

## BERA E-NEWSLETTER 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017 – [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)

1. There is due to be a "**Litter Clean**" on **Shoebury Common** on Monday 30th October 2017 at 10.00am, meeting at Uncle Toms Cabin. Members of Shoeburyness Residents Association will be there and they have a few collectors and Hi Viz jackets for those that need them. Please go along if you can help.

### 2. **Fraudsters**

A warning message from Essex Community Messaging

Alert: **Fraudsters** are contacting the elderly and vulnerable claiming to be from HM Revenue & Customs. Victims are being told they have arrest warrants, outstanding debts or unpaid taxes in their name. The fraudsters are asking victims for cash or to purchase iTunes gift cards as payment. There are a variety of methods being used including calls, texts and voicemails. **How to protect yourself:** HMRC will never use texts to tell you about a tax rebate or penalty or ever ask for payment in this way. Telephone numbers and text messages can easily be spoofed. You should never trust the number you see on your telephone display. If you receive a suspicious cold call, end it immediately.

Additionally, a member has advised us that a young woman, pretending to be deaf, has been knocking at doors and holding up a notice asking people to purchase pictures. When they refuse she turns the notice over and a message on the back requests a donation. Please do not buy these pictures or hand over any money.

Don't forget, BERA can supply you with a panic alarm (free to BERA members), which can be hung near the front door for you to activate if you feel unsafe. We can also let you have a personal alarm to carry when you are out and about.

3. **Free public WiFi** was launched in Southend-on-Sea High Street, central seafront area and Pier, Hamlet Court Road and Leigh Broadway last weekend, with users able to enjoy unlimited free browsing without running up large bills for data usage.

This next-generation wireless service is delivered by IntechologyWiFi, in partnership with the Council and offers blanket, seamless connectivity for users. The Council has granted IntechologyWiFi a concession to deploy, monitor and maintain wireless equipment on street furniture and buildings owned by the local authority and partners in the town centre. There is no cost to the local taxpayer.

Accompanying the wireless network is the launch of a clever new mobile application, called Citi-Wise, for residents and visitors to quickly find restaurants, new attractions, exciting and offbeat activities in and around Southend. Citi-Wise will also support future services deployed through the wireless network and will be launched shortly.

Further information on the WiFi service and how to use it can be found at [www.southendfreewifi.com](http://www.southendfreewifi.com).

#### 4. **Kent Elms Junction**

We have been notified that the project to upgrade the A127 Kent Elms junction has again been delayed by utilities works, this time by Openreach (formerly BT Openreach). Although much of the project has been completed, work on the London-bound junction upgrade is now unlikely to be fully completed until Summer 2018.

#### **Kent Elms footbridge**

Work on fabricating the footbridge is now underway. Kent-based Nusteel have produced the designs for the footbridge, and are now tasked with devising a delivery programme that would see the construction of the footbridge by the completion of the highways works. The school crossing patrol will be maintained at the surface-level crossing until the new footbridge is open.

#### 5. **Residents invited to help create vision for future of the Borough**

Through the Our Town, Our Future programme, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is co-hosting a series of workshops across the area to help build a vision for the Borough.

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is inviting people in and around Southend to come together at The Forum, Elmer Square and think about the future they want to help create for their community. What should it look and feel like? What will be its key characteristics? And crucially, what are people already doing – or what could people do – to make that vision a reality? You don't need to do any preparation, just turn up on the day. If you can't make it but would like to be involved, get in touch.

If you'd like to ask any questions about this event, please contact the lead facilitator Rob Francis at [rfrancis@opm.co.uk](mailto:rfrancis@opm.co.uk).

**Event:** Our Future Southend (as part of Our Town, Our Future)

**Date:** Saturday 21 October

**Venue:** The Forum, Elmer Square, Southend-on-Sea

**Time:** 10am

#### 6. **Parking problems**

Members have advised us that they are increasingly having problems with people parking and blocking the entrances to their driveways. This is a ticketable offence and you should phone the council to advise them when this happens. The phone numbers are:

01702 215003 (Daytime)

01702 466550 (Out of hours)