

STRATFORD

ORIGINAL

YOUR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024







# A MESSAGE FROM US

Dear Stratford Businesses,

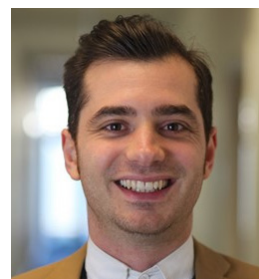
The new year has certainly started with some sad news for the Stratford community. It is with sadness that our beloved Stratford Market Village has suddenly stopped operating after 30 years of trading. Stratford Market Village plays an integral role in our community, offering a diverse array of goods, fostering local entrepreneurship, and creating a unique atmosphere for our town centre.

At the BID, we have been liaising with some of the traders to offer our support and assist where possible. We have received so many messages of support from locals and stakeholders and this means so much for our community. Whilst we do not know what the future holds Stratford Market Village, we are committed to support local independent businesses that makes the town centre such a unique place.

Change is not new to Stratford and our community. In fact, our town centre is one of the fastest changing places in London and the UK with many developments happening or in the pipeline. Navigating this influx of new developments can be quite challenging, with new residents and new businesses coming to our area.

Whilst we say goodbye for now to Stratford Village, an important economic, cultural and social hub of activity, we continue to work with you and for you to shape the present and future of Stratford.

Gianluca Rizzo



**Gianluca Rizzo,**  
Stratford Original  
BID Manager

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Dr Bike and Mark your Bike

**Thursday 8th February 2024**  
**4pm-7pm**

Stratford Picture House, E15 1BX

### Stratford Future Event

**In April we will be running the next session to discuss upcoming developments in the town centre - more details to be**

## AMBASSADOR FACTS FOR JANUARY



62

Members of the public helped/interacted with

270

Local businesses visited

270+

Distributing the BID materials

104

Issues reported via the Love Newham App

128

Miles covered by Ambassadors

40

Working shifts

# ENHANCING STRATFORD



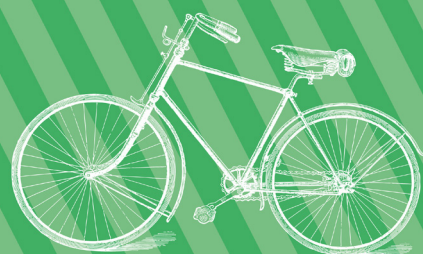
## Dr Bike and Mark your Bike

Our Dr Bike sessions are restarting for the year with our first free session on Thursday 8th February from 4pm- 7pm

Come to Stratford Picture House to get your bike serviced for free!

Address: Stratford Picture House, Gerry Raffles Square, Salway Road, E15 1BX.

To book either of these services, please visit: <https://stratfordoriginal.com/whatson>



GET YOUR BIKE  
CHECKED FOR **FREE**

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# SAFER STRATFORD



## Collaborative Effort Restores Morrison's Trolley Cage for Primary Use

After several months of working with relevant agencies, on 18th January 2024, Morrison's trolley cage was cleared after ongoing misuse. Our collaborative effort included working with the BCRP, the Metropolitan Police (MET), and Newham Enforcement to ensure that the site was being restored to its proper function.

Support was provided to those individuals in need and the site was promptly returned to its original purpose.



**BEFORE**





The successful collaboration between various stakeholders demonstrates that a proactive approach to addressing community concerns and maintaining the cleanliness and functionality of shared spaces is crucial for the success of our town centre.

**If you have any street issues and or concern you would like to raise please contact us.**



**AFTER**

## **A message from Newham neighbourhood police**

### **New Years Eve and Christmas**

Throughout Christmas and New Years, Officers patrolled areas that are hotspots for robbery and snatch thefts. They also provided safe spaces for the public which is part of our commitments to combat violence against women and girls.



### **A New MET for London event in East Ham**

The Met were thrilled to have New Met for London event at the Trinity Centre in East ham this past month. The 'New Met for London' is a plan developed in response to the Baroness Casey report. It outlined changes and developments that will be initiated under 3 key headings: Community crime fighting, culture change and fixing our foundations.



