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around
ealing

Working together

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Ealing

www.ealing.gov.uk



We need more foster carers

Ealing Council needs foster carers to provide loving homes for the children we care for.

We're excited to announce some fantastic new benefits to support our foster carers.

Foster carers with Ealing Council will receive:

- full council tax exemption for Ealing residents and reimbursement for out of borough carers
- highly competitive fees and allowances - recent payment uplift of 18.5 %
- free parking in resident-controlled parking zones (CPZs) borough-wide
- free garden waste collection
- dedicated therapeutic support from our clinical psychologists
- discounts at council leisure centres
- excellent support including dedicated out of hours support, peer support and Mockingbird scheme
- bespoke training and other incentives



Contact us

Phone: 020 8753 1075

Make an enquiry: ealingfostering.co.uk

(*Fee uplift from Jan 2025, Council Tax exemption for band 2 carers and above whilst child is in placement, parking and garden waste incentives from April 2025, for band 1 carers and above)

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February 2026

Editorial

In this special edition of Around Ealing, we look back at some of the remarkable things that have been achieved in the borough over recent times, many of which have been made possible by the people who live here.

That ranges from developing parks and green spaces for everyone to enjoy (p6) to creating new opportunities for work and supporting local businesses (p14).

At Around Ealing, we like to share the impact we have seen ourselves, and what residents have told us about how their lives have improved as a result of the work being done.

And, alongside the council's investment in active travel, new homes and excellent schools, this issue of the magazine also highlights the inspiring community spirit that continues to shape the borough's future – from volunteers dedicated to local causes, to young people helping to design new facilities.

We hope you enjoy reading it – and look forward to bringing you more stories in the summer.

There is lots more available to read – and videos to watch – in the digital version of the magazine, available on our website aroundealing.com

Verity Adams

Deputy editor

aroundealing.com

Check out the extra magazine content at:
aroundealing.com/around-ealing

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ROUND-UP

Update: Gurnell Leisure Centre

With demolition of the old Gurnell Leisure Centre getting under way last year, and planning permission secured to build a new one, the project has continued to make progress.

As *Around Ealing* went to print, the council's cabinet committee was due to consider a proposal to prepare the Gurnell site for construction of the new leisure centre.

Cabinet members were due to consider recommendations for 'enabling works' to take place – these would be a significant milestone on the journey to creating a new, first-class leisure centre. If approved, the works would start in the spring and include cleaning, surveying and preparing the ground, and setting up the site for construction to begin later this year.

A 50-metre Olympic-sized swimming pool would be just one of the new facilities under the plans agreed last year. Once complete, the borough would become home to 1 of only 3 indoor Olympic-sized swimming pools in London.

Outline planning permission was also given last year for around 300 new homes to also be built on the site, with around a third of these earmarked for affordable housing. A recommendation for the chosen developer of the proposed new homes was also due to be considered at the cabinet meeting, on Wednesday 11 February.

View the cabinet report on the council website: ealing.gov.uk



Artist's impression of the new centre

Leader's notes

'we are on your side'

Council leader Peter Mason



Four years ago we wrote a plan for the council. The plan was built upon the promises the council had made to the people of the borough and they set out the practical things we intended to do to create good jobs, fight inequality and tackle the climate crisis.

This issue of *Around Ealing* magazine outlines the progress that has been made on delivering the council plan.

The council has exceeded its target for new jobs, supported local businesses, expanded digital inclusion, opened community hubs, and modernised online services.

Housing delivery has progressed despite national challenges, with a sharp reduction in emergency accommodation for people who are homeless and more genuinely affordable homes started or acquired. This means more people have an affordable and decent home with a properly paid job giving them the security they need.

We've reopened and invested in a youth activity centre, provided

extra places for special educational needs and delivered after school and holiday programmes for young people. This is giving our young people the best possible chance to live up to their potential.

The council invested more than £11million to reduce antisocial behaviour, burglary and violent crime, strengthened partnership working with the police and other agencies, and expanded visible patrols. All 24 ward panels are now active, giving residents a stronger voice in local policing. We know that ensuring people feel safe in their community is vital.

