

BERA E-NEWSLETTER 28th March 2019 – [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)  
(printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)

# **BERA MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT FOR JAN-DEC 2019 IS OVERDUE** (for those that haven't renewed their membership yet)

The cost this year is again £10 per year, per household, and we hope you feel this is value for money. Renewals can be completed by filling out the membership form online and paying by bank transfer (see the form giving you our bank details on the homepage at [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)) or by printing off a membership form (lower down on the homepage) and returning it with your payment to Ron Woodley, 91 Tyrone Road or Mike Stafford, 85 Maplin Way. We would be very grateful if you could return your renewals as soon as possible, and it really helps us if you fill out a form so that we can check that we have your up-to-date information.

Reminders:

**Which subscription logon details:** Email or Username: burgesestate  
Password: BERAResidents

If any of you have taken photos locally that you would like displayed on the BERA website, please send them by email to: [photos@bera.co.uk](mailto:photos@bera.co.uk).

**We have received some new photos which are now on the website**  
[www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk) which you may like to look at.

**BERA Coffee Morning** - The next BERA sponsored coffee morning will be on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019** at The Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone Road and The Broadway from 10am to midday (unless we advise you otherwise it is always on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month). Please come along for free tea/coffee and biscuits. We will be bringing along panic and personal alarms, contactless debit card blocking pouches, and will take orders for the car key signal blocking pouches.

## **1. BERA AGM**

We had a very successful AGM and it was lovely to see so many of you there. We hope you found the 2 guest speakers interesting and if you need any further

information regarding the presentations please do not hesitate to get in touch. Once they are finalised, we will be putting the minutes and a copy of the print-out from air traffic control up on the website, along with the 2018 accounts.

## 2. Road resurfacing

Up to 15 roads across the borough are planned for repairs and resurfacing in April as the council continues with its planned highways works programme.

A full list of roads set for repairs throughout April has been released as the council's highways contractor, Marlborough, will be repairing and relaying full roads and stretches of roads that require immediate attention.

All road closures will be clearly signposted two weeks prior to the works taking place and all works are dependent on the weather, as crews are not able to lay roads in inclement weather.

Works for the following roads are planned throughout April:

Road name	Planned duration of works – days/nights	Length of road ie full road/part road
Alton Gardens	5 days	Full road
Southchurch Roundabout	4 nights	Roundabout and small lengths of Queensway and Woodgrange Drive
Highfield Crescent	2 nights	Full road
Aviation Way	1 night	Approx 70m from mini roundabout junction with Eastwoodbury Lane
Wilson Road	2 days	Full road
Swanage Road	3 days	Full road
Woodgrange Drive	1 night	Vicinity of Chelmsworth Crescent
Chester Avenue	2 days	Full road
Recreation Avenue	2 days	Full road
Darenth Road	2 days	Full road
Bryant Avenue	2 days	Full road
Keith Way	3 days	Half length
Highfield Gardens	2 nights	Full road
Rochford Road/Harp House Roundabout	1 night	From roundabout to top of Warners Bridge one side
Scarborough Road	3 days	Full road

Eastwood Old Road	5 days	Full road
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The quality of the roads across the borough is an important issue, and this was highlighted in the Southend 2050 engagement work with residents.

### **How to report a defect**

If you are aware of any road defects or roads that need resurfacing or patch work, please report these online via MySouthend.

### **How they prioritise repair and resurfacing works**

Using a technical approach, they use various internal digital surveys to analyse data on the present condition of the road and also investigate each site visually. From this information they are able to prioritise which roads need to be repaired first.

There is a further update to the resurfacing programme. Please take note of the following:

**Chester Avenue** will now commence on the 15/04/19 until the 16/04/19.

**Bryant Avenue** will now commence on the 17/04/19 until the 18/04/19

A further accident site has been identified for remedial works:

**Woodgrange Drive** - Due to commence on the 12th April 2019. Full road width between the two junctions of Chelsworth Crescent. These works are planned to be completed over 1 day, weather permitting.

