



Voluntary and Community Newsletter

Strategy and Partnerships

Attached is the Council's newsletter for colleagues in the voluntary and community sectors working with us in helping to make Brent an even better place to live and work.

It is intended to give an overview of what we are doing here as a council to support voluntary and community groups that provide services in Brent.

National restrictions mean everyone needs to stay at home

The number of people with COVID-19 is rising. One week in January there were nearly 4,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Brent, a huge increase from the summer when there were around a dozen a week. More than 100 people have needed mechanical ventilation to help them breathe over recent days and sadly the number of Brent residents dying is also increasing.

The NHS is not far from being overrun and the next few weeks are crucial as we move towards another peak. The best thing we can all do now to support the NHS and reduce pressure on their services, is to stay at home. If you do need to leave the house, please wash your hands, keep your distance and cover your face.

Stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives

The Main Rule - Stay at home.

Exceptions to the rule. You should only leave your home:

- to work (if you can't work from home)
- to go shopping
- for education (although schools are closed for many pupils)
- to care for someone

- to exercise in your local area
- to go to a hospital, GP or have a COVID-19 test
- if you are at risk of harm

You can only see:

- people who live with you under the same roof
- people in your support or childcare bubble
- one other person to exercise outdoors with

Read a full list of the [rules](#).

A free webinar for residents of Brent

COVID VACCINATIONS: THE FACTS

Monday 25 January 6pm to 7.30pm

Do you want to know more about getting vaccinated against COVID-19?
Separate the facts from the fiction and find out the answers to your questions by signing up at <https://vaccinewebinar.eventbrite.co.uk>

COVID vaccine - free webinar

Brent residents who want to know more about the COVID vaccine have been invited to a free webinar to get answers to their questions, today Monday 25 January between 6pm and 7.30pm.

This event is sold out, but people can register to go on the waiting list for it, at <https://vaccinewebinar.eventbrite.co.uk>. Everyone will be able to watch the recorded version that we will upload to the website after the event.

Dr John Licorish will lead a discussion on the vaccination. Also present will be Dr Markand Patel, Specialist Registrar in Neuroradiology at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, and representatives from the community including Alton P Bell, Senior

Pastor at Wembley Family Church, Dr Musharraf Hussain al-Azhari, Chief Executive of the Karimia institute, and Atara Fridler, Director at Crisis Brent Skylight. Dawn Butler MP will provide a welcome address.

The session is an opportunity for people to listen to the facts, ask questions and make up their own mind based on what they hear. Cllr Promise Knight, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement, said, “residents need all the facts so they can make an informed choice when the vaccine is offered to them.”

Everyone in Brent can now get regular and free COVID-19 tests

Everyone in Brent aged 12 and over can now get free and regular coronavirus tests, even if they haven't got symptoms. These include the new 'rapid tests', which provide results within 40 minutes.

It's important that everyone gets tested even if they feel well. 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 show no symptoms, but could be sharing the virus with loved ones and around the community without knowing.

Rapid COVID-19 testing is available at the following sites Monday to Sunday, from 9am-6pm:

- **Brent Civic Centre**, Engineers Way, Wembley Park, Wembley, HA9 0FJ
- **Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre**, Brentfield, Harrow Road, London, NW10 0RG
- **Central Mosque of Brent**, Station Parade, Marley Walk, London, NW2 4PU
- **Ealing Road Library**, Coronet Parade, Ealing Road, Wembley, HA0 4BA
- **Father O'Callaghan Centre**, 22 Hay Lane, London, NW9 0NG
- **Harlesden Library**, Craven Park Road, Harlesden, NW10 8SE
- **Kingsbury Library**, 522-524 Kingsbury Road, Kingsbury, NW9 9HE
- **The Granville**, 140 Carlton Vale, London, NW6 5HE
- **The Library at Willesden Green**, 95 High Road, Willesden, London, NW10 2SF

The rollout of rapid community COVID-19 testing for people without symptoms is being run by Brent Council and the Department for Health and Social Care, and will be available until the end of January when it will be

reviewed. To find out more and book a free COVID-19 test, visit www.brent.gov.uk/covidtesting or call **020 8937 4440**

Pride of Brent Youth Awards 2020

Due to the COVID 19 lockdown we have decided to **extend the nomination** process for **Pride of Brent Youth Awards 2020 until 26 February 2021**. We have made this decision because of the unprecedented circumstances which means many of the schools, youth clubs and other youth resources will be closed.

The Pride of Brent Youth Awards are about recognising and celebrating the outstanding achievements of the brilliant young people in our borough. These are the young people aged 11 to 24 (up to 25 for the Young Disability Champion award) who have excelled, often overcoming their own personal difficulties to do so. They lead by example and make time to help others in their community.

We want to recognise the work young people from Brent have done in response to the pandemic. We are looking for nominations from members of the public, including friends and neighbours along with schools, youth groups and voluntary organisations.

