

REDBRIDGE **LIFE**

**BRINGING MORE
POLICE TO OUR
STREETS**

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**INVESTING
IN THE
BOROUGH**

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**A NEW
LEISURE OFFER
FOR ALL**

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Bringing a new Lido back to Valentines Park

If you require council support, the below services are here to help:

Service	Available support	Contact details
Housing Solutions	Free housing advice, support through difficult processes and empowered to secure sustainable accommodation. Housing also offers support with housing options, budgeting advice, resettlement, rent arrears, mediation and negotiation.	Contact Number 0208 708 4002 (operates 9am-4.45pm, Monday to Friday) Contact Email housing.option@redbridge.gov.uk
Rent Recovery Service	Ensures your income is maximised and that households are aware of all support entitlements. Works with Citizens Advice Redbridge and Work Redbridge to offer debt management, employment skills and help with accessing welfare benefits.	Contact Number 0208 708 7676 (operates 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday) Contact Email firststage.rentrecovery@redbridge.gov.uk
Children's Social Services	Support families at risk of homelessness, or if there is a concern of abuse or neglect of a child. Offer parental conflict sessions and parenting classes.	Contact Number 0208 708 3885 (service operates 24/7) Contact Email cpat.referrals@redbridge.gov.uk
Benefits Team	Money management and tailored signposting for debt support (For residents on state benefits). The team also assess entitlement to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction. The team can assist residents wanting to challenge state benefit decisions and assess eligibility for discretionary payments.	Contact Number 0208 708 4180 (operates 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday) Contact Email welfare.benefits@redbridge.gov.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Council Meetings

Thursday 17 March **7.15pm**

To ask a question at a council meeting, please send a written notice of your question to the council questions mailbox at councilquestions@redbridge.gov.uk

Cabinet Meetings

Tuesday 12 April **7.15pm**

Scrutiny and Overview Committees

Overview Committee
Monday 11 April **7.15pm**

Whipps Cross Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 23 March **5.15pm**

Committee Meetings Planning Committee

Monday 21 March **7.15pm**
Thursday 21 April **7.15pm**

Governance and Assurance Committee

Tuesday 8 March **6pm**

For **Council, Cabinet and Planning meetings**, contact: democratic.services@redbridge.gov.uk (0208 708 2203)

For **Overview and Scrutiny bodies**, contact: scrutiny@redbridge.gov.uk (0208 708 2465/ 2739)

For **Whipps Cross Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**, contact: democraticservices@walthamforest.gov.uk

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

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Next issue out in June



LEADER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring edition of Redbridge Life



We continue to invest in the future of our borough by:

- investing in local leisure facilities, with recent upgrades completed at Woodford Green and South Woodford, construction works for Wanstead pool are underway, and a brand-new lido recently announced for Valentines Park
- investing in community safety, with an additional £1m for safety measures including more CCTV, which is monitored 24/7 and the expansion of our Enforcement Hubs programme
- investing in our award-winning parks and green spaces, with the renovation of the barns at Hainault Forest Country Park underway, to create a new community space, and plans in progress to expand Fairlop Waters.

This year's Council budget is a budget developed by local people for local people, a budget that delivers for Redbridge.

Lastly, and on a very different note, I would like to take a moment to thank my neighbours for their compassion as we have borne witness to the unfolding conflict in Ukraine. At a time of fear and uncertainty, local people here in Redbridge have stood with the people of Ukraine with incredible displays of support and generosity. Earlier this month I visited Woodford Baptist Church where the Council coordinated donations for people still in Ukraine and those having to leave their homes. Just one hour after opening we met our 48-hour donation target and we had to mobilise additional transport to take the donated items to Ukraine.

The generosity of local people reminded me of the compassion and the shared values that make Redbridge the incredible place that it is. At a time of pain for so many, the actions of neighbours from across our borough have provided a sense of hope and friendship which shines bright.

Councillor Jas Athwal
Leader of Redbridge Council

Dear neighbours,

Part of my role as Leader of the Council is to champion the case for Redbridge and ensure that we get fair funding for our borough from the government.

We want local children and young people to have the best start life by having access to excellent education and outstanding parks and leisure facilities. And local people feel safe, which is why I've campaigned tirelessly and successfully to bring 25 additional police officers to Ilford Town (who started earlier this year), freeing up existing police officers to focus on any issues that arise across the rest of the borough.

It is also my role as Leader to make sure that any money the Council spends goes towards delivering on the priorities that matter to local people. That can mean some tough choices about how our borough's money is spent.

Redbridge receives an average of £128 less in government funding per resident

than the London average, and continues to be one of the lowest funded local authorities in the country and, yet Redbridge doesn't stand to receive a penny from the government's levelling-up fund.

Despite this, not only have we kept the services that matter to local people going throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but we continue to invest in our borough's future. Over the past few months, we've engaged with more than 560 residents and business owners, both face to face and through our residents' survey and online forums to hear from you about the issues and services that matter most to local people. Through speaking to and meeting with our neighbours, we've been able to deliver our No-Cuts Budget for 2022/23 which keeps bread-and-butter services such as bin collections going whilst also investing in local areas. We've delivered for every corner of our borough, and we have so much more that we're ambitious and ready to deliver.

Cultural regeneration Sparks new enterprise in Ilford

Spark Lab is launching in Ilford Town Centre this spring, providing a shopfront, workshops, and creative space for local entrepreneurs looking to begin their businesses in the heart of Ilford. Redbridge Council offered the space, plus a bursary of £7,000 to budding entrepreneurs from across the borough to help kickstart their businesses.

Spark Lab launches in collaboration with cultural agency Things Made Public CIC and forms part of the Ilford Cultural Quarter. Bringing arts, creative activities and new exciting business and culture opportunities to Ilford Town Centre.

Spark Lab follows council investment in arts and culture in the Town Centre, including the launch of Space art gallery which opened in Ilford in 2019, the renovation of the Kenneth More Theatre and plans to bring Mercato Metropolitan, a covered international food and drinks market to Ilford.



