

BERA – E-Newsletter 18th July 2017

1. Shoebury Common Sea Wall Update

Members may recall that 4 years ago BERA and local residents, Peter Lovett, Ray Bailey and Peter Grubb, along with our local independent Councillors, took a very strong stand against Southend Council's immediate plans to build a 7 foot high sea wall across Shoebury Common because, we were told, of the high risk of coastal flooding. BERA didn't feel the Council proposed plans were necessary or that the condition of the sea wall had ever been properly surveyed. It was suspected that the real motive was the proposed development on Gunners Park and the Environment Agency's conditions on sea defences. When our Chairman became leader of the Council, the proposed scheme was immediately abolished.

Councillor Martin Terry took responsibility for sea defences and instructed that a thorough investigation be undertaken into all the engineering aspects of any proposals from interested parties, including BERA's scheme, which was a beach re-charge method and installation of additional beach groynes to hold the sand in place, and a 4 inch raising of the seawall.

Councillor Terry has remained Chairman of the Stakeholder Group, ensuring that the matter is properly dealt with. There will be a Stakeholder meeting very soon, to update residents on the findings of the detailed surveys that Councillor Terry insisted upon in 2014. The interim findings, as yet to be confirmed to the Stakeholders, indicate that the original scheme was unnecessary and that a BERA type scheme, using a beach re-charge and groynes is the likely outcome. This apparently seems to be good news – Shoebury Common will be protected, and any fears residents may have about flooding will be mitigated. We look forward to the Stakeholder meeting, of which we are a member, to confirm that the above will be the proposal going forward.

2. The next BERA sponsored **coffee morning** will take place this Thursday 20th July from 10:00am to midday at The Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone and The Broadway. Please make a note of it in your diary and bring along a friend if you don't want to come on your own. Meet friends and neighbours for a chat, and have a coffee and a biscuit for free - you can't say that too often nowadays.

3. There were quite a few new clicks on our Which account after the last newsletter, so again just in case you missed it, BERA have become a member of **Which** to enable members to use the facility. For access go to:

Webpage: www.which.co.uk – click on log in
Email address or username: burgesestate
Password: BERAResidents

4. **Lost and Found** – Let us know of anything you would like us to mention in our Newsletter.

5. Don't forget to make contact with BERA if you need any **pink or green bags**, and we will make sure they are delivered to your home.
6. We will soon be putting a tree-planting request in to the Council. If you would like a tree or a shrub planted outside your property, please let us know. A few of you have already notified us throughout the last year and your details are already noted.
7. Arrangements are in place, subject to weather conditions, to commence **road resurfacing works in Thorpe Hall Avenue** (from Burges Road down to Thorpe Esplanade) on 26th/27th July.
8. **Coaches and heavy goods vehicles** – Ron is still having on-going discussions with Council Officers regarding coaches and heavy goods vehicles being parked in residential streets. This is all because the Council removed the coach parking spaces from the Seaway car park so that cars could park in their places, meaning the problem has now been pushed into residential areas.
9. Just a reminder, if you have **any problems** that need sorting out, your local Independent Councillors are:

Ron Woodley	Tel: 01702 588662	Email: ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk
Mike Stafford	Tel: 01702 870895	Email: cllrstafford@southend.gov.uk
Martin Terry	Tel: 07919 527557	Email: cllrterry@southend.gov.uk
Derek Kenyon	Tel: 01702 582017	Email: cllrkenyon@southend.gov.uk