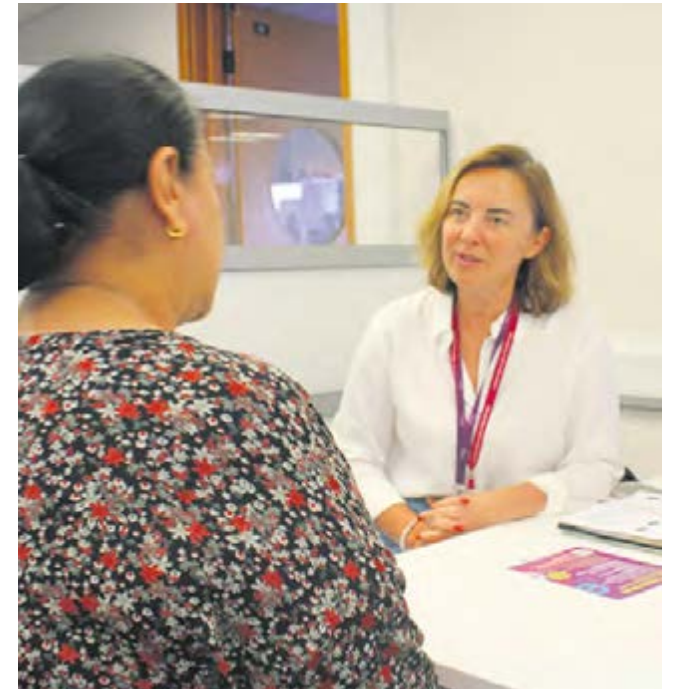
Helen, said "When I arrived in the UK with my husband and two young daughters, I felt very isolated and extremely worried about my future. I spoke very little English and apart from my immediate family, I knew no one.

"I joined Redbridge Institute of Adult Education to learn English on their English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course, and went onto complete community interpreting courses thereafter.

"My learning journey has changed my life. It has improved my self-confidence and mental wellbeing, enabling me to adapt to life in a foreign country. Professionally, gaining English language skills and translation certification has opened doors, leading to meaningful and satisfying employment at Redbridge Council".

Helen is now a valuable member of the team at Work Redbridge, the Council's free employment and training service, where she helps people find education and employment opportunities. Find out more about work Redbridge, by visiting www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge/

"Helen's achievements have made me immensely proud. She is an inspiration to others who want to achieve their dreams." **William Pickford, Principal of Redbridge Institute**



Enrol now and make your dream a reality, at London's only local authority education service, rated Outstanding by Ofsted, at www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk

Join Ilford Market


Book your place to trade at the bustling market in the centre of Ilford.

Are you a dynamic and creative market trader? Do you have unique products that will captivate local shoppers? There's an exciting opportunity to showcase your talent and grow your business by booking a place to trade at the Ilford market.

If you have clothes, crafts, or food to sell, Ilford Business Improvement District wants to hear from you and help your business thrive. With approximately 15,000 people visiting Ilford High Road each day, you won't want to


miss out on this fantastic chance to be part of the bustling market scene. The market is open from 9am to 6pm, six days a week, (excluding Wednesdays), during the autumn and winter months.

The Ilford Market has become an integral part of the town's legacy, and is a great place to build connections with local businesses and the community.

To apply for your spot, get in touch with market coordinator, Cyril Bekoe, on **07498316461** or via email, at cyril@ilfordbid.com

Find out more details, at ilfordbid.com/ilford-market or by scanning the QR code.



Let's all play our part

Together we can make sure Redbridge is the best place to live, work and visit.

Our borough is home to beautiful green spaces, thriving high streets, exceptional schools and great neighbourhoods. Together we can all play our part to keep Redbridge clean, tidy, safe and looked after.

By just doing a few small things, we can all make a big difference to our neighbourhoods, whether by helping out our neighbours, keeping our streets clean, or looking after our health. Together, we can build strong communities and a better borough for everyone.



Brighten up our borough

We all want to live somewhere clean and beautiful, and we can, by playing our part to keep our streets and parks tidy.

Why not join a local litter picking group? Or organise one yourself?

Green-fingered? Why not try community gardening, or adopt a tree pit outside your house, or even adopt a local planter?

