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green in Northolt **p28**

Love local

Supporting jobs
and business
p10-p26



Ealing

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NO COVID SYMPTOMS?

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يمكنك الآن وأنت في منطقتك المحلية أن تخضع لفحص مجاني للكشف عن الإصابة بفيروس كورونا، حتى إذا لم تكن الأعراض تظهر عليك. احجز موعدًا للفحص الآن.

Vous pouvez maintenant vous faire tester gratuitement près de chez vous, même si vous n'avez pas de symptômes. Demandez un test COVID dès maintenant.

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اکنون می توانید در محله خود تست رایگان ویروس کرونا را دریافت کنید، حتی اگر هیچ نشانه ای از بیماری نداشته باشید. اکنون برای تست وقت بگیرید.

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Hadda waxaad hadda deegaanka ka heli kartaa baaritaanka cudurka korona fayras oo bilaash ah, xitaa haddii aadan lahayn astaamo. Ballanso baaritaan hadda.

உங்களுக்கு அறிகுறிகள் இல்லை என்றாலும், ஒரு இலவச கொரோனா வைரஸ் டெஸ்டை நீங்கள் இப்போது உள்ளூரிலேயே செய்துகொள்ளலாம். டெஸ்ட் செய்ய இப்போதே புக் செய்யுங்கள்.

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ealing.gov.uk/CovidTest



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WINTER21 EDITORIAL



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So much has happened in 2021, and so much has changed as the vaccination programme progressed to counteract coronavirus, that it has almost been as momentous a year as the unprecedented events of 2020. And, again, I felt like it flew by. Time has taken on an unusual quality recently.

By now, I'm sure everyone reading this will know someone who has suffered terribly with the virus – and it is quite possible we all know someone (or know of someone) who lost their life. Therefore, I want to again personally pass my sympathies to anyone who has lost someone this year. Whether that loss was as a direct result of COVID-19 or not, one of the effects of the virus has been to make grieving more difficult.

I wish you all a merry Christmas, or happy Chanukah, and a positive new year. The magazine will be back in February. Please visit aroundealing.com in the meantime.

Richard Nadal
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FRONT COVER: Cathie Fahy and Nikesh Chowdhry running the Fahy's Food and Sauce stall in Acton Market during Love Local event (see p22)

1 Ealing Council services will only have essential cover over Christmas between 25-28 December and on New Year's Day and bank holiday Monday (1-3 January). Limited services will run between 29-31 December.

2 Your usual weekly **recycling and rubbish** collections may change over Christmas and the new year – see the back page of this magazine for more details, or visit

www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling

3 One in four women in the UK has been the victim of **domestic abuse** and violence. Sadly, statistics tend to get particularly bad during the winter months but help is available. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/domesticviolence for details of local help groups and support lines. If you are concerned for your immediate safety, call the police on 999 and press 55 when prompted if you cannot speak.

4 You are now able to attend **council meetings** with your local ward councillors in person again. Because of coronavirus, all council meetings were held online. Now, although they are continuing to be webcast live on the council's YouTube channel (@EalingCouncil), they are back open again to the public to attend. For more information on meetings visit www.ealing.gov.uk/committees

5 The Mayor of London's **Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)** has been expanded to include some parts of the borough. This means that owners of older vehicles may be subject to a daily charge for driving on all roads within the new zone. Read more at aroundealing.com/news/ultra-low-emission-zone

speedread

Armed forces support

A renewed Armed Forces Covenant was signed by council leader Peter Mason, at 562 Squadron base in Southall.

The covenant renews Ealing Council's commitment to veterans, and those who are demobilising out of the armed forces, to support them with housing, education and to be a forces-friendly employer.

It was signed by Councillor Mason, Lt Col Deborah Taylor, council chief executive Paul Najsarek and Ryan Allain, area manager (London) for the Royal British Legion. It was also signed separately by Gurpreet Rana, chief executive of Ealing Community Voluntary Service, Neha Unadkat, director of Ealing CCG and Andrew Dakers, chief executive of West London Business.

The full transcript of Councillor Mason's speech (and a video) welcoming the renewal of the covenant and expressing the commitment, on behalf of the borough to honour the covenant, can be found at aroundealing.com/leaders-notes



Primary places

If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, he or she will be due to start primary school in September 2022 – and applications for pupil places are being received.

Under the London-wide primary school admissions scheme, parents living in the borough will submit a single application to Ealing Council, listing their preferences, even if they are applying for a place at a school outside the borough.

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2022.



Find out what to do at aroundealing.com/news/primary-schools-2022



Leader's Notes

'For too many, a hard day's work doesn't lead to a decent day's pay.'

Councillor Peter Mason

Leader of the council



£ **CREATING**
GOOD JOBS

 **TACKLING**
THE CLIMATE CRISIS

 **FIGHTING**
INEQUALITY

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit us all hard in many ways – the terrible death toll, friends and family or ourselves contracting the virus, plus the lost months of lockdown. There are real concerns, too, about the long-term impacts of the pandemic, particularly on jobs and incomes. The crisis hit some sectors and types of work harder than others, including a massive impact on some of our huge local employers, like Heathrow Airport. This has made the income disparity in our borough even worse than before.

At one end of our borough, the average household income is around £73,000 a year. At the other end, in Southall or Northolt, it can be as little as £42,000. For too many Ealing residents, a hard day's work doesn't lead to a decent day's pay. Thousands of working people in our borough rely on benefits to make ends meet, or work in insecure, precarious employment.

Everyone in Ealing should be able to thrive, not simply survive on the breadline. Ensuring decent living incomes for all is the silver bullet to so many issues – it tackles poor housing and reduces health inequalities.

That's why so much of the focus of this edition of *Around Ealing* (from p10) is on how we are helping and supporting people into good jobs and to boost their skills. You can read about our Plan for Good Jobs, how we are supporting apprentices of all ages, the opportunities that the green economy offers, and where you can find career support.

To be successful at securing decent living incomes for all, we also need to provide the right environment for business to prosper in the borough, enabling them to create good jobs. So many great local businesses have struggled through the pandemic, especially those who rely on our high streets. So, it's great to see the work that our High Streets Taskforce has done

to help businesses re-open safely and to encourage people to get back to their local shops and businesses – something that I'd really urge everyone to do this festive season. We're working hard to support small and medium sized enterprises, but we're also working closely with our major employers too – talking to them about how we can co-operate on some of the big issues, like encouraging take-up of the London Living Wage across all the sectors of our economy; supporting the green transition as we work to tackle the climate crisis; and building sustainable communities where local businesses have a stake in making them a great place to live and work.

In Ealing, we're still the Queen of the Suburbs. It's a key part of who we are. But we're also proud of our history as a borough of industries, creators and makers, whether that's Southall's role as London's bread basket, the high-tech manufacturing of Greenford and Northolt, or Ealing's role in the cultural sector. We need a new vision that encompasses that as a key part of our borough's future, delivering more jobs, not simply more homes. We want to be a place where people come to live and work, with great green spaces and culture to enjoy as well.

That's why we've recently launched *Shaping Ealing* (see pages 6-7). This is a big conversation about the fundamental question on how you want to see Ealing change for the better. The pandemic has been a huge upheaval, which has changed how many of us live or work, possibly for ever. *Shaping Ealing* is about providing the space for the council to engage with you on how we shape our borough to meet that change and encourage more great jobs locally. Please do take part and let us know what you want for the future of our borough.



SHAPING EALING



**Your
Local Plan**



Join the conversation and shape the future

Residents and businesses have been giving Ealing Council their views on the area and on their local communities as part of a conversation that will help shape the future of the borough. You can, too.

A Shaping Ealing survey went live on the council's website in November and the views being left by local people will all play a critical part in building the first draft of a Local Plan that will set out priorities for the borough for the next 15 years.

