

1. Big Freeze' could bring lows of minus 10 degrees as UK temperatures plummet

Weather forecasters have warned of a “big freeze” this week, with forecasts of temperatures plummeting to minus 10 degrees Celsius in some areas of the country, and with the coldest weather expected on Thursday and Friday this week. Public Health England has issued a cold weather health warning. Planning for winter weather remains a key priority for Southend Council despite the ongoing funding pressure and competing demands on limited resources. Southend Council is constantly monitoring the weather, with up-to-the-minute reports to stay one step ahead.

2. The State of the footway in Burges Road

Please find below an email that has recently been sent to council officers. BERA are truly appalled at the level of workmanship that has been carried out:

“Sir,

First of all I appreciate the walk with one of your officers. However, that is as good as it gets as we only covered one road. The reason was, as we approached Burges Road, the current footway repair stood out in its lack of due diligence by either the contractor or council officers who had not explained the standard of work required.

It was clear that in places the tarmac was laid cold, the kerb stones were left in the same condition as found which in parts were appalling, the tarmac was again laid right up to the tree trunks (something that I spoke to you about on Johnstone Road, which still has not been rectified) and to top it all the contractors heavy lorry was parked on the pavement of one of the joining roads.

I would like to add this to our meeting on Friday, to outline to you that if this work is to last for 30 years then the council have failed miserably.”

3. Landscape management of the central reservation along Thorpe Hall Avenue

We recently received the following email from Council Officers. Please let us know your views by writing to Ron Woodley at ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk:

“Sir,

I write to seek your views on the landscape management of the central reservation along Thorpe Hall Avenue.

The shrubs planted along the very edge of Thorpe Hall Avenue present a number of difficulties to enable us to maintain them to a satisfactory standard. Due to their location, any new growth immediately encroaches onto the highway. This requires regular pruning, although it does little to enhance their appearance. Traffic management is becoming an increasingly significant issue in terms of time, cost and disruption to residents.

I would like to propose that the way forward is to remove the shrubs that remain along the edge of the central reservation, and plant new areas away from the edge of the kerb. This would provide an opportunity to enhance the look of the area, while offering significant efficiencies in maintenance operations.

If you are in agreement, my proposal would be to remove the shrubs this year, starting from the roundabout and heading south, and develop a scheme for planting next Autumn.”

Although I believe this is a sensible idea, the risk would be will they plant new shrubs next autumn? Depending on member’s views, I will be seeking guarantees that this work will be carried out next year.

4. Mobile Home in St Augustines

Officers have looked into the matter of the mobile home that is parked continuously between Thorpe Bay Gardens and Thorpe Esplanade. They will need to have proof of someone living in the mobile home before any action can be taken. It is taxed and insured so therefore it is legally parked. If any resident has proof someone is living in it, please pass that to Ron Woodley immediately, and he will forward it to council officers.

5. BERA sponsored coffee morning

This will be held on Thursday 7th December at The Methodist Church between 10am and 12 midday. Please come along for a mince pie and a hot drink.