One easy way we can all make a huge difference is simply by keeping front gardens tidy and picking up after pets. For ideas and advice, visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/spruce-up-your-neighbourhood/



Stay in the loop

There's so much going on in Redbridge, so stay in the loop by signing up for our weekly newsletter to find out about new services, local events, volunteering opportunities and more. Sign up for our council newsletters, at www.redbridge.gov.uk/about-the-council/enewsletters/

Have your say

Help shape council services and local amenities by taking part in our online consultations. Simply visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/> and let us know what matters most to you.

Right now, our council is running a **consultation on our local leisure, culture and parks services** – scan the QR code to let us know what you think.



Access council services online

By using the Council website, you can save time and council resources. You can do almost everything online including signing up for paperless council tax billing, saving time, money and the planet!

Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk



Be a good neighbour

We can all be better neighbours by disposing of our rubbish properly, keeping our front gardens tidy, and making sure we park vehicles considerately – not blocking pavements or driveways.

If you're having building work done, let your neighbours know in advance, make sure not to damage the pavement, and cover your skip each night to avoid making a mess. To organise a bulky waste collection, visit <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/>

To report fly-tipping, download the new Love Clean Streets App, at www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it/love-clean-streets/

Learn something new

There's so much on offer locally, including opportunities to gain qualifications, learn languages or develop new skills at Redbridge Institute.

Sign up for a course at the Institute in Gants Hill to learn something new, meet your neighbours, and support local education. Find out more about courses, tours and taster sessions, by visiting www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk/





Local volunteers organise regular litter picking in Goodmayes Park

Jan, 70, from Clayhall, regularly goes litter picking in Claybury Park. Her efforts to help keep the park clean have inspired others and made her a well known face in the local community.



“It saddened me seeing the rubbish people would leave behind in the park, so I decided to do something about it to help keep the park clean.

“We really are very lucky to have some truly beautiful parks and green, open spaces in Redbridge. It’s something we should all cherish. I’m in Claybury Park a lot, and 99 per cent of park users I see treat the park with respect and care, but the few who do leave the park messy are spoiling it for everyone.

“It’s important to work together as a community to look after our parks. My mantra is if you want the right to use the park, you also have to take responsibility for looking after it.”



Report It!

Redbridge Council recently launched a brand new Love Clean Streets App. By downloading the App on your phone, you can quickly and easily photograph and report issues in your local area from fly-tipping to anti-social behaviour.

Help us keep Redbridge clean and tidy by downloading the Report It App today by scanning the QR code below.



Volunteer in Redbridge

Join thousands of local people volunteering for worthwhile causes across the borough.

If you have some spare time and some love to give, there’s a cause in Redbridge that needs your help. For ideas and volunteering opportunities, visit www.redbridgecvs.net/



Keep healthy

One way to keep our local community safe is by staying healthy and keeping up to date with vaccinations.

You can check if your child’s vaccinations are up to date by looking at their Red Book, or checking with your GP.

Find out more, at www.nhs.uk/vaccinations



Step In to secondary school



The Step In programme helps young people develop respectful behaviours in their relationships.

Moving on to secondary school is a milestone for any family. The increased independence it brings means young people may need to navigate unfamiliar situations and challenges, online and in real life.

To help families prepare, Redbridge Council has worked with parents at two local schools to develop information packs that share what to do in difficult situations, and how and where young people can get help. The information packs form part of the wider Step In programme running in schools.



As part of the Step In programme, we've also just launched a new pilot programme with Year 9 pupils in secondary schools. Over three weeks, students will learn to recognise sexist harassment, understand its impact, and step in safely when they witness disrespectful behaviours.



So, what would you do?

One scenario asks young people and their families to consider what they would do if they saw a girl being harassed at school. Should they intervene?

The parents working with the Council have talked about the importance of young people listening to their 'inner voice' – if something doesn't feel right, then it probably isn't. The Step In programme empowers children to develop their skills to assess situations and take action to keep themselves and others safe. A key part is recognising and calling out when girls or women are being harassed.



3 top tips for young people

- 1 **Always pay attention to what's going on around you.** Trust the little voice inside your head – if something feels wrong, it's likely that it is.
- 2 **Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and kindness.** Your actions have consequences, online and in real life.
- 3 **If something is bothering you, there are people you can talk to, so please speak to an adult at school or at home.**

Sheeraz is one of the parents helping to develop the Step In resources. He said:

"Having access to materials about specific real-life scenarios to discuss with your child as they move to their new school will be invaluable. I plan to spend some time to take my son through this."

Ministers Alex Davies-Jones MP and Catherine Mckinnell MP visited Caterham High School with Jas Athwal MP

Students at Caterham High School are taking part in the programme



Engagement hubs bringing our council out into the community

SAFER
Redbridge

New engagement hubs deliver essential council services on your doorstep.