'A LASTING IMPACT'

Council leader Peter Mason said: "The answers that you provide will have a lasting impact on everyone in the borough, and your views can directly shape the future for you, your family and your local community.

"We want you to take your seat at the table and let us know how you feel about your community. It's your borough, so we really need your voices. Whether you're passionate about employment, transport, green spaces and climate action or homes, we want to listen, so get involved in the conversation to Shape Ealing."

'GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE BOROUGH'

The Local Plan will eventually be used to help decide how land is used and how places across the borough may change over the next 15 years. It will also guide decisions taken by the council and other

authorities on homes, green spaces, tackling climate change, creating good jobs and addressing any concerns around health and inequalities in the borough.


A series of meetings is also being planned by the council to provide additional opportunities for people to have their say before the draft of the Local Plan is shared next summer.

Councillor Mason added: "My administration is committed to being open, transparent and inclusive. As residents that live or work in the borough, your views are extremely important. This is the start of an ongoing conversation about what really matters to you and your local area. We don't often get such a great opportunity to really shape the borough, so it's really important to take this opportunity and get involved as much as you can."

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

For the duration of the Shaping Ealing conversation, there will be various opportunities for you to get involved to say what really matters to you.

The first Shaping Ealing survey went live online on 10 November and you may have spotted a QR code on posters and advertising throughout the borough. It is not too late to take the survey, so visit www.givemyview.com/ealinglocalplan/surveys to find out more and get involved.

We will be keeping you up-to-date by publishing updates on aroundealing.com website, plus via the council's social media pages (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram), and in future editions of Around Ealing magazine. 



FOSTER FOR EALING



"The training is excellent"

Caleb, foster carer for 14 years



"You receive ongoing support and there is always someone there for you"

Donna, foster carer for 5 years

"You can make a real difference to a child's life"

Rukhsana & Zahid, foster carers for 23 years



"It's a local service, so everything is based in Ealing"

Ruqaya, foster carer for 7 years



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE?

We know that this is a difficult time for people and we've changed the way we work to keep everyone safe. During these challenging times we still need more people to become foster carers to look after the children in our care. Foster carers come from all walks of life and everyone brings something different. As a foster carer we will provide you with excellent support and training, including our new virtual sessions. You don't need a spare bedroom to foster with us, as you may be able to look after babies if you have space for a cot in your bedroom. We also pay allowances of between £269 to £466 per week for each child you look after, depending on their age and your experience.

Find out how, together, we can do this at

Freephone: **0800 731 6550** Email: **fosteradopt@ealing.gov.uk**

Website: **ealingfosteradopt.co.uk** (for details of our next virtual events)

Facebook: **/ealingfosteradopt**



Ealing

www.ealing.gov.uk

CHANGE THE FUTURE

• EALING FOSTERING CONNECTIONS •

One step closer

Last December, we reported the huge step forward in tackling COVID-19, when the borough's first patient was given his vaccine and the older and most vulnerable then got their jabs over the winter months. Since then, all of the adult and late-teen age groups have steadily followed suit.



Ealing Council recently finished working with schools and the NHS to offer the vaccine to all 12-15 year-olds.

We visited Villiers High School in Southall to see the vaccination programme under way. You can watch a video and read more at aroundealing.com/news/pupils-say-yes-to-the-vaccine

'SAY YES TO THE VACCINE'

The COVID-19 vaccine gives you the best protection against coronavirus. By taking the vaccine, you are not only protecting yourself, you are also protecting those around you. Vaccines can significantly reduce the spread of coronavirus – but only if enough people are vaccinated.

It is easier than ever to get your vaccine, and you can walk into a number of local pharmacies or

vaccine centres to get it done. Find out more on the council's website at www.ealing.gov.uk/coronavirus

Councillor Kamaljit Nagpal, the council's cabinet member for a fairer start, said: "This is our next step in the direction of some form of normality.

"Thank you to all of the NHS staff who have worked in very difficult circumstances, and all the amazing teachers and support staff who have helped to make this happen.

"Say yes to the vaccine. And encourage others to get theirs."


GET YOUR BOOSTER

You can book your COVID-19 booster vaccine dose online if you are a frontline health or social care worker, or you are aged 50 and over – or you are aged 16 or over and have a health condition that puts you at high risk from COVID-19. It is also possible to

walk-up to some centres if it has been six months since your second dose.

At the time of going to press, there was an expectation that the government would approve other age groups for booster vaccines, too. Find out more at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccine

STAY SAFE THIS WINTER

The flu vaccination is ever-more important this year because more people are likely to get flu over the winter months than usual because fewer people will have built up natural immunity to it during the socially-distanced conditions of much of the COVID-19 pandemic. Getting vaccinated against flu and having your COVID-19 booster will provide protection for you and those around you for both these serious viruses. Find out more at aroundealing.com/news/stay-safe-this-winter 

Working for you

Brexit, COVID-19 and unemployment – many of us have been through an awful lot in recent times. One of Ealing Council's key priorities for the borough is creating good jobs – and it has a plan to help achieve that aim, reports *Richard Bolton*.

With an economy that is connected to Heathrow Airport and those businesses that support it, plus one of the highest furlough rates in the country, many communities in our borough are facing an uncertain future.

In the autumn, Ealing Council approved a new initiative to help the borough recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. It is called Ealing's Plan for Good Jobs – and has been prepared to help residents and local businesses, as well as attract new investment into the borough.

For residents who have recently suffered a job loss or face an uncertain future in the job market, there is a renewed effort to help them to retrain or upskill in 'growth sector employment' – in industries that are more resistant to future economic shocks on the scale and magnitude of COVID-19. This includes jobs in the green economy, health and social care and the creative and digital industries.

'WE'RE HERE TO HELP'

"It is about supporting those who have been the hardest hit in our borough," said Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, the council's cabinet member for decent living incomes. "We've made a commitment to help residents find an easier route in their search for work, or for how to upskill, or retrain.

"We have helped hundreds of out-of-work residents to find jobs over the last year and we want to continue this process. I say to anyone who has been affected – we're here to help, you're not alone – find out more."



Left: Mohamed Abduranman (who we previously featured in Around Ealing) was helped to retrain

£ CREATING GOOD JOBS

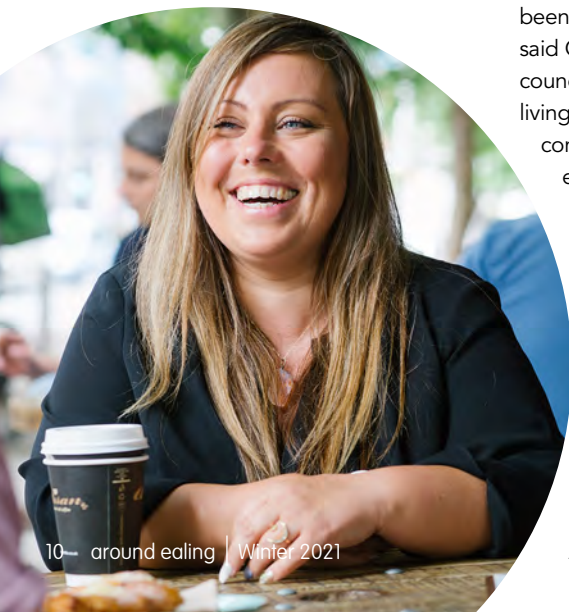
FINDING OUT MORE

Over the following pages of this magazine, you can read about some of what is already taking place and how to get more information. But the aim is for this to just be the start.

For retraining and upskilling opportunities, you could take a look at Learn Ealing's prospectus for 2021/22. There are hundreds of courses and workshops – many of which are free – that can help you to become job-ready. The council's Ealing Work West service offers online employment and training support (see pages 18-19 – and, if you run a local business, the council can help you in your recruitment drive to source qualified candidates or an apprentice (see pages 14-15) and develop an online presence and adapt to new ways of working (see page 21).

i To read out more about the plan itself, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/goodjobs

Left: Magdalena Rutkowska (who we previously featured in Around Ealing) received support to train as a childminder



"In my opinion, a good employer in a 'great company' would have a happy team, who were proud of working for their company and this would be measurable by them having a lower staff turnover rate than their competitors."