Artist design of inside the Spark Lab

Creating a Wilderness Street in the heart of Ilford

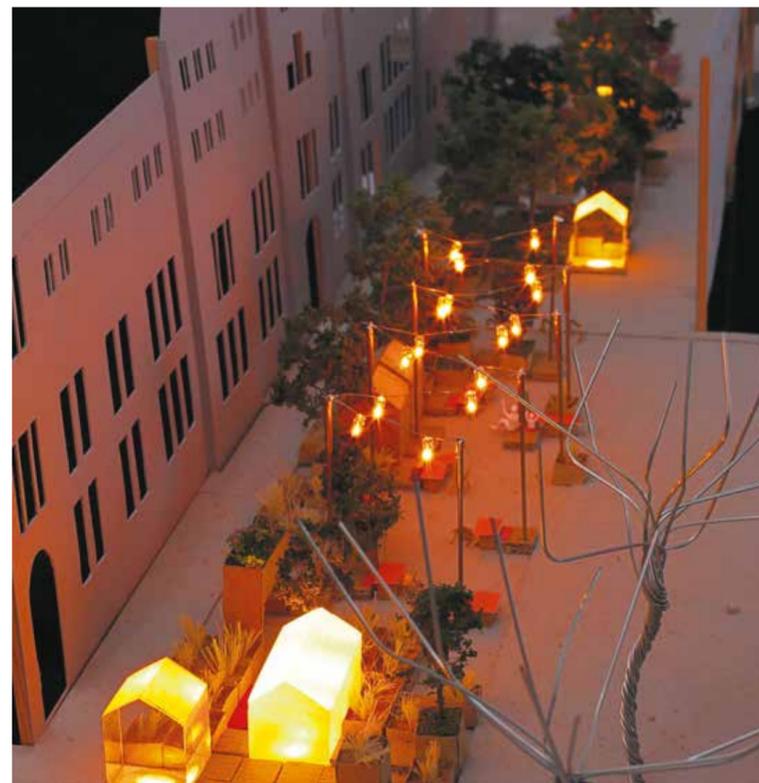
Wilderness Street is starting to take shape in Ilford – with interactive games for local children, new planting and space for events along Oakfield Road.

Redbridge Council is working with Jan Kattein Architects and Things Made Public to create a new public square for family-friendly activities, green workshops, community planting, supper clubs, pop up exhibitions and even a food festival, part funded by the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund.

Wilderness Street will transform an ordinary road in Ilford into a community space where local artists can showcase their work, children can play and local people can watch live music and dance performances. This exciting project aims to come to life this spring and will run until the end of summer.

Expect live music, performances, a fantastic atmosphere and an array of inspiring activities for all ages to participate in. For more information on both projects, please visit:

www.ilfordsparklab.co.uk



Cycle lanes and road safety improvement works

Work is underway to improve and expand the borough's cycle lane network to help local people travel safely, keep fit and reduce their carbon footprint.

Over the coming months we will be creating new cycle lanes, enhancing the existing cycle network, and improving road safety across the borough to help make journeys in Redbridge safer for everyone. This investment in improvement to local roads will also help to tackle congestion and pollution, and make it easier for local people to travel around by bike.

Full public consultations were held with residents before the works began, and feedback from local people helped to shape the programme of improvement works.



Do you have a grand design for your house?



Ask your agent to ask for these added services that can improve the time taken and the likelihood of an approval:

- **Pre application advice** (£95 phone advice and/or written advice £175)
... and when assessing the final designs you can ask for a;
 - **Fast Track decision** – for when you have builders on stand-by to get decision before the statutory eight week period (terms and conditions apply)
 - £150 for a decision within 5 days from the end of 21 day statutory consultation period for planning applications, or £75 for Prior Approvals, or
 - Within 10 working days for Certificates of Lawfulness
 - **Additional pre application advice for other types of planning application, including planning performance agreements, for commercial developments and to approve details of planning conditions.**

www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/



Our children and young people are the future of the borough and what they have to say matters. That is why we've partnered with Unicef UK to become recognised as 'Child-Friendly Redbridge'.

Unicef UK's Child-Friendly Communities Initiative aims to create communities where children's voices, needs, and rights play an integral role in decision-making.

Child-Friendly Redbridge Action Plan

We recently launched our Action Plan. The milestone event celebrated the programme successes so far, with the Action Plan now paving the way for the next phase in our journey to becoming a 'Child-Friendly Redbridge'.




Yusuf said:
"It is important to us that the council embeds commitment to our rights in every decision it makes."



Maddeline said:
"As the children and young people of Redbridge, we have told you which issues we want to tackle. We are best qualified to decide on the solutions to problems that affect us."

Discover some of the ways we are working with our younger residents:

Child-Friendly Redbridge (CFR) Ambassadors

This is a group of elected young residents from every school who meet monthly to generate ideas for the programme.

CFR ambassadors have recently:

- participated on the design of a key regeneration site in Ilford to ensure it responds to the needs of young people
- shared at a Child-Friendly Redbridge Partnership steering a board meeting why vaping, mental health, poverty, and sexual harassment are concerning issues for young residents
- shared ideas on the council's budget

External Scrutiny Panel

Our younger residents joined an external scrutiny panel and spoke to councillors about Black History Month, youth employment, mental health, and the environment.

Child-Friendly Redbridge Champions

CFR Champions promote the Unicef programme, acting as advocates for the rights and voice of our younger residents.

Youth Parliament and Youth Council

Since being elected, members have been busy representing the borough's young people and putting their manifestos into action. They also represent Redbridge nationally.



The Leader of Redbridge Council, and Child-Friendly Redbridge Champion, Cllr Jas Athwal, said:
"Our children and young people are the future of Redbridge so it's crucial we empower them and hear what they have to say. By working towards our Child-Friendly status we will continue to build on our commitment to make sure their voices, needs and rights are at the heart of everything we do."

Redbridge School Streets Programme

Children from across the borough told us clean air, tackling climate change, and improving road safety were important to them, and we listened.

We expanded the offer of our School Streets Programme, aimed at reducing pupils' exposure to air pollution from vehicle emissions, encouraging more sustainable travel, and making school journeys safer to help address these issues.



Find out more at:
www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly
Follow **#ChildFriendlyRedbridge** on Twitter

Get fit: Spring is here

With 2022 already three months in, are your New Year resolutions to get fitter and healthier waning? Well, we want to help you back on the treadmill (should you have fallen off) with our revamped facilities.