Introduced on Ilford Lane last year, engagement hubs provide vital services in the heart of local communities, as part of Redbridge Council's groundbreaking approach to decentralising local government.

The first hub has been joined by engagement hubs in Hainault Library and at Redbridge Institute of Adult Education in Gants Hill.

Engagement hubs deliver council services where people need them most



Through our engagement hubs, we've helped:

Over 1,200

families access food through the Community Grocery store

Over 1,800

families with cost of living payments

Over 1,700

people receive health services in their local areas

At the new hubs, local people can access a range of services, including:

- Advice for young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and their parents and carers
- Cost of living support
- Council enforcement staff
- Information for parents and families
- Met Police's Safer Neighbourhood teams
- Public health advice

Cllr Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said



"We're innovating to deliver more with less government funding.

By decentralising our services, we can give our neighbours the support they need – right on their doorstep.

"Our new engagement hubs are about providing council services right in the heart of our communities where people need them most."

To find out more and for opening hours, visit www.redbridge.gov.uk and search Engagement Hubs.

Keep your vehicle safe this summer

Take simple steps to keep your vehicle safe from thieves.

Thieves are on the lookout for easy targets. Make sure you've taken all precautions to keep your vehicle safe.

Preventing car and vehicle theft

- Lock your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive. This dramatically reduces the possibility of being targeted by an opportunist thief.
- Keep your keys safe, out of view at home, and away from your front door.
- If you're at home, keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car.
- Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag, and check if the bag or pouch is still working every few months.
- Invest in a steering lock.



Prevent theft from a vehicle

- Close windows and the sunroof to prevent 'fishing.' Leaving windows and the sunroof open gives thieves the opportunity to reach into vehicles, taking items, causing damage, and potentially unlocking doors.
- Keep personal items such as sunglasses, your wallet, or your purse, out of sight.

Cllr Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety, said



"We can all play our part to prevent crime in our area, and keep ourselves and our neighbours safe from opportunists. By following simple steps like using a signal-blocking pouch for your car keys and a steering lock, you can keep your vehicle safe and save yourself time, trouble and money."

Visit www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention



A steering lock can help keep your car safe

Struggling with debt?

Help is at hand

Are you in debt and struggling to make payments?
Please reach out for support.

If you're in debt and have monthly payments to make that just cover the interest, it can feel overwhelming. You are not alone. Support and advice on managing your debt is available.

Please only speak to reputable organisations for debt advice, and never accept financial support from someone you don't know. If you've borrowed money from someone you're not happy with, please contact Stop Loan Sharks who will help you. Visit www.stoploansharks.co.uk or call 0300 555 2222.

The Council runs Jobs and Apprenticeship fairs



General support with the cost of living

You can check you're receiving all the benefits you're entitled to, at www.redbridge.gov.uk/benefits/welfare-benefits-and-support/benefit-checker

We regularly run drop-in events where you can speak to people about support available. Keep an eye on our website for details, at www.redbridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living

Our Work Redbridge team can help support you to find a new job. Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge

Our teams are here to help



Samaritans

If you need to speak to someone, please reach out. You are not alone. The Samaritans are on hand 24/7. Please call them on **116123** or visit www.samaritans.org

Cllr Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said



"The rising cost of living has put pressure on people across the country and has also put pressure on our Council's bills. Since 2010, Redbridge Council has lost 55 per cent of the funding we were getting from central Government. Despite the funding cuts, we're still stepping up to support local people in need.

"Our teams can support with debt management, work and careers advice, accessing benefits and setting up payment plans. If you need advice or support, please get in touch or visit our cost of living website, at www.redbridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living."

Money advice

National Debtline provides free, impartial debt advice. Call **0808 808 4000** or visit www.nationaldebtline.org

Step Change Debt Charity can help you create a plan to deal with your debt. Call **0800 138 1111** or visit www.stepchange.org

Money Helper is Government-backed and provides free, impartial advice, and guidance on a range of money-related issues. Visit www.moneyhelper.org.uk



Are you in arrears?

Please contact the organisation you owe money to, as soon as possible, to discuss payment arrangements.

Owing money to the Council

Please contact us immediately if you are behind on payments. The earlier you contact us, the quicker we can look at affordable payment plans. Please call 020 8708 5670 or email council.tax@redbridge.gov.uk

Owing money to energy companies

Please contact the company directly, using the customer service phone number on a bill. Many have hardship funds you might qualify for, or may offer payment plans.