We have delivered one of London's most ambitious climate action programmes. We have planted 50,000 trees, rewilded over 620,000m² of land, opened new parks and green spaces, and launched innovative circular economy initiatives such as the Library of Things and the Stirling Road Circular Economy Hub. Recycling rates remain among the highest in the capital. All to ensure that we have a clean and sustainable borough.

I'm really proud of what has been delivered over the last 4 years. I think the council has consistently shown we are on your side as residents. When we write our next plan it will be driven by your priorities and I look forward to continuing to deliver on your behalf.

Councillor Peter Mason
Leader of the council

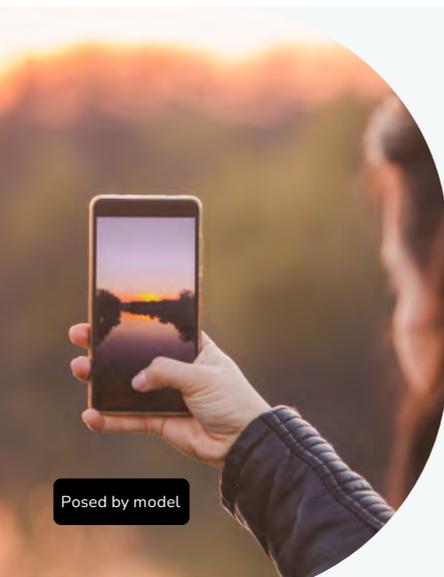
Latest photo competition winner



Explore the new February digital edition of *Around Ealing* and discover who has taken the top spot in our winter Seasons of Ealing photo competition. The winning photographer earns a great prize: a pair of tickets to enjoy a film at Ealing Picturehouse. Two runners-up will also each receive a cinema ticket. Enter our spring photo competition for your chance to be our next winner.



Go to: ealing.pagetiger.com/around-ealing-february-2026



Posed by model



Tree planting at Horsenden Hill



Sowing seeds to grow a greener future

As part of Ealing Council's commitment to tackling the climate crisis, it pledged to create 10 new parks across the borough and is close to reaching its target.

This achievement is part of a wider effort to increase and protect green spaces for us all to enjoy and safeguard wildlife for future generations.

By doing so, the council is helping to create a healthier and more sustainable environment. Not just for wildlife and plant life, but for us too, through cleaner air to breathe and spaces to relax and exercise.



Glade Lane Canalside Park

'Space for peace of mind'

One of the newest projects to be completed is Glade Lane Canalside Park, in Southall. The area has been transformed to create new wildlife habitats. There is also improved access to the towpath for walkers and cyclists, as well as flood prevention measures. Keep an

eye out for the fun and educational activities coming soon.

Resident Manisha walks there most days and told us: "While out walking, I met other women from Southall who had formed a group to go on walks together.

"Exploring one of the borough's new parks has given me a space for peace of mind. And, through it, I've found wonderful friendship."

Branching out

Pear Tree Park in Perivale opened in 2024, with a new bistro then opening last November. The park is also a stepping stone towards the council's vision for creating a transformative regional park of connected green spaces that would stretch across a section of west London. Read more: aroundealing.com/news/branching-out

The older section of South Ealing Cemetery was also transformed by Ealing Parks Foundation volunteers and the council, and reopened in September. Go to ealing.pagetiger.com/around-ealing-february-2026

Councillor Blerina Hashani, the council's cabinet member for thriving communities, said: "Our vision for the regional park is very exciting. Not only will it create amazing opportunities for play, socialising and enjoying cultural activities; but it could also play a key part in tackling climate change, through rewilding, creating wetlands and supporting wildlife."



Beavers in Paradise Fields

Planting roots and going wild

The council has planted 50,000 trees across the borough since 2022, creating vital habitats, tree canopies for shade and helping to absorb harmful carbon emissions from the air. Alongside this, 620,000 square metres of land has been rewilded (equivalent to more than 85 Wembley Stadium football pitches), with another 220,000 square metres set to follow this year at Warren Farm. Rewilding helps to create thriving ecosystems for wildlife and residents to enjoy.