The award categories are:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Community Spirit Award
- Most Improved Person Award
- Role Model Award
- Young Leader Award
- Brent Young Environmentalist Award
- Young Disability Champion Award
- Special Recognition

Don't delay, please cast your vote! The nomination form and nomination guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/pride-of-brent-youth-awards-2020/>

Capacity building in the Voluntary Sector

The Partnership & Engagement Team are currently preparing to put the Voluntary Sector Infrastructure contract out for tender. We originally planned to do this in early January but had to postpone due to COVID-19, and now we hope to do so in February.

We are resending this survey in order to get a better understanding of needs within the borough. This will enable us to assess the capacity building needs of the borough's voluntary sector in the future, and help us to ensure that the correct support is given.

Please complete the below survey by **29 January**. We look forward to hearing your feedback!

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q4eHIX81ek2vnFhw49LrgCXT7weuyhpGi8ctgG1rp0xUNkVWMkpINTRONFdLMDNOTzBBNTQ0SEFOOC4u>



Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) dates

MTUs offer PCR tests (swabs sent to lab, results within 24-48 hours) for symptomatic people that can be booked through the national booking portal.

The MTU site is on the car park on Brentfield Road opposite Neasden Temple. The car park has no street number or postcode, however the building directly adjacent is 246 Brentfield Road, NW10 8HE.

Please find below the confirmed MTU dates for the remainder of January 2021

Monday 25 January
Tuesday 26 January
Wednesday 27 January
Thursday 28 January
Friday 29 January

Saturday 30 January

Sunday 31 January

Please see below link for more info and to book.

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/coronavirus/test-and-trace/>

Brent Inspired Futures – Online Mentoring and Outreach Programme

Brent Inspired Futures (BIF) is an outreach and mentoring programme commissioned by LB Brent in response to the BAME COVID-19 Pathfinders Funding. Young Brent Foundation will be the lead partner, with 5 member youth and community specialists delivering on the Outreach and Online mentoring. This funding is a direct response to support BAME communities and vulnerable groups to provide an alternative, accessible and less stigmatised pathway into targeted support (Mentoring) during the pandemic.

The principle of the Outreach & Mentors work is to engage children, young people and their families in a range of settings including streets, shopping centres and local parks at times that are appropriate to them and on their terms. The BIF organisations will both develop relationships of trust and be visible to the communities. Throughout this project, we will be utilising the key concept of Contextual Safeguarding, in maintaining trusted relationships with BAME communities.

We anticipate that this service will generate insight into how young people and their families can be supported, whilst building the capacity of the community through trauma informed, systemic approaches and facilitating the sharing of best practice – particularly relevant at times of unease and anxiety linked to COVID-19.

Please feel free to contact **Deji Adeosun** at info@youngbrentfoundation.org.uk for further details.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Do you want to know what mental health services are available for your needs?

Working with service users, the Brent Mental Health Network Partnership have created a booklet which provides a comprehensive list of services to meet the full range of needs of local people. Full information is available [here](#)

Brent Public Health and partners across the Brent voluntary sector have prepared activities to help you maintain your wellbeing and good physical and mental health by joining online workshops and using a wealth of resources:

Mental Wellbeing Workshop

29 January, 10.30am-12.30pm. Stress & Worry Management Workshop

For more details email cnw-tr.brent.iapt@nhs.net or call **020 8206 3924**, to book or for further information.

Links for healthy eating, family health, wellbeing etc.- most can be accessed at any time - see below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts>

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/>

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/culture-leisure-and-parks/healthy-living/staying-happy-and-healthy-during-covid-19/find-out-more-about-how-to-stay-happy-and-healthy-at-home/>

There are a number of videos and information on www.brentwellbeing.tv

Help decide how the £500k Carbon Offset Fund is spent

Brent Council is currently working with MutualGain to involve the community in a vital decision making process that will help us reduce carbon in the borough. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tsu7EZyiorY1hFkculhhwhW78_9RTwo85Wj4R-xB7P8/edit#

We will be creating a community planning group who will help agree how the £500k Carbon Offset Fund is spent. The group will hear from technology experts and then, with an allocations policy agreed, the wider community will present their ideas for funding and a public vote will decide the successful applicants.

We need **YOU**, the community, to be part of this planning group and help make a real and lasting difference to Brent's future. We will be hosting an information session on **26 January** for you to learn more about what is required. If you would like to attend this, or would like to register your interest in joining the planning group, please use the link below.

<https://www.mutualgain.org/brent-climate-emergency-planning-group-invitation/>



Have your say on Brent's draft budget 2021/22 proposals

We invite you to take part in the consultation on Brent Council's draft budget proposals for 2021/22.

Over the past ten years, Brent like many other local authorities, has been faced with increasing financial pressures caused by significant funding cuts and a growing demand for services.

Some tough decisions were made early on which has left the council in a strong financial position, however the unprecedented effects of COVID-19, including increased spending and a loss of income, has meant that the task of balancing the budget is more challenging this year than it has ever been.

Councillor Margaret McLennan, Deputy Leader of Brent Council, said:

"I want to encourage all residents to get involved and give their views on this year's budget, which may be our most important ever.

