

The River View

Barking Riverside, Scrattons Farm and Thames View

Spring 2023

News for residents, by residents

ISSUE #6

Riverside School rated Outstanding by Ofsted

...the school's motto 'Excellence for All' reflects the ethos and ambition that leaders have for the school community."

By Venilia Amorim, resident,
parent & governor of Riverside
School

At a time when Ofsted, the education watchdog, report four in five 'outstanding' schools lose the top Ofsted grade, our local secondary school – Riverside School – was top-rated an 'outstanding' school on 18 November 2022, following its October inspection.

A Department for Education spokesperson said being judged 'outstanding' was "tougher than ever".

Riverside School was founded in 2013 by its current headteacher Andy Roberts, its success is based on attracting the very best graduates and training them to become exceptional teachers and leaders. Nearly all of the school's senior leadership team began at the school

as new teachers to the profession. In 2022 the school became one of the top 50 schools in the country for its progress 8 score, a measure of how much progress children make between the start and end of secondary school, based on students' performance in eight key subjects.

Riverside School is very much at the centre of Thames View and Riverside communities. Working in close partnership with both the local community to enable the greatest successes for all. To achieve an 'outstanding' judgement from Ofsted takes a considerable team effort and Riverside praises all their partners in the community, including parents and carers, who have supported us on our journey. Ofsted said in the report, the school's motto 'Excellence for All' reflects the ethos and ambition that leaders have for the school community.

Inspectors also wrote in their re-

port: "Pupils work hard and achieve well. Very clearly established routines ensure that pupils are engaged in their learning and that their work is of a consistently high quality. Standards of behaviour are very high. Lessons are not disrupted by poor behaviour."

During their visit, inspectors were impressed by the school's curriculum, which they found remained broad as pupils progressed through the school. They added that the "vast majority" of pupils continued to study a language and a humanities subject at GCSE.

In its evaluation, Ofsted stated that "governors provide support and challenge to leaders, and know the school well, and that staff are dedicated and proud to work at the school, which has become an integral part of the community which it serves."

Peter McPartland OBE, chair of governors, said: "On behalf of the governors of Riverside School I would like to express my congratulations to you all on the recent judgement by Ofsted inspectors that the school is outstanding. This is a wonderful and hard-won achievement of which you should all be very proud. I have over the past years enjoyed watching the growth and progress of a school which has at its heart the importance of high expectations alongside exemplary compassion

and care for the students. It is a joy to be a governor of a school with such a committed and talented team of staff and students."

Headteacher Andy Roberts said: "This outstanding Ofsted judgment is a public endorsement of a decade of exceptional work by students, teachers, support staff, governors, parents and carers at Riverside School.

"Our strong school values ensure we focus relentlessly on learning and excellence, most importantly this results in the very best edu-

cational outcomes for pupils and improved life chances, the Ofsted outstanding is now the crowning accomplishment.

"As a community we are collectively so proud that everyone's hard work and commitment has been recognised, from the teachers "very strong" subject knowledge, excellent training and amazing teaching; to the consistently high standards of pupil behaviour and engagement, their excellent results and strong student leadership."

"To achieve an 'outstanding' judgement from Ofsted takes a considerable team effort and Riverside praises all their partners in the community..."

School report	
	
Inspection of Riverside School	
Renwick Road, Barking, Essex IG11 0FU	
Inspection dates:	5 and 6 October 2022
Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Sixth-form provision	Outstanding
Previous inspection grade	Good

Meet the four residents who have been awarded the BRL Community Fund



By Sara Bloch Barking Riverside Limited (BRL)

New residents moving to the area bring fresh ideas and a desire to enrich the area through community action. Since 2022, BRL has supported eight residents to kickstart new community projects that are all working to help community life flourish.

BRL is proud to support the new

Community Fund grantees:

The RiverView Resident Editorial Board – The Resident Editorial Board (REB) received £1,000 to develop and launch a new RiverView website. Zahra Awani, REB member, explained that “the RiverView has been running for a year and has successfully showcased diverse voices and stories. The aim of a dedicated website is to increase engagement, especially with a younger

audience”. The website will feature special articles with up-to-date news stories which residents will be able to enjoy in addition to the quarterly newspaper. It will also help to make the RiverView more self-sustaining by offering advertisements to prospective buyers both online and in print.