And that wildlife can pay us back in spades. Just look at the beavers reintroduced to Greenford by the Ealing Beaver Project in 2023. The beavers have refashioned the Paradise Fields site, building dams and having babies. One was even donated to a similar project in Wales before Christmas. The dam-building will help to tackle flooding in the area and, because beavers are what are known as a 'keystone species', their refurb of their new home has helped bring back other wildlife to the area too – from insects to birds. Watch video: ealing.pagetiger.com/around-ealing-february-2026

Harvest mice were also rewilded, returning to 5 sites across the borough, including Perivale Woods. And peregrine falcons have been nesting at Ealing Hospital. See more at aroundealing.com/news/fastest-animal

Recently, Sir David Attenborough dropped in to visit our harvest mice and beavers for a BBC documentary. Visit aroundealing.com/reel-life

Warren Farm

Plans for Warren Farm in Southall were first revealed by the council in 2024. Since then, things have been steadily taking shape in the background.

The first part of the plan has been confirmed and will see the 20-hectare site left to rewild and preserved for wildlife and meadow habitats; and the council's cabinet has agreed it would apply to Natural England to designate the site as a local nature reserve, which would give it protected status. The council and its partners are also still working on plans for a sports facility on other land next to the rewilded area.



Midland Terrace playground, photo credit: Zute photography

A place to play

Meanwhile, the council has invested around £2million to improve 22 playgrounds, giving children and families safe, modern, and fun outdoor spaces to play. Almost all of the work has been completed since the council announced the plans in 2022, with the rest due to be finished later this year.

50,000 trees



22 playgrounds



10 new parks



Better at getting around



Read more and watch video:
ealing.pagetiger.com/aroundealing-february-2026

The council's School Streets programme reached its 4-year destination in January, with a 50th school joining up. The scheme is designed to make the school run safer and healthier for thousands of children.

In 2022, the council promised to have 50 schools on board by 2026. More than 27,000 children across the borough are now benefitting from safer and calmer routes to school, reduced air pollution, and less congestion.

Twyford High School in Acton is one of the latest additions to the

scheme, which restricts traffic outside school gates during drop-off and pick-up times and encourages families to walk, cycle, or scoot, supporting healthier lifestyles and cutting carbon emissions.

In October, the 150th bike hangar was installed in the borough, giving cyclists a secure space to store their bikes. As part of the council's Active Travel Plan, the goal was to install 150 hangars containing 900 bike spaces by 2026 – and cut the cost of using them for residents.

Each bike hangar has 6 parking spaces, and it costs only 70p per month, or £8.40 per year, to park there. Go to: aroundealing.com/news/150th-bike-hangar

Councillor Paul Driscoll, the council's cabinet member for climate action, said: "The School Streets programme reflects our commitment to sustainability and community wellbeing. By prioritising children's safety and cleaner air, these schemes are helping to transform local streets into spaces where people come first."



Safer to cycle

The council wants residents to feel safe and secure when they are cycling, walking, or wheeling in the borough. So, it has also invested £28million in an ongoing programme to improve road safety, boost cycling, cut congestion, and tackle air pollution.

And, between 2023 and 2025, the council repaired more than 7,500 potholes – that is an average of 10 potholes every single day. In that time, the council also resurfaced more than 12 miles of roads and nearly 5 miles of pavements, creating smoother, safer surfaces.

Thanks to investment in cycle lanes and other active travel measures, cycling has increased by approximately 30% in parts of Northolt. And, meanwhile, the council has adopted a Cycle Network Plan, to make sure future routes are joined up across the borough.

These improvements form part of the council's commitment to active and healthy lifestyles, ensuring that residents can leave the car at home and enjoy cleaner, greener journeys – improving air quality and reducing congestion.

It takes a team to tidy up

It is a real joint effort from everyone to keep our borough clean: from our renowned, green spaces to our community areas and streets.

And, from tackling fly-tipping to boosting recycling rates and supporting community clean-ups, Ealing Council is working hard to do its part.

'This is our home, not a tip'

Last spring, the council started a campaign to clamp down on fly-tipping. Since then, the maximum fine for people illegally dumping waste has risen from £400 to £1,000 and, so far, more than 2,000 fines have been issued.

The campaign, 'This is our home, not a tip', explains what fly-tipping is, what it costs the council, how to properly dispose of waste, and how to report fly-tippers and fly-tips.

