

1. BERA sponsored coffee morning

We had a fabulous coffee morning last week, with lots of new members and local residents attending. There was a lot of chatting and the coffee and biscuits went down a treat. The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 19th October, 2017 from 10am-12 midday at The Methodist Church, on the corner of Johnstone and The Broadway. Please make a note of it in your diary and come along and meet friends and your local Thorpe councillors.

2. BERA social evening

We are holding a social evening on Tuesday 14th November from 8pm at St Augustines Church, where you can come along and hear from the New Chief Executive of Southend Borough Council who will be giving a talk on her first few months in office. Also, if you have any unanswered questions about the local area, then please come along and speak to your local councillors.

3. Here is a brief summary of the crime information for Southend-on-Sea for the past two months:

	June 2017	July 2017
All crime	246	255
Anti-social behaviour	60	85
Bicycle theft	2	2
Burglary	9	9
Criminal damage and arson	21	24
Drugs	2	4
Other crime	8	3
Other theft	16	21
Possession of weapons	0	1
Public order	16	14
Robbery	1	0
Shoplifting	14	3
Theft from the person	2	0
Vehicle crime	27	26
Violence and sexual offences	68	63

Overview

During the early hours of the 29th October 2017 the clocks will go back. History tells us that you are more likely to become the victim of certain crimes after the clocks go back than before. Some of these crimes and in particular Dwelling Burglary are to a point preventable by the residents themselves.

Project Mercury will be designed to coordinate a significant resource - police, partnership and 3rd sector on two dates. Saturday 21st October 2017 and Saturday 28th October (week before and day before the clocks go back).

This coordinated and focussed resource will speak to thousands of members of the public in person, in the street, in shops and on their doorsteps. Partners will join together with shared messages of successes in community safety, and crime prevention tips. It will be done in such dramatic scale to attract attention to our messages so as to create a “nudge” effect. I envisage Chief Officers, Command Teams, CPT's, Specials, Volunteers, Partners, and Charities all joining together right across the county in a way never seen before. There will be three aspects to the plan:

- 10 different hubs of activity (one hub in each District across Essex) in public led by Community Policing Teams with support of their CSP. This is anticipated to be local stands in high footfall areas such as supermarkets or town centres
- Door knocking by officers, volunteers, partners and 3rd Sector providing crime prevention advice and reassurance messages. This would be targeted in each district based on confidence and crime data to ensure we are maximising our impact.
- Pro-active crime operation, breaking down doors and taking the fight to the criminal. Focussing on high victim harm property based crimes.

4. Once again, we have had instances where BERA members have had a man knocking on their door late at night asking for money for a train journey. We strongly advise that you do not give them any money and you ask them to leave your premises. If you encourage them they are much more likely to return again. Don't forget if you want a free panic or personal alarm, they will be available at the coffee morning (better to be safe than sorry).

5. Free Southend Fireworks at the Seafront

The fireworks will take place at City Beach from 7th October 2017 at 19:30-19:45. Please be aware if you have pets.

6. Martin Terry, Mike Stafford and Ron Woodley are your three local councillors and they would like you to notify them of any upstanding pavements or potholes in the roads that are deemed unsafe. They do pick these up but it would be good to have more eyes looking out for any problems. Contact them via email: cllrterry@southend.gov.uk, cllrstafford@southend.gov.uk and cllrwoodley@southend.gov.uk. We can then pass these straight to the Highways Department at the Council.