Church at Barking Riverside – The Street Trees project has been running for the past two years. It be-

gan during the Covid-19 lockdowns as a way to celebrate Christmas despite not being able to gather. Church at Barking Riverside was awarded £600 to help deliver this initiative back in December 2022. Eight trees were erected across the estate, which formed a trail for res-

teem, and communication skills, through hands-on learning experiences. Individuals are also able to develop skills in teamwork, using tools safely and learning about looking after our woodlands”. To find out more please contact Thames Life: info@thames-life.org.uk.

“Applications will open again this spring”

idents to follow together. Each tree had two street hosts assigned to it, who helped other residents decorate them with environmentally friendly personalised baubles. Anna Pollard, church leader, explained that the aim of the initiative is to “spread joy and Christmas cheer through bringing neighbours together”.

Junior Omokhe – Junior is a resident who has been awarded £1,000 to run the ‘Wander Wild’ project, offering Forest School workshops for residents at the Barking Food Forest. Wander Wild will teach residents about the natural environment, biodiversity and the exciting range of animals and plants that can be spotted locally. Junior said: “Forest School is a fun, exciting way to learn in an outdoor setting. It is a process that offers people of all ages regular opportunities to achieve and improve their confidence, self-es-

JDS Striving for Excellence – Five young JDS participants have been successful in receiving £1,000 to develop their very own lip gloss business. JDS Striving for Excellence, a local youth charity, will be supporting them with workshops from experienced entrepreneurs who will be teaching the young girls essential business and finance skills. Jeorgina Soares, founder of JDS, said the aim of the initiative is to “reshape the future of the next generation while also enticing the youth to positively impact and inspire their peers to follow in their footsteps”.

The BRL Community Fund opens for applications four times a year and will open again this spring. Want to find out more? Visit barking-riverside.london/social-impact.



“...being part of the JDS team is like being part of a warm community.”

Community Fund: youth entry

By Naomi, local resident

Hi I'm Naomi, a 14 year-old student from Barking Riverside. I was first introduced to JDS – a platform for young people to come together to discuss issues, opportunities and services related to them – through a six-week youth summer camp last year where I got to learn new skills such as sewing and cooking.

Personally, being part of the JDS team is like being part of a warm community where I can bring my ideas to life and make new friends. During my time in the summer camp we got the opportunity to create business ideas in groups, and we

have been working towards them ever since.

After the six-week summer camp we joined forces with five other girls from the Barking Riverside community who also took part in JDS's 12-week programme on how to develop your own business ideas. During that programme JDS prepared us for an opportunity to pitch our ideas to Barking Riverside Limited Community Fund and we were successfully awarded funds for our new business idea. Now we are developing the business and by the end of the project we will present the final product. Watch this space!

From brownfield site to urban countryside

By Kevin Hudson, local resident

Many of our cherished open spaces have been classified as “brownfield” sites. Places where industrial tipping from the past was undertaken, but which has now been left to nature to reclaim. These draw developers like bees to honey. They’re perceived as abused, wasted and neglected land, just ripe for building. And that image may be dangerous for wildlife.

One area, along the Thames estuary, has a richer invertebrate collection of species than Salisbury Plain, which is internationally recognised for its biodiversity. You’d think that

losing them at a rapid rate! Doesn’t it make sense for the government and the development agencies to ensure that if building is permitted on brownfield sites – where the presumption to develop is already there – that the developer must replace the ecology that was there beforehand?

The redemptive power of nature, over what humans have done before, shows that places like the Ripple Nature Reserve, where former slag-heaps and ash lagoons have been transformed into a woodland paradise, can be revelatory. For these places, there are official government designations and cat-

bats, dragonflies, butterflies and warblers living among the reed-beds, one of the best places to see shelduck on the River Thames shoreline, as well as all the rare and unusual plants. An incredibly rich landscape, right on the doorstep of so many people, but where also more houses are to be built than anywhere else in Britain.

