

BERA E-NEWSLETTER 31st December 2018 – www.bera.co.uk (printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)

BERA AGM - We are holding the BERA AGM on Thursday 21st March 2019 at St Augustine's Church from 8-10pm. The speaker is the head of Air Traffic Control at Southend Airport and we will also be discussing the new Care SOS Line that Ron has been working on with the company, where residents have a direct link for emergencies. Early in the new year we will send out more details as they come through for the new Care SOS Line.

Which subscription logon details:

Username: burgesestate

Password: BERAResidents

1. The BERA Committee would like to wish all our members a **Happy New Year**.
2. **Are you winter ready?**

Winter weather is easier to manage when you know how to be prepared and where to find useful information.

There is a range of information and advice on everything from saving money on energy bills, to school closures, on the winter pages of the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council website: www.southend.gov.uk/winter

Adverse weather can have a range of knock-on effects. Recycling and waste collections may be delayed or postponed. Other services such as care services, crematorium and cemetery services and transport services may also be impacted. There is up-to-date information available on the website.

Council officers decide whether or not the roads need to be gritted and our website includes a list of gritting routes. Not all routes are automatically gritted, but are done on a priority basis. Last winter around 1,600 tonnes of salt was used to grit 11,200 miles of road – the equivalent of driving to Edinburgh and back 13 times.

There are other ways you can prepare for cold weather. Stay well and follow NHS guidance as to when to use emergency services, when to call a GP, and when to self-care. Make sure your medicine cabinet is adequately stocked with painkillers and cold remedies to help you fight off common germs.

You can provide additional support for your neighbours by becoming a snow warden. Volunteers will be given a free pack including salt grit, snow shovels and high-visibility jackets. There are gritting bins all over the borough and a map of them is available via our winter pages.

Make sure your car is winter ready. Maintain your vehicle to make sure it is roadworthy and keep an ice scraper in the car. Also take the time to check on elderly neighbours, run essential errands for them and grit their pathways.

There is very little we can do about the weather except be adaptable to whatever nature throws at us. The best way to manage is to be as prepared as possible. I urge residents to use the council's winter web pages to access a raft of information about how you can prepare yourself, help others and when bad weather does hit, and get the all-important need-to-know information, such as which schools are closed.

Information about all the above and more can be found on our website: <https://www.southend.gov.uk/winter>.

3. Kent Elms

The site shut down on 21st December and will be inactive over the Christmas/New Year period - all traffic management shall be removed from the carriageway. The Contractor will return on 2nd January and continue with the foundation works. At this point traffic management will be reinstated on the carriageway within lane 1 from Monday to Friday.

From the 7th January the Contractor will recommence with the installation of the bollards on the Southend bound verge. The works are expected to last no longer than a week and the traffic management will be restricted to off-peak working (09:30 – 15:30).

UKPN have also been attending site for the past couple of weeks trying to locate a fault on their network. These works have been unrelated to any works the Council have been undertaking.

4. The Bell

The trial holes at the Bell have finished. There is an intention to return in the new year to undertake further trial holes, however the dates for these have not been finalized. Once confirmed an update will be issued.

5. Here is a brief summary of the crime information for Southend-on-Sea for October/November:

	October 2018	November 2018
All crime	301	227
Anti-social behaviour	49	39
Bicycle theft	10	4

	October 2018	November 2018
Burglary	14	14
Criminal damage and arson	23	14
Drugs	8	6
Other crime	6	8
Other theft	18	11
Possession of weapons	2	2
Public order	18	9
Robbery	3	0
Shoplifting	9	13
Theft from the person	2	1
Vehicle crime	39	19
Violence and sexual offences	100	87

6. Caravan in Burges Terrace

Please see below a response received from a Southend Council Officer.

Dear Cllr Woodley

I am in receipt of the email below regarding the caravan that has now been moved into Burges Terrace.

Unfortunately, in this situation, it isn't as simple as me providing the paperwork and instructing removal of this caravan. We have a process set with Legal on removal of caravans which has never reached this level yet as they have always been moved from the original notice served and not put back out on the highway.

We correctly served notice on this caravan at a previous location and this was subsequently removed. We then became aware of it being moved to a new location in the Borough and abandoned vehicles stickers were put on by APCOA so the area ECO monitored to see what happened. Unfortunately, this just led to the caravan moving to further locations. We clarified the position over the abandoned vehicles stickers and that it was ECO who would lead on this

and that I needed to clarify the position with Legal in line with legislation on the notice served before I could advise on whether we could lift it or not.

I've spoken with our Legal Department and confirmed the position. Under our process and in line with legislation, we cannot remove the caravan immediately without a court order authorising this unless it was of immediate danger to the public through its current position (This would be along the lines of parked at a corner, obstructing free passage of the carriageway or having sharp bits hanging off that public could hurt themselves on). Legal were very concerned about ensuring that good media and communications came out of this situation and stressed how important it was to ensure the process was correctly followed.

The area ECO has checked again today but isn't dangerous in current location at the present moment, so we have to follow the process and raise a file for Legal to apply for a removal notice at court. I will deliver a notice on Monday to the caravan and hope to catch the owner and discuss further with him and hope that some verbal enforcement will be sufficient to get this caravan removed once and for all prior to a court date. The area Environmental Care officer will continue to monitor and if it is noted that the situation with the caravan has changed and can be immediately removed due to the circumstances listed above, we will ensure that this happens in line with our colleagues from APCOA.

7. Message from a concerned BERA member

Hi Folks

Bit of a clever scam e-mail warning. Purportedly from TV Licensing which loads of people have got caught by. Looks good and declares that your Licence has not been renewed.

Don't click on anything and bin it.

8. Southend NHW Crime Data (17th to 23rd December 2018)

Ward	Incidents
Southchurch	5
Thorpe	4
West Shoebury	4