Woodford Green Library and Gym now has brand new fitness facilities including a 40-station gym with state-of-the-art equipment.

If you prefer a gentler activity, then a visit to our revamped spacious library, boasting new books, digital devices, study areas and meeting spaces for group activities, this could be just the thing for you.

The library has dedicated zones for different ages including an out-of-this-world area for under fives, an area for older children to do their homework, and a quiet study room.

As a result of the refurbishment, both library and gym lovers will now be able to benefit from longer opening hours with the centre open for a whopping 100 hours, seven days a week meaning that library and gym facilities are available whenever you want to use them. To find out more about opening times and the fantastic facilities on offer, visit the website: www.visionrcl.org.uk/centre/woodford-green-library-and-gym/



Why not 'Try before you bike'

Simple and affordable, Try Before You Bike allows you to trial a bike before buying it. Just choose your new bike and accessories using the helpful online tools and the bike will be delivered to you.

Plus you will also receive a free cycle skills session to boost your confidence.

More details at: www.peddlemywheels.com/try-before-you-bike

If you're into Athletics, **Ashton Playing Fields in Woodford Bridge** has also had a serious make-over. There is a brand new Club House, a new state-of-the-art 25 station gym, an astroturf pitch, grass pitches and an athletics track.

Woodford Town FC now calls Ashton Playing Fields home thanks to the brand new facilities, including changing rooms, a club room and a spectator stand.

To find out how to get an athletic track pass, use and hire the facilities, go to our website: www.visionrcl.org.uk/centre/ashton-playing-fields/



Get fit for free out in the fresh air

Did you know Redbridge has 11 outdoor gyms in our parks and open spaces? They are free to use and a fun way to stay active whilst getting some fresh air.

Now that the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted there is never a better time to get fit for free.

We have more than 100 different fitness machines for you to use including bikes, treadmills, cross-trainers and pull-up bars.

Using our outdoor gyms frequently can help you stay healthy, strengthen your body and increase your fitness levels. But even more importantly as



we come out of two years of COVID-19 related restrictions getting out in the fresh air and using our gyms also helps to improve our mental wellbeing.

To see where all our outdoor gyms are and all the information on how to start your outdoor fitness see: visionrcl.org.uk/parks-outdoor-spaces/outdoor-gyms/



Cllr Jas Athwal said:

"Having lived through the pandemic, we know the value of good health now more than ever and that's why we want to make it as easy as possible for local families to access new sports, swimming and athletics facilities across Redbridge."

"In the last couple of years our council has delivered two brand new gyms in Woodford, updated the athletics space at Ashtons, and work is underway on our brand new pool in Wanstead."

Saddle up as RideLondon is coming to the streets of Redbridge

We're really excited to be one of the host boroughs for RideLondon 2022, a festival of cycling taking place on Sunday 29 May.



The event starts on Victoria Embankment, passing through parts of Wanstead, Woodford and Hainault, out to Essex, and then back through Redbridge again before finishing at Tower Bridge.

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

"RideLondon 2022 is a brilliant opportunity for local people to get involved in one of the UK's biggest cycling events, being held right on their doorsteps."

RideLondon will also feature shorter family-oriented rides on traffic-free roads. The full format of the event and routes will be confirmed soon at:

www.ridelondon.co.uk



Why not check out Redbridge Cycling Centre?

Redbridge Cycling Centre is for cyclists of all abilities, from families to competitive riders. It has a purpose-built road, BMX, and off-road tracks. Here you can hire a bike, take cycling and coaching lessons. Available to groups and individuals from complete beginners to experienced riders.

Find out more at: www.visionrcl.org.uk/centre/redbridge-cycling-centre/

PAY AS YOU GO

or

MEMBERSHIP

options available



active • alive • achieve

NEW



GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES

COMING SOON!

Do you **fancy getting fit** and healthy whilst also **having fun**? Our **group exercise classes** could be just what you are looking for, classes include:

✓ **Bootcamp** ✓ **Step & HIIT** ✓ **Yoga & Pilates** ✓ **Zumba & Clubbercise**



Coming to a venue near you

For more information visit visionrcl.org.uk/groupexercise

In 2021, more than 3,500 people shared their views in Redbridge’s largest ever consultation on crime, highlighting five primary concerns: safety for women and girls; domestic abuse; drug-related crime and street violence; anti-social behaviour; burglary and public confidence.

In response, Leader of the Council, Cllr Jas Athwal knew he had to develop a unique initiative that could understand the root causes of crime, so he commissioned the Redbridge Community Crime Commission, ensuring that lived experiences of local people can shape council – and partner – practice.

Over six months, 16 volunteers, all passionate to create change, were supported by a community voice panel of more than 60 local people. They sifted through the evidence of expert witnesses who spoke candidly about their ambition to crack down on crime by removing barriers.

The commission found several factors that can help untangle the most pressing problems. These include improving communication between agencies and residents; the need to join-up services, and making sure that the insight of local people can truly inform how services are developed and delivered. It also reinforced the need to get help to young people early enough – to ensure they can have hope for the future.



“The idea behind the Community Crime Commission was quite simple but also quite brave: to gather a group of committed local people, put the experience of highly trained professionals at their service, and then let the people tell the professionals what needs to be done.”

– Dr Javed Khan OBE, CCC Chair

Enforcement Hubs

We have already delivered two Enforcement Hubs, with a third on the way, bringing police and Council Enforcement Officers into the heart of our neighbourhoods to crack down on crime, deter criminals and empower local people.

Enforcement Hubs are staffed by Police and Council Enforcement Officers so residents can pop in and raise concerns with confidence.

As well as the York Road and Hainault Enforcement Hubs, we also launched a Mobile Enforcement Hub, bringing police to every doorstep in the borough.



Commissioners meeting with Fenford Youth Club.

We listened to your feedback from the survey and have already actioned:

- increased resources for ANPR Cameras and 24/7 CCTV
- womens safety walks across the borough
- pilot projects in schools to safeguard young people from gangs
- launched Enforcement Hubs and a new CCTV enforcer truck.

We look to roll out further improvements as the CCC submitted a report to our Cabinet members listing their findings and recommendations.



Keeping Redbridge Safe



Following a campaign led by Redbridge Council, local policing received a boost in February with the deployment of a new inspector, two sergeants and 21 constables to serve Ilford Town Centre.

