

APSE Presentation

Forest Road Skate Park

Transforming an underutilised space into a community asset

- Vision Redbridge Culture & Leisure worked in partnership with the London Borough of Redbridge to deliver the new Forest Road Skate Park, creating a modern, accessible and free-to-use facility for young people and wheeled sports enthusiasts.
- The project transformed an underutilised area into a vibrant recreational destination, providing opportunities for skateboarding, BMX riding, scootering and informal physical activity in a safe and inclusive environment.



Delivering Social Value Through Investment

The development supports Vision's commitment to improving health and wellbeing outcomes through investment in high-quality community facilities and public open spaces.

Key Outcomes

- Creation of a purpose-built skate facility designed to modern industry standards.
- Increased opportunities for young people to participate in free outdoor recreation.
- Improved utilisation of public open space.



Delivering Social Value Through Investment

Key Outcomes cont...

- Enhanced community engagement through informal sport and physical activity.
- Development of a destination facility attracting users from across Redbridge and neighbouring boroughs.
- Contribution to wider health, wellbeing and active lifestyle objectives.



Community Impact

Forest Road Skate Park has become a valued community facility, providing a safe, welcoming environment where young people can develop skills, build confidence and engage in positive recreational activity.

"Investing in modern recreation facilities that encourage active lifestyles, social interaction and community wellbeing."



Inclusion Hub

Inclusion Hub

- Established to tackle social isolation, reduce accessibility barriers and increase opportunities for community participation.
- Engage with adults with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and learning difficulties.
- Engaged 310+ participants through inclusive activities across Redbridge.
- Activities include, adaptive sports, cycling, dance, arts and crafts and relaxation sessions.
- Rather than offering fixed sessions, activities are shaped around the interests, aspirations and feedback from the participants.



Serenity Ilford

Serenity Ilford Women's-only Gym

- Serenity Ilford opened in September 2025, After securing £350k funding from Redbridge Council.
- Serenity is a tailored fitness space designed to meet the rising demand for female-focused facilities.
- It offers a safe, supportive environment where women of all ages and fitness levels can feel comfortable, confident, and empowered.
- With its emphasis on women's health, fitness, and wellbeing, Serenity is more than a gym - it's a place to reach goals, build connections, and nurture overall wellness.

*Serenity isn't stillness alone;
it's the calm you feel
after pushing your limits*



Serenity Ilford Women's-only Gym

- Serenity is situated in Clementswood electoral ward which is one of the most densely populated wards in England, 70% identified their ethnic group as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, the highest in all 22 wards in Redbridge.
- Redbridge Public Health Annual Report 2023/24 STIGMA and its impact on services has highlighted several health inequalities for all Redbridge residents and specifically for women including Obesity, Mental Health, Poverty and Domestic Abuse.
- Demand has spiked for women only gyms in the last 12-18 months with searches on google and TikTok up 69%.



Death Positive Library

Death Positive Library

Redbridge Libraries is the UK's first Death Positive Library Service, creating safe, inclusive spaces where people can openly explore death, dying, grief and end-of-life choices.

Community Engagement

- Death Cafes & Bereavement Cafes
- Workshops with End of Life specialists
- Author events
- Books
- Festivals
- Films
- Arts Projects



Why we offer it?

- Break down the taboo around talking about death
- Help people access trusted information and make informed choices
- Provide opportunities for people to connect and support one another
- Support people experiencing grief and bereavement
- Explore wider issues such as the environmental impact of end-of-life choices



