

1. The national papers quote that the Government suggest more bungalows be built, while we have another Government department allowing bungalows to be turned into houses under permitted development. Talk about silo thinking!!

Build more bungalows to tackle housing crisis, says committee chair

The Chair of the Treasury Select Committee has said that stamp duty should be overhauled, and more accommodation for older people, such as bungalows, should be built, to free up homes for families and tackle the housing crisis. Nicky Morgan told a Resolution Foundation event that housing solutions needed to be “creative and innovative and can absolutely include tax changes” but cautioned any change forthcoming in the Budget had to be “reflective of the way people live their lives”. The intervention came as separate Taxpayers’ Alliance research showed that 86 per cent of homebuyers will pay stamp duty on house sales in five years, and that the average stamp duty will be £9,221 per sale by 2021/22.

[Telegraph p2](#)

2. Social Evening

We had a good social evening on 14th November with a very interesting update from Alison Griffin on her first few months in office; although only about 100 members attended it was still a good turnout. One sour note was that the Conservative candidate for West Shoebury, who is not a member, turned up unannounced and demanded to be allowed to attend, so much so that he threatened to sit on the floor and refuse to leave. Eventually he did leave, but the church warden found that the door to the church had been wedged shut with bollards, placed to prevent people entering. More worrying was that in the case of an emergency this would have slowed people leaving.

3. Drug dealing

We have been notified that drug dealing has been taking place on the corner of Elm Grove and The Broadway. This is extremely concerning as there are usually a number of school children frequenting the area outside Tesco’s and Costa. The police have been made aware of this situation and are now taking an active interest. Please make sure you know where your children are and keep them safe.

4. BERA brochure

As mentioned at the social meeting, we plan to deliver a booklet about BERA to all houses in the area during January. We would be grateful to hear from any members who are able to help us by delivering in their road. Contact Ron Woodley on ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk.

5. 193/195 Thorpe Hall Avenue

Our planning expert is currently evaluating the planning application for the above-mentioned properties. If there are reasons for refusal we will advise you in next week's newsletter. We would suggest that you all strongly object to this proposal, as only 50 people responded to the leaflet put out by Churchill. We need many more individual people to respond to help maintain these important houses in our area.

6. Area Walkabout

The Chairman's walkabout with officers has been delayed due to the number of vacancies in the highway department. It seems that we have to do this alone, so any volunteers to walk and take notes would be welcome.

7. A message from a BERA member about SCOPE

a. Come to the next monthly "Get Together" - Tuesday 21 November 10.30 to 12.30 at the Attic Café, 48 Eastern Esplanade, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2ES

- Make new friends, develop ideas and chat - Vote on newly submitted grant applications
- Speak to invited guests, expand your skills and try activities
- Hear about how approved grant projects are going forward

b. Find out about Scope's Local People Programme

- For disabled people aged 12-65 in the Southend area (with any physical or mental illness, impairment or additional needs)
- For unpaid carers of the people above (including parent-carers of children aged 0-11) - and or close family members
- To improve health, wellbeing and reduce social isolation

c. Come to an engagement event and sign up as a participant

- Have your say about issues that are important to you:
 - Where do you want to see changes?
 - What would make a difference to your life?
- Brainstorm ideas and solutions - Tea/coffee and snacks provided

d. What are projects?

- A project can be an activity, a campaign, skills training or anything else that supports disabled people and/or carers and that meets the community needs identified at engagement events
- Open to the wider community, not just your friends - 2 or more people per project group
- Work out aims of the project and what you need to run it
- Fill out the application form for a grant. Support is available if you need it
- Work with Mark to refine your application if necessary, and then submit for review and agreement by the Get Together Group.

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