The 25 additional police officers which joined the Ilford Town Centre team earlier this year have bolstered Redbridge’s existing police force, giving the borough as a whole greater policing capacity to respond to issues across Redbridge.

The Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal, greeted the new officers on their first shift. Speaking of the new arrivals, he said:

“I’m pleased that our campaign for more police has yielded such overwhelming results for

Redbridge. Everyone deserves to feel safe on our streets and as a council we are committed to working with our partners in the police to crack down on crime and make our borough safer for local families. The extra police officers patrolling our town centre will prevent crime and send a strong message to criminals that they are not welcome in Redbridge.”

The resident-led Community Crime Commission considered policing as part of its recommendations for keeping the borough safe.

The new police team will work closely with existing officers and Redbridge Council Enforcement Officers as part of a strategic plan to target criminals and improve confidence amongst the community.

The council crime reduction strategy has already brought additional Enforcement Hubs in key locations across the borough and a Mobile Enforcement Hub that directs specialist resources to where they are needed.

Wherever you live in Redbridge you can rest safe in the knowledge that a team of trained officers are monitoring live CCTV footage 24 hours a day. We joined the Redbridge CCTV Team to get a behind the scenes peek at what goes on in Redbridge.

41 ANPR cameras monitored by the police form a 'ring of steel' around the borough, automatically checking for suspicious vehicles.



Hayley Roberts has managed CCTV operations in Redbridge since 2016.

"A lot of people will understand our role in collecting evidence about crimes and tracking incidents as they happen. But they might not appreciate that our birds-eye view and intelligence sharing with police means that we can spot the trends in crime and anti-social behaviour. This means that we can deploy resources more efficiently, disrupting criminals and protecting our residents."

"Continued investment in CCTV has enabled us to upgrade the network, meaning **better quality image capture across hot-spots in the borough.**"

"We also look out for vulnerable people and keep an eye on them... if there is a rough sleeper, or if we are worried about a young person who might be at risk of exploitation, for example, we could deploy youth outreach teams to go and see them."
Hayley Roberts

"Our CCTV network relies on intelligence gathered from you as residents reporting incidents they see. This helps us **allocate resources and keep CCTV operators informed.** To report any anti-social behaviour to us, visit our website at: www.redbridge.gov.uk and search 'report it!'"

In the last three years, Redbridge CCTV has assisted in over 3,200 arrests

The Community Crime Commission, led by local volunteers, made a series of recommendations for improving public safety and confidence. CCTV is an essential part of new efforts to make the borough safer.



"From speaking to local residents, it is clear that our community safety work has made a real difference and we want to keep making a difference. That's why we have deployed almost 600 CCTV cameras across Redbridge and they are now monitored 24/7. Alongside this, we have launched our new Challenger vehicle which is a mobile CCTV vehicle that provides us with rapid deployment capability. Working with our police partners, we are cracking down on crime and anti-social behaviour across Redbridge."

- Cllr Khayer Chowdhury



Keeping a watchful eye 24 hours a day



7pm



At 7pm, the overnight team is briefed on the day. The cameras are quiet and the team is reviewing footage of fly-tipping. The picture clarity means enforcement teams can issue £400 fines for a series of offences.

The evening is played out on screens, as commuters and shoppers dwindle and streets empty. Operators look out for suspicious behaviour, or the presence of known offenders.



7am

7am and the day-shift arrive, catching up on events overnight. For Hayley, the day brings one of her regular 'tasking' meetings with local police and agencies. On the agenda: plans to disrupt drug dealing activities and the deployment of new mobile cameras.



1am

The police radio for assistance locating a suspect. Altering the camera angles and zooming in, the team swiftly identify the man, tracking him across a series of cameras whilst directing the police to where he is hiding.

Calls continue through the night, with enforcement teams and police sharing insights as they patrol the borough's hotspots.



Another day begins...

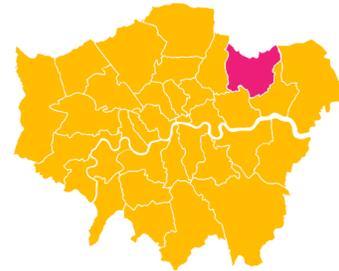


How we're making our area a cleaner, greener, healthier and safer place

We recently agreed a series of council investments to help make our borough a better place for local people.

We continue to be short changed by government funding compared to other boroughs. The stark reality is that the average government funding per head in Redbridge is **£751** compared to the London average of **£879**. If we received fair funding, we could provide an extra **£39m** worth of council services.

We've responded to the challenge of government cuts by becoming a more efficient council, making **£224m** of savings, transforming the way we work and generating more money to protect the brilliant services local people care about.



£879
average funding per head London

£751
average funding per head Redbridge

We're proud to provide some of the best services in London, including:

<p>96% Schools ofsted rated outstanding or good</p>	<p>Children's Services Rated Outstanding</p>	<p>Every library kept open</p>	<p>Free Green garden waste & Bulky Waste collections</p>
<p>Nine Green Flag Parks</p>	<p>Two new enforcement hubs with a third on the way</p>	<p>Two new leisure centres in Goodmayes and Loxford with a third on the way in Wanstead</p>	<p>Weekly waste collection and wheelie bins rolled out</p>

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



I'm proud we have once again produced a plan that means no cuts to the services that local people value so much. We will be delivering our services more efficiently; that is where the vast majority of savings will come from.

We have listened to local people and we are expanding services by investing to create a cleaner, greener, healthier and safer borough.



More services – No cuts



£16m
on school improvements and new places



£11m
for a Lido in Valentines Park and International class Rock Climbing Centre, Wanstead Swimming pool and fantastic improvements to Fairlop Waters and Hainault Forest Country Park



£200k
to refurbish playgrounds expanding activities for children



£5m
on highway repairs, resurfacing roads, improving road safety and reducing air pollution



£3.25m
on six brand new Community Hubs, bringing libraries and council services to your doorstep



£558k
for more electric charging vehicle points



£2m
on new and refurbished public toilets



Tackling Climate Change for a carbon neutral Redbridge



£175k
to support local groups with community projects



£125k
to provide Summer and Easter holiday sports, activities and coaching for local kids



£80m
for new affordable homes for local people



£15m
improving our high streets and town centres



Additional **£5.7m**
support for children and adults social care

We're investing £1.2 million to make Redbridge safer, including:

- Night-time enforcement teams
- Improved parks enforcement
- Domestic Violence support service
- More CCTV monitored 24-hours
- 24-hours Noise service
- **£1.2m** to implement the Community Crime Commission
- Investing an extra **£831,000** on protecting local people from flash flooding.



