

**BERA E-NEWSLETTER 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)  
(printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)**

**Reminders:**

The next BERA sponsored coffee morning will be on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at The Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone Road and The Broadway from 10am to 12 midday. The alarms and signs have been delivered and we will be bringing any with us that haven't already been collected/delivered. Alternatively you can contact Ron on 01702 588662 and arrange to collect them from his house (91 Tyrone Road). The costs were: PIR sensor alarm £7.38 (the white one), Defender shock/contact alarm £9.94 (the grey one), and the garage and shed signs are £1.19 each.

Please let us know of any potholes and pavement trip hazards that you notice while out and about locally. We can then send the information to the appropriate council officers for their repair.

**Which subscription logon details:**

Username: burgesestate

Password: BERAResidents

**1. Letter from the Chairman of The Tram Stop Shelter Charity**

Dear BERA members,

Sadly the Tram Stop Shelter Charity is closing down. It has been a very difficult decision to make as we still believe the Shelter would be a fabulous community hub, and numerous groups have shown an interest in using it for their meetings and events. The main problem has been with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, who are the owners of the site, and would be the organisation to issue Tram Stop with a lease. They have constantly refused our request for a lease, saying that we need to have finance for the build in place before they would proceed. This is fine, but as most people know, no funder is going to offer finance on a building that has no documents to prove that the site is complete with a twenty five year lease.

We have started the process to close the Charity, and are planning to invest the money left, after all debts are cleared, in the Southend Fund. This will allow us to have some say in which groups benefit from fund.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the aims of the Charity over many years by attending the variety of events we held.

On a more positive note the Charity has provided the ramp at Thorpe Bay Corner to

allow wheelchair users to access the beach. We have also provided beach matting at Thorpe Bay Corner and City Beach and these are the only places in Southend-on-Sea where wheelchair users are able to sit on the beach with their families or friends, something we all take for granted.

Kind Regards  
Mike Stafford (Chairman)

## **2. Southchurch Park Lights**

The lights in Southchurch Park are now finished and working. They light up the park well and hopefully we will now see a decrease in undesirables using the area as a meeting place.

### 3. Southend NHW Crime Data (9<sup>th</sup> to 15th July 2018)

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO – filtered
Southchurch	42/99136/18	Theft from a motor vehicle	10/07/2018 22:32	07/07/2018 03:00	Newington Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS GAINED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS VEHICLE AND REMOVED CASH FROM WITHIN.
Southchurch	42/99181/18	Attempted - Theft of a motor vehicle	12/07/2018 23:19	12/07/2018 23:19	Dalmatia Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE ATTEMPTED TO GAIN ENTRY INTO THE VICTIMS VEHICLE BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
Southchurch	42/99334/18	Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)	13/07/2018 08:53	12/07/2018 20:00	Southchurch Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS GONE OVER A FRONT FENCE AND GONE ON TO DAMAGE A SIDE OFFICE WINDOW USING BRICKS. NO ENTRY GAINED INTO THE BUILDING.
Southchurch	42/99215/18	Theft from a motor vehicle	13/07/2018 00:55	12/07/2018 21:45	Newington Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS REMOVED THE VICTIMS WALLET FROM HIS CAR THAT HE HAD INADVERTENTLY OPENED BY

SITTING ON HIS  
CAR KEYS.

Southchurch	42/100442/18	Other criminal damage to a dwelling (Under £5,000)	14/07/2018 21:16	14/07/2018 21:15	Southchurch Rectory Chase	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT NAMED HAS CAUSED A DENT TO THE BOTTOM PANEL OF A UPVC FRONT DOOR BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
Southchurch	42/100505/18	Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	15/07/2018 02:21	15/07/2018 00:00	Willingale Way	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS DWELLING BY MEANS UNKNOWN
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Offence Type</b>	<b>Reported Date</b>	<b>Committed From</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>MO – filtered</b>
Thorpe	42/97493/18	Other criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (Under £5,000)	09/07/2018 18:22	09/07/2018 18:22	Eastern Esplanade	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE CAUSED DAMAGE TO A BEACH SHELTER JUMPING UP AND DOWN ON THE ROOF.
Thorpe	42/98049/18	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	09/07/2018 12:58	05/07/2018 18:00	Kensington Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN CAUSED DAMAGE TO VICTIMS BLUE CITROEN C4 BY USING AN UNKNOWN IMPLEMENT TO SCRATCH THE

BONNET OF THE VEHICLE.