Owing to the traffic sensitivity of the road, all works on **Woodgrange Drive** will be carried out at night.

The affected residents and businesses in the area will be notified nearer the time.

### **3. Spring Crime Prevention Tips**

#### **Spring has sprung so what crime does it bring ?**

The migration into the garden has commenced with all the extra jobs that it brings. Unfortunately along with the spring season comes seasonal crimes and we need to give this a little consideration to prevent them and help others avoid becoming victims too.

**New tools and lawn mowers:** Be mindful of how you dispose of the packaging to your new purchases; don't advertise them to the thieves and burglars with your empty boxes on display outside for roadside collection. Fold boxes inside out or break them up and put them in bag for collection.

**Property marking:** It's a good deterrent if your property is visibly security marked with your house number and post code or labelled, if a forensic property marking system has been used. You can also record the serial numbers of any property and register them on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) for free. If your property does get stolen when marked and registered there is a greater chance of you getting it back. Property marking also provides vital evidence for the police.

**Working in the garden:** It's easy to become engrossed in what you're doing when working in the garden. If the house is empty it would be wise to close and lock the doors and windows. Put the tools away in a secure place after you've used them as 'it adds insult to injury' if *your* tools are used to break into *your* house.

**Shed security:** Refit the padlock hasps and hinge plates using coach-bolts (where you can) as these are a much stronger fit than simple screws. Secure the door with a good quality closed-shackle padlock or (if the door is thick enough) a key operated mortice lock. Protect windows with a wire mesh and fit a curtain or white wash the windows to prevent prying eyes seeing the contents. When buying a padlock lookout for those that meet BS EN 12320.

**New plants:** Large, newly planted trees and shrubs that are vulnerable to theft can be anchored into the ground using ground anchoring pegs that are driven deep into the ground or you can plant the shrub through chicken wire which is then covered with soil [[Further information here](#)]. Cement, anchor or bolt down vulnerable containers into the ground.

**Rogue Traders:** The rogue trader also takes advantage of the fine weather to con the unsuspecting. Although you may think you would never be taken in by them they can be very convincing. They will cold-call and say things like: "I'm laying a drive at your neighbours.....", "I notice your trees or shrubs need pruning...". They could be honest workers and do a good job but think twice before committing to anything or parting with any of your money. Please also look out for your vulnerable neighbours in these situations. If you need a trader you can check <https://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk> , where the traders have been checked by Trading Standards.

#### 4. Southend NHW Crime Data (18th to 24th March 2019)

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
Southchurch	42/43596/19	Theft of a motor vehicle	20/03/2019 08:24	19/03/2019 23:59	Newington Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS BETWEEN TIMES, STOLEN VICTIMS BLUE AND BLACK YAMAHA YZFR125 INDEX GN08ROU, USING MEANS UNKNOWN.
Southchurch	42/43838/19	Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	12/03/2019 13:25	12/03/2019 00:00	Canterbury Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	NAMED SUSPECT HAS ENTERED PROPERTY AND STOLEN FOOD FROM LOCATION WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OWNER,HIS MOTHER.
Southchurch	42/45017/19	Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	22/03/2019 14:23	21/03/2019 00:00	Wick Chase	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY TO PREMISES BY MEANS UNKNOWN AND HAVE REMOVED ITEMS FROM INSIDE.
Southchurch	42/44721/19	Other criminal damage to a dwelling (Under £5,000)	22/03/2019 01:45	22/03/2019 01:45	Oakleigh Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	NAMED SUSPECT HAS KICKED THE VICTIMS DOOR WHICH HAS CAUSED THE FRAME TO COME

AWAY.

