

**BERA E-NEWSLETTER 17th January 2019 – www.bera.co.uk
(printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)**

Reminders:

BERA AGM - We are holding the BERA AGM on **Thursday 21st March 2019** at St Augustine's Church from 8-10pm. The head of Air Traffic Control at Southend Airport will be speaking at this event. Our second speaker will be discussing the new Care SOS Line, offering residents a direct link for emergencies.

The next BERA sponsored coffee morning will be on **Thursday 21st February 2019** at The Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone Road and The Broadway from 10am to midday (unless we advise you otherwise it is always on the 3rd Thursday of the month). Please come along for tea/coffee and biscuits. We will be bringing along panic and personal alarms and car key signal blocking pouches which are available for BERA members.

Which subscription logon details: Username: burgesestate Password: BERAResidents

NEW: If any of you have taken photos locally that you would like displayed on the BERA website, please send them by email to: photos@bera.co.uk.

1. **BERA renewals** are now due for January to December 2019 if you wish to remain a member. The cost this year is again £10 per year, per household, and we hope you feel this is value for money. Renewals can be done online by bank transfer (see the form giving you our bank details on the homepage at www.bera.co.uk or by printing off a membership form (also on the homepage) and returning it with your payment to Ron Woodley, 91 Tyrone Road or Mike Stafford, 85 Maplin Way. We would be very grateful if you could return your renewals before the end of February.

Below are some of the benefits of BERA membership:

Monthly coffee morning on the 3rd Thursday of every month – free to members
Free availability to Which (see passwords at top of newsletter)
Weekly newsletters with local news
Free signal blocking pouches for car keys, and free personal and panic alarms
Free basic advice on property covenants and planning issues
We arrange and pay for the planting of trees and bushes outside your property
We pay for the Christmas lights in The Broadway

1. **Tent in field opposite Thorpe Hall School**

The landowner confirmed that they had not given permission for a tent to be on the land, so a Community Safety Officer attended and found a tent with some old looking possessions, but no-one inside.

They followed the removal process that is currently operated on the High Street and left a card for the owner but no contact was received and the card was still attached to the tent when they returned, and as it was left last week, the tent was removed by Veolia and is being stored for 5 days prior to disposal if not claimed.

2. Caravan in Burges Terrace

You will be pleased to know that the caravan that was parked in various places around the borough seems to have left the area (unless you know otherwise).

3. Churchill Development in Thorpe Hall Avenue

Churchill are appealing against the refusal of their development for flats on the roundabout of Thorpe Hall Avenue and Woodgrange Drive. BERA will be replying to the planning inspectorate and are keeping a close watch on proceedings and will keep you informed.

4. Parking meters on Thorpe Esplanade

The parking meters are up and running, we believe in contravention to the democratic and complaints procedure, and our Chairman has written a letter to the council (below) asking them to explain their reasoning.

“I notice that the covers have come off the parking meters along Thorpe Esplanade. Could you please explain how this could happen while the Association is in correspondence with you through the council’s own complaints procedure? It would appear to our members in the area that the council has once again overridden the democratic process. I would expect the council to follow all complaints procedures before arbitrarily making these machines fully functional during the complaints process.

I would also like to point out my concerns about the distance that motorists will need to walk and cross other roads to the nearest parking meter. Furthermore, can you please explain how disabled people will be able to manage the return distances and also crossing a road and the risk of an accident happening in that process?”

5. Litter Pickers

Thank you very much to those of you who have volunteered to litter pick on your street. If anyone else is interested please contact Ron Woodley (ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk) and he will pass your details to the relevant council officer.

6. Pavements

Please keep reporting any potholes or uneven paving slabs that may cause trip hazards by emailing ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk. He will pass on concerns to the relevant council officers.

7. Kent Elms

The foundations for the footbridge outside Kent Elms Health Centre are ongoing. Whilst these works are being undertaken the carriageway on the Southend bound lane 1 will remain closed for safety reasons.

The Contractor has finished the installation of the bollards on the Southend bound verge, and the Parks team will be on site undertaking their element of landscaping. This, however, does not require any lane closures to undertake the work.

8. The Bell

Trial holes in the carriageway will commence in January, however the dates for these have not been finalised. Once they are confirmed an update will be issued.

9. Queensway

Works have commenced on the northbound lane 1 of Queensway to facilitate the right turn works at York Road. These lane closures will only be in place 'off-peak' between 09:30 and 15:30.