"The budget will affect everyone so it's vital we hear as many views as possible to help make sure we get this right."

The budget consultation will remain open until **31 January 2021**.

[View the full report outlining the budget proposals and take part in the consultation today.](#)

Brent's inaugural 'Keep Brent Working' Skills Summit, 11 February 2021

We want Brent to be a place where organisations continue to thrive, and want to do what we can to make that happen.

We have launched the Keep Brent Working campaign to support people back into employment and help employers find people with the right skills, and are holding a Skills Summit with employers on **11 February**.

This Zoom webinar event will introduce opportunities for help for organisations, such as support to recruit staff for your business recovery, and support for employees, apprentices or work placements via the Kickstart scheme.

Come along and hear from local and national employers, including Openreach, Transport for London, IPG Media Brands and BT. Leader of Brent Council, Cllr Butt will be providing the key note speech.

To learn more about the programme from our delivery partner Career Camp CIC, please contact Edward Baker on: ed@CareerCamp.org.uk

You can register for the webinar [here](#)



Brent Community Lottery

The Brent Community Lottery is a great way to fundraise. You will earn 50% of every ticket sold for your cause. Registering to be a good cause really easy and should only take a few minutes, go to www.brentcommunitylottery.co.uk and push the button that says 'I am a good cause' to find out more and to sign up.

Domestic Abuse and VAWG directory

A reminder of the useful directory of services, which can be accessed from the Brent Council website via this [link](#).

Mount Vernon cancer service review - public involvement

To help understand how potential changes with Mount Vernon Cancer Centre may affect your area and to plan future services, we are hoping to speak to people across the whole of the area served by Mount Vernon.

Focus groups are coming up:

For the Brent & Ealing area on 3 February 2021 at 13:00;

For the Harrow area on 1 February at 18:30 and on 5 February at 12:00.

Please register at <https://mvccreview.nhs.uk/> - This is a new website that has been launched to provide further information and enable people to share their views and

ideas. The site will continue to develop with videos and patient stories over the coming weeks and months.

The focus groups will be hosted on Zoom. If you do not have access to a computer or smartphone and wish to take part, or you feel your locality is not properly represented, please get in touch with the engagement team on 07900 607507.



Brent Solidarity Fund

Brent Council have supported a new scheme; The Brent Solidarity Fund. Designed and run by Brent residents for Brent residents, the fund provides assistance to any Brent residents who is struggling financially. This fund can be used for anything and there is no obligation to pay back the money. The fund is run with respect and trust, in accordance with principles of mutual aid: “from each according to their ability, to each according to their need”.

If you need financial support for up to £50, please use the link below to find out more and apply through your nearest Mutual Aid Group.

<https://opencollective.com/brent-solidarity-fund>

Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day

Wednesday 27 January 2021 is Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day. Councils across the UK will hold events during that week to remember the victims of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution, and subsequent genocides, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Dafur.

This year we have made a video to commemorate the day. The video will be live broadcast on Thursday 28 January beginning at 6pm. There will be an opportunity for people who join us to comment in the chat. You are invited to attend this event, please sign up [on Eventbrite](#) and Zoom details will be circulated on the day.

We have also partnered with Foundation Stones to run an event for staff and Councillors to come together (virtually) to paint a stone which will be used in a new memorial to remember the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. This event is on Monday 25 January from 1-1.45pm. If you would like to attend this event, please sign up [on Eventbrite](#)

For more information about either of these events, please contact Anne Kittappa (anne.kittappa@brent.gov.uk).

Love Where You Live grant funding

Love Where You Live (LWYL) provides funding for projects that aim to foster a sense of belonging amongst communities, where diversity is celebrated and valued and opportunities are available for all. It is about strengthening the skills, abilities and confidence of local people and empowering residents to come together to respond to local concerns and take action to develop stronger communities.

Maybe you need support to start a new community group or help to grow an existing one? Perhaps you want to run an activity or event that brings people together and reaches out to new communities or different cultures? If so, this is a quick and simple way to get the support you need.

Brent Council recognises that the pandemic has changed the needs of Brent residents and the organisations who deliver community projects. LWYL will consider applications from individuals and mutual aid groups delivering activities and projects to Brent residents. Maybe you are a community group with access to a community kitchen and want to deliver hot food to vulnerable residents in your area.

We know that many mutual aid groups are not registered and want to make our original mutual aid grant, previously launched, more accessible.

Who can apply?

Grants are available for all community and voluntary sector groups, residents and schools who have an idea to improve the environment, tackle social isolation or help to build better community relations. Applicants must be over 16, living in Brent and able to demonstrate support from their neighbours for their proposed project. If under 18, permission needs to be given by an appropriate adult.

We particularly welcome applications from new groups who have not previously been funded by the council.

How much you can apply for

Each applicant can apply for a grant of up to £500 for their chosen project. Applications can be submitted at any time during the year, and are limited to one submission per financial year, in order to allow support for a wide range of projects across the borough

To apply:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/community-and-voluntary-sector-support/community-grants-and-funding/>

We will be looking at applications on a weekly basis to turn around decisions quickly.