These are the words of Barry Bassett, managing director of VMI.TV – which is based in Acton and hires out camera and digital equipment to TV and movie productions.

The company (which also has a base in Bristol) makes sure it pays all of its staff the London Living Wage, takes on apprentices, and strongly believes in ongoing training and development for all its staff. It has committed to becoming a net zero carbon contributor by 2030 to help the environment and is publicly reporting all of its emissions – this has included taking a whole range of energy efficiency measures, some of which were implemented with the help of a grant from Ealing Council. It also helps to raise money for charity.

This all tallies with the council's desire to see good jobs created in the borough, with fair pay and good working conditions. Responsible employers are central to this ambition.

Council leader Peter Mason said: "We want employers to work with us to achieve our priorities of creating good jobs, tackling the climate crisis and fighting inequality. They are uniquely placed to do so. By being a 'good

What is a good employer?

employer', local companies can play a key role in helping our borough achieve these aims. We want as many businesses as possible to commit to the London Living Wage and to securing good terms and conditions for workers, as well as building for their future in a sustainable way."

'STAFF FEEL GOOD'

Barry said VMI.TV has learned to change over the years and, by striving to be environmentally responsible and good to its staff, the company has brought itself multiple rewards.

He said: "We all have a responsibility to the local and the wider community and employers and people in general are all becoming much more aware of this.

"Staff feel good about working for

VMI and this aids staff retention. Not only are our staff proud of VMI and all of its environmental innovations, but they also share in its success, because I insist on sharing some of the profits out with all of my staff, too. Our staff turnover rate today is the lowest that it has ever been."

Barry said research showed younger people are less likely to apply for work in companies without a green policy, and VMI.TV was delighted to win a sustainability award at COP26 recently. He has also been selected as one of the council's local climate leaders (see p28).

"Above all else" he added. "It is the right thing to do."



Read more and watch a video at aroundealing.com/news/VMI



Right: Barry Bassett in the VMI building

It is Small Business Saturday on 4 December and the build-up to Christmas is a critical time for the local economy. There is never a better time to shop local.

'It is what communities are about'

Using statistics from campaign group Totally Locally, you can calculate that if every adult in the borough spent £5 a week locally it would be worth a staggering £72 million per year to the borough's economy.

Local businesses not only create local jobs but also generate revenue to support local charities and fund local services such as libraries, parks and roads that benefit the whole community. Local businesses also often stock unique and locally-made items and are experts at what they do.

If that were not enough to make up your mind, there is also a green reason to stay close to home. Sourcing local goods is better for the

environment, reduces your carbon footprint, reduces the amount of packaging used and can save you time and money on travel.

'SEASONALITY HAS A BIG IMPACT'

"The winter season, and Christmas in particular, is so big for us," said Brent Wilkinson, the owner

of Cheddar Deli in Northfield Avenue, Ealing.

During the pandemic, like many local businesses, Cheddar Deli got support grants through Ealing Council and also a 'bounceback' loan.

Brent said: "It was critical for cashflow and got us through to our key season, which is from the autumn

through to around February. The winter season, and Christmas in particular, is so big for cheese – through promotions and gifts. Seasonality has a big impact for us."

Although the pandemic has caused a lot of businesses to struggle, some have managed to adapt and even find a new way to thrive.





Brent said: "We also deliver across the UK and the online part of our business really took off during the pandemic. It allowed people to try us out, which was a real bonus for us."

"It's been wonderful to see the patronage from customers, even in the bad times like we've all been having. It's a great area."

Read more at aroundealing.com/news/cheese

'IT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT'

"It is vitally important people support their local shops," said John Gardonyi, owner of Gardonyi's Musical Instruments in St Mary's Road, Ealing, which also received grants via the council to get through the worst of the pandemic.

"I've always thought human contact is so important. We're social animals and people like to come in and ask

questions and touch and feel the instruments. For a child, you want to check the size of the instrument and get them to hold it and see if it's right and get help and advice. You don't get that online – you can't do it, and you're never 100% sure what you are getting.

"We can't compete in terms of choice with the big online companies, but we can provide a personal touch and the human element – and I think that's the big difference.

"Everyone gets to know people and it is all part of a community. It is priceless and it's what life is all about.

"We are very blessed here because people get that. I meet people every day and you end up talking with them for half an hour or so. It really does matter. It is what communities are all about."

Read more at aroundealing.com/news/music



You can also help by joining the 'Love Ealing, Love Local' campaign celebrating our high streets and local businesses:

- Visit and buy from your local high street, even something as small as buying a coffee or picking up something locally that you could otherwise buy online with a major retailer can make a big difference. Then post about it on social media using hashtag #LoveEalingLoveLocal and tag @EalingCouncil on Twitter, @EalingLondon on Facebook and @ealingcouncil on Instagram
- You can also help your local businesses without spending a penny by taking time to leave online reviews of businesses you love and spreading the word by telling others about positive experiences. Like, follow and share your favourite businesses on social media. Engage with their posts and share their stories.

Meet Mah-jabeen and Sophie. They have both changed their careers – and their lives – and are now award-winning apprentices. They are among hundreds of local people who have benefited from apprenticeships arranged by the council and its partners.

2021
Apprentice of
the Year

You could do it too

Ealing Council recently celebrated the milestone of 750 local apprenticeships since 2018 – in roles ranging from education and childcare, to construction and engineering. There are varying levels of apprenticeships, from intermediate to degree level.

'I'VE FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING I ENJOY'

Planning apprentice Sophie Hennessy was crowned as the council's 2021 Apprentice of the Year after working in the planning department and studying to become a level 3 town planning technical support officer. She had previously been working in a different industry where she found the job unfulfilling and stressful. Everything changed when she spotted information about the apprenticeships at the

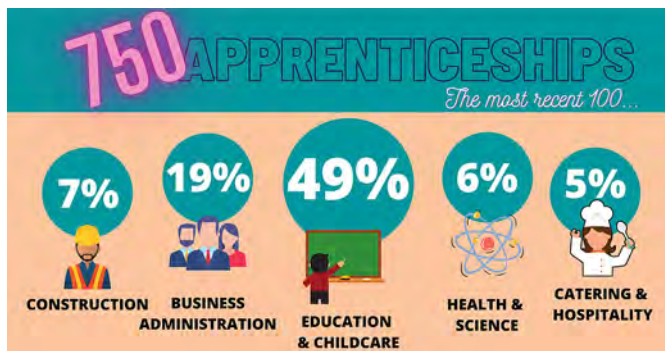
council and decided to apply.

"I would definitely recommend an apprenticeship," Sophie said. "You don't have to be 16-18 to do it. I'm 25 now and it shows that if you want a different career path, you can do it if you truly want to. You don't have to be pre-qualified. When I was in my last job, I was aware that, to really understand and comprehend a new job role and its industry, I would need to learn from the beginning – and the apprenticeship was an opportunity to do that, while

earning money at the same time.

"Working for a council, and especially within the planning department, allowed me to learn about the local community and appreciate its surroundings. And it was great becoming part of a team where everyone is all working toward the same outcome."

The two-year apprenticeship may have already been successful because it ended in employment, but it has also started Sophie on a clear career path in planning. She has a five-year university degree next in mind, while working for the council, to lead her to become chartered in town planning and a fully-fledged town planner for Ealing.





'I HAD BEEN OUT OF WORK FOR 20 YEARS'

Mah-jabeen Bhatti's story is even more transformative. She also won an award at the recent council ceremony.