And residents have shown their support by helping to identify offenders who are featured on a dedicated webpage created by the council to name, shame and catch offenders. Go to: ealing.gov.uk/nameandshame

Taking part

Community groups like LAGER

Can are also playing their part, organising litter picks and helping raise awareness. Residents can report fly-tipping easily through the Love Clean Streets app, making it a borough-wide effort to keep the borough clean.

Clearing dumped cars

But, the council isn't just clearing dumped waste – it's tackling abandoned vehicles too. Usually, around 300-350 vehicles are lifted each year, but in 2025 alone, the council removed 972 vehicles from the public highways. Watch video: ealing.pagetiger.com/aroundealing-february-2026

Second-best in London

Waste collection (and prevention) is about more than bins, of course. It's also about protecting our environment – and finding ways to reuse or recycle. And Ealing Council boasts the second-highest recycling rate in London, with a 49.24% recycling rate in 2024/25, up from 48.72% in 2023/24. To help us get to number 1, the council's website offers you guidance on what you can and can't recycle.

Clothes and a new hub

In a bid to boost textiles recycling a partnership with charity retailer, Traid is making clothes reusing and recycling easier. Meanwhile, the council and West London Waste



LAGER Can volunteers litter picking

Authority are transforming the former reuse and recycling site in Stirling Road, Acton, into 'ReActon' – a hub for repairing, reusing and recycling everything from electronics to furniture. A series of events have already been hosted there, and there are plans for it to be open on a more permanent basis later this year.

Library of Things

And, the borough's Library of Things, celebrated a year of sharing last summer. The hub offers somewhere that residents and DIY enthusiasts can rent household items for a small fee. Read more: aroundealing.com/news/library-of-things-a-year-on

AMRIT IS REGISTERED TO VOTE.

ARE YOU?



From Acton to Southall, thousands of people have registered to vote in your local elections on 7 May. Join them at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

DEADLINE 20 APRIL



ELECTIONS

Don't forget to take ID when you vote



Ready to vote?

The local council elections are fast approaching on 7 May.

This is your opportunity to choose who should lead the borough and make important decisions, alongside you, for the future of your area.

Here are some helpful reminders to make sure you get to have your say and ways you can do it.

Check your voter registration

Ealing Council is reminding residents who have moved address in the last year or changed their details to make sure they are registered to vote as soon as possible.

You are not automatically registered to vote, even if you pay council tax. If you are not registered, you cannot vote and you will miss a critical opportunity to influence what happens in your local community and the services you receive.

Additionally, failing to register could impact your credit rating.

Why your vote matters

The council is responsible for providing hundreds of services to

residents and businesses in the area. These range from social care and schools, to sports centres and libraries. Councillors set the council's priorities and budgets and are responsible for making most of its decisions. Your vote determines who represents you and the decisions they make on your behalf.

Understanding your ward

The borough is divided into 24 electoral wards, represented by a total of 70 councillors. Two wards are represented by 2 councillors each, while the remaining 22 wards each have three councillors. Your vote is crucial in deciding who will represent your ward. If you're unsure which ward you live in, you can search by postcode online at maps.ealing.gov.uk and click on 'My Location'.

How to register your vote

- being registered to vote does not mean you have to vote, it just means you can
- register to vote as soon as possible. The deadline for these elections is Monday 20 April 2026
- to register, visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and complete your registration online. You will need your National Insurance number to complete

- the process
- if you are already registered to vote, you do not need to register again

Want to vote by post?



- if you can't or don't want to vote at a polling station you can apply to vote by post, and a ballot pack will be sent to you by post before polling day
- to apply to vote by post visit www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote and apply online. You will be required to provide your National Insurance number and upload your signature. The deadline to apply for a postal vote for these elections is 5pm on Tuesday 21 April 2026
- alternatively, paper versions of registration and postal vote application forms can be obtained by visiting ealing.gov.uk/elections or by contacting the elections team on 020 8825 7777 or emailing elections@ealing.gov.uk



Your guide to recycling

It's much more beneficial for the environment to throw less away. With ever increasing ways to reduce and reuse, buying less and throwing away less is the easiest it's ever been.

It can be tricky to know what can and cannot be recycled. So, as a reminder, here are a few things to remember to help get recycling right.

See the handy cut-out-and-keep guide on the right hand page.

When you recycle, the items should be clean and dry before placing them loose in the recycling bin.