As more and more phases of the Barking Riverside project are built and spread out, the key to its success will be whether greenspace is fully integrated, with nature, with the communities, in a thoughtful way. The precious bits of woodland, reeds and shoreline have to be woven into the design.

Building settlements on old marshes will have implications for the wider environment, as we become increasingly aware of the impacts of climate change and the melting of the polar ice caps, and the effect on low lying areas like Barking Riverside – these are old marshland habitats right next to the River Thames, after all!

Yet it is also true that people need housing, with all the infrastructure that goes with it. We’re also experiencing a crisis in affordable property. It has to be recognised that we live in a society with checks and balances. The old arguments about economics, new airports, and “aspirational lifestyle” need to be balanced. We have a wonderful opportunity here at Barking Riverside to achieve that with a new, greener entrepreneurial spirit.

egorisations such as ‘Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation’. They exist because nature reclaimed them, and because people wanted them looked after.

At the Ripple Nature Reserve, the landscape is crossed by the remnants of ancient drainage ditches which are part of the old marshes. As part of the Thames Gateway development, Barking Riverside is also criss-crossed by the pylon infrastructure, held over from the site’s previous association with electricity generation.

Yet, here we find: amphibians,

everything would’ve been done to protect it for the future!

Part of the problem lies in the language. “Brownfield site” makes it sound like they are just waste land, and there’s no interest in them. Maybe we should change that around and talk about the “Urban countryside” instead. This is because these areas are not only vastly important for wildlife, but also for human beings, too.

A problem with a lot of the latest building schemes is that, as “brownfield sites”, they also happen to be great places for wildlife – and we’re

“An incredibly rich landscape, right on the doorstep of so many people”



Arcus Consulting, the ecologist agency in charge of monitoring and maintaining the ecology onsite, had the below to say on how BRL are managing the situation locally:

“There are a number of assessments and interventions that we are working on with BRL to protect local habitats. We deliver regular surveys to determine the presence or absence of amphibian and reptile populations and develop strategies for preserving species. We have installed bat boxes to provide roosting opportunities for common bat species, encouraging bats to the

area. We have translocated water voles to prevent harm, with extensive areas of newly created habitats for their release. The newly created water vole habitat also supports a variety of birds, invertebrates, small mammals, and amphibians. Our surveys found that the foreshore supports a range of bird species including some that migrate from western and southern Africa, eastern Europe, the Atlantic coasts of France, and as far as Russia! Also, the creation of a green area at the jetty has been specifically created for birds to use and rest during high tide.”



Community hub at risk

“A place where special moments have been shared, may be coming to a sad end”

by Vishal Narayan, local resident

Everyone Everyday’s Warehouse is at risk of becoming ‘Nobody’s’ warehouse. A place where special moments have been shared, may be coming to a sad end. Whether simply sharing a coffee, co-designing, using the pottery machine, wood working area or gardening, this community space has been a centre of community for Thames View and Riversiders alike. The impact of the events at ‘The

Warehouse’ has been immeasurable. From dancing and youth engagement, to community cooking and launch events, we would like to raise your awareness about its potential disappearance.

We are asking for your support to keep this special hub alive and in the hands of residents. We want the cohesion of community support and mutual help to continue. We want residents to be able to celebrate and achieve together. We want for you to be able to keep accessing a

treasured space in the heart of our area. Imagine what can be achieved, and how much change can be made to our lives and the lives of others, when we put our heads together and build solutions with each other’s good spirit and company. What if we did not have the space for that to happen? Who would suffer the most?

Interested in joining the campaign? Email rippleeffectgroup@hotmail.com

Building a happier community

By Lucy Lee, local resident

Hey all, I'm Lucy and I've been a resident of Thames View for 18 years. I'm a creative at heart with a passion for all things positive that bring people together. I love to sew, paint, dance, play computer games and design using virtual reality.

of ensuring the decision makers delivering the new development, respond to the priorities decided by the residents of the then Thames Ward.