Mortgage payments

If you are close to not making a mortgage payment, it's important to contact the mortgage lender immediately to explore your options with them.

Debt advice specialists

There is a new debt advice booth in Redbridge Central Library in Ilford, which you can visit to get personalised and confidential advice from a specialist.



You can connect online with a debt advice specialist at our private booth in Redbridge Central Library

We're celebrating children's rights in Redbridge!

Did you know children have legal rights? Do you know what they are?

Children's rights are enshrined in law. As part of Redbridge Council's work towards becoming a UNICEF UK accredited Child Friendly Community, the Council is highlighting the rights children are entitled to, so everyone in the community can play their part to protect and uphold children's rights.

Children's rights include things we take for granted, such as the right to education, the right to protection from child exploitation and child labour, and the right to privacy, but there are other rights intrinsic to a good childhood that are also enshrined in the convention. These include the right to play, to rest, to leisure and to have their voices heard.

In Redbridge, a growing number of schools are now officially accredited with Rights Respecting Schools status. Local children are learning about their rights, about how they should be treated, and how they can advocate for themselves. The Council is listening carefully to children's voices and working with them to create a future Redbridge that's a respectful and vibrant place for all children to live, play and learn.

Find out more about children's rights in Redbridge, by visiting www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly

Local children helped architects design the Seven Kings Community Hub to make it welcoming for young people



Cllr Lloyd Duddridge, Cabinet Member Children, Young People and Education, said



"In Redbridge we take children's rights seriously. Working towards the UNICEF UK accreditation has prompted us to bring children right into the heart of local decisions, so we can develop all our services, and even physical infrastructure in our borough, so that they work for children and families."

Showcasing children's art in the sculpture trail at Fairlop Waters



Children are involved in decision-making at Redbridge Council



Making town centres child friendly, with equipment chosen by children



CALLING ALL LANDLORDS!

Selective Licensing Schemes

If you're a Landlord or Agent and you operate any rented property, you may need to apply for a property licence.

Redbridge Council has two selective licensing schemes in place. Selective Scheme 3 (2 wards) has been in operation since **1 November 2023** and applies to rented properties within Ilford Town and Valentines wards.

Selective Scheme 4 (15 wards) came into force on **Monday 8 April 2024**. The wards affected are: Aldborough, Barkingside, Chadwell, Churchfields, Clementswood, Cranbrook, Fairlop, Goodmayes, Hainault, Loxford, Mayfield, Newbury, Seven Kings, South Woodford and Wanstead Village.

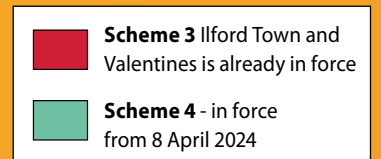
These schemes require landlords or agents of most private rented properties in these areas to apply for a selective property licence. To apply, visit propertylicensing.redbridge.gov.uk/

If you already have a selective licence for a property in these wards and it is still in date, the licence will remain in force until the expiry date shown on the licence.

These new schemes were introduced after a full public consultation and confirmation by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), who were satisfied that these schemes will contribute to an improvement in general housing conditions in the areas, and that private rented housing in the designated area is experiencing high levels of deprivation, high levels of migration, and significant and persistent antisocial behaviour.

Failing to get a property licence can result in receiving a civil penalty of up to **£30,000** or prosecution in Court, where the fine is **unlimited**. Additionally, not having a property licence may prevent you from evicting tenants using the 'section 21' process. Tenants may also be able to claim back up to 12 months' rent from you, via a **Rent Repayment Order (RRO)**. The Council will normally publish any prosecutions, enforcement, or legal action in the press and update the GLA's public Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker and government intelligence databases.

To find out more information and check whether your rental property needs a Selective or any other type of Licence, visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/privaterentals



Scan the QR code to see the Public Notice for Scheme 4



Join us for our next **VIRTUAL** Redbridge Landlord Forum

Thursday 19 September from 7pm

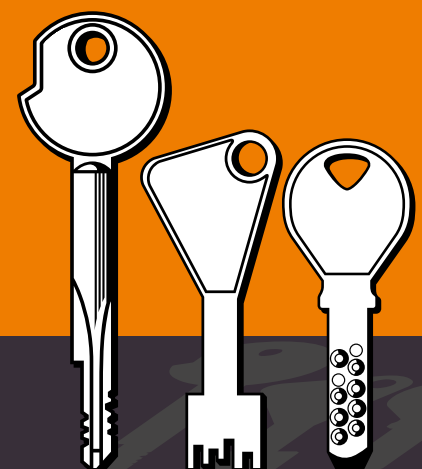


Are you complying with your legal requirements for rented properties in Redbridge?