On your recycling collection day put your blue bin out at the edge of your property where it can clearly be seen, or your clear sack at its

designated collection point.

If you aren't sure if an item can be recycled, you can check online. Go to: [recyclenow.com](https://www.recyclenow.com)

Food for thought

Most households in the borough receive a food waste collection service. This is being extended to more homes to make sure everyone can recycle their food waste.

Whether you have a food waste collection service or not, you can still play your part by throwing away less food in the first place.

More than 30% of the waste sent for disposal in black bags from west London is food, the largest single material in rubbish bins. Also, more than half of what is thrown away could have been eaten and was avoidable.

Wasted food means wasted money and wasted resources that went into the making and packaging of food. Discover some handy tips to help reduce food waste: [lovefoodhatewaste.com](https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

Free textile collections

If you have good quality clothes you no longer want, charity retailer Traid will collect them from your home for free. From dresses to jackets, accessories and shoes – if it's in good, wearable condition, you can donate it.

Book a collection online: [traid.org.uk/book-a-collection](https://www.traid.org.uk/book-a-collection)

Garden waste collection

Sign up for the council's garden waste collection service from March. Full details available on the council's website: [ealing.gov.uk/gardenwaste](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

What can you recycle?

Ensure the items you recycle are clean and dry before placing them loose in the recycling bin.

Yes please:

- Cardboard and thin card
- Paper, envelopes and junk mail
- Newspapers and magazines
- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- Metal tins and cans, aerosol cans and clean foil
- Glass bottles and jars
- Food and drink cartons

No thank you:

- Garden and food waste
- Carrier bags, black sacks and cling film
- Crisp packets and sweet wrappers
- Crockery, pyrex and glassware (vases and drinking glasses)
- Polystyrene packaging
- Nappies
- Batteries and electrical items
- Textiles

Food waste

Most households in the borough receive a food waste collection service. This is being extended to more homes to make sure everyone can recycle their food waste. If you have a food waste bin, please make sure you're using it and only putting accepted items in the caddy.

Yes please:

- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Fruit and vegetable peelings
- Leftovers and plate scrapings
- Dairy, fish, egg shells
- Bread and pastries
- Meat and bones

No thank you:

- Cardboard and thin card
- Carrier bags, black sacks and cling film
- Cooking oil
- Polystyrene packaging
- Nappies

A plan that works

Over recent years, Ealing Council has set itself ambitious targets to help get thousands of people into work and make the workplace fairer. And several big milestones have already been reached.

Employment opportunities, and access to training, play a huge role in getting people into work and building careers. And, with the cost of living crisis, the council's priority of creating good jobs has never been more important.



Apprentice Gulveen

New jobs and apprenticeships

By the end of March 2026, local employers are expected to have offered almost 11,000 new job opportunities across the borough in just 4 years – exceeding the council's original target of 10,000.

The council and its partners have also helped set up more than 2,200 apprenticeships for local people. Some of these have been at the council, working in a variety of council services; and others through partnerships with local businesses. Read Gulveen's story: [aroundealing.com/news](https://www.aroundealing.com/news)

The council provides extra support to smaller businesses to recruit apprentices – not least by helping them to pay for training costs by gifting apprenticeship levy funding. More than 2,500 apprentices are expected to be in placements by the end of March, and its goal of 2,000 has already been achieved.



Posed by model

Helping overcome barriers

More than 7,000 residents who have faced the toughest barriers to employment – including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), ex-offenders, and the long-term unemployed – have also been supported into work.

Over the past 3 years, the council has helped more than 100 young people with SEND get supported internships, with the help of a diverse range of local education providers and employers. These placements are helping to bridge the gap between education and employment. Read more: www.aroundealing.com/jobs/hire-young-people-with-send



In the learning zone

Training and learning

Upskilling and building your confidence is often crucial in finding work, or growing your career. By the end of March, more than 12,000 qualifications and training programmes are expected to have been completed in the borough since 2022, with the council's help. The figure stood at almost 10,000 in December.

And by the end of April, 7 new learning zones will have also opened, with one in each of the borough's towns. The first of these new 'one-stop-shops' for training, skills, and community learning opened in 2022 in Northolt and additional zones have since opened in Southall, Acton, Hanwell, West Ealing, and Perivale, with Greenford to follow shortly.

