

BERA E-NEWSLETTER 19th March 2019 – [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)  
(printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)

# BERA MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT FOR JAN-DEC 2019 IS OVERDUE

(for those that haven't renewed their membership yet)

The cost this year is again £10 per year, per household, and we hope you feel this is value for money. Renewals can be completed by filling out the membership form online and paying by bank transfer (see the form giving you our bank details on the homepage at [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)) or by printing off a membership form (lower down 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 as soon as possible, and it really helps us if you fill out a form so that we can check that we have your up-to-date information.

## Reminders:

Which subscription logon details:    Email or Username: burgesestate    Password:  
BERAresidents

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](mailto:photos@bera.co.uk).

**We have received some new photos which are now on the website [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk) which you may like to look at.**

**BERA AGM** - We are holding the BERA AGM on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 (this Thursday)** 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.

**BERA Coffee Morning** - The next BERA sponsored coffee morning will be on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 (this Thursday)** 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month). Please come along for free tea/coffee and biscuits. We will be bringing along panic and personal alarms, contactless debit card blocking pouches, and will take orders for the car key signal blocking pouches.

## 1. A NEW LOCAL PLAN FOR SOUTHEND

*Our Chairman and planning expert from BERA attended the consultation meeting and made their thoughts well known to the Council Officers. Below is a brief summary of what is coming our way.*

Southend Council is to produce a new Local Plan. The existing plan which is used to guide future developments and infrastructure needs was adopted in 2006/07 and needs to be updated to take account of what development has taken place and future Government requirements particularly on housing. This new plan is expected to run from 2021 and your views are now being sought to help formulate the Plan document.

The consultation document is available on-line together with other information on consultation arrangements. Visit [www.localplan.southend.gov.uk](http://www.localplan.southend.gov.uk)

The Plan proposals cover the whole realm of potential future development in the Borough and puts forward different scenarios for you to consider and comment upon. These include:

- \* Climate change action
- \* The local economy
- \* Tourism in the town
- \* The future of the town centre
- \* Housing
- \* Sustainable transport
- \* Community services
- \* Enhancing the natural environment

Two important aspects of this new plan are first, that it will need to be compatible with a wider strategy document which is being produced by the six south Essex Authorities, Brentwood, Thurrock, Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford and Southend. The Government needs to be assured that an agreed overview on matters such as housing, transport and the local economy is shared by the Authorities. Secondly, the Government has produced revised housing targets for each Authority to meet. For Southend the target is around 20,000 homes over the next ten years. This is about three times the number that have been built since 2001.

Aside from the significant increase needed, the Council acknowledge that many of the developments in recent years have been one and two bed flats in piecemeal and infill locations, which have failed to adequately secure commensurate infrastructure and local service improvements. To overcome these deficiencies the Council has put forward three housing options, but it is clear that only one is likely achieve the numbers required, secure the infrastructure, provide the associated jobs, education facilities, health services and so on necessary to support a large community. Aside from a continuation of existing development of redundant brownfield sites and infill within the present urban framework, the Council propose a significant part of the green belt and open land north of Garons Park and Bournes Green Chase be developed for housing, probably with Rochford Council. The size of this development is likely to be around 5,000 homes and a population of 10,000-15,000. It will be a substantial

increase to this part of the Borough and can only be contemplated if the essential support services are also provided in tandem.

## **2. Kent Elms**

The foundations for the footbridge outside Kent Elms Health Centre are still ongoing. In the interest of limiting the disruption to the Medical Centre we will be limiting the amount of disruptive works undertaken during surgery times. In order to maintain the programme this will require the Contractor to work weekends until the foundations are finished on the northern side. Whilst the works are being undertaken the carriageway on the Southend bound lane 1 will remain closed during the week and at weekends.

This weekend there will also be off-peak lane closures on the London bound carriageway. This is to enable the concrete foundations to the bottom of the ramps to be installed.

## **3. The Bell**

Trial holes in the carriageway will continue into next week, and will be carried out overnight. These trial holes will be focused on the Southend bound carriageway. The traffic management will be installed from 7pm to ensure all noisy operations are carried out by 11pm at the latest and will be removed by 6:30am at the latest.

## **4. Queensway**

Works have recommenced on Queensway, with the right turn facility into Whitegate Road. During these works there will be a need to install traffic management in lane 2 on both the north and southbound carriageway. This traffic management will be in place during both peak and off peak periods.

## 5. Southend NHW Crime Data (11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019)

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
Southchurch	42/38591/19	Theft from a motor vehicle	11/03/2019 08:26	04/03/2019 21:00	Sackville Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ACCESS TO A DARK GREY FORD TRANSIT VAN BY MEANS UNKNOWN. ONCE INSIDE A MESSY SEARCH HAS BEEN MADE AND ITEMS REMOVED FROM WITHIN.
Southchurch	42/41319/19	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	16/03/2019 00:31	15/03/2019 19:30	Sherwood Way	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS SMASHED THE VICTIMS FORD ECOSPORT REAR WINDOW BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
Thorpe	42/38883/19	Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	11/03/2019 15:23	11/03/2019 00:00	St. James Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN GAINED ACCESS TO THE ADDRESS WITH A KEY AND REMOVED PERSONAL FINANCIAL PAPERWORK AND SHARE CERTIFICATES BELONGING TO THE VICTIM.