Want to know more about housing enforcement?

Unsure about your responsibilities as a landlord?

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



To reserve your place, visit Eventbrite at: RedbridgeLandlordForum.eventbrite.co.uk or scan the QR code above

Fighting against the national housing crisis

Following decades of underbuilding by central Government, and challenging national housing and planning policies, councils across the country now own very few homes.

This means when people come to a council in urgent need of accommodation, despite wanting to do all we can to offer support, councils have to place families in temporary accommodation until a suitable house or flat becomes available.

The average wait time for a three-bedroom property in the borough is 16 years.

Despite building 600 new homes, Redbridge Council still won't have enough properties to meet the ever-increasing local demand.

So, the Council is buying homes in more affordable parts of the country to help people move out of temporary accommodation faster.

Moving out of the borough isn't an easy thing to do, but with support to find work and school places, many families are happy to have a home that is well-maintained, and that they can live in for many years to come.



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



"Looking further afield is helping families currently in temporary accommodation move into more settled, long-term, affordable and sustainable homes."

Housing in Redbridge

Last year, Redbridge Council spent close to **£18m** on temporary accommodation.

Over 3,000 people live in temporary accommodation in Redbridge.

Redbridge Council has purchased **over 100 properties** as part of the purchase and repair scheme. In 2023/24, we provided 188 homes to families struggling with homelessness.

Providing local homes for local people



151 new homes due for completion by the end of summer.

In the face of the national housing crisis, Redbridge Council's Affordable Homes Programme is playing a vital role in helping to provide local families with a place they can call home.

Funded by the Greater London Authority, Redbridge Council is building 600 high-quality affordable homes for those in most need. Several developments in Redbridge are set for completion in the coming months. A total of 26 homes are expected to be completed this summer, in addition to the 103 due for completion at the end of 2024.

Properties range from one to four bedrooms, with some boasting front and rear gardens, green spaces, and playgrounds for local children. These homes will be for local people on the housing waiting list.

For more information about the Affordable Homes Programme, visit engage.redbridge.gov.uk/hub-page/affordable-homes-programme

Cllr Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said



"The national housing crisis means there simply aren't enough homes for local families in Redbridge. We're building new homes to reduce waiting lists and prevent homelessness, but the national picture is extremely challenging. Our council will continue to do all we can to support local people, but we need national support to ensure there are enough homes across the country for everyone."



A total of 20 homes were recently completed on our Shakespeare Square site

Behind the scenes: What it's really like to represent Redbridge as a local Councillor

Redbridge Life recently caught up with three Redbridge Councillors.

Every four years local people vote for 63 Councillors, elected to serve across the 22 wards in Redbridge. Local Councillors serve a four year term, advocating for local people, shaping council policies, and representing their communities.

Councillors do not receive a salary for the role, but instead have an annual councillor's allowance, enabling them to attend meetings and conduct their duties. Most Councillors represent their constituents while also maintaining a full time job outside of the Council.

We caught up with three local councillors to find out more about their roles.

Cllr Saima Ahmed, Redbridge Women's Champion and representative for Ilford Town, said "Balancing my roles as a Councillor, professional, mother, volunteer, and Women's Champion, is a thrilling yet demanding journey. My days start early, managing breakfast, school drop-offs, and gearing up for a day of intense work."



Cllr Saima Ahmed, said "Despite challenges of public life, the positive changes we achieve are deeply rewarding."

Being a Councillor often means working outside of standard office hours, with public meetings including Full Council running late into the evening. On nights that there are no public meetings, our Councillors are often spending time in the community, volunteering for local organisations. "I allocate some hours to support vulnerable groups with complex, trauma-driven needs. I'm also a mentor for young people and women to support their personal and professional growth, skills development, and confidence building", says Cllr Ahmed.

Keeping on top of emails is a priority for our Councillors. Cllr Mark Santos, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health and representative for Barkingside, said "The first thing I do every morning and throughout the day is check my emails, addressing casework from residents, responding to council colleagues and council officers."

"It's a great honour and privilege being a Redbridge Councillor and Cabinet Member, and being able to serve the community where I was born and have lived all my life."