After listening to the many views of my neighbours, the itch to become more involved in my community became so much more intense. I joined a local litter picking group,

myself forward as the RNR's social media manager and was voted in as vice chair of the Thames Ward Residents Association (formally Tenants Residents Association).

As a self-employed small business owner of House Of Loulee, creating African print children's clothing, community in general, was always at the forefront of my mind however, I've always felt this deep connection to my local community and that I wasn't doing enough via my business, so when I was approached by Matt to apply for the role of health outreach officer, I jumped at the chance! This would be my opportunity to act on all the research findings and bring my neighbours with me, to become a force to be reckoned with.

Currently, my role as the health outreach officer and locality lead for Thames View, Barking Riverside and Gascoigne, is to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, which involves triaging residents in order to sign post to services that can support us through the crisis. We are also working to improve health inequalities by creating better connections between the NHS, local organisations and charities to have a more consistent approach which

will eventually provide more availability to residents when it comes to healthcare.

We would like to create design groups with residents where we can discuss how to build better connections with each other and key stakeholders, empowering residents to sup-

port themselves and others despite inequalities; providing a platform to find better solutions from the ground up, rather than the top down. It also allows residents to socialise which has a positive impact on our mental health and overall wellbeing. Thames Life has a

range of free health and wellbeing activities for everyone to get involved with weekly, so please do come along, as everyone is welcome!

I am a strong believer of strength in numbers, so let us support each other in building community resilience and take actions that will create a community our future generations will be proud to support.

"I was encouraged...to go forth and prosper with my passion and opinions about community resilience and civic strengths."

I came across Thames Life back in 2018 when it was Thames Ward Community Project (TWCP), and I was introduced to Matt Scott by a local group I was planning to create sewing workshops for. Fast forward three years and many sewing sessions later, I began working as a peer researcher with Barking Riverside Limited (BRL) and The Young Foundation on a project named Thames Futures. Here we spoke with over 140 residents with the aim

Roding Rubbish, to help with the clean-up of our green spaces and then got involved with the resident-led Ripple Nature Reserve (RNR) Reach-Out group, where I found myself back in contact with Thames Life, as they are a hugely valued asset of the group.

From then on, I was encouraged by both Nia and Matt to go forth and prosper with my passion and opinions about community resilience and civic strengths. As a result, I put



The importance of community engagement

By Zainab Jalloh, resident & member of the REB

Hey neighbours! I'm Zainab, a part of the Resident Editorial Board, resident of Barking Riverside for 4 years and a community worker at Thames Life! I've lived in the area since 2019, but only really got to exploring in 2020 once I had my first child (albeit the pandemic hit). I call myself a third culture kid, born in Saudi Arabia, of African descent but raised in South

London. Moving to Barking Riverside for us was typical in terms of seeking an affordable home but I couldn't imagine we would be a part of such a proactive and caring community!

I previously worked in the legal field, but community engagement has always been a part of my calling. After joining a few community groups in 2020, the opportunity to work with TWCP now called Thames Life was shared in a WhatsApp group (we do love a good

WhatsApp in this area), I applied and was successful! Being a part of Thames Life and this flourishing community has genuinely changed my mental wellbeing and given me the precious opportunity of building with others. This doesn't happen everywhere in London. We have a unique power to create our narrative, have open conversations with stakeholders and design spaces that we actually want.

During my day job, I'm a communications officer, and I've always loved writing, which is why being a part of The RiverView Newspaper is something I couldn't be prouder of. It's important to me that everyone in the area be able to have a platform for their voices to be heard. Everyone has a story to share and it's okay if not all our experiences are positive, it's important we work together to make impact and create change. My hope is for us all to be a part of developing an area that we are proud to call home and the next generation can thrive in.

If you would like to contribute to upcoming issues or if you'd like to join the REB do get in touch. For now, I really hope you enjoy reading the paper we've put together and we would love to receive any feedback that you have!

"My hope is for us all to be a part of developing an area that we are proud to call home..."