### **Weapon sweeps in Green street**

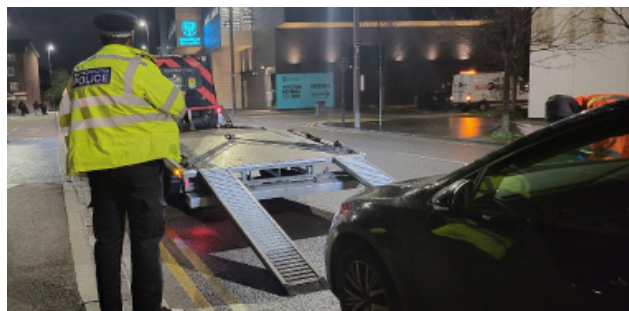
Neighbourhood officers, in collaboration with Newham Council, conducted weapon sweeps in areas like Queens Market and Priory Park, gathering crucial intelligence. In a proactive patrol, they swiftly responded to a robbery, arresting the suspect. Not only do these sweeps help remove knives from the streets, but they also play a vital role in enhancing community safety.





## Road safety operation

The Stratford town centre team ran a successful road safety operation which resulted in 10 vehicles being seized, 72 Traffic Offence Reports issued and 3 arrests made for various offences. The roads in Newham are very busy and enforcing the rules is paramount to the safety of the residents. They will implement more of these operations in the future.



## BUSINESS ESSENTIALS



### Your Levy Explained

As you may know, Stratford Original BID is entering the final year of its second term before our renewal ballot which will take place this Autumn. By March, eligible properties with a Rateable Value (RV) of above £11,999 will be receiving their annual levy investment bill for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Please make sure your levy investment is paid promptly. If your levy is outstanding, you might not be able to access some of our services. We encourage all members to make sure they are up to date with their levy payments as your levy funds key services such as our Safer Stratford BCRP, Ambassador, seasonal cleaning, free training, subsidised commercial recycling and much more.

If you would like to speak to the BID team, contact us on [info@stratfordoriginal.com](mailto:info@stratfordoriginal.com)





## National Apprenticeship Week

UEL are holding a National Apprenticeship Week from  
**5th February - 11th February 2024.**

Please see below for more details:

5th February - APPRENTICE SUPPORT SESSION  
10:00 – 14:00 In Person Event

6th February- INTRODUCTION TO APPRENTICESHIPS  
11:00 – 12:00 Online Webinar

7th February- BUSINESS BREAKFAST  
09:00 – 12:00 In Person Event

8th February - APPRENTICESHIP JOB FAIR  
10:00 – 15:00 In Person Event

8th February - SUSTAINABILITY WEBINAR  
14:00 – 15:00 Online Webinar



University of  
East London

To sign up, please go to: <https://stratfordoriginal.com/whatson-all/uel-national-apprenticeship-week-2024>

## Free Courses from Birkbeck, University Of London

**Fake or Real News – Digital information skills workshop**  
**8th February 2024, 18:00 – 20:00, online.**

As we spend more time online, critical thinking is a vital skill for the workplace and everyday life. Learn how to spot fake news, fact vs opinion and evaluate online arguments in this free.

**For more information, please go to: [https://www.bbk.ac.uk/events/remote\\_event\\_view?id=41015](https://www.bbk.ac.uk/events/remote_event_view?id=41015)**

**Is University for Me?**  
**17th February, 11:00 – 13:30, Birkbeck main building.**

Aimed at adults going to university for the first time and will offer practical advice and guidance for overcoming common challenges and concerns. We're here to help you decide if university is the right option for you.

**For more information, please go to: [https://www.bbk.ac.uk/events/remote\\_event\\_view?id=41016](https://www.bbk.ac.uk/events/remote_event_view?id=41016)**

**Criminology 5-week Taster Course**  
**Starts 6th March, 18:00 – 19:30, online.**

This course will introduce you to Criminology – the study of crime, those who commit it, and how we respond to it.

Aimed at those with an interest in Criminology who would like to study that subject at university and designed for those who have had a break from education.