£11 million of investments to make our borough cleaner, greener and healthier

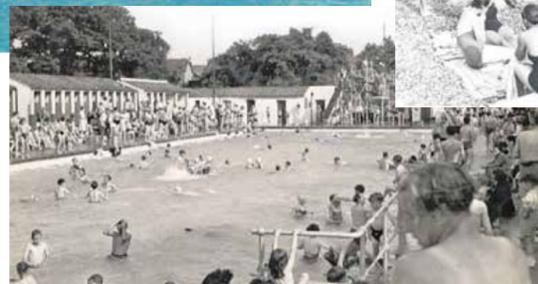
Redbridge Council is committed to delivering a state of the art outdoor swimming Lido in the heart of Valentines Park to rival the splendour of the original 1924 Valentines Lido.

Work is underway to design the Lido to complement the existing landscaping in the park and further details will be revealed over the coming months.

'The new Valentines Lido project is part of wider plans to invest in leisure facilities across Redbridge, creating a greener, healthier borough with world class facilities for local families to enjoy.'



Valentines Park open air swimming pool, mid 1930s



Valentines Park open air swimming pool, 1950s

© Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre



Cllr Kam Rai, Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, said:

"Our parks are the heart of our borough. We saw through the pandemic just how important green space is to local people's health and wellbeing. That's why we're committed to investing in our parks so we can all enjoy them now and for years to come."

Work underway on a brand new swimming pool in Wanstead

One of our most exciting developments is the significant expansion of Wanstead Leisure Centre.



Cllr Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge Council, said: "I am delighted to announce that we now have a new schedule in place to deliver the new Leisure Centre in Wanstead. Works are already underway on-site and will be completed at the end of 2023.

"The works we're carrying out in Wanstead will give local people access to a brand new 25m swimming pool and a new dance studio to complement the existing gym, badminton and squash courts."



Hainault Forest Country Park A hidden gem in the suburbs of London



In 2019, we successfully secured over £7 million of funding to restore and enhance Hainault Forest.

£1.25M of Redbridge Council funding combined with additional funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Mayor's Fund at the Greater London Authority, and Redbridge Council.

The renovation will deliver:

- a new visitor hub with event space, cafe and information centre
- an updated and improved animal farm
- a programme of activities including training, volunteering, work experience and learning opportunities
- the complete restoration of the original Victorian barn and foxburrows barns which will offer craft workshops and opportunities for local businesses
- new landscaping to help with biodiversity and protect animal habitats.



An artist impression of the site following renovation

Let's get climbing

While Redbridge does not lay claim to any mountains, you will soon be able to experience something similar in the form of the **new International Class Rock Climbing Centre**, which we have pledged to open.

Drawing inspiration from Rockworks Climbing Walls in Basildon Sporting Village, the centre will boast a multi-faceted climbing wall design, including a climbing wall, roped climbing lines and a small bouldering area.



In summer 2021, we committed to doubling the size of **Fairlop Waters Country Park** over the coming years.

Our Fairlop Waters Masterplan will offer:

- new entry points to the park
- new and improved visitor spaces for learning, exhibitions, a soft play area, cafes and accessible toilets
- a revitalised Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre (FOAC) will offer opportunities for more residents to benefit from the wide range of water and outdoor activities
- a new adventure trail that will create a circuit of the park.

The draft masterplan will be formally consulted during the summer of 2022, with the final plan due back to Cabinet in October 2022.

The site will also benefit from:

- new accessible benches and tables that are being installed during March
- a summer programme to include pop-up open-air entertainment and performances
- new improved signage to promote the new boating offer.



Stay safe and be COVID-19 aware

COVID-19 vaccinations are the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from the virus.

We know that with the Omicron variant; two vaccines are not enough. People need to get a booster jab to protect themselves against serious illness and hospitalisation.

We also know that the vast majority of people who end up in critical care with COVID-19 are unvaccinated.

Since December over 90,000 jabs have been given to local people taking the number of first, second and booster jabs delivered to over 500,000. This means more protection for local people, their loved ones and neighbours.

So, if you haven't had your 1st, 2nd or booster jab and your winter flu vaccine, come and book your jab today.

Don't worry if you have previously refused or decided not to have a vaccine. There is no judgment and local doctors are only too happy to help.

Don't worry if you still have questions. Just ask your GP or go to a vaccination centre and ask to speak to someone.

Don't let a fear of needles stop you from being vaccinated. Just tell the vaccination team and they will take great care of you and help you have the best experience.

Vaccines save lives, and being vaccinated could save your life.

Please get your COVID-19 and flu jab. You can find information on where you can do this at: www.redbridge.gov.uk/vaccinations

“Seva is a part of my Sikh faith. It refers to doing acts of service, without reward or personal gain, and volunteering at the Town Hall is my way of doing Seva.”

“As I am semi-retired, I wanted to give my time to help my local community in any way possible during this pandemic. I firmly believe that vaccines are lifesaving and protect our community, and its future, against infection.”

Hash – volunteer



Don't forget your Flu Jab

There's still time to get your flu vaccine.

If you have a long-term health condition, are pregnant or are a carer, your GP will have invited you to get your free flu jab. Please schedule your jab soon – it will help protect you from getting the flu, which can cause serious complications and make you very unwell.



Who can get the flu vaccine?

- adults 65 and over
- people with certain medical conditions (including children in at risk groups from 6 months of age)
- pregnant women
- people living with someone at high risk from COVID-19 (on the NHS shielded patient list)
- children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2021
- children in primary schools
- children in year 7 (secondary school)
- frontline health or social care workers.

You can have your NHS flu vaccine at:

- your GP surgery
- a local pharmacy offering the service
- your midwifery service if they offer it for pregnant women.



Despite the recent changes to COVID-19 restrictions, it is important to remember that COVID-19 has not gone away.