Young Citizens of Barking & Dagenham unite for action with decision makers

“Challenging decision makers to consider new ways of tackling them”

By Zainab Jalloh, resident & member of the REB

On 5 October 2022 at CU London – the London branch of Coventry University – over 50 young people, councillors and Council Leader Darren Rodwell, plus representatives from the police, including Superintendent Butterfield, gathered for a roundtable discussion on issues of education and youth safety.

The roundtable was led by young people from Barking and Dagenham Citizens (part of Citizens UK), a local alliance of 11 organisations. The young people developed proposals over the summer through conducting listening via surveys across the borough, by those affected that related to young people, their safety, their wellbeing and their futures. The night featured testimonies and proposals framed from the listening, which brought the lived experiences of young people to the forefront and challenged decision makers to consider new ways of tackling them.

Commitments were won for:

- Support from Councillor Elizabeth Kangethe and Eric Stein

to introduce alliance organisations to local schools, supporting the need for more tailored workshops that tackle mental health, the gendered nature of youth safety, money management and other life skills to support our young people.

- Support from Councillor Syed Ghani and Superintendent Butterfield of our campaign to lobby Transport for London (TfL) to help young people get to and from school safely.
- Support from Council Leader Darren Rodwell by meeting with alliance members at the Town Hall to discuss the council budget and look at ways to tackle issues surrounding youth safety and education.

The young people who led the evening shared their reflections:

Alexandra:

Personally, after speaking in front of people with lots of power, Council Leader Rodwell, Police and other councillors, I thought that it would be more difficult, but it helped my public speaking skills and confidence. I feel like I can speak in front of groups of people.

For me the whole event stood out. I haven't had a chance as a young person to be as involved in something like this. The roundtable discussions in particular, although we were all people with differing levels of power, it was very conversational. I noticed that even Council Leader Rodwell has his own experiences in relation to what we spoke about.

The issue that's really important to me is youth safety. As a young person even just walking to school and back can be stressful. It can be scary and unsafe so hearing about others' experiences was important and it matters to me. As a result of the assembly, it would be great to have young people be a part of the discussion as we are the future. We should have a say in what happens in the community.

Eminike:

From the event I got the message that progress is being made. It isn't just all talk. The leaders are also involved and ready to work with us. It is giving me hope that we're going somewhere.

The one moment that really stood out to me was the young people coming forward and talking about their experiences. It touched me and sent a message to other people that they aren't alone in the issues that they're facing.

Youth safety as well really matters to me – because I'm a young person but that's not the only reason. I take the bus everyday and there are certain things that happen there. Some kids come on and don't appreciate



the privilege of free transport and abuse it. Psychologically youth are affected by the issues and it can affect their school performance, which isn't fair on them.

The result I want to see as a result of the assembly is funding for students who can't afford school uniforms. It can affect their results. If they can't afford it they should be supported.

Tobi:

Citizens UK has helped me boost my confidence by a lot. Before I'd never publicly speak but now it's given me the confidence to do that so I'm quite grateful for that.

One moment that stayed with me the most was when I got to speak directly to Superintendent Butterfield and I got to hear what she had to say and her side of the story, as I can only ever see it from just my side, so having the chance to speak with her

gave me a point of view that I've never seen before and allowed me to see where she came from.

I would say the campaign that hits home the hardest to me would be the TfL campaign, where it states that young children should be able to actually get on TfL buses even if they've forgotten their Oyster and they're still in school uniform. I think that relates to me the most because I've had times where it's dark and I've wanted to go home but I've forgotten my Oyster and I've been told to get off the bus into the dark.

I think small steps are the keys to success. The change I'd like to see is more interaction – at this current stage where we're at, more interaction is the best change that we could hope for.

For more info follow @BDCitizens on Twitter



“Students are drafting a food waste recycling proposal”

Food waste follow up

By Zahra Awani & Zainab Jalloh, local residents & members of the REB

Back in our winter issue in 2021, one of our young eco-warriors on the estate, Leo Pollard (7) raised a big issue on Barking Riverside in terms of the lack of green recycling. This sparked a wider group of young people calling for action to be taken by the council and other supporting parties to make a change happen, especially when Barking Riverside, in particular, is being sold as an eco-friendly, healthy town in London.