"When I applied for an apprenticeship at the council, I had

been out of work for about 20 years,"

she said. "I was falling

into a routine of depending on others – comfortable at home, not wanting to leave home much. This apprenticeship helped me to build the confidence to get back to work, develop my skills and get the knowledge and experience in

an area I am interested in."

She first completed her level 2 business administration apprenticeship with the Let's Go Southall team, which was set up to encourage and support Southall residents to get more active. She was the team administrator. She has since progressed to working in the council's housing team, working in the Copley Management Hub where she is doing her level 3 apprenticeship in business and administration.

"I now have knowledge, experience and am building qualifications to find work suited to my skills, where I could progress if I choose to," she added. "I have also become more independent and active. I would recommend apprenticeships to anyone thinking about applying."

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

The council's dedicated apprenticeships team can help you find the right role for you – just email apprenticeships@ealing.gov.uk or visit [workealing.com](http://www.workealing.com) – and you can read more about Sophie and Mah-jabeen's experiences at [aroundealing.com/jobs](http://www.aroundealing.com/jobs) 

Why hire an apprentice?

"Apprenticeships are not just good for the employee, they are good for your business, too," said council leader Peter Mason. "They can bring new ideas, creativity and vibrancy.

"Ealing Council's apprenticeship team can help you to hire an apprentice, so why not find out more?"

Apprentices can:

- Boost productivity – according to the Centre for Economics and Business Research, on average each

apprentice brings a gain in productivity of more than £10,000 per year for their employer, with even higher figures for some sectors

- Help you to compete in the modern marketplace – in industry research, 77% of employers agreed that apprentices helped to make their organisations more competitive while more than eight out of 10 customers preferred to buy from companies employing apprentices.

For more information, email apprenticeships@ealing.gov.uk or visit [workealing.com](http://www.workealing.com)



Economy is green for go

John Blackmore
in Acton Market

“Tapping into the green economy is not only good for the environment, but good for creating local jobs,” said Dr John Blackmore who heads up the organisation that runs Acton Market, which is aiming to undergo a green transformation.

Along with Creating Good Jobs, one of the council's three key priorities is Tackling Climate Action. And the two are, in many ways, closely linked.

There are a couple of ongoing projects in the borough which provide examples of the potential for green industries to boost our local job market by increasing demand for locally sourced skills. The Energiesprong retrofitting of council homes to make them greener and more energy efficient

(see [aroundealing.com/news/retrofit](https://www.aroundealing.com/news/retrofit)) is only the start of a programme that could last years and eventually take in thousands of homes. Meanwhile, the council is continuing to add charging points for electric vehicles across the borough (see [aroundealing.com/news/electric-vehicle-charging](https://www.aroundealing.com/news/electric-vehicle-charging)) with 300 expected by the end of 2021. This is not exclusive to Ealing and companies involved will have to recruit staff to keep pace with the growing demand across London and the country as a whole.

Indeed, green jobs could be all around us soon – because so much of the future will depend on it.

The West London Alliance (WLA) is a strategic partnership of seven west London councils – in the boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow. It is putting together a plan for developing green skills and jobs in the region.

It is early days, but the council is already working with local organisations to help residents to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

Drivers for recycling trucks

The council's employment, learning and skills team has been helping to train unemployed residents to become **HGV drivers** and have the opportunity to secure well-paid employment with the council's recycling contractor, Greener Ealing Ltd. The scheme has been a big success with more than 50 people signing up to take part. Similar training and employment programmes are coming up in future – keep an eye on [workealing.com](https://www.workealing.com)

ACTON MARKET SETS OUT ITS STALL

Upcycling, repairs and other 'green' activities could become the heart of Acton Market after the council helped with a bid for National Lottery funding to carry out the project.

Did you know?

"An important part of the green economy is the '**circular economy**'," said Councillor Deirdre Costigan, cabinet member for climate action. "This is all about minimising waste by reusing and recycling materials and objects as much as possible and thereby prolonging the life cycle of our finite resources. At the heart of all of it is us, the everyday consumers and residents, doing all we can to repair and look after our 'stuff', and thinking green when buying anything new. That includes shopping locally, travelling sustainably and recycling any

waste. But the principle also applies to business, too.

"Take a simplified example of a woman walking to a nearby high street to buy a locally grown apple from a grocer, then eating the apple and putting the core in her food waste bin at home. This is collected by the council and taken to an anaerobic digestion plant, which turns the waste into biogas for the National Grid and fertiliser for farmland. Renewable energy companies tap into the energy and farmers use the fertiliser in their orchard to grow more apples to sell to the grocer for the woman to buy again."

The market is run by charity Action West London, which is based in the town. Dr John Blackmore, its chief executive, said: "The Lottery Climate Action funding will be for a two-year development programme and mean we can have a full-time member of staff to work on introducing a new climate action zone in the market in partnership with the council, local community and interested groups such as Ealing Repair Café and Friends of the Earth. The project will focus on encouraging businesses offering reuse, recycling, upcycling or repair services, as well as having stalls for local organisations with a climate action angle and those offering training courses for green jobs – such as West London College.

"Acton Market is very community focused – and the stall traders are mainly local people – and it is therefore putting money into the local economy. And this new climate zone can build on that and provide more training and job opportunities in the green economy – as well as providing information to guide local people on how to make small changes in their life to tackle climate change."




Action West London has been providing free training for people wanting to be a market stall trader. You can email

info@actionwestlondon.org.uk and visit www.actonmarket.co.uk to find out if places are available. It has also been offering deals for local people wanting to set up a stall in the market.

Read more at aroundealing.com/news/market-goes-green

CAREER GROWTH IN CONSERVATION

Local colleges are increasingly offering courses for vocational skills for environmentally-friendly jobs. For example, Capel Manor College is training local people in conservation-based courses, from horticulture and arboriculture to wildlife and environmental conservation. Recently, a group of councillors went down to the college campus next to Gunnersbury Park to find out more. 

Finding career support



Whether you need help with redundancy, would like some guidance with finding a job, or want to gain new skills to start a new career or 'upskill' to improve your prospects, the council's website has a whole section dedicated to pointing you in the right direction.

It can be found at **www.ealing.gov.uk/work_support**, where you can also find out about any financial help available, including benefits, debt advice and guidance on bills and your money.

The webpage also links you to Work Ealing, the council's website for local jobs, training, qualifications and advice on finding employment. You can also go there directly, at **workealing.com**

Together with the council's partners, Work Ealing is bringing you various programmes to help you find work:

- **Skills for Londoners** by West London College – help to prepare a professional CV or application
- **Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS)** by Shaw Trust – help finding work if unemployed for at least 13 weeks while on benefits – see the next page for more details

- **Kickstart.** Businesses can employ a young person in a six-month placement and get grant funding from the government

- **Work and health programme** by Shaw Trust – support to manage your disability or health condition, develop your skills and start work

- **Digital edge** by Catch 22 – turn your computer knowledge and skills into a career

- **Steps4success** by Ealing Council – an employment support programme for local people on benefits aged 18+ – find out more on the facing page

- **Construction and employability programme** by ConnecMe2 – for people aged 16-24 not in education, employment or training

- **Construction bootcamp** and **construction buildback** by West London College.

Sector-based work academy programmes (SWAP) by

West London College:

- Accountancy
- CAREer Clinic – training for health or care sectors
- Civil Service
- Construction
- External wall insulation
- Scaffolding
- Women Into Construction
- Security, logistics and customer service.

Check workealing.com for:

- **Construction site supervisor** apprenticeships at Berkeley Group
- **Construction apprenticeship programme** by JBT Training if you are over 18, have completed or are working towards a trade diploma and have a CSCS card.

 For more details on any of these programmes, visit **workealing.com** or email workwestadmin@ealing.gov.uk or call 020 8825 8486. 

Stepping up to work

The employment, learning and skills team at Ealing Council is providing a new online employment support programme for residents – with extra help for single parents, young people and care leavers.