Southchurch	42/45590/19	Attempted Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	23/03/2019 13:09	23/03/2019 11:43	Wick Chase	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS ATTEMPTED TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS DWELLING WHILE THE VICTIM WAS OUT. THE SUSPECT HAS CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE LOCK WHICH WILL NEED TO BE REPLACED.
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Offence Type</b>	<b>Reported Date</b>	<b>Committed From</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>MO</b>
Thorpe	42/42421/19	Interference with a motor vehicle	18/03/2019 07:08	17/03/2019 20:00	Kensington Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY TO VICTIMS WHITE KIA SPORTAGE BY MEANS UNKNOWN. NOTHING HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM WITHIN.
Thorpe	42/43899/19	Theft if not classified elsewhere	19/03/2019 16:54	14/03/2019 11:15	Thorpe Hall Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS PULLED INTO THE CAR PARK IN A SILVER KIA ESTATE VEHICLE AND AND STOLEN A CHAINSAW BEFORE MAKING OFF.
Thorpe	42/44859/19	Interference with a motor vehicle	22/03/2019 10:29	20/03/2019 21:30	Butterys	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN BY MEANS UNKNOWN HAVE FORCED THE

							PASSENGER DOOR LOCK ON VICTIMS VEHICLE CAUSING THE BARREL TO HANG OUT. DOOR STILL LOCKED AND NO ENTRY GAINED. VEHICLE PEUGEOT 206 LX COLOUR SILVER.
Thorpe	42/45172/19	Theft of a motor vehicle	22/03/2019 18:02	22/03/2019 00:00	Plas Newydd Close	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS STOLEN VICTIMS HONDA MOTOR BIKE INDEX LC57BUU VIA MEANS UNKNOWN.
Thorpe	42/45974/19	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	24/03/2019 07:47	24/03/2019 01:35	Thorpe Esplanade	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT NAMED HAS HIT A CAR CAUSING MARKS TO DRIVERS WINDOW AND THE OFFSIDE WING MIRROR TO BE MOVED.

No reported crime in West Shoebury this week.

5. If any of our members are interested in helping to keep their street free from rubbish and are happy to walk round from time to time, we can arrange for you to be supplied with the necessary tools to do this. Please get in touch ([ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk)) if you want more information.

## 6. Grass cutting

*BERA have been chasing the council about grass cutting and are pleased to see the following from them:*

We have been grass cutting throughout the winter in many places for the last few years. We will be issuing a proactive statement and web update about the frequency of verge cutting across the borough and linking in with Steve Crowther's team on weeding control too so that residents are given the information on our activity. Spring growth always elicits enquiries about grass cutting as it grows quite rapidly in March / April we do our best but nature works exponentially against us.

## 7. Keyless vehicles

**A new insurance claim is made every six minutes following car theft in the UK, prompting insurers to echo concerns over some keyless vehicles.**

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) said £376m was paid out by its members last year following vehicles being stolen, a 29% rise on 2017.

While it has no data on what proportion of these were keyless vehicles it said thefts of these cars had risen. Researchers have said some new car models are vulnerable.

In its **theft-risk report**, published earlier this month, Thatcham Research gave several cars a poor security rating, including the Ford Mondeo, Hyundai Nexo, Kia ProCeed, Lexus UX and the Toyota Corolla Hybrid.

However, car industry trade body the SMMT criticised the methodology in the report.

Also, Thatcham initially rated the Porsche Macan as "poor", but retested the car and graded it as "superior".

The ABI said the number of insurance claims for car thefts had risen by 12% to 56,000 in 2018 compared with 2017.

However, it suggested that the average vehicle insurance premium had fallen owing to competition in the market.

Laurenz Gerger, the ABI's motor policy adviser, said: "The resurgence in car crime is worrying. The record amounts paid to motorists by their insurers in part reflects the vulnerability of some cars to keyless relay theft.

"Action by motor manufacturers to tackle this high-tech vulnerability, allied with owners taking some simple, inexpensive precautions will help reverse this unwelcome trend."



**How keyless theft works**

Keyless car entry systems let drivers open and start their cars without taking their key out of their pocket.

Thieves, normally working in pairs, will target a car parked outside a house.

One criminal will hold a device close to the car that boosts the signal meant for the key, while the other thief will stand close to the house with another device that relays that signal to the key, fooling the system.

Once the cars have been stolen, they will be stripped for parts, police say.

BERA can supply signal blocking pouches for keyless entry keys, if required.