“We have been volunteering at Ilford Vaccination Centre since January 2021. We decided to volunteer to support our local community through this especially difficult period and to support the incredibly hard-working members of the NHS.”

“We see the vaccination as important in helping to keep people safe but we have also found that meeting lots of people, both vaccinators and vaccinees, has really helped our own mental wellbeing.”

Kath – Volunteer



There are still some simple things you can do to protect yourself, and others.

- keep washing your hands regularly
- let fresh air in when you're meeting with others
- consider wearing a face covering when in crowded, indoor spaces
- get your vaccination if you haven't already – it's never too late
- test before meeting others in crowded places or if you are meeting someone who is at higher risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

Visit: www.redbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-hub for more information and advice.

Don't forget to protect your child Book their MMR today

If you have a child between the age of one and five, make sure you take them to get their measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination.

The MMR vaccine is the best way to protect your child from these unpleasant diseases. They only need two doses and it is proven to be safe and effective.

To book your child's first or second vaccination, contact your GP.

For more information visit: www.nhs.uk/MMR



Let's take food waste off the menu

Wasting food contributes to climate change, and costs you money. The average family of four can save just over £60 per month by reducing their food waste.

Tips to reduce food waste:

Try this useful portion planner to help with serving sizes: <https://lovefoodhatewaste.com/portion-planner>

Do you know the difference between 'Use By', 'Best Before' and 'Display Until / Sell By' dates? Check this guide to date labels to make sure you're not throwing away food unnecessarily: www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/about-date-labels

For more advice on reducing household waste, go to: www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/

Don't bin it, try to repair it

It's not always a case of out with the old and in with the new.

Help reduce waste by trying to repair things. It's great for the environment and saves money too.

Swot up on your repair skills at these community Repair Cafes:

ELWA Repair Café – FREE
Parkside Community Centre,
176 Goodmayes Lane,
Ilford, IG3 9PP

Transition Town Ilford Repair Café – FREE
Twice a month on Saturdays at Redbridge Central
Library from 2pm to 3.45pm.

For more information go to:
www.transitionilford.org/repair-cafe



Green Garden Waste Collection

Our free fortnightly Green Garden Waste Collection service resumes in April.

Week 1
4 April to 18 November

Week 2
11 April to 25 November

Find out which week your collection falls on by checking:
www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/garden-waste/



Bank Holiday Changes to bin collections

OUR STREETS
Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods

Easter

Due on	Collected on
Good Friday 15 April	Good Friday 15 April (no change)
Monday 18 April	Tuesday 19 April
Tuesday 19 April	Wednesday 20 April
Wednesday 20 April	Thursday 21 April
Thursday 21 April	Friday 22 April
Friday 22 April	Saturday 23 April

May Bank Holiday

Due on	Collected on
Monday 2 May	Tuesday 3 May
Tuesday 3 May	Wednesday 4 May
Wednesday 4 May	Thursday 5 May
Thursday 5 May	Friday 6 May
Friday 6 May	Saturday 7 May

Spring Jubilee

Due on	Collected on
Thursday 2 June	Monday 6 June
Friday 3 June	Tuesday 7 June
Monday 6 June	Wednesday 8 June
Tuesday 7 June	Thursday 9 June
Wednesday 8 June	Friday 10 June
Thursday 9 June	Saturday 11 June
Friday 10 June	Monday 13 June
Monday 13 June	Tuesday 14 June
Tuesday 14 June	Wednesday 15 June
Wednesday 15 June	Thursday 16 June
Thursday 16 June	Friday 17 June
Friday 17 June	Saturday 18 June



Stop zombie batteries in their tracks

- 1 Never put batteries in normal rubbish or recycling bins
- 2 Only recycle batteries using a proper battery recycling service
- 3 Remove batteries from broken devices if you can and recycle both the battery and device separately
- 4 If you can't remove the battery from a device, recycle both together using a small waste electrical recycling service
- 5 Still unsure what to do? Visit www.takecharge.org.uk

TAKE CHARGE

Great British Spring Clean

Grab your litter pickers and be part of the Great British Spring Clean taking place March 25-10 April.

The national campaign encourages people to get involved in community litter picks in their borough.

Our Neighbourhood Team will be hosting several community litter picks, with equipment provided. For more information, or to take part visit: www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets

Facebook Twitter Instagram

FREEZY DOES IT

The UK wastes **20 million** slices of bread every day at home! Producing that bread generates the same amount of CO₂e as **523,269** return London to NYC flights.

So save that loaf by popping your bread in the freezer and use for sandwiches or toast from frozen as needed!

Master your freezer with the A-Z of Food Storage at

LOVEFOODHATEWASTE.COM

Click it Local

We're in the business of helping

One of the programmes we have helped promote during the pandemic is Click It Local – a 'virtual high street' online that allows local independent shops to sell to residents from one collective website.

With delivery prices as low as £3.50, Click It Local helps residents support businesses whilst investing back into the community.

Johurul Choudhury from Five Star Fishmongers, Barkingside High Street, is one of the local businesses to benefit, as he explained:

"I had been thinking about my online presence and knew something had to change.

"I've managed to build up a fantastic business on the High Street and felt it deserved to be promoted to the widest possible audience.

I also wanted to maximise revenue while not incurring extra overheads, and e-commerce seemed attractive.

"Even though I consider myself a pretty good businessman, the internet seemed quite daunting. Thankfully for me, Click It Local arrived and all my apprehensions were laid to rest. From the get-go, Rosie and Jerri at Click It Local helped with all aspects of the setup and explained the whole process in detail.

For further information, visit:
www.clickitlocal.co.uk



"The Click It Local system works really well. Instead of creating my e-commerce platform, I have a link on my website to redirect customers to the Click It Local page. Jerri and Rosie share the same passion, drive and vision as me. Together we can grow this."

Major milestone for Work Redbridge

Since 2015, Work Redbridge has supported 1,800 local people into jobs, training, volunteering and self-employment.

We work with people to develop an employment action plan, enhance their skills, update their CV and identify job opportunities to help them move forward in their careers, whatever their aspirations might be.



Krishnan SriGowribalan, 20, lives in Ilford and was finding getting into full-time work tough. He got in touch with Work Redbridge and hasn't looked back since.