**For more information or to sign up, click here: [https://www.bbk.ac.uk/events/remote\\_event\\_view?id=41073](https://www.bbk.ac.uk/events/remote_event_view?id=41073)**



## LB Group Accountants Unveils Key Budget Highlights Impacting Businesses

- “Autumn Budget for Growth” focuses on halving inflation, reducing debt, and growing the economy.
- National Insurance Reduction: 2% reduction in Class 1 NIC main rate from 6 Jan 2024, benefiting employees earning over £12,576 annually.
- Class 2 NIC abolished from 6 Apr 2024 for those earning over £12,570.
- Class 4 NIC main rate reduced from 9% to 8% from 6 Apr 2024.
- Minimum Wage Increase: £11.44 per hour from Apr 2024, extended to workers aged 21-22.
- Business Tax Cuts: Permanent full expensing for companies, providing long-term certainty. Consultation on capital allowance simplification.
- Research and Development: Merging RDEC and R&D SME schemes, introducing a new R&D intensive regime. EIS and VCT reliefs extended to 2035.
- Annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings (ATED) charges to increase by 6.7% from 1 Apr 2024.
- Construction Industry Scheme (CIS): Subcontractors must demonstrate VAT compliance from 6 Apr 2024.- © LB Group 2023”.



## Free Training for BID Members

We now offer on-demand training, which is free for all of our BID members. Training sessions can be delivered within your premises where our accredited trainers will be leading the course. We can train small or large groups depending on the topic. If you are keen to receive training on First Aid, Health & Safety, Mental Health, Food Hygiene and to learn more about the rest of our training programme please email: [info@stratfordoriginal.com](mailto:info@stratfordoriginal.com)



## Renewal Ballot, Autumn 2024

Later this year, Stratford Original BID will be running the second renewal ballot. Due to national legislation, all BIDs in the UK have to go through a formal democratic ballot to ensure another 5 years term is secured.

All eligible local businesses will be given the chance to vote in favour of another 5 years of Stratford Original. Together, we have achieved so much over the last 9 years and, as we enter the last year of the second term, the BID team will be engaging with you over the coming months to understand better your priorities both for your business and Stratford town centre.

Your views, feedback and input are essential to ensure the BID delivers value to you and Stratford. We encourage all our members to make time to meet with the team during our face to face consultation. Your contribution will help shape the future plans for Stratford as well as continue to inform the BID on how to best operate.

More information and details will be shared with you in the coming newsletters so please do look out for our consultation forms this Spring.

# PROMOTING STRATFORD



## Marketing Meeting for BID Businesses

On Wednesday 6th March, from 15:00 to 16:00, we invite all Stratford BID members to join our Marketing Meeting. This virtual gathering via Teams is a valuable opportunity to stay informed about the latest events and promotions in Stratford while exploring collaborative growth strategies. The meeting serves as a platform for members to share insights, discuss on-going projects, and collectively contribute to the enhancement of our community. The venue is online via Teams. If you'd like to participate, please contact **Amandeep.Brar@stratfordoriginal.com**, and we'll send you a request!



## Maximise your Reach: Contribute to our Socials and Blogs for Enhanced Business

### Visibility!

Remember, we encourage everyone to share content for our social media platforms to boost your promotion! With an average of over 3,000 web visitors monthly, your content will reach a wide audience. Additionally, consider contributing to our blog section; we're on the lookout for contributors. If you have a business relevant story to share, send us your articles for promotion on our website. This presents a fantastic opportunity to enhance online visibility for your business. Don't miss out!

Contact us at: **info@stratfordoriginal.com**







# STRATFORD ORIGINAL

YOUR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Stratford Original run a number of initiatives to support the Original Stratford town centre and hold community events throughout the year.

Visit our website and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Visit [stratfordoriginal.com](https://stratfordoriginal.com)

Email [info@stratfordoriginal.com](mailto:info@stratfordoriginal.com)

  **StratfordOrig**

Call **020 8555 7065**

For more info on our BID members visit [stratfordoriginal.com/directory](https://stratfordoriginal.com/directory)