Learn Ealing, the council's adult learning service, has been rated 'good' by Ofsted, with 2 areas of their work marked as 'outstanding'. That makes it the best performing service of its kind in west London. Read more: [aroundealing.com/news/learning-that-transforms-live](https://www.aroundealing.com/news/learning-that-transforms-live)



Yamini from Belazu



Watch video

Fair pay and sector growth

Nearly 1,000 people have received a pay rise as a result of their employer becoming accredited with the London Living Wage Foundation. The number of accredited employers in the borough has doubled since 2024, with further organisations currently going through the process. Read more: [aroundealing.com/jobs/belazu-living-wage](https://www.aroundealing.com/jobs/belazu-living-wage)

Meanwhile, 6 new industry forums have been established, bringing together employers in key areas of the borough's business life – and help residents benefit from growing industries.

The 6 sectors chosen – creative and digital, green and circular economy, life sciences, construction, retail, and health and social care – are marked for future growth in the council's jobs and skills strategy.

Councillor Kamaljit Nagpal, the council's cabinet member for decent living incomes, said: "These results show the difference we can make when we work together with our partners and local employers. By refocusing our efforts on creating good jobs and opportunities within the borough, we have helped thousands of residents get employment and skills which are setting them up for life. We will continue to build on this progress and make sure our residents can benefit from a fairer, more inclusive economy."





A place to live

One of the biggest council homebuilding programmes in the country has been taking place in the borough, with local families settling into new homes.

Among them is Noor Al-Bayati and her 3 children, who recently moved into a 3-bedroom house in Buckingham Avenue, Perivale.

“I feel incredibly grateful and excited about my new home,” Noor said. “It’s stable, comfortable, and gives us peace of mind and a sense of security. It’s a place where we can grow and build long-lasting memories.” Read more: [aroundealing.com/news/homes-buckingham-avenue](https://www.aroundealing.com/news/homes-buckingham-avenue)

By the end of March, almost 2,700 new genuinely affordable homes are expected to have been built, or started, in the borough since 2022. They will all be let to families on low incomes by the council or a housing association.

Overall, more than 35% of all homes built in the borough in the last 4 years have been ‘affordable’, according to national guidelines. Read more: [aroundealing.com/homes](https://www.aroundealing.com/homes)

And, in 2024 the council was ranked within the top 12 planning authorities in the country and given a ‘platinum’ rating. Go to: [aroundealing.com/homes/platinum-planning](https://www.aroundealing.com/homes/platinum-planning)

Happy homes

Residents are also returning to refurbished homes on the Copley estate in Hanwell, following its latest phase



Moya Salter

of regeneration. Moya Salter moved back into her home last summer and despite the mammoth task of packing and unpacking, her and her 2 sons are ‘much happier now’.

The council decided to refurbish the existing Warwick Court maisonettes, and other council-owned properties, as a more sustainable option than simply demolishing them and starting from scratch. Go to: [aroundealing.com/news/refurbished-homes-copley](https://www.aroundealing.com/news/refurbished-homes-copley)

In the meantime, over the last 4 years, more than 1,200 council homes have been transformed into

Councillor Shital Manro, the council’s cabinet member for good growth and new homes, said: “Good homes are more than just a place to live – data shows that by providing a firm foundation, they make health, good jobs, qualifications, and a happy family life all easier to obtain. These high-quality new homes will help us in our mission to create communities filled with pride, identity, and purpose, where people can thrive.”



warmer, more energy-efficient places to live. Upgrades include enhanced insulation, modernised power and heating systems, and the installation of heat pumps. These improvements not only deliver significant environmental benefits but also help residents save on energy bills.

Rising demand

The borough has long faced a chronic shortage of affordable housing. Its beautiful open spaces, outstanding schools, and excellent transport links make it a highly desirable place to live. The population grew by 15% in the decade to 2023, and private rents rose by almost 15% in 2024-2025 alone.

Rising demand and limited supply has made the borough one of the least affordable areas in London for housing, leading to record requests for emergency housing support. More than 7,000 families are currently on the council’s housing waiting list.