Krishnan said:

"The Work Redbridge Service was extremely helpful in supporting me get into work under the current difficult circumstances of the pandemic.

"I was able to learn a lot about interview preparation, CV writing whilst also developing key employability skills. These meetings have allowed me to develop the confidence and necessary key skills I needed to impress my employer in my interview and showcase that I would be the right person for the job and I have since been able to successfully secure a suitable full-time role in finance."



For further information, visit:
www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge

Work Redbridge recently helped Mohammed Shovon secure his current job working as a delivery driver for Click It Local.

Speaking of his new job, Mohammed said:

"My experience with Work Redbridge was really great. My adviser gave me a lot of help in updating my CV and then helped me find a job at Click It Local.

"As a Click It Local driver, I cover three areas: Redbridge, Epping and Brentwood, doing pick-ups and deliveries. Compared to my previous evening role at a supermarket, this job is very flexible, and the team here has also been extremely helpful and friendly."



Upskill Retrain Gain

a qualification

Free skills training for residents

Adult learning courses are enrolling now.

Choose from a range of courses including; Digital Skills, Maths, English and ESOL, and vocational training courses including Childcare and Counselling. Most of these courses are FREE* to Redbridge residents. (*subject to eligibility criteria)

We also offer a range of creative and visual arts and health and wellbeing courses.

Visit our website to see our full range of courses and book online now.

www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk

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

London Borough of Redbridge

Education & Skills Funding Agency

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Local elections are coming

Don't miss out on having your say

On Thursday 5 May you can have your say over what happens in our borough by taking part in the local elections. All London borough councils and local authorities in Wales and Scotland are taking part in these elections.

Who are the candidates?

The nominations period will end on 5 April. On 6 April, we will publish the final list of candidates for the local elections on our website.

Who is eligible to vote in these elections?

All residents on the electoral register are eligible to vote in these elections, except for British citizens living overseas. But you must make sure you register to vote.



Registration deadline?

The last date to register to vote in this election is midnight on 14 April 2022.

Postal vote deadline?

The last date to submit a postal vote application is 5pm on 19 April 2022.

Proxy vote deadline

The last date to submit a proxy vote application is 5pm on 26 April 2022.

COVID-19 safety

In polling stations, we will apply the latest government guidelines at the time of the election, which may include the wearing of masks, use of voting screens, and a limit on the number of voters inside the station at any one time.

Your poll card will provide more information. In addition, we are encouraging voters to register to vote by post.

For further information, visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote

Community Hubs update

Community Hubs bring key services like Libraries, GP surgeries, Gyms and Children's Centres all under one roof. We're planning to build five Community Hubs in Redbridge so everyone in the borough will live less than 20 minutes walk from their local Hub.

The five new purpose-built Community Hubs will be in Seven Kings, Gants Hill, Hainault, Woodford and Wanstead, and there will be a central Civic Hub in Ilford.

The Community Hubs Programme is an exciting initiative working closely with residents to create accessible spaces on our doorsteps where different services can be brought together, such as libraries, children's services and GPs, and a place where residents can come together and run activities.

Each Hub is being co-designed with residents to meet the needs of local areas, giving residents the power to shape, design, deliver and run the hubs in partnership with Redbridge Council.

The resident co-design of the Seven Kings hub so far has planned for a state-of-the-art library, café and GP surgery, with the proposal it is run through a pioneering, community-led model, supported by the Council and a range of local partners.

More than 1,000 people have been engaged in the programme so far, and this is increasing daily. Residents are feeding in their views on what they and their neighbours need to create and maintain thriving, inspiring communities in which they can take pride in.



Visit the Community Hubs site at: letstalkredbridge.uk/engagementhq.com/community-hubs



Artist Illustration of the Seven Kings hub

Almost two million pounds distributed to residents this winter

Last year The Government provided the council with £1.97m from the Household Support Fund. We then distributed this to local residents most in need of help this winter.

By the 31 March we will have made over 25,000 awards of support to local households, helping people with food, energy bill, water and council tax bills plus housing necessities and wider living costs.



Thousands of children who were eligible for free school meals were also supported throughout the school holidays to ensure they could enjoy a substantial lunch time meal.

The Council also injected £200,000 of the funding into local food banks before Christmas to bolster their capacity to help local residents. It is estimated that this funding will support up to 80,000 offers of food help to local residents in need.

Redbridge calls on the Government to 'end rough sleeping for good'

We have called on the Government to 'end rough sleeping for good' and to scrap immigration rules that make rough sleeping grounds for refusing or cancelling a person's leave to remain in the UK.



Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal said:

"Rough sleepers already face unimaginable obstacles, and these hardships are magnified for those who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) under the government's immigration rules. As a local authority, our hands are tied when it comes to helping those individuals who find themselves sleeping rough if their immigration status is unclear, or if they no longer have a visa to stay in the UK."

How do you sleep at night?

Let's end rough sleeping for good



Get your local project off the ground with community crowdfunding

Do you have an incredible idea? A brilliant blueprint? A promising project? A daring design or a stunning scheme to enhance your local neighbourhood?

- we can help you bring to life your idea with our community crowdfunding programme which we run with our partner platform Spacehive for Redbridge
- we could bring your ideas to life; help you raise money for your project – we could even part-fund your project to get you going
- coming up is our third round of community crowdfunding in the borough and this Spring we are looking for projects from community groups in the south of the borough (Cranbrook, Valentines, Ilford Town, Clementswood and Loxford wards) to come forward with ideas.

The deadline to submit your ideas and proposals is **Wednesday 20 April 2022**.

To find out all the information on how to apply, funding and what to do to see your proposal come to life, visit the website:

www.spacehive.com/movement/redbridge/about



How does it work?

You just need to submit your project idea that will enhance and your local area benefit the community. You need to get your neighbours, friends, family, local businesses on board to help you generate finance and volunteer time for your project.

Your project could be anything from sprucing up your local park, improving a playground in your neighbourhood, to starting a sports club.

Once your group has an idea for a project you can then submit your proposal to us at Redbridge Council through Spacehive.



You can see the previous projects that have benefited from Crowdfunding on Spacehive's website: www.spacehive.com/movement/redbridge/projects



Redbridge lunch clubs

Join us for a bite to eat and make new friends

Our ever-popular lunch clubs are open to anyone who lives in Redbridge and offer a two-course hot meal for just over £4.