10. Parking on the pavement

It was annoying to see heavy lorries and other associated vehicles parked on our pavements this week whilst repairing our footways for the council. Our Chairman wrote the following letter to the council

"I was informed by my Councillors, that the trees in Fermoy Road are due to be removed because of various issues, one being damage to the footway. Although I welcome the decision of the council to remove various trees from Fermoy Road because of the damage being caused, and the pods that fall from these trees onto the pavement, what I fail to recognise is the fact that this morning the council's contractors, had parked their heavy goods vehicles on the footway, and this afternoon I noticed a small digger parked on the footway, opposite the works. I find it frustrating that for many years, we as an association have been complaining bitterly about our footway being damaged by developers, yet the council has failed to manage its own contractors, who openly flaunt the fact that their actions could and possibly will, also damage our footways.

Is it possible that the council can specify during such works, that contractors at any time, should not contravene the highways act and cause damage to the footway while excavating any works on behalf of the council?"

11. Beach huts

We have been informed by a BERA member this morning that whilst out walking they noticed that some of the beach huts had been damaged. If you own a beach hut between 374-380 it may be worth checking on its condition. This is also a reminder that owners should check their beach huts every now and then.

12. Warning

Please be careful of replying to emails from people you don't know as there are a lot of scam emails being sent at the moment regarding TV licences or tax rebates. Also, a BERA member

advised us that the phone numbers 01709 748473 and 01706 051790 are being used to scam people out of money as they pretend they are from BT.

13. Southend NHW Data (7th - 13th January 2019)

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
Southchurch	42/3264/19	Burglary - Business And Community	07/01/2019 05:08	06/01/2019 06:30	Southchurch Road	Southend-on-Sea	BURGLARY BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY - SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS GAINED ACCESS TO THE SAFE AT THE STORE IN THE BACK OFFICE AND HAS TORN OPEN A PLASTIC SECURE CASH BAG AND REMOVED 1060 GBP FROM THE BAG.
Southchurch	42/3468/19	Other criminal damage to a dwelling (Under £5,000)	07/01/2019 13:45	05/01/2019 00:00	Southchurch Rectory Chase	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN BY MEANS UNKNOWN HAS REMOVED THE VICTIMS LETTERBOX AND PUT GLUE-LIKE SUBSTANCE IN THE VICTIMS LOCK.
Southchurch	42/4134/19	Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)	29/12/2018 10:20	28/12/2018 18:30	Lifstan Walk	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNIDENTIFIED CAUSED DAMAGE TO PROPERTY BY THROWING FULL DRINKS CAN, RIPPING LIGHT PROJECTOR FROM FIXINGS AND SMASHING IT, AND RIPPING CHRISTMAS DECORATION FROM FENCE.

Southchurch	42/6490/19	Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	12/01/2019 20:20	12/01/2019 15:30	Glynde Way	Southend-on-Sea	UNKNOWN SUSPECT HAS ENTERED PROPERTY BY SMASHING GLASS IN A REAR FRENCH DOOR AND HAS STOLEN PROPERTY FROM WITHIN.
Southchurch	42/6636/19	Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling	13/01/2019 04:40	12/01/2019 17:00	Shoebury Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS GAINED ACCESS TO THE VICTIMS GARAGE VIA UNKNOWN MEANS REMOVING SEVERAL TOOLS FROM INSIDE.

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
Thorpe	42/4577/19	Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	09/01/2019 18:58	09/01/2019 13:30	Marlborough Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS ADDRESS BY JEMMYING OPEN THE KITCHEN WINDOW USING UNKNOWN IMPLEMENT. DAMAGE CAUSED TO WOODEN WINDOW FRAME. A TIDY SEARCH HAS BEEN CONDUCTED AND NO PROPERTY HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM WITHIN. SUSPECTS HAVE EXITED THE ADDRESS BY

FORCING OPEN
THE BEDROOM
WINDOW. NO
CCTV AT THE
ADDRESS.

Thorpe	42/4853/19	Theft of a motor vehicle	10/01/2019 09:23	09/01/2019 19:30	Burges Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS REMOVED THE VICTIMS BLACK HONDA MOTORCYCLE INDEX AV67DZG FROM THE LOCATION BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
--------	------------	--------------------------	------------------	------------------	-------------	-----------------	--

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
West Shoebury	42/6869/19	Attempted Burglary - Business And Community	13/01/2019 15:01	12/01/2019 14:45	Shoebury Common Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNIDENTIFIED WERE A GROUP OF YOUTHS, 3 MALES AND 2 FEMALES WHO WERE UP ON THE ROOF OF THE TOILETS AND THEN ON TOP OF THE ESSEX KITESURF SCHOOL / CLUB LOCK UP. THEY TRIED TO SET FIRE TO THE BUILDING'S ROOF AND THEN TRIED TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE BUILDING BY KICKING THE DOOR AND HAVE BROKEN THE DOOR HANDLE AND THE LOCK.