

1. Southend Hospital

I recently attended the **STP consultation** at The Cliffs Pavilion and below is some information from the meeting that you may find of interest.

REPORT ON STP PUBLIC CONSULTATION - 8th Feb, Southend.

The Mid & South Essex Sustainability & Transformation Partnership (STP) refused to change to a larger venue or rearrange seating to accommodate more people at the original venue, Maritime Rooms at the Cliffs Pavilions, in spite of tickets to last night's consultation event 'selling out' two weeks ago. Instead they decided to employ a firm of security guards to prevent entry of many non-ticket holders to the event, originally billed as 'just turn up'.

#SaveSouthendNHS had a presence of thirty or so supporters outside the venue to distribute leaflets illustrating the real effects the STP is likely to have on local NHS services, and talk to attendees as they arrived.

Around 200 people were admitted to the 300 capacity venue to hear the standard spiel touted by the STP and its advocates. Their basic line is that with an ageing population and more demand on the NHS, they can't adequately staff the three hospitals of Southend, Basildon and Broomfield.

According to the STP, changes to the way primary care (GPs etc.) is delivered will make our population much healthier, resulting in an amazing reduction in the need for service, including up to a 45% decrease in the number of hospital outpatients. How can they state this when the facilities or the necessary GP's or medical staff are not yet available?

They will create 'specialist centres' at different hospitals to deal with the likes of complex orthopaedic (broken bones), lung, vascular, heart, urology, abdominal surgery, stroke etc. At the moment all of these can be done at each of the three hospitals, 'specialist centres' will be created by removing these capabilities from two of the hospitals, making the remaining one the only one able to carry out the procedures and therefore, by default, a 'specialist centre'.

The STP then propose to transport seriously ill patients in need of these treatments, significant distances across Essex's highly congested roads to reach the care they need. How are they going to transport these patients? Well, that's not entirely clear. The STP have a vague idea about a new fleet of dedicated ambulances in which the patients will be accompanied by specialist nurses, doctors or consultants, depending on the level of care they need. Figures on how many patients this will affect seem unclear with estimates now being quoted at up to 25 every day – that's a lot of journeys, especially when you consider the medical staff also need to return to their bases.

With an ambulance service already failing to fill its many vacancies and respond to even life threatening calls within an acceptable timeframe, it begs the question; where are these paramedics coming from, to say nothing of the extra medical staff needed to attend

these patients in transit? As with most of the STP's answer, they're a combination of hazy outlines mixed with optimistic assumptions. When the STP panel were asked where the East of England Ambulance Service representative was, there were some awkward and embarrassed mumbles before saying: "we'll look into it." There are mass Doctor and nurse vacancies already so we are unsure where they will get these specialist transfer clinicians from in an already overstretched workforce.

Additionally the STP are saying that transport will be provided for outpatients and visitors having to travel further afield, possibly in the form of an interlinking bus service. Plans are again currently at the 'back of a cigarette packet' stage.

The jewel in the STP's crown is the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) planned for Basildon. The idea here is for each of the three hospitals to have 24/7 MRI facilities along with specialist trained doctors and nurses. Once patients have been assessed at their local hospital, those in need will be transferred to the HASU. This plan has been developed in conjunction with local consultants and, if fully funded and implemented properly, will be a major step forward for improved patient care and outcomes. By 'implemented properly' we heard from Dr. Guylar that the gold standard for early stroke intervention at each site is a 24/7 MRI scanning service plus a 24/7 specialist stroke Dr and nurse to diagnose and commence treatment prior to onward transfer to the HASU. A regional Thrombectomy service is also required according to Dr. Guylar. We heard last night that it will be down to specialist commissioners to fund this after the proposals have been accepted, which seemed to cast some doubt over whether this was a guaranteed move. The STP WOULD NOT commit to this gold standard despite heavy public pressure being applied. **Why should we not have the HASU in Southend Hospital (where there is a growing and aging population)?**

The STP team claimed the lives will give current staff great opportunities and will attract new recruits yet there has been no formal staff survey conducted - yet again utter spin.

The atmosphere at the event was certainly tense. The public aren't buying the spin put out by the STP. At the root of their plans is a need to cut in excess of £500 million from the projected spending on the NHS in our area by 2021. Tempers flared as audience members failed to get straight answers from the STP panel that included Dr Celia Skinner - Chief Medical Officer for the three hospitals, Dr Ronan Fenton – Joint Medical Director of the STP and Tom Abell - Deputy CEO & Chief Transformation Officer of the three hospital trusts. There is no way that in the two hours allotted to last night's event could the STP come anywhere close to answering all the questions people wanted to put. This is one of many events planned during the public consultation across mid and south Essex with an extra event now scheduled in Southend at the same venue on the 7th March – two days before the consultation ends.