Supporting Redbridge Council

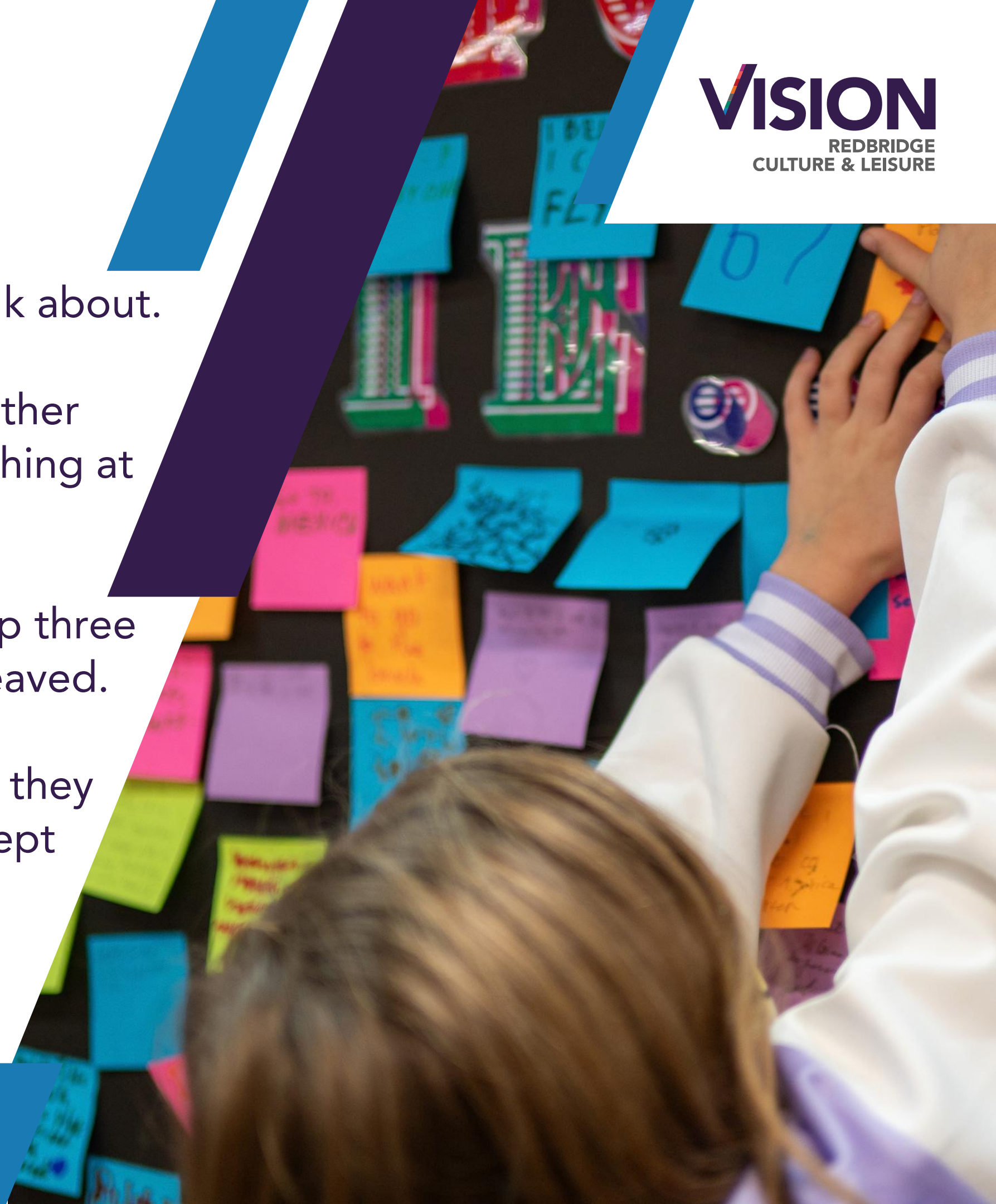
Our work contributes to Redbridge's wider end-of-life, health and wellbeing strategies helping residents to talk, understand, prepare and connect - while providing an accessible community space for conversations that can otherwise be difficult to have and support residents to think about their end of life plans.

VISION
REDBRIDGE
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The need for Death Positive Library

- Almost 80% of British adults find death difficult to talk about.
- 72% of those bereaved in the last five years would rather friends and colleagues said the wrong thing than nothing at all.
- 62% say that being happy to listen was one of the top three most useful things someone did after they were bereaved.
- 48% said that not being able to see someone before they died or attend a funeral would make it harder to accept the reality of the death.
- 62% said that not being able to see a dying person before they died would cause a lasting sadness.



Death Positive Library

Aims

- Reduce anxiety
- Remove barriers
- Provide more choice
- Sign post to more sustainable options at end of life
- Empower Individuals
- Greater dignity at end of life



Afterlives Festival

Afterlives Festival

Afterlives Arts Festival is a free, family-friendly arts festival that took place in summer 2026 in Newcastle, Exeter and Redbridge Libraries supported by the Arts Council England.

The Afterlives Festival was created for the Death Positive Library service to encourage open, honest conversations about death, dying and grief, while exploring the environmental impact of end-of-life choices.

As the UK's first Death Positive Library Service, Redbridge Libraries provides trusted, accessible spaces to challenge stigma and explore difficult subjects.

Working with Dr Pitsillides from Northumbria University, sustainability was placed at the heart of these conversations.



What made it innovative?

- Sustainability and end-of-life choices brought together.
- Open conversations in a welcoming, family-friendly setting.
- Expert knowledge alongside practical experiences.
- Alternative options including wicker and cardboard coffins, eco-burials and traditional shrouding.



What made it innovative?

Cont...

- Resting Reef exhibition exploring living memorial reefs and marine biodiversity.
- Creative activities, including decorating cardboard coffins, making the subject accessible across generations.
- Partnership with Co-op Funeral Care, giving residents the opportunity to discuss real choices and options.



Creating a more Sustainable Legacy

The festival's environmental impact comes through awareness, behaviour change and informed decision-making.

By introducing residents to lower-impact alternatives, Afterlives encourages people to consider the environmental consequences of traditional end-of-life practices and explore choices that reflect their own values.



Our impact

Raises awareness - Helps residents understand that end-of-life choices can have a lasting environmental impact.

Challenges perceptions - Opens up conversations about alternatives that people may not previously have considered.

Supports informed choices - Provides practical information so people can make decisions with sustainability in mind.

Engages generations - Creative and accessible activities make difficult conversations easier to explore together.



Our impact

Connects communities - Brings together libraries, residents, academics, artists and organisations to share knowledge and ideas.