Thorpe	42/38714/19	Theft of a motor vehicle	11/03/2019 12:17	10/03/2019 00:00	St. James Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS REMOVED VICTIMS VEHICLE. INDEX UNKNOWN ..... FIAT DUCATO MOVIO MOTORHOME VALUE 30000GBP BY UNKNOWN MEANS FROM THE FRONT OF THE ADDRESS. KEYS CANNOT BE LOCATED.
Thorpe	42/39148/19	Theft of a motor vehicle	12/03/2019 06:42	11/03/2019 21:30	Kensington Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS REMOVED THE VICTIMS BLACK BMW 320D M SPORT INDEX YE11XDP FROM THE DRIVEWAY BY UNKNOWN MEANS.
Thorpe	42/41104/19	Attempted Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	15/03/2019 15:57	15/03/2019 09:15	Woodgrange Drive	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE ENTERED THE REAR GARDEN AND HAVE USED AN UNKNOWN IMPLEMENT TO WEDGE OPEN THE PATIO DOORS. DAMAGE HAS BEEN CAUSED BUT NO ENTRY GAINED. NOTHING LEFT BEHIND AT THE SCENE.

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
West Shoebury	42/40983/19	Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling	15/03/2019 13:07	05/03/2019 00:00	Shoebury Common Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS GAINED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS BEACH HUT USING A BOLT CUTTER CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE LOCKS. ONCE INSIDE A MESSY SEARCH CONDUCTED NOT SURE IF ANYTHING IS MISSING AT THIS TIME.

**6. A brief summary of the crime information for Southend-on-Sea for the past two months:**

	<b>December 2018</b>	<b>January 2019</b>
All crime	234	279
Anti-social behaviour	54	55
Bicycle theft	1	0
Burglary	13	23
Criminal damage and arson	19	22
Drugs	4	8
Other crime	7	3
Other theft	10	14
Possession of weapons	0	1
Public order	15	14
Robbery	2	4
Shoplifting	8	12
Theft from the person	1	0
Vehicle crime	21	24
Violence and sexual offences	79	99

Please visit <https://www.police.uk/shape/xA0vx3/> for more information including outcomes for these crimes and contact information for your local policing team.

**7. Message from UK Power Networks Community Affairs Team**

Our electricity network is built to be resilient but high winds and rain can damage overhead power lines resulting in some customers losing their electricity supply. Where this happens we work to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. We have organised for additional staff in our contact centre to help customers whose electricity supply might be affected by the predicted weather, and we have called-up additional engineers to carry out repairs to our electricity network.

Both you and your local residents will be able to find regular updates on our website [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk) and social media @UKPowerNetworks throughout this period.

Anyone experiencing a power cut can:

- Call 105 to report power cuts and damage to the electricity network, or 0800 3163 105 (from a corded phone or mobile phone if you have no power)
- Visit [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk) for the latest updates
- Visit [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut) and type in their postcode to view our live power cut map
- Tweet @ukpowernetworks to report power cuts or to receive updates

We urge the public to stay well clear from power lines and anyone spotting a damaged power line needs to report it to us immediately by calling 105 from a landline or mobile phone.

If they see electricity lines that are down or causing significant risk to the public they should call 999.

We provide extra help to customers on our Priority Service Register during a power cut. Households with older or disabled people, those with children under five, or where someone uses medical or mobility equipment that requires electricity as well as other reasons can join the register. You can find out more information about our Priority Service on our website: [ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority](http://ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority) .

If you would like to share information about preparing for the extreme weather or the priority service register on social media you might like to use the following:

UK Power Networks has extra staff on hand to deal with the unsettled weather. Call 105 to report a power cut and visit <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/storm-centre-prepare> or message @UKPowerNetworks on Twitter. #ukpnnews

Do you, or someone you know, need extra support during a power cut? @UKPowerNetworks provides free services to vulnerable customers. Visit <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut/priority-services-register> for more information. #ukpnnews

## 8. WARNING

A BERA member received a telephone call from a person claiming to be from a police station. The caller knew their postcode and advised that their bank debit card had been cloned. This is a scam as you would never receive calls like this from your bank. If you receive such a call do not give out any personal information and put the phone down.

## 9. Home leasehold system needs reform, say MPs

***Note from BERA Chairman: It looks like Parliament are catching up with what we have been saying since 2004!***

The UK's leasehold system has left a number of householders in unsellable and unmortgageable homes and changes are needed, the Housing, Communities and Local



Government Committee (HCLG) says. Often leaseholders in new-build properties are treated as a source of profit, charged expensive ground rent and service charges as well as fees if they want to make changes to their homes, while many do not know the difference between leasehold and freehold, according to the HCLG report. Developers say that in all transactions, builders aim to provide prospective purchasers, their solicitors and their mortgage lenders with all relevant information. The Committee wants to see a standardised key features document provided by a developer or estate agent at the start of the sales process.