Help for the most vulnerable

The council has reduced the number of homeless families who need to be temporarily housed in B&Bs and commercial hotels, which have no access to cooking or laundry facilities. Aspect House in Acton opened in 2022, providing a safe and secure place to stay for 31 households who would otherwise have been homeless.

Since 2022, 470 people have been supported off the streets and into emergency accommodation. More than half of them have then been helped to find a longer-term place to live.

And, there are now 45 supported places available

Councillor Louise Brett, deputy leader and cabinet member for safe and genuinely affordable homes, recently paid a visit to a homelessness charity in Southall to see their work close up. She said: “We want to create a future where everyone has a place to call home.”



for rough sleepers. As well as a safe and secure place to stay, they receive personalised, on-site help with mental health, employment, and long-term housing.

Stricter rules for landlords

Landlords also now face tougher rules if they want to convert family homes into rented rooms, after the council tightened planning controls. Following the changes in November, all new houses of multiple occupation (HMOs), however small, will have to apply for planning permission – meaning they will all have to meet certain standards. Read more: [aroundealing.com/news/stricter-rules-for-hmos](https://www.aroundealing.com/news/stricter-rules-for-hmos)



New homes in Buckingham Avenue

The next generation

From high performing schools to vibrant places for young people, Ealing Council is backing the borough's next generation with opportunities to learn, create and thrive all year round.



schools rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. That quality shows up in results, too – our schools regularly perform above national averages, with statistics consistently showing pupils are making exceptional progress through primary and into secondary education.

More SEND places

The council has been investing to allow more children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to learn locally with the specialist support they need. The council has surpassed its SEND places target, with more than 30 new specialist places created at schools during 2025/26 as part of a wider plan which has created more than 200 places since 2022.

In May 2023, Stanhope Primary School in Greenford opened a new sensory room, designed to support pupils' development and improve wellbeing by stimulating their senses. Equipped with aromatherapy diffusers, calming music, fibre optic lights and a bubble machine, the sensory room helps children learn how to interact mindfully with the world around them, in a safe environment.

The room is for everyone, but it is particularly useful for some children with SEND. The number of pupils with SEND at Stanhope Primary School is broadly in line with the national average of 19.5%. Read more: aroundealing.com/news/excellence

Additional resource provision (ARP) has also been received at Fielding Primary (27 places) and expansion at Havelock Primary, with specialist classrooms and sensory spaces designed around pupils' needs.

Able to learn and thrive

Your children get some of the best education in London right here in the borough, with 98% of our maintained

Councillor Josh Blacker, the council's cabinet member for a fairer start, said: *"We're ambitious for every child and family. From excellent schools to the right support beyond the classroom, our focus is on giving young people the skills, confidence and care they need to succeed."*



Kingsley shares his cooking talent



Spaces to belong

After a £2million refurbishment, the Southall Young Adult Centre (YAC) reopened in 2025. Designed with young people's help, it now offers a multi-use games area, indoor sports court, gym, gaming zone and kitchen. And the upgrade is set to boost its use, with a double-digit percentage increase in visits expected by March.

Evening youth sessions, run by the council's Young Ealing service, also run across centres throughout the week, giving 11–19 year olds (up to 25 with additional needs) safe places to socialise, get active or try creative activities, from studio time and gaming to box fit and cooking.

Kingsley Hazel, 19, has been part of the YAC community since he was 15. He now returns as a volunteer to help younger members, who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award, with their cooking skills. Read more: aroundealing.com/news/southall-yac-one-year-on

Creating change

A number of recommendations relating to education were made by the independent Ealing Race Equality Commission's (EREC) report to Ealing Council in 2022, which had been requested by the council.

The council accepted all of the recommendations and as a result, among other things, Ealing Citizens' Tribunal, an independent body established to follow up on the recommendations of the EREC was created, with a focus on tackling health inequalities.

A number of parent forums were created too, to help tackle the gaps in the educational attainment of local black school pupils. There are more than 20 of these groups, including one at Northolt High School. We spoke to Ade Banjoko (pictured below), a director of Parents Action and Resource Centre (PARC), an independent community organisation of volunteers, shortly after he started a new education advice service for local families in January 2024 at the school.

Read more and watch video: ealing.pagetiger.com/aroundealing-february-2026



Ade Banjoko

Better lives

More young people and adults across the borough, who are living in digital poverty, are now able to access the technology they need.