Steps4success will help those having difficulties with health, housing, crime or accessing training and employment to improve their skills and find a job.

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, cabinet member for decent living incomes, said: "COVID-19 has had devastating effects on all our residents, but as part of our Plan for Good Jobs, we're offering expert and personalised support to those who have been hardest hit, including single parents, young people and care leavers, and those living in Northolt, Greenford, Southall and Acton."



You can expect:

- A personalised action plan and budgeting help
- Careers information, advice and guidance
- Interview, CV and cover letter support
- Help with searching and applying for jobs
- Webinars and training sessions.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this programme, you need to be:

- Aged 18+
- A resident of the borough. Priority will be given to Acton, Greenford, Southall and Northolt residents
- Currently receiving Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits
- Not participating in any other DWP or Jobcentre Plus-funded programmes.

Take part

Speak to your Jobcentre Plus work coach and they can refer you to Steps4success. If you have any questions, you can email Step4Success@ealing.gov.uk



'I wouldn't be in the position I am now'

The **Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS)** scheme can help you find work if you have been unemployed and receiving benefit for 13 weeks or more.

It is run in west London by the council's partner, Shaw Trust. Work Ealing can refer you, so get in touch by email at workwestadmin@ealing.gov.uk and you could get up to six months of support.

Angel, who lives locally, went through the JETS scheme

and is now working as a hotel receptionist after previously being long-term unemployed. She said: "Working with Shaw Trust has helped me so much and is one of the best decisions I've made. I wouldn't be in the position I am now. I have got a job that really excites me and is something I've always wanted to do. I finally feel I am good enough and that this is what I should be doing. I feel so much more confident."

Wanted: an independent person with high standards

Ealing Council is looking for an independent person to work with it in relation to complaints made about local councillors.

The council has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its councillors.

Volunteers should be:

- Resident or working in the borough
- Familiar with ethical dilemmas
- Able to demonstrate sound analytical, questioning and interpersonal skills
- Genuinely interested in local government.

The following people are not eligible:

- A member, co-opted, or independent member, or employee of Ealing Council within the last five years
- A relative or close friend of a member or employee of Ealing Council.



The independent people needed will have to give their views on the most serious complaints made against Ealing councillors, before a final decision is made on how to deal with those complaints. Training will be provided.

You can apply for the role at www.dosomethinggood.org.uk/volunteering until **4 January 2022**. The appointment will be for a term of five years and unpaid.



John Perry Primary School



Reception
Open
Mornings
2021



020 8743 5648

www.johnperry.ealing.sch.uk



We are delighted to welcome visitors back into our school. If you have a child, who is currently in a nursery, or you are thinking about joining us for Reception in September 2022, please call or email and let us know when you would like to visit.

Open Morning
9.30 - 10.30 a.m.

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Don't worry if you can't make this date. Just give our office team a call and we can arrange a tour for you.

Telephone: 020 8743 5648

Email: admin@johnperry.ealing.sch.uk

Website: www.johnperry.ealing.sch.uk

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Make your mark online

Ealing Council is supporting the borough's small businesses and sole traders with a free digital support programme, called Ealing Trades Online. *Iva Manova reports.*

Funded as part of the government's additional restrictions grant scheme, the programme is designed to help businesses cope with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing expert support using a range of methods, such as one-to-one calls, personalised advice, guidance and online interactive webinars.

Small businesses with fewer than 250 members of staff, and sole traders, can get advice and training in setting up their online presence, increasing their online and offline sales, building a website, growing their social media, producing engaging videos, ranking higher on search engines – and much more.

SETTING UP ONLINE

Eve Roginska is owner of Inksane Tattoo Parlour in Ruislip Road, Greenford, which has been open for 10 years. She signed up to Ealing Trades Online for help in selling Inksane merchandise, such as T-shirts, hats and bags.

She said: "The programme taught me how to open and run my own online store. I'm learning about optimising my website and e-commerce and

online marketing. I have connected our store to Facebook, which makes it easy to access, and now we are learning about social media promotion. There is a lot of information to take in, but I think if you want to learn, you can; and everything becomes easier with practice."



Read more about Eve's experience at aroundealing.com/news/TBC

'AN ONLINE PRESENCE IS ESSENTIAL'

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, the council's cabinet member for decent living incomes said: "The pandemic has shown now, more than ever, businesses need to be online. For some shoppers, if you're not online, you might as well not exist – an online presence is essential, especially for small businesses and sole traders. Our carefully prepared business support programme has been created with local businesses in mind to give them the tools, help and confidence to get their business online and thrive.

"Whether it's a listing on Google, or making the most of Etsy and Facebook, you can take the big first step and see your businesses grow by signing up our

free business support programme."

 Read more about the free support programme and any upcoming webinars at www.ealing.gov.uk/support-programmes or visit savethehighstreet.org/ealing 

GET YOUR STAFF TRAINED

Learn Ealing, the council's adult learning service, offers courses and workshops for adults, parents and families who want to be inspired, creative and qualified.

It is working with local businesses to run free courses and workshops for their staff. It can also help you develop bespoke courses to train your employees, or address a skills gap or a specific business need in response to COVID-19.

To discuss your training needs, email LearnEaling@ealing.gov.uk or call 020 8825 5577.

Showing your love for local

Bunting, blooms and bands are just some of the elements making an appearance on our high streets over the past few months as part of the borough-wide 'Love Ealing, Love Local' campaign to entice residents back to our shopping parades and town centres.

Since the summer, Ealing High Street's Task Force has been working on a programme of activity to ensure that our high streets are safe, attractive places to visit. This includes installing decorative bunting, hanging floral arrangements, and putting up Christmas trees to bring the festive sparkle back to our town centres.

Residents of all ages and backgrounds have also been invited to come out and enjoy a series of free events ranging from a pop-up cinema and outdoor performances to informative guided walking tours, helping people to rediscover their local areas and encounter less-familiar parts of the borough.

All of this was done to encourage



support for local businesses and help our high streets recover and begin to thrive again after many difficult months.

'MUCH NEEDED BOOST'

"We often don't see what's on our doorstep for one reason or another, so to be reminded of it, or for an event to 'allow' us to take time out of busy lives and enjoy our surroundings is wonderful

– for personal wellbeing as well as in bringing life back into the community after COVID," said local resident Philippa Egan, who attended the pop-up cinema and one of the walking tours.

"It's not just that events were enjoyable and brought people together as a community," she added, "They were also helping to create support for shops, restaurants and other local

amenities, giving a much needed boost both financially to the local economy and in person to the people who run and work in them, after taking a hit and working so hard to make safe environments for us all to return to."

SWITCHING FOCUS TO THE FUTURE

Ealing's High Streets Task Force is a partnership between Ealing Council and the local business community, including Make It Ealing, Your Acton BID, InWest Ealing BID, Pitshanger Village Traders Association, Southall Communities and local business owners. Since June 2020, the group has been meeting monthly to identify ways of supporting our local businesses and rebuild thriving high streets.

Initially, the task force focused on supporting business during the COVID-19 restrictions and making the high streets safe to visit.

"We are now focused on the future," said John Martin, Ealing High Streets Task Force chairperson. "And we are continuing to look at ways to support all our shopping parades, high streets and town centres. This includes not

only encouraging people to use local businesses but also helping businesses by participating in a pilot to identify vacant units for new ventures, looking at ways to improve active travel, producing guides to support the development of traders associations, and sharing information on issues and trends that affect local businesses generally."

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, the council's cabinet member for decent

living incomes, said: "By working in partnership with our business community, Ealing High Streets Task Force is helping to build back a stronger local economy, which benefits both businesses and residents in the long run.

"Local business not only shape our communities but

also create local jobs and contribute to funding local services which ultimately benefit everyone."

GET INVOLVED

Residents can play their part choosing to shop local where possible, this can be as simple as buying a coffee. For more ideas read our shop local story on pages 12-13.

