

1. Burglary in St James Avenue

Message from Essex Community Messaging

A house burglary occurred in St. James Avenue, Thorpe Bay, Essex, on Friday 27th October 2017. If you saw any suspicious activity at the time or have any information please call Essex Police on 101.

Crime prevention advice is available by viewing the following link -

http://www.essex.police.uk/be_safe/burglary.aspx

You can also give information anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Please consider the security of your gardens/sheds and outbuildings. There is often equipment which can be easily taken from within the curtilage of your property or implements which can assist entry into your homes.

2. Forthcoming events

On 14th November from 8pm at St Augustines Church, we have a BERA social evening, with a talk being given by Alison Griffin about her first few months in charge as Chief Executive of Southend Borough Council. Some of our Councillor members will be present.

The next BERA sponsored coffee morning will be held on Thursday November 16th at The Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone and The Broadway from 10am to midday.

3. Number of NHS managers recruited soars as shortage of nurses grows

In the newspapers yesterday:

Soaring numbers of NHS executives are being hired while shortages of nurses are growing, according to a report by the Health Foundation, which warns that the NHS risks not employing enough staff to meet the demands of an ageing population. It comes after health and social care leaders wrote to the Chancellor to urge him to increase spending in next month's Budget. NHS Confederation and the LGA said plans to increase NHS spending by £8 billion a year by 2020 should be brought forward, with an extra £5 billion invested immediately as services were "unable to keep up with demand".

4. Southend Hospital

In relation to the above is this why Southend Hospital and Council are considering the "Home Care" proposal, although they now seem to be backtracking and quite

rightly so? We are sure many of you are aware of the pitfalls associated with such a scheme including DBS checks for yourself, your family and visitors to your house, and whether your household insurance will cover any arrangements. You will probably also need personal liability insurance and to pay tax on any income. Finally, is there any guarantee what type of patient you may be asked accommodate in your home.

Of course there are other ways of releasing hospital beds, and that may be for the Council to release unused space in properties around the borough as convalescent homes. Surely that would be a better idea. Additionally, one of our members has suggested that the hospital consider unused spaces in local guest houses or hotels.

The Chairman of BERA, Ron Woodley advises: "There will be a consultation for the changes taking place at Southend Hospital, probably starting in mid-November. Having been informed of the NHS proposals for Southend Hospital prior to the consultation, all I can say is that I am not happy. We will keep you informed of when the consultation will start once a firm date has been established. What I can say is that even with the proposed changes, mid and south Essex NHS will still be £400 million short by 2020.

5. Local community invited to have their say on Queensway regeneration

Members of the local community will soon have the chance to have their say on proposals for regenerating the Queensway area in central Southend-on-Sea.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is developing proposals to regenerate the Queensway area, creating a new residential-led development made up of high quality housing, commercial space, improved public areas and a new road network.

The Better Queensway scheme, that is aimed at making life better for both existing and new residents, will transform the site into a vibrant and mixed new community of around 1,300 new homes, which will include a minimum of 441 affordable homes alongside a range of other housing options.

The proposals will also include making changes to the road network that will benefit transport and access in the area with the aim of reconnecting communities separated by the Queensway road and improving access to the town centre, sea front, jobs and shops, helping to boost the local economy.

More details on the proposals will be unveiled at an upcoming public consultation, including two public exhibitions where Southend-on-Sea Borough Council welcomes the community to drop in, meet the project team and give feedback. The exhibitions will be held on:

Wednesday 8 November 2017 – drop-in any time between 2pm and 8pm in the Deeping Meeting Room, The Forum Southend, Elmer Square, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1NS;

Thursday 16 November 2017 - drop-in any time between 2pm and 8pm in the Deeping Meeting Room, The Forum Southend, Elmer Square, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1NS.

They want to hear what people think of the initial proposals before they seek a development partner next year and further develop the plans.

For more information, visit www.betterqueensway.co.uk

6. Pavements and problem trees

Following on from members comments, Ron has arranged with the council for an officer to walk the area with him over a period of 2 days to highlight all the issues. A date has not been arranged yet but this will hopefully be in the near future.