In our spring issue, we spoke about how the Young Citizen Action Group (YCAG) at Riverside School and with others at Leo's own school, George Carey Primary School, met with local Councillor Andrew

Achilleos, who was the Green Champion in the borough, to get some commitment to change from the council.

The 'ask' the young people, along with so many others across the borough, had been for a food waste collection system across the entire borough and to have food waste bins and biodegradable bags provided for free. Cllr Achilleos' answer was that it was a priority that would be coming to us all as early as 2023! Everyone was so excited.

Since then, however, we have heard this will no longer be the case and in fact, the council will now be focusing on this area to implement change by 2025. After the promise from Cllr Achilleos, this has come as a bit of a blow. Leo was very disappointed and is rallying for as many people to join in on his quest to bring green recycling to Barking

and Dagenham, for free.

Zainab met with some members of the YCAG who are equally as disappointed with this news. The YCAG are keen to meet with the newly elected Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Climate Change, Cllr Haroon, to find out more about the council's Resource Waste Strategy and how they can support implementation. In the meantime, the YCAG are drafting a food waste recycling proposal to present to senior staff at Riverside School in order to hopefully set an example as an institution for others to follow.

BD Citizens, along with the YCAG and other eco-warriors will be joining together to push for change sooner. If you'd like to join in on this campaign, please get in touch with Zahra: zahra@thames-life.org.uk

Barking Riverside presents: Emerge East

By Marie-Angela Giuliani, Barking Riverside Limited (BRL)

In December 2022, Barking Riverside hosted its biggest ever event – Emerge East – welcoming 1,800 visitors and residents to experience an immersive festival of creativity, community and nature.

Held in the recently opened Station Square, a new public space outside the Overground station, and at our unique riverfront location, Emerge East took attendees on a journey of discovery.

A jam-packed schedule of activities ran throughout the day, giving residents and visitors alike the op-

portunity to shop for clothing, gifts and lifestyle products from the Makers' Market, explore the area with nature walks, plus enjoy a line-up of music from the Future Bubbles DJ collective. Emerge East also hosted a series of free creative workshops, including sessions for guests to decorate their own festive fir to take home, wreath and kite making, up-cycling clothes, and crafting tree decorations with recycled materials.

A highlight of the event was the Riverside Sauna, where visitors were able to experience a range of sauna rituals from around the world. Also close to the riverfront, a diverse food and drink offering was availa-

ble – the 'home cook' area featured a selection of food-loving residents who presented their home-prepared dishes to guests, with an array of cuisines suitable for all taste buds. From salmon stuffed yam balls to curried goat, plantain sliders, pizza and sweet treats, there really was something for everyone!

The event marked the landmark opening of Station Square. A new hub for Barking Riverside, the square now acts as the main access route between the Uber Boat by Thames Clippers Pier and the Overground station.

As the largest event to be hosted at Barking Riverside, BRL was pleased to welcome visitors from across the capital to join residents for a day of celebration and creativity.

Check barkingriverside.london/events and the BRL Instagram or Facebook accounts for the latest event updates.

“Station Square is a new public space outside the Overground station”



“It was really fun to watch and I am sure everyone loved it.”

Snow White review

By Zoe, a local resident, and her family

Zoe and her family had the opportunity to attend the Snow White pantomime in December at Barking's Broadway Theatre. Zoe's review:

This was a fantastic pantomime! It was really interactive and Muddles had so many tricks up his sleeve! Anyways, I loved it so much it was by far the best I've ever seen!

The thing that was really fun was when almost all of the characters told us what to do, especially Muddles. There was mostly great acting, impressive singing, nice jokes and funny characters. My favourite part was when Muddles, Nellie and Herbert were dancing to Tiktok songs to forget all about the ghosts and each time they did, one of them was taken away except Nellie because when it was her turn, she scared them away with just "hello."