The lunch clubs are as much about socialising as the tasty hot meals on offer, and we often see people making new friends when they attend.

You can also participate in fun activities like card games, chess, and bingo at each location. The locations and times are below:

St John's Church and Centre

St John's Road, Seven Kings, IG2 7BB
Tuesday from 10am-2pm

Goodmayes Community Centre

616C Green Lane, Goodmayes, IG3 9SE
Tuesday and Friday from 12.15pm to 2.30pm (provided in partnership with Goodmayes Residents Association)



If you would like to attend one of the lunch clubs, please call **0208 501 2220** or email: dayopportunities@redbridge.gov.uk

Redbridge School Children help make tree planting project a success

More than 80 new trees have been successfully planted in the borough by local children through our schools' tree planting initiative.

The three-month project involved nine schools, more than 1,500 school children, and resulted in 88 trees being planted across school sites.

The planted trees will be registered under the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Everyone is being encouraged to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' this year.

For further information and to register your tree, go to: www.queensgreencanopy.org



Whats on this spring?

KIDS EVENTS

Water Sports Camps

Our holiday camps will offer sailing, kayaking, canoeing, raft building, bell boating and orienteering.

For children eight years and over. For information, dates, times, and prices, email: foac@visionrcl.org.uk

Swimming courses

Do you want your child to learn how to swim? Swimming courses Stage 1 and 2 for children aged five to 14 during the school holidays at **Mayfield Leisure Centre**, Goodmayes, and **Fullwell Cross Leisure Centre**, Barkingside.

To book at course at either **Mayfield** or **Fullwell Cross** swimming pools please visit the centre to complete forms and to ensure the class is suitable for the ability of your child.

Junior Badminton

Learn, develop, or fine-tune your badminton skills at Wanstead Leisure Centre. Sessions for Level 1, 2 and 3 players every Saturday.

To book your child's place, call **0208 989 1172**

Kenneth More Theatre, Ilford

The Smeds and the Smoos soar into space with this exciting adaptation of the award-winning book.

Friday 8 April: 1.30pm and 4.30pm
Saturday 9 April: 10.30am and 1.30pm
All tickets are £13.

To find out about all our kids' events in Redbridge in the coming weeks and months, please visit the Vision RCL website: www.visionrcl.org.uk/events/childrens-events/

ADULT EVENTS

Wellbeing Walks

Join us for weekly Wellbeing Walks, meeting at various parks and open spaces across Redbridge on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

No booking is required, just turn up. There are also Mobility Walks every Thursday at 10am and 11am at Valentines Park.

For all the dates, times and locations, go to: www.visionrcl.org.uk/walking

Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre is holding **Royal Yachting Association (RYA)** Level 1 and 2 courses in April and May.

All courses run from 9.30am-4.30pm and cost £195 for the weekend. Over 18 years only. For further information, please email: foac@visionrcl.org.uk

This March in Redbridge

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Join Redbridge Libraries for a host of events and activities to celebrate women's achievements throughout history right up to the present day.

For more information visit www.visionrcl.org.uk/womenshistory



Follow us on social media:
[@Redbridgelibs](https://twitter.com/Redbridgelibs) [@RedbridgeLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/RedbridgeLibraries)



Pest Control Service

What we do

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

What pest control officers do

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

Pests we treat and cost

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

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



Planning building work?

Why not use our Award Winning Building Control Team here at Redbridge Council

Using our technical knowledge and local expertise we can help make sure your building project meets building regulations and relevant standards, when you make your building control application through us.

Email us buildingcontrol@redbridge.gov.uk

Call us 0208 708 2529

www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building

Affordable-reliable and exceptional – it's what we stand for

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 200 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/fostering

Call us on 0208 708 6068

Email us fostering@redbridge.gov.uk

Amateur Gardening Competition

FREE TO ENTER!

Redbridge in Bloom 2022

now in it's 27th year!

Royal Gardens for Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In 2022, Her Majesty, The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service.

We are encouraging the residents of Redbridge to mark this special occasion and get involved in our amateur gardening competition by creating a garden fit for the Queen! Anyone can enter with a front garden, whatever your level of gardening expertise, just fill your garden beautiful shrubs and flowers in celebration of this huge milestone for The Queen.

Categories:

- Best Front Garden
- Best Sheltered Housing/Residential Care Home
- Best Contain Garden
- Best Community Display
- Best Public House
- Best School Gardening Project

Closing date for entries is 4 July. To enter visit www.visionrcl.org.uk/redbridgeinbloom



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www.taxcareaccountancy.co.uk

Tax Advice That Helps Your Business Grow



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 the Child Protection and Assessment Team (CPAT)

020 8708 3885 CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk

or visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering for more information



Is your home or rented property cold and difficult to keep warm?

The council are offering **Go Green Grants** to help homeowners and landlords improve the energy efficiency of their properties through the installation of low-carbon heating improvements. This could help keep homes warmer and save money on energy bills.

Eligibility

Homeowners and landlords are eligible to apply for the scheme. In the case of a rented property, the household income criteria is related to the income of the tenants living in the property, and not the landlord's income.

To be eligible, households must:

- Have a household income of £30,000 or less
- Live in a property with an EPC rating of D, E, F, or G

Types of work that can be carried out

As part of the application process, your property will undergo an assessment that will recommend the appropriate measures. This could include, for example,

- Cavity Wall Insulation
- External Wall Insulation
- Solid Wall, loft and floor insulation

and more



Cost

If you are an owner occupier the works to your property will be fully funded by the grant up to a maximum of **£10,000**.

Where a property is rented, the maximum grant funding available is **£5,000** per household. In all cases the landlord will need to contribute one third or more if the works are above **£5,000**.

Owner Occupier			
Total cost of measures	£5,000	£7,500	£10,000
Amount covered by Green Homes Grant	£5,000	£7,500	£10,000
Amount payable by owner occupier	£0	£0	£0

Landlord			
Total cost of measures	£5,000	£7,500	£10,000
Amount covered by Green Homes Grant	£3,333	£5,000	£5,000
Amount payable by landlord	£1,666	£2,500	£5,000

▶ To apply visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/go-green
or email Housing.Standards@redbridge.gov.uk