

**BERA E-NEWSLETTER 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – [www.bera.co.uk](http://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 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at The Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone Road and The Broadway from 10am to 12 midday. The alarms and signs have been delivered and we will be bringing any with us that haven't already been collected/delivered. Alternatively you can contact Ron on 01702 588662 and arrange to collect them from his house (91 Tyrone Road). The costs were: PIR sensor alarm £7.38 (the white one), Defender shock/contact alarm £9.94 (the grey one), and the garage and shed signs are £1.19 each.

Please let us know of any potholes and pavement trip hazards that you notice while out and about locally. We can then send the information to the appropriate council officers for their repair.

**Which subscription logon details:**

Username: burgesestate

Password: BERAResidents

**1. Weekly parking permit at Southend Hospital**

We have been informed that if you have a near relative in Southend Hospital you can ask for a parking permit that costs £10 for a whole week. You should ask at the information desk for a form.

**2. Kent Elms junction**

Please see below the latest update and progress so far that will continue to be placed on the Council website, and can be found [here](#)

Eurovia will continue with the construction of the new London bound lane. The new lane extends from the pedestrian crossing near Mendip Crescent to the bus stop past Kent Elms junction. London bound off peak lane closures will continue to be in place between 9:30–15:30. This will also have an impact on Bridgwater Drive as traffic management will be required to facilitate the installation of kerbs during off peak times.

In the next few weeks, once the works occupying lane 1 are complete, there will be a requirement to switch the lane closures over to lane 2 to undertake the works to the central reserve that will accommodate the safety camera.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> August it will be necessary to close Bridgwater Drive for a duration of five days whilst they undertake the required reconstruction of the junction. Local diversions will be in place for the duration of the works and residents and business will be notified shortly.

Eurovia will continue to construct the footbridge foundations on the southern side and parking restrictions remain in place on Broomfield Avenue between 8am and 5pm. This is to reduce the risk of construction vehicles causing damage to parked cars when accessing the site along this narrow street.

### **3. The grass is always greener in Southend parks**

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's Parks team is once again celebrating as their hard work in maintaining our parks and green spaces has led to five local parks being recognised with national awards.

Chalkwell, Priory, Southchurch and Belfairs parks all retained their Green Flag awards, with Southchurch Hall Gardens also receiving the prestigious award for the first time. This year, 1,966 parks and green spaces achieved the award across the United Kingdom.

The Green Flag awards recognise well maintained parks and green spaces across the country, and Southend-on-Sea parks have been receiving the awards frequently over the past few years, exhibiting the spectacular green spaces available to residents and visitors throughout the year.

With a wonderful array of flora on show throughout the borough's parks, these awards highlight the hard work and dedication of all the parks staff at the council.

### **4. C2C train usage**

Looking at figures for the C2C line, there has been a huge increase in the number of passengers over the last 6 years, which is likely to be the reason for the rising number of vehicles that now park near the stations. In 2012/13 the number of passengers using Fenchurch Street station was 16.8 million. By

2016/17 this figure had increased to 18.5 million. This figure is expected to rise even more as the area of the city of London between Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street is redeveloped, with 50,000 jobs moving into the new skyscrapers. Figures for local stations are:

Shoeburyness 2012/13 0.66m, 2016/17 0.75m

Thorpe Bay 2012/13 0.80m, 2016/17 0.88m

Southend East 2012/13 1.8m, 2016/17 1.7m

Southend Central 2012/13 2.0m, 2016/17 3.0m

Some facts for you:

The 2018 Golden Whistles awards celebrated C2C's return to the top of the punctuality league as the operator recorded an 'On Time' Moving Annual Average (MAA) of 83.7% for the year to the end of Period 9 (9 December 2017).

C2C has been very active in trying to grow the off-peak market, whether it is to London and the major shopping centres or to Southend in the summer, and half term offers are promoted and there are bargain price senior tickets off-peak. The peak has not been neglected, with a flexible 10 ticket season introduced on smart cards, with automatic discounts where off-peak travel features and also automatic delay repay of 25% for 15 minute delays.

##### **5. Warning - Rogue Tradesmen working in the area**

We have been notified of a resident that had work carried out by a gardener who knocked on their door and then overcharged them, taking them to the cash machine to draw out a huge amount of money for the job carried out. We strongly advise that you never employ anyone who knocks on the door, and always get quotes from recommended tradespeople (at least two). If you ever feel you are being taken advantage of, always talk to a relative, friend or neighbour to get their opinion, and if necessary call the police.

##### **6. The Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)**

It is nice to see that all Southend-on-Sea councillors are now supporting

BERA's continued objection to the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP) and agree that the current proposals are not viable.

All Councillors supported the following motion:

### **Mid and South Essex STP Proposals**

The proposed changes in health and care provision in Southend and across the Mid and South Essex footprint are destined to bring lasting change to care provided to patients. That change must carry a guarantee of better patient outcomes for everyone who needs care. The recent consultation on the impact of proposed changes and evidence of patient outcomes has not been demonstrated despite requests from the People Scrutiny Committee, the Joint Health Overview Committee, Southend Health and Wellbeing Board, and individual councillors, over a period of 18 months. Proposals by the STP Team are still unclear even though the potential for amendment of those proposals has almost concluded.

The council therefore asks the following to be placed on record.

Earlier this year, the Council's response to the STP consultation expressed dissatisfaction with the STP proposals in a number of very important areas:

- We would not support the STP without better rationale and evidence for moving stroke services to Basildon Hospital
- We said that the proposals are weak in terms of guaranteeing investment in localities without the impact of which, the acute reconfiguration is not viable
- We believed that proposals around transport and transfers were unclear and poorly defined, and would not be able to support the STP until detailed workable proposals were set out
- We found the proposals on consolidated discharge and repatriation arrangements unclear
- We noted the challenges in workforce recruitment, retention and long-term sustainability

This council believes that even at this late stage there is still not sufficient clarity in respect of these serious concerns. We further note that the consultation process reached only a small fraction of the population in the footprint of these

proposals.

It has still not been made clear to residents that six out of the seven therapeutic areas consulted upon will be wound down at Southend Hospital, with patients being moved to Basildon and Broomfield hospitals. The consultation document made no mention of closing down services and wording is vague when public-facing documents refer to treatment being available to patients who seek help at Southend, but don't mention they will be transferred to another hospital for that care.

Southend Borough Council understands the reasons for change – 20,000 GP appointments not provided to patients, which will rise to 60,000 within only a few years, and hospitals in the STP footprint not performing as patients expect. It disagrees with the current process for delivery of change and wants to see a true process of consultation being undertaken, setting out the full impact of proposed changes, including the impact on patients, and clarity about what will happen to current services.

The council notes that the STP proposals are now subject to a formal scrutiny procedure. The council requests that the Joint Scrutiny Committee take full account of the council's continued objections to the STP. The Council further requests that the People Scrutiny Committee gives due consideration to a referral to the Secretary of State, taking these objections and other relevant factors into account.