It was really fun to watch and I am sure everyone loved it. I have never felt more excited than that moment as it was really awesome and I never expected that the characters would make us scream and spray water at us. It was still really fun so I hope I can go there again someday.

Family review:

We have been to pantomimes before, or at least we thought. This pantomime was by far the best

we've seen. The cast was very professional and exceptional with each character bringing to life the story through dance, brilliant singing, and engaging scripts which captivated most if not every child and adult in the audience.

The characters commanded the audience's attention to perfection, children listened in silence and yelled and laughed when engaged covering every corner of the theatre. Kids loved Muddles, playing along with his every request, even every adult succumbed to having to do the chicken dance.

Everyone undoubtedly enjoyed every moment of the show and we are happy to have been part of the moments, treasuring every one of it with our two little angels jumping up and down in joy, waving their hands in the air, whilst watching their smiles and spontaneous laughter of fun imprinted in our memories that would last forever.

Snow White, the Queen, the Prince, seven dwarfs, fairy, the dancers, and the Muddles trio stand ups were all excellent. Their scripts and choice of songs were modern and funny, and even threw in some political and energy crisis relevance for the adults.

I am sure everyone there would agree the show was truly amazing, we certainly think so.

Councillor corner: Sabbir Zamee



How long have you been in post and what made you want to become a councillor?

I became the Thames Ward councillor in May 2022. I have been a resident of this ward for the last 17 years. In 2005, when I first moved here, it all looked very different to the way it is now.

I have been involved with various organisations whilst I have been a resident of this area. I've become the secretary of the Thames View Muslim Association, chair of the Tenants & Residents Association and secretary of the Thames View Community Garden. These organisations gave me the opportunity to work with the community and understand their needs and the issues residents were facing. In order to

"...as a result of this we have five councillors instead of three.."

do more for the community I felt it would be good if I was a councillor of this ward.

What area are you responsible for?

I am responsible for Thames View Ward and I share the area with Councillor Fatuma Nanule.

What is a typical day for you as a local councillor?

My typical day as a councillor consists of dealing with queries received through emails. People send in their queries and I follow them up or get them through to the rel-

evant officials, departments, and members. I am a member of two important committees – Licencing Committee, and Planning and Admission Committee. There are several briefings that take place and I attend those on a regular basis. Any new development in the borough needs to go through our committee hence these meetings and briefings are quite regular.

What are the main concerns you hear from local residents at the moment?

Residents have all sorts of con-

cerns mainly housing, law and order, lack of youth engagement programmes, drugs, crime, etc.

What is your view on the new ward boundaries (Thames Ward becoming Thames View and Barking Riverside)?

I believe it is a great move. With the development going on the area has become much bigger and therefore this change will bring many benefits to residents. We can already see that as a result of this we have five councillors instead of three. This will allow us to work more closely with the residents. It may bring some challenges initially, but I am certain it will be a benefit to the community.

Barking Riverside presents: The Low Carbon Chinatown Supper Club

By Matt Sims Barking Riverside Limited (BRL)

To celebrate Chinese New Year, Barking Riverside partnered with designer and artist Ling Tan to present the Low Carbon Chinatown Supper Club at The Wilds on 1st February.

Following a successful pop-up in Soho last year, the dining experience at The Wilds combined a short educational workshop with a sit-down meal featuring three mouth-watering low carbon dishes. These were specifically chosen and developed by London's East and South East Asian communities alongside a data scientist and Asian food writers MiMi Aye, Uyen Luu and Shu Han.

Bringing this project to life, we spoke to the artist behind the Low Carbon Chinatown, Ling Tan, to get some further insight into the event.

Hi Ling, tell us about where the Low Carbon Chinatown idea started from?

The idea behind the Low Carbon Chinatown initially began two years

ago during lockdown, at a time when we started to see more people experimenting and trying new cooking recipes at home. I was initially commissioned with Kakilang to take on a project that looked at combining ways for people to tackle the climate crisis through cooking at home, taking small steps to benefit the planet.

"Lowering the carbon footprint while cooking."