If you run a local business and want to get involved in helping to your local high street by joining Ealing's High Street Task Force register your interest by emailing highstreettaskforce@ealing.gov.uk

The Love Ealing, Love Local campaign is funded through money provided by the government's Reopening High Streets Safely Fund and the Welcome Back Fund from the England European Regional Development Fund, as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. 







Whatever you are looking for, find it in Ealing

From cafes and florists to greengrocers, hardware stores and specialist shops, the borough of Ealing is full of wonderful business ready to serve you.

This winter why not explore new parts of the borough, rediscover favourite areas that you may not visited for a while and celebrate the arts and culture, heritage, and business that make Ealing such a vibrant place to live and visit.

And if you have a great meal, find a unique treasure, or receive great customer service be sure to tell others. Get social and share your support using **#LoveEalingLoveLocal**

We hope you enjoy your time exploring Ealing.

Thank you for your ongoing support for local businesses.

Ealing's High Street Task Force

Courses for everyone

Learn Ealing's new course prospectus is now here.

We can help you get ready for work.

Whether you want to improve your maths and English, learn how to use computers, take the first step into social care or administration, improve your health and wellbeing, or do something creative with your time, Learn Ealing has a course or workshop to suit you.

Many of our courses are free and you can learn online or face-to-face. Pick a workshop or course and start learning.



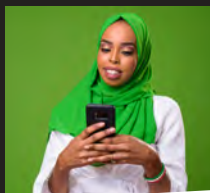
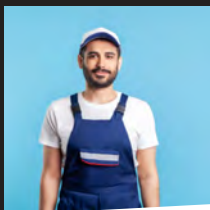
Find it at
learnealing.org.uk



Has COVID-19 left you
struggling to find work?

Are you selling yourself
short in job interviews?

Are you applying for jobs
and not hearing back?



We want to support you during these hard times and you may be able to receive free specialised support from Shaw Trust.



For more information email us at: WLAIntegration@shaw-trust.org.uk or fill in the form at <https://rebrand.ly/JETS-Back-Into-Work> to make a no-obligation enquiry.

One of our team will call you discuss your situation and provide more information about the programmes.

Features of the JETS Programme

- ✓ Personal advisor
- ✓ Direct access to live vacancies
- ✓ CV building and Interview skill building
- ✓ Learn new skills and change sector
- ✓ Job search guidance

shaw trust

JETS | JOB ENTRY:
TARGETED
SUPPORT

West
London
Alliance

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR WEST LONDON

 **European Union**
European
Social Fund

12 green tips of Christmas

There is a good chance that the festive season will leave you with mountains of wrapping paper, heaps of extra food and online deliveries piling up on the doormat. But by following our tips, you can avoid getting a lump of coal in your stocking for any bad Yuletide habits and help the planet at the same time...



1 **Wrap up well**

Look at alternatives to wrapping your presents rather than using materials that usually cannot be recycled, such as metallic and glittery materials. Use fabric, recycled paper and re-used gift bags instead.

2 **Go home-made**

Give friends and family a personalised gift by making your own presents. It is greener, far better for your wallet and home-made gifts might even mean more to the receiver.

3 **Green decorations for your Christmas tree**

Choose decorations that can be reused rather than flimsy ones that will be used once and thrown away. Also, use energy efficient lights where possible.

4 **Shop local**

Support local businesses by shopping close to home as an alternative to making long car trips and ordering online. See pages 12-13.

5 **Say no to fast fashion**

Fast fashion focuses on quantity

and speed over quality and sustainability – all at a high cost to the planet.

This Christmas, take your pick from charity shops and vintage boutiques, some of which are now online. See aroundealing.com/news/fashion

6 **Cut food waste**

Plan ahead when considering your Christmas menu to cut the amount of food that is left over and thrown away. There are also plenty of delicious dishes that can be made from any leftover food – visit lovefoodhatewaste.com for ideas.

7 **Check your revised collection day**

Your normal rubbish and recycling collection days may change over the Christmas period. Check the back page of this magazine for details.

8 **Wash up and save space**

Make sure all food is rinsed out of card and paper packaging before recycling to avoid contamination. You can also flatten cardboard boxes to save room.

9 **Recycle your real Christmas tree**

During a set period after Christmas, recycling drop-off points will be running in some local parks and you will also be able to leave real trees out with your blue recycling bin on your collection day. See the back page of this magazine for details. Alternatively, buy a reusable tree and use it every year.


10 **Send an e-card instead**

Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of card are used every Christmas in the UK – why not send e-cards instead?

11 **Make a difference to someone else**

Pass on any unwanted presents on to your local charity shop rather than throwing them away.

12 **Think big for your party**

Buy food and drinks in large containers, rather than a lot of small ones, and avoid using throwaway plates and cups. 

Seeds of change

"It is overwhelming to think that we are helping to make a difference to the world," said Dina Tsuro, who has been running projects in Northolt with a triple impact: Greening spaces, home-grown food and learning healthy eating and cooking habits.



Dina has recently been named as a local 'Climate Leader' by Ealing Council for the work she has been doing.

Climate leaders can be an individual, business owner, community leader, or anyone else who has found innovative and inclusive ways to fight climate change as part of their everyday life.

So far, the borough has 14 climate

leaders working on creating positive changes in their community. You can read more about the scheme at aroundealing.com/news/climate-leaders

GROWING TOGETHER

Dina set up Building Bridges in 2005 in Brent, running innovative workshops on council estates.

Then, when she and her family moved to Northolt, she combined forces with her husband who is a gardener and wanted to give back to the community. Together, they started Urban Edible Gardens, which is about turning grey spaces green, and workshops around healthy food and nutrition.

The pair have used the projects to create community gardens at Radcliffe and Medlar Farm estates in Northolt, where residents have helped to grow vegetables and plants; and they have also set up a community kitchen at Medlar Farm Estate to demonstrate how to prepare and cook the produce as part of healthy meals. They hope an outdoor kitchen will follow at Radcliffe, too.

The latest addition to the project, which has only recently opened, came about after they took over the disused sensory garden behind Northolt Library, with the help of the council and support from the Mayor of London greening fund. They have transformed it to become a community growing space with an edible





garden, along with a sensory garden and a vegetarian café using produce they have grown and some of their own recipes.



Dina Tsuro (centre) with her family and Ruby at Radcliffe

'SEEING GAPS AND BRIDGING THEM'

"It's a process from farm to fork, basically," said Dina. "Growing something and then learning how to make something with it."

"In the Edible Gardens, we teach people how to grow their own food and so many people get involved and they take ownership of it. Residents can take the produce to eat, and we wanted it to be very accessible."

"Then, in the kitchen, we show people how to use the food to make healthy and easy meals – and we also show them how to shop, too."

They run workshops on climate change as well as the cooking and growing, and also have visits from experts on careers, nutrition and more.

Daughters Angelee and Diya have helped to take the lead in the cooking workshops, and they have even set up a new YouTube channel to take their healthy eating message to more kids (visit [youtube.com/cookingkids-growingkids](https://www.youtube.com/cookingkids-growingkids)). And their friend Ruby has become a garden monitor.

"It's all brought people together and got people talking to each other and so it has turned into a social project too," said Dina. "People look out for each other and engage in a way they hadn't before, which is exactly what Building Bridges is about: Seeing gaps and bridging everything together."



PROUD TO BE A CLIMATE LEADER

"Turning grey spaces green is a passion of mine, and the environmental benefits of what we are doing are so important," said Dina. "Everything I do

is so close to my heart; and it is overwhelming to think that we are helping to make a difference to the world, not just to people's lives, by teaching them little lifestyle changes."

"Being made a climate leader makes me proud and I hope lots of the children will become leaders in their own right."

'MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT A LOCAL LEVEL'

Councillor Deirdre Costigan, the council's cabinet member for climate action, said: "The council is fully committed to meeting the urgent challenge posed by the climate crisis, but we cannot do it alone. We need the support of residents and community organisations as well. That is why it is hugely encouraging to see so many climate leaders doing great work across the borough and making a difference at a local level." 

MORE INFO

- Read the full story about Building Bridges, Urban Edible Gardens and Cooking Kids at aroundealing.com/news/growing-green – including a video
- Email the council's climate action team at climateaction@ealing.gov.uk to find out more about becoming a climate leader





Green new era taking root

Did you know 37,000 trees have been planted through the council over the last four years (more than originally planned) and there are now an estimated quarter of a million trees across the borough? *Dan Stephens* reports.

Working with local volunteers, Ealing Council's tree planting programme has seen the creation of a nut orchard in Elthorne Park, a partnership with the national organisation Trees for Cities to plant more than 370 trees on the Racecourse Estate in Northolt, and the planting of an amazing 15,000 trees and saplings along the Greenford to Gurnell Greenway.

Rangers from the council's parks team are now supporting an ongoing community project at Horsenden Hill to create a tree nursery where saplings


can grow and develop into trees for future planting wherever they are needed in the borough.

A BOON FOR WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY


Park ranger Jon Staples is working with volunteers from the Friends of Horsenden Hill on the project. He said: "There are approx 5,000 hedging and tree saplings in the nursery at the moment; with up to 4,000 further saplings due to come in the near future. These have mainly been supplied free of charge by Carbon Footprint Ltd and the

Woodland Trust charity. The trees will be used to fill gaps in woodland and canopy coverage and in hedging in parks across the borough. There is currently more opportunity and space for hedging than is available for large scale tree planting, with hedges providing excellent and long-lasting boundaries that can become stronger and more durable than fencing, while providing wildlife habitats and also bearing fruit and berries.

"We could potentially grow trees into standards for streets and parks here too. Next season we plan to expand the nursery and, with oak being such an



Volunteers working
on the nursery



Park ranger Jon Staples at the nursery



important and iconic species for the borough, we could possibly grow our own from locally harvested seed in the future."

'HUGE ACHIEVEMENT BUT MORE TO DO'

Ensuring that we enhance our green spaces and protect our wildlife are important aspects of the council's

climate action strategy, which was launched last summer in response to the climate emergency. It is supported by a biodiversity action plan that has tree planting and 'greening' at the forefront of its aims. Councillor Deirdre Costigan, the council's cabinet member for climate action, explained: "We need to urgently address the climate crisis or people right here in Ealing are going to feel its dire effects in the future – that could be food shortages, extreme weather patterns, drought or flooding. "That is why we are taking decisive action, including not just tree planting on the largest scale yet, but the


creation of more wildflower meadows and green spaces across the borough. This will help in supporting our flower, insect and bird populations to flourish.

"Planting so many trees over the last few years is a huge achievement, particularly for the amazing volunteers who work alongside our park rangers. But we still have big ambitions to do more and it's really encouraging to see the great work being done at Horsenden Hill, which is going to help us build on this success in the future."



Read the full article at

[aroundealing.com/news/](https://www.aroundealing.com/news/tree-nursery)

tree-nursery, where you can also find out how to get involved in volunteering and community projects that are helping to tackle the climate crisis. 



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Report on inequality

A report on inequality in the borough was due to be presented to the council as the magazine went to print.

Ealing's Race Equality Commission was set up as an independent group by Ealing Council at the end of 2020 to consider the nature of race inequality in the borough, not least the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, and the health inequalities that have been exposed during the coronavirus pandemic.

Lord Simon Woolley was appointed to the commission first, as its chairperson. He was one of the founders of campaigning organisation Operation Black Vote. Another 11 commissioners were then recruited in early 2021. They were selected on the basis of their experience and skills, all

live in the borough and the make-up of the commission reflects the area's diverse population.


The commission has examined evidence relating to housing, health, crime and policing, education, and income and employment. Its findings and recommendations were

due to be reported to the council at the end of November. You will be able to read about its findings in due course at aroundealing.com and in the next edition of *Around Ealing* magazine.

At the beginning, Lord Woolley said he wanted the independent commission to look at ways to 'Tear down the barriers to race equality and unleash talent within the borough.'

Numerous online meetings have been held, and the commission also ran an online survey for residents, spoke to individuals, businesses and community groups by phone and in person, and collected evidence on people's experience of inequality and the impact on them and on their family and friends.

The commissioners have visited a variety of voluntary groups in the borough that work with people who most need support. They have observed police training and also held discussion sessions with young people. This included spending half a day with 15 young people who regularly attend the Bollo Brook Youth Centre in Acton and heard first-hand why the centre is important to them, the challenges they face and how COVID-19 has impacted their lives.

Councillor Aysha Raza, the council's cabinet member for tackling inequality, said: "I really look forward to seeing the commission's recommendations, and working with the commissioners to create a level playing field for all." 



Commissioners Callum Anderson and Laura Forrester with Colin Brent, senior youth worker for the council, at Bollo Brook

MORE INFO

■ To find out more about the work of the commission visit erec.dosomethinggood.org.uk

■ Read an interview with Lord Woolley at aroundealing.com/news/woolley



Spending well, with less

Ealing Council's main government funding has been cut by £143million since 2009. This means, for every £1 the council used to receive, it now gets just 36p. And this comes at a time when increasing numbers of local people need its help.

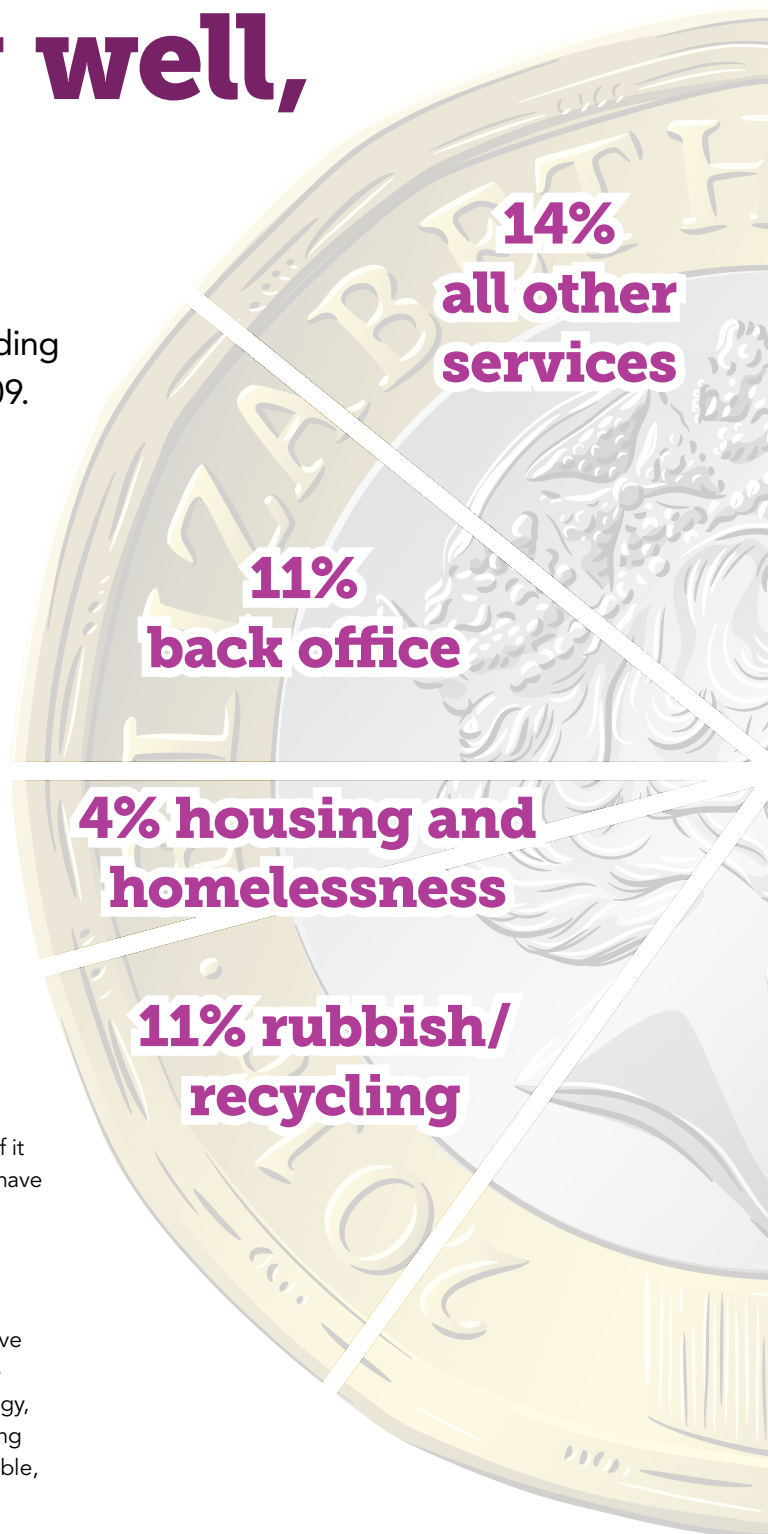
The COVID-19 pandemic and rising demand for services has added to the pressure; and the council is now looking at a budget gap of £52million over the next three years.