Thorpe	42/98042/18	Other criminal damage to a dwelling (Under £5,000)	09/07/2018 13:22	21/06/2018 18:15	The Broadway	Thorpe Bay	SUSPECTS UNIDENTIFIED HAVE ENTERED THE COMMON AREA OF THE RESIDENCE AND DISCHARGED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS OVER THE 1ST AND GROUND FLOOR AREAS.
Thorpe	42/98519/18	Theft if not classified elsewhere	11/07/2018 21:14	11/07/2018 19:50	The Broadway	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS PICKED UP THE VICTIMS BANK CARD AND THEN USED IT TO CARRY OUT CONTACTLESS TRANSACTIONS AT THE SHOP.
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Offence Type</b>	<b>Reported Date</b>	<b>Committed From</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>MO – filtered</b>
West Shoebury	42/97339/18	Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)	09/07/2018 13:30	09/07/2018 13:00	North Shoebury Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE CUT A PADLOCK OFF A GATE WHICH IS THE PROPERTY OF SOUTHEND BOROUGH COUNCIL.

West Shoebury	42/98865/18	Other criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (Under £5,000)	11/07/2018 19:26	11/07/2018 19:00	Delaware Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS NAMED HAVE DAMAGED A VEHICLE AND BUILDINGS BY GRAFFITI.
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**Also reported today:** A 30 year old mountain bike was stolen from the railings on the Barstaple side Thorpe Bay station at around 9am this morning. It had been left there unlocked for 15 minutes. Please keep a lookout in case you spot it left somewhere.

#### 4. Overnight parking in mobile homes

We are pushing to get this matter resolved but the council do need evidence that people are sleeping in these vehicles before any enforcement action can be taken. Please keep records, if possible, and pass them on to us at [ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk).

#### 5. Planning Matters

There are a number of planning applications come through that we are continually examining on a weekly basis. One especially is another application by the Roslin Hotel about converting the two houses in Clieveden Road into hotel accommodation, and we have been in contact with the council planning department, who have given us the following reply:

I have requested changes and additional information from the agent.

I have not received these yet. I expect to be making a renotification of neighbours on the application at that time.

Until then, I am unable to give much more comment as I am not sure that the proposal would affect the number of guests that could be accommodated. So far it looks like that would not be the case.

In that case, the impacts of this proposal would be around character and appearance of the building and street scene, and any physical impacts on the neighbouring occupier from the extensions and remodelling.

Other matters have been raised which relate to planning enforcement issues, and I have passed these to the relevant team leader for investigation.

For information, planning permission was granted for the change of use of 10 Clieveden Road from residential dwelling (Class C3) into 7 hotel rooms ancillary to existing Roslin Hotel (Class C1) on 19.12.2016 ([16/01757/FUL](#)).

This is our reponse to the planning application:

This is an application for an additional 15 units of accommodation. I say additional because the application states that the current use is "Hotel". Technically that may be true, but I suspect that the current use is of staff accommodation. The application excludes any changes to the parking situation which strikes me as wrong, bearing in mind how short the hotel is of parking spaces. So there is an issue around the car parking as indeed there always is with them. They need to provide further information. In addition the property is in the flood plain for which an assessment is required; none has been provided as yet. Next is the part single part two storey rear extension which will project

back significantly beyond the rear of the northern neighbour raising concerns about their light and outlook. Finally, is the question of the conversion of the roof with gable ends. This is contrary to the generality of the properties in the street almost all of which have hipped roofs. The application should be refused.

## **6. Rough sleepers near the beach huts/The Broadway**

We have had a response from the foreshore about rough sleepers near the beach huts:

One of the council inspectors has patrolled through the area in question today and has found some evidence of vagrants/rough sleepers using the veranda/porch areas of a couple of the huts. There was nobody present at the time of their patrol, but some items indicative of them having been present were found, and there was little to indicate the area being used as a toilet. I'm not sure what can be done about this other than informing the beach hut owners and removing any items left behind to discourage their return, but they are probably only arriving during the evenings for a place to sleep and the foreshore team are off duty by then and I don't know whether the Police would get involved without there being more evidence of criminal activity.

The council will keep an eye on the area and try to move them on if we encounter them, but this may not deter them from returning at night. However, members who are beach hut owners should make more frequent visits to their beach hut, especially late evening before it gets dark, to deter these rough sleepers from sleeping there. Please keep us informed of the situation.

Whilst on this subject we have also informed the council of a rough sleeper in the Broadway who is being very abusive to one of the residents in the flats above the shops. Again the council have been informed and appropriate action will be taken to remove them from the area.

## **7. Kent Elms**

We have had an email from the seafront traders expressing their disappointment and frustration of the news that the councils Kent Elms improvements works are yet again to be delayed. They believe the impact of these further delays will lower the quality of life of residents and frustrate visitors to the town. Pollution, congestion, slower journey times, increased financial cost etc are just a few of the problems.

The email also goes on to state that the town is being held back by disastrous schemes such as Victoria Gateway and the failed obsession of anti-car sustainable transport schemes. It is led to believe that despite millions of pounds of taxpayer's funds being spent on initiatives, the number of people using buses has fallen significantly. They also state that with several key schemes on the horizon such as

the Bell and Queensway developments, it is vital for the town that the best possible human resources are in place to design and deliver these projects.

BERA endorse these comments.