The Low Carbon Chinatown project started with this original idea, and we invited a group of residents from Chinatown to suggest a few dishes that we could start working on. From there, we worked with a data scientist who researched ways to lower the carbon footprint for each person to still enjoy their dish, but with more of a beneficial environmental impact.

How has the project evolved into where it is now?

This initial at home cooking project then turned into the Soho Low Carbon Chinatown pop up. We really wanted to expand and grow the idea of tackling the climate crisis through home cooking, and through the data scientist we wanted to enhance this, whilst still retaining the authentic Chinese food flavours.

We set up the Soho meal in September 2022 as part of the London Design Festival and invited the wider public to come along for the experience. We used the dishes put forward by our original participants and created a sustainably designed pop-up structure of an overhead pleated canopy made from UK grown bamboo and recyclable materials, together with used tables and chairs from local restaurants to create an authentic, community din-

ing experience. We held the workshop before the meal, to educate the guests on creating low carbon alternatives to typical Chinese dishes, and showing how reimagining both food and design can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Since the Soho pop up, we have now rolled the project into a touring model, and we are offering both an indoor dining experience, as well as an outdoor pop up that includes the sustainable canopy model that we have created. Barking Riverside was the first stop on our tour as the indoor dining experience, and it was a pleasure to provide an exclusive first look at our touring project.

What are you expecting the residents of Barking Riverside to take away from the Supper Club?

One of the main focuses of this project is to create a new tradition with the residents at Barking Riverside. I'd love for the guests to go home and really feel the emotions that come with sharing a communal meal with others and then incorporate this into their everyday lives. People also often have their own

traditional meals that they cook, whether it's their grandma's recipe or a dish their mother has made for them, and what we're hoping to do is show our guests that they can still have these comforting dishes, whilst also lowering their carbon footprint and experimenting with sustainable cooking practises.

After the workshop, guests will understand how to make environmentally friendly choices to their own dishes at home, and will also have access to our recipes, to recreate at home. Essentially, I'd love for everyone to understand the impact that certain foods and dishes can have on the environment and recognise the steps that they can take to lower their carbon footprint.

Do you have any recipes you could share with the residents that didn't make it to the Supper Club?

Yes! We have a Digital Low Carbon Cookbook on our website, so that everyone can get involved.

<http://lowcarbonchinatown.lingql.com/lowcarboncookbook>



SPRING EVENTS

4th March
11am - 3pm

Table Top Sale

Valence Library Community Hub

Clothes, Books, Bric a Brac



4th March
11am - 4pm

Future Community Day

Future Youth Zone

201- 225 Porters Ave, Dagenham RM9 5YX

Come and celebrate International Women's Day with us! We will have lots of activities available for families to take part in like Arts and Crafts, Sports, Gym, Food, Females Speakers, Hair and Beauty, Dance and Drama and some performances. We will also have a marketplace for local female owned business to sell their wares. Everyone Welcome!



11th March
2pm - 8pm

It's Your Turn To Talk

EOED Warehouse

47 Thames Road, Barking IG11 0HQ

Come and join us to discuss the struggles young people face on a day to day basis from social media influences, youth crime, peer pressure and more!



11th March - 29th April
10.30am - 12pm on Saturdays

Wander Wild Forest School

Barking Food Forest

Fielders Crescent, Barking IG11 0FU

Outdoor activities where all are welcome to play, meet new people and re-connect with nature.

Scan the QR code and register your interest!



Old MacDonalds Farm

19th March

Mothers Day

Make a special present for your mum this Mother's Day with ART Bound and Mums get a free tea!



1st - 16th April

Easter Festival

There's lots of eggcellent fun activities over these 2 weeks!



Events to look out for

1st - 9th April

Church At Barking Riverside

Community Easter activities across Barking Riverside Estate.



Ongoing

Thames Life Events & Activities

We support and run loads of events and activities locally. We truly have something for everyone so get involved!



Got any feedback on this issue or ideas for future issues?

Would you like to find out how to join the Resident Editorial Board?

Scan this QR code or email
zahra@thames-life.org.uk



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BARKING RIVERSIDE