Last year, the council had a net budget of £256million. This money paid for the services residents rely on like rubbish and recycling collections, street repairs, social care, schools, parks and community centres.

DOING THINGS BETTER, AND TOGETHER

Councillor Steve Donnelly, the council's cabinet member for inclusive economy, said: "Our budget comes from different sources, including council tax, income from fees and charges and other smaller financial grants. But most of it still comes from central government, which is why its cuts have had such a big impact on us.

"Despite a decade of cuts to our core government grant, and increasing demand for council services, we have worked hard to keep our frontline services going with as few noticeable changes as possible. Instead, we've focused on being more efficient, maximising our income from other sources, making good use of digital technology, getting better value for money from our contracts, helping people to live more independent lives, and, where possible, intervening before they hit crisis point.




"We've also appealed to local people to help make our community stronger. So many residents take time out of their week to volunteer to make the borough better, and they're inspiring other people to do the same. Our community spirit keeps growing stronger and it's having such a positive impact on everyone who lives and works here."

HOW DOES THE COUNCIL SPEND THIS MONEY?

Around 60p in every £1 is spent on taking care of vulnerable adults and children. This remains the council's priority, but demand is continuing to rise with more vulnerable adults and children with special educational needs and disabilities needing help.

Another big-ticket item is helping people who are struggling with housing, including our homelessness service, with 4p in every £1 going to help house struggling families. And 11p pays for rubbish and recycling collections, parks maintenance and keeping streets clean.

Just 11p is spent on back-office services and the council has focused on making this as streamlined and efficient as possible through its Future Ealing programme. Even if this was to be cut in half today, it would not be enough to close that £52million gap.

Councillor Donnelly continued: "Unfortunately, there are no easy choices when it comes to balancing our budget. And, legally, we must balance it. If we can't show that we can pay for all the services we need to provide in the year ahead, we must declare bankruptcy. That's why it's so important to get this right and make sure that we can afford all of the services that local people need. With less money coming from government, and more vulnerable people needing our help, this means looking to other ways of bridging the financial gap." 

A decade of cuts to council's core grant



How the council spends money

60%
social care

Support for you

The council tax support scheme could help working age residents on low incomes with little savings. In 2019/20, the council gave £24,421,551 in support to 22,486 households. It is expected that this figure will rise this year, now furlough has ended. Find out whether you could be eligible at www.ealing.gov.uk/counciltax and click on 'discounts and exemptions'.

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Don't freeze this winter

Winter is here once more, which means many people are thinking about how to keep their home warm over the colder months without breaking the bank, reports *Dan Stephens*.

But did you know that you can stay warmer in a cold snap, save money and help tackle the climate crisis at the same time by making small, manageable changes in your home?

The council's Healthy Homes Ealing initiative gives residents free energy advice around saving on energy bills and staying warmer in winter. You can find out about tariffs and suppliers, grants and financial assistance, insulating your home and upgrading older and more inefficient heating systems.

Vulnerable residents could qualify, depending on eligibility, for a 'green doctor' home visit for personalised support.

GREEN HOMES GRANT

Lower-income homeowners and landlords with qualifying tenants can also take advantage of the Green Homes Grant – a £15million fund available for eligible people in west London.

The council is leading on delivery of the grant, which helps qualifying households carry out energy efficiency upgrades including insulation, low-carbon heating systems and controls, replacing doors or single-glazed windows, draught proofing, and more.

Homeowners may be eligible for grants of up to £10,000 and landlords may apply for a grant of up to £5,000 (with a third matching contribution of up to £2,500).

GOOD FOR PLANET AS WELL AS POCKETS


Ensuring we all move towards a more energy efficient home is vital in the fight against climate crisis. Around 40% of the UK's carbon emissions, which are harmful to the environment, come from households, and almost half of these come from heating alone.

Councillor Deirdre Costigan, deputy



leader and cabinet member for climate action said: "Having a warm home over the winter months is important to everyone's health. Through our Healthy Homes Ealing initiative

and the Green Homes Grant, we are supporting local people on lower incomes to maximise the efficiency of their homes and help them cut down on energy bills as well.

"We must also create more energy efficient homes across the borough as we work to combat the climate crisis and strive towards becoming carbon neutral as a borough by 2030." 

MORE INFO

Call 0800 083 2265 free of charge to speak to an adviser about either Healthy Homes Ealing or the Green Homes Grant. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/HealthyHomesEaling for more information.



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Recycling and rubbish

Christmas and new year collections

Your usual day for rubbish and recycling collections may change over the Christmas and new year period. Check the table below.

Normal collection day	Date	Revised collection day	Date
Monday	20/12/2021	No change	20/12/2021
Tuesday	21/12/2021	No change	21/12/2021
Wednesday	22/12/2021	No change	22/12/2021
Thursday	23/12/2021	No change	23/12/2021
Friday (Christmas Eve)	24/12/2021	No change	24/12/2021
Monday	27/12/2021	Wednesday	29/12/2021
Tuesday	28/12/2021	Thursday	30/12/2021
Wednesday	29/12/2021	Friday	31/12/2021
Thursday	30/12/2021	Tuesday	04/01/2022
Friday (New Year's Eve)	31/12/2021	Wednesday	05/01/2022
Monday	03/01/2022	Thursday	06/01/2022
Tuesday	04/01/2022	Friday	07/01/2022
Wednesday	05/01/2022	Saturday	08/01/2022
Thursday	06/01/2022	Monday	10/01/2022
Friday	07/01/2022	Tuesday	11/01/2022
Monday	10/01/2022	Wednesday	12/01/2022
Tuesday	11/01/2022	Thursday	13/01/2022
Wednesday	12/01/2022	Friday	14/01/2022
Thursday	13/01/2022	Saturday	15/01/2022
Friday	14/01/2022	Monday	17/01/2021
Monday	17/01/2022	Tuesday	18/01/2022
Tuesday	18/01/2022	Wednesday	19/01/2022
Wednesday	19/01/2022	Thursday	20/01/2022
Thursday	20/01/2022	Friday	21/01/2022
Friday	21/01/2022	Saturday	22/01/2022



Collections return to normal on Monday, 24 January 2022.
For more information, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling

Christmas trees

Real Christmas trees will be collected for recycling between 4 and 29 January – just leave them out on your black rubbish bin day. Alternatively, there will be collection points in local parks. For full details, visit aroundealing.com/news/christmas-trees-2022