If the STP really are listening to the people of Essex, they will go away, completely rethink their vague, delusory plans and come back with something that is actually based on clinical evidence and is fit to deliver top quality health care, locally, that patients deserve. Their proposals aren't currently even fit for consultation! How can the public respond to consultation plans which have no substance and the linchpin of service centralisation is on a transfer service that they have provided absolutely no data about.

You may be aware that Jeremy Hunt, the Minister for Health, paid Thorpe Bay a visit on Wednesday. Ron managed to shake hands with him as he walked past his house, but unfortunately was prevented from asking any questions by James Moyies and James Duddridge as they rudely whisked him away.

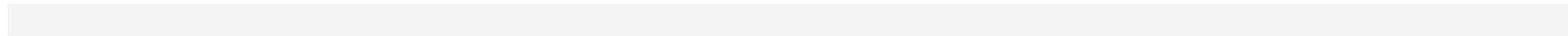
2. Following on from the request not to feed the seagulls, we have had a further request asking that residents do not feed foxes in their gardens due to the mess they leave.

3. Now is the time to cut back any trees and shrubs that overhang onto the pavement, and are a danger to pedestrians. Also, any loose stones from your driveway should also be brushed back into place as they may cause a slip hazard on the pavements.

4. Empty homes

We have been notified about some permanently empty homes in certain roads. Please report to us any others you are worried about. We are investigating with the Council as to what can be done.

5. Here is a brief summary of the Southend-on-Sea crime information in Thorpe for the past month:



Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO - filtered
Thorpe	42/16832/18	Theft from a motor vehicle	05/02/2018 06:09	03/02/2018 00:01	Shaftesbury Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE REMOVED THE OFFSIDE WING MIRROR FROM THE INFORMANTS WHITE FORD TRANSIT WORK VAN.
Thorpe	42/17624/18	Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)	06/02/2018 17:29	06/12/2017 11:41	Woodgrange Drive	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS BY MEANS UNKNOWN CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE CASH COMPARTMENT OF THE PHONE BOX. THE SUSPECT HAS ATTEMPTED TO OR HAS STOLEN CASH FROM WITHIN. THE SUSPECT HAS THEN LEFT THE AREA.
Thorpe	42/17830/18	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	07/02/2018 07:35	06/02/2018 21:00	Shaftesbury Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS SCREWED A LONG SCREW INTO THE WHEEL ARCH OF HIS BLACK BMW 1 SERIES CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE VEHICLE AND TYRE

6. Reminders

a. Please don't forget to renew your membership to BERA for January to December 2018 if you haven't already done so. You can pay online by bank transfer, or print off a renewal form (one should have been delivered to you in the BERA brochure) and drop a cheque/cash in to Ron Woodley or Mike Stafford. All information is available on the home page of www.bera.co.uk.

b. Today's **BERA sponsored coffee morning** was really well attended, especially by new members, and the next one will be on Thursday 15th March from 10.00am to 12 midday at the Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone and The Broadway. Come along for a hot drink and a biscuit, all paid for by BERA.

The Tram Stop Shelter Charity are planning a **musical evening** (Dvorac, Shostakovitch, Behr, Haydn, Delius, Piazzolla and other light classical) on Saturday 17th February 2018 from 7pm at St Augustine's Church, Thorpe Bay. Tickets will be £7.50 each and are available at the door or in advance from Mike or Wendy Stafford on 01702 870895.

c. The **BERA AGM** will be taking place on Thursday 15th March at St Augustine's Church from 8pm. There will be an update on local issues and talks by Mike Stafford about The Tram Stop Shelter and another by Reverend Jonathan Collis about the restoration of the tower and clock at St Augustine's Church. Your local Independent Councillors, who are members of BERA, will be available to discuss any problems regarding local issues. This meeting is for members only.

d. Don't forget to let us know about any **potholes and trip hazards** on the pavements in our area and around where you live, including around tree roots, as we have negotiated with the council to put into the budget for the next 2 years, substantial sums to cover this type of footway repair throughout the town. Officers are looking at the potholes and pavement repairs that have already been notified to us.