Hundreds of laptops and tablets have been donated to schools and charities in the borough, to help those who are at a digital disadvantage.

Many of the devices were provided as part of Ealing Council's Donate your Device scheme, in partnership with PayByPhone, the council's phone parking provider, and the charity Digital Poverty Alliance.

It gives vulnerable and disadvantaged residents the opportunity to connect with family and friends, access education, seek job opportunities and more.

A better place

The council understands just how tough the cost of living crisis has been on so many residents, and that is why it is providing one of the most generous council tax support schemes in London – to ensure there's support for eligible residents who need help to make ends meet.

There is lots more support available from the council too, for those facing financial hardship. From help with bills, to dealing with debt, how to cut costs and more, go to: ealing.gov.uk/costofliving

Councillor Steve Donnelly, the council's cabinet member for inclusive economy, said: "We want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to learn, connect and thrive."



Maintaining independence

The council is working hard to help older residents, and those who rely on social care, to live with dignity, by having choice and independence.

And it knows that the ability to stay at home hugely improves people's ability to recover and live a good life into old age.

Over the last 3 years, the council has helped more than 3,000 people each year to continue living independent lives within their own homes. It has achieved this through a number of its services, including:

- its direct payments scheme, which gives people the freedom to choose the care that works best for them
- its reablement service, which supports recovery after illness or injury, helping people regain independence quickly. And it is ensuring that people return home from hospital stays sooner, with the right support in place

Meanwhile, the council's falls prevention programme has been helping residents stay safe and confident at home, reducing hospital admissions.

Read more: aroundealing.com/news/spotlight-staying-independent-staying-well

Councillor Polly Knewstub, the council's cabinet member for healthy equal lives, said: "By investing in independence, choice and fair pay, we are building a borough where people can thrive into later life – at home, in good health and with dignity."



Keeping you safe

From reducing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour to improving street lighting and working closely with local communities, the council is committed to creating a borough where everyone feels secure and protected.

More than 3,000 women and girls shared their experiences and ideas on improving safety across the borough.

Following this, the new Male Violence Against Women and Girls (MVAWG) strategy was developed by the council and the Safer Ealing Partnership in 2023.

The council pledged to invest £1.8million to improve safety in the borough and, since then, has:

- installed 43 new high quality CCTV cameras (bringing the total number of CCTV cameras in the borough to more than 700)
- upgraded more than 3,100 light columns to LED to make public spaces safer and well-lit
- created the Safer Ealing website to provide local information and practical advice on staying safe and where to get help. Go to: saferealing.co.uk

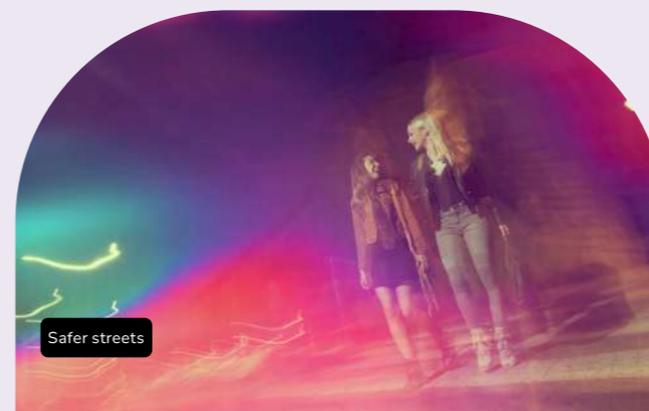
The council has also extended its boroughwide public space protection order, which gives the police extra powers to tackle street drinking and other anti-social behaviour in our high streets and parks.



Protecting residents

So many teams at the council play a role in safeguarding the community, often in ways residents might not immediately see. From the crews gritting icy roads and pavements to prevent accidents; to safety officers keeping a check on local restaurants, cafes and food suppliers to make sure they meet the highest health standards, protecting both workers and the public; and trading standards raids to seize illegal and dangerous goods; all of these efforts contribute to making the borough a safer place to live and work. You can read dozens of past stories on aroundealing.com where rogue traders have been taken to court.

Councillor Jasbir Anand, the council's cabinet member for tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, said "We must not simply respond to violence against women and girls – we must actively prevent and end it."



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