Cllr Santos at the launch of a new Breast Cancer Screening Unit in Ilford



Cllr Lloyd Duddridge, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People



A typical day in the life of Cllr Lloyd Duddridge, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People



6.30am

I wake up and look at my emails. Often, my cabinet roles mean that there are emergency emails about children's safety or issues at a school that need to be actioned as soon as possible.



8am

I join a work call discussing the plan for the week ahead.

9am

I meet with the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council, and other key stakeholders to discuss issues facing the whole borough.

10am

Time to meet residents that need support. Often, my neighbours raise planning concerns, the Broadmead Bridge, or housing.

12pm

I meet with Council staff to discuss issues related to children, young people and schools.

1pm

I try to clear my council emails for the week, responding to residents' concerns and reading cabinet reports.



5pm

Pop home quickly for some dinner.

6pm

Rush into the Town Hall for a cabinet meeting. I live in Woodford, so the Redbridge rush hour traffic can make getting to Ilford on time difficult.



7pm

If Woodford Town FC are playing at home, I will make my way down to Ashtons, for a 7.45pm kick off.

Why do I need to register with a General Practitioner (GP)?



A GP is a **local family doctor** and usually your first contact if you have a health problem.

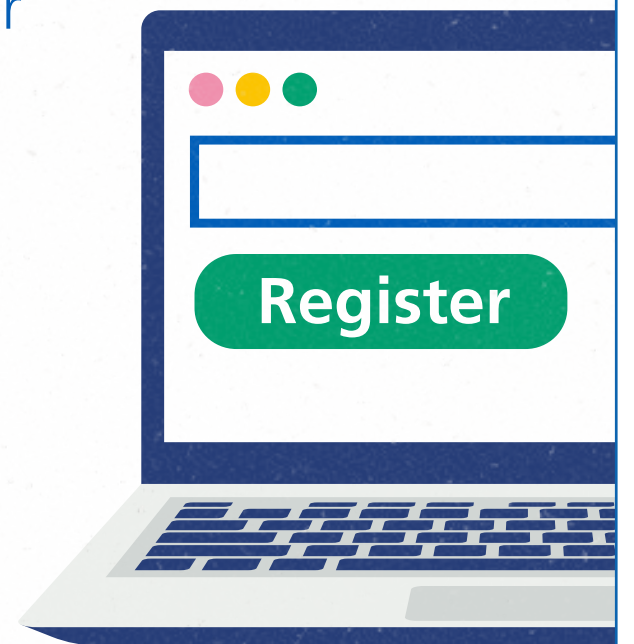
You need to be **registered with a GP** to get medicine, hospital referrals, tests and treatments as well as invitations to vaccinations and cancer screening.

Anyone in England can register and be seen by a GP **free of charge**.

Appointments are available **seven days a week**, including evenings and weekends.

It is important to register with a local GP **as soon as you can** when you move house or when you arrive in England, so you can see the GP or a member of their practice team when you are sick.

If you need to see a GP, but have difficulty speaking or understanding English, tell the staff at the GP surgery. They will be able to arrange for an interpreter. **You will not be charged**.



How to register

You can register with any GP in your **local area** as long as you are in their catchment area.

You **do not need** a permanent address, to provide proof of address or immigration status, ID or an NHS number.

You can register by going into the practice and filling out a form or you can register online.

Find out how to register in person and online and how your GP can help you: northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/GP



Parents and guardians

It is **very important** that babies and children are registered with a GP so they can easily get the help they need, including vaccines that protect them from **serious diseases**. This usually means filling in a separate form for them.



New British Sign Language service launched at Redbridge Council



A new service has launched in Redbridge, to support Deaf people to contact the council more easily, without needing to rely on friends and family to make phone calls on their behalf.

You can now speak to council staff using a video British Sign Language (BSL) service, where an interpreter will translate the conversation between council call centre staff, and the caller.

You can use this service if you need to tell us or ask us about any of our services, from housing, to bin collections, to council tax. You can also contact Vision through the same service about our leisure and culture activities.

How to use the BSL service

Visit the **Contact Us** page on our website www.redbridge.gov.uk/contact-us

Select the button to contact us using a BSL interpreter

You will be connected to an interpreter, who will connect your call to us and interpret for you



Mamunur helped test the new BSL service

6 If there's a Deaf person, they will be able to communicate straight away, whether it's for housing or council tax, they'll be able to get help.

They won't have to get a friend involved or anything. I hope this will continue, thank you. 9