

BERA E-NEWSLETTER 22nd November 2018 – 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 20th December 2018 at The Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone Road and The Broadway from 10am to 12 midday.

We will be bringing alarms/signs in case any of you want to buy them. The costs are:

PIR sensor alarm £7.38 (the white one)

Defender shock/contact alarm £9.94 (the grey one)

Garage and shed signs £1.19 each

We also have free panic and personal alarms and car key signal blocking pouches available for BERA members.

Which subscription logon details:

Username: burgesestate

Password: BERAResidents

1. BERA AGM

Please make a note in your diaries so that we can get as many people to attend as possible. We are planning to hold the BERA AGM on Thursday 21st March 2019 at St Augustine's Church from 8-10pm. Speakers will be confirmed nearer the time.

2. Police and Crime Plan

We did send this questionnaire to you on Tuesday but it is a very important that you submit your views, so we are sending again in case you missed it

Do you want to see an improved Police Service in Essex? And are you willing to pay more Council Tax to provide it? Those are the questions being asked by Roger Hirst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

Essex residents are being asked to fill in a survey so Mr Hirst can see what the county's opinion is on increasing resources for Essex Police.

He also wants to know what they think about the policing priorities for Essex.

Funding for Essex Police comes from two sources – central Government and local Council Tax. Taking these two funding sources into account, Essex Police receives the second lowest funding per resident of any police force in the country and has one of the lowest Council Tax precepts for policing. Next year we are also expecting significant additional costs from increases in police officer pay, higher insurance costs and changes to police officer pensions. There will also be costs as a result of extending the police's Airwave radio system due to delays in the roll out of the National Emergency Services Communication Programme.

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, said: "I want to provide the best possible policing service, which is what the people of Essex rightly deserve. Increasing investment will help the Chief Constable deliver this. I am working hard to lobby the Government but we cannot yet know the scale of any increase in central Government funding. I can of course raise the policing precept. Before I do that I want to know what people think."

Last year, Mr Hirst carried out a similar survey which received more than 5,000 responses. Approximately two thirds of the people who answered (65 per cent) said they would be prepared to see the police element of local Council Tax increased by more than two per cent so more money could be made available for policing in Essex. More than half were prepared to pay up to £20 more per year.

Mr Hirst said: "In light of the results from last year's survey, I raised the policing element of the Council Tax by up to £12, or £1 a month, for a Band D property. This increase, as part of the £450 million in police funding secured nationally from the Government last year, allowed Essex Police to recruit 150 more frontline officers, bringing the total amount of Essex Police officers to at least 3,000. These additional officers are being recruited and trained and will be arriving in local communities by February 2019." He added: "Whilst filling the survey I would also like people to give their views on the policing priorities for Essex. I want to make sure that they reflect the needs of the communities that Essex Police serves."

People can fill in the survey online via this link:

<http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/policing-precept-survey-2018>

Hard copies are also available on request. Please contact the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on 01245 291600 if you would like a copy or you can email pfcc@essex.pnn.police.uk. You can also write to PFCC for Essex, Kelvedon Park, London Road, Rivenhall, Witham, Essex, CM8 3HB.

The survey went live on Tuesday, November 6 and will close at midnight on Tuesday, November 27.

The Band D Council Tax for policing in Essex for 2018/19 is £169.02 per year.

This is not a referendum, it is an opportunity to gauge opinions so those views can be taken into account as part of the decision making process. The survey only reflects the policing element of the Council Tax precept and not the precept relating to Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

3. Fire and Rescue Plan

People who live or work in Essex are being asked for their views on the proposed priorities in the county's first ever Fire and Rescue Plan.

Roger Hirst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, is developing a Fire and Rescue Plan that sets out his vision and priorities for the delivery of fire and rescue services in Essex.

The plan will run from 2019 to 2024 and will be the basis on which Mr Hirst holds Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to account for its performance.

The document mirrors the Police and Crime Plan which sets the priorities for policing in Essex.

People can fill in the survey online via this link: <http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/fire-rescue-plan-2019-2024-public-survey/>

Hard copies are also available on request. Please contact the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on 01245 291600 if you would like a copy or email pfcc@essex.pnn.police.uk You can also write to PFCC for Essex, Kelvedon Park, London Road, Rivenhall, Witham, Essex, CM8 3HB.

The survey will close at midnight on January 15, 2019.

4. Caravan in Thorpe Hall Avenue

You may have noticed a caravan parked up in Thorpe Hall Avenue. This has now got a parking notice on it stating that if the caravan is not moved in 7-14 days it will be disposed of by the council, without further notice.