

**BERA E-NEWSLETTER 25th September – 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 18th October 2018 at The Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone Road and The Broadway from 10am to 12 midday.

We will be bringing the 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 available for BERA members.

Which subscription logon details:

Username: burgesestate

Password: BERAResidents

1. New nursery to open on site of former library

Finishing touches are being carried out at a new 50-place nursery on the site of the former Friar's Library and former Renown pupil referral unit.

The new permanent home for Friar's Centre Playgroup – to be operated in future under the name of Sweet Peas Nursery – is another development by the Council's development company PSP Southend LLP, established in partnership with Public Sector Plc.

This project follows on from the completion of the regeneration of the former [Hinguar Primary School and Saxon Lodge](#) sites in Shoeburyness to convert the sites into new housing, which included the sale of nine affordable units and a further six units to Moat Housing Association.

The nursery is set to open in October and will help meet the increased demand for nursery places in the Borough since the Government introduced its 30 hours free childcare scheme last year.

Completion of the nursery development will be swiftly followed by the construction of nine new homes, which will help to finance the scheme.

As part of the project, the Council successfully secured £331,837 from the Department for Education to enable the new nursery to create 24 new places and extend its current 26 places from part-time to full-time.

The completion of the nursery and new family housing in a sustainable location will be a very welcome development for hard-working parents in the area, who will be able to benefit from the new places and the national 30 hours' free childcare funding made available by the Government.

David Samson, Regional Director, Public Sector Plc said: "This project, completed on budget and to programme, has created a much needed new community facility and is a great example of public/private sector partnerships, creating value from assets to achieve exciting and positive outcomes for the local community."

2. BERA's response to the Low Emission Strategy – Consultation 2018

I have trawled through this document and it is difficult to say anything positive about it. We will be faced with a steering group monitoring progress on a range of initiatives, the majority of which will be business/ Govt inspired.

Despite all the rhetoric in the consultation I doubt that Southend's contribution in terms of reduced pollution will be of any significance (reference my attempts to get something done about the ice-cream van outside Greenways School and the air pollution that it was creating in the environment) - maybe we should have an environmental zone around all schools. Attempts to change peoples travel habits, laudable as they are, have had little effect. Incentives and penalties have both equally failed to impact. The changes to the motor car which have been occurring over the past few years, and in future years, to produce cleaner, quieter and safer vehicles will be the significant factors in pollution reduction. By all means monitor the situation but are we going to spend a fortune chasing rainbows?

Incidentally a couple of weeks back coming home along the A127 I entered a queue at Rayleigh which I found was as a result of a broken down coach stuck at the Kent Elms traffic lights taking up one lane. That coach was there for hours, causing untold delays and costs to commerce and the public alike. More to the point the pollution caused by the queuing traffic would have been horrendous and have undone much that was being done to reduce it. This was a bad example of an all too frequent experience of breakdowns, minor accidents where there appears no urgency and no attempt made to get traffic moving. Some system to deal with these problems should be looked into because the police seem no longer interested or capable.

I am sorry I can't be more positive about it but until there is a relief road or another entrance or exit to and from Southend, only cleaner vehicles will solve the problem. However, this will not solve the ongoing traffic crisis.

3. Local crime issues

To keep you aware of local crime issues, there is a Facebook Crimewatch page that pertains to crime in the Shoebury & Southend areas.

Southend Crimewatch (Public Group): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1558934810810442/?ref=direct>

4. Veolia Customer Satisfaction Survey 2018

Between the 10th September and 10th October 2018 Veolia, our recycling, waste and cleansing contractor, will be running a Customer Satisfaction Survey. The survey asks a number of questions about how satisfied residents are with the services Veolia provides, including collection services, street and beach cleaning and the household waste recycling centres (tips), also any information provided, with regards to the services delivered by the company, and the level of satisfaction experienced if you have had direct contact with them.

During the survey 35,000 randomly selected properties across Southend-on-Sea will receive a paper survey form that can be completed and returned in a freepost envelope. There is also an [online version](#) of the survey available which can be completed by any resident who wants to give their views.

The results of the survey and feedback received will be used by Veolia to see how they could improve the services that they provide.

5. New parking meters in Thorpe Esplanade

You may have noticed that parking meters have started to be installed in Thorpe Esplanade between Thorpe Hall Avenue and Warwick Road. The installation of these meters was approved in the Council's Annual budget.