

1. Request for help

Please see below a request from Henry Snell asking you to fill out a very general questionnaire on your health for his university dissertation, which took Ron less than a minute to complete. Please try and help if you can.

I have drawn up a very quick survey about the general health of Thorpe residents, and I would be extremely grateful if this survey could somehow be made to the members of BERA, either through the hyperlink being published on a newsletter or by just making the residents aware of my email address (sghsnell@student.liverpool.ac.uk). I have pasted the hyperlink for the survey below. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9XXCTPZ>

2. Essex Fire Authority

The end of September marked the end of an era for the Essex Fire Authority which was formed nearly 20 years ago in 1998. In the time that has elapsed much has changed in society and the Fire and Rescue Service has had to evolve to meet the changing expectations of a range of stakeholders, not least those of the public that they are there to serve.

It is without doubt that the Fire and rescue Service in Essex is better, safer, more efficient and effective than it was 10 or even 5 years ago. It now has:

1. Better and newer fire engines
2. Better and newer rescue equipment
3. Better and newer breathing apparatus
4. A more diverse range of community safety services that are preventing incidents from occurring and protecting people when incidents occur
5. Better and newer height vehicles
6. Better and a more diverse range of special appliances
7. Better, safer and more effectively managed firefighting PPE
8. A more effective and efficient headquarters that is fit for purpose and has potential to meet expanding demands
9. A more efficient and effective ICT infrastructure
10. A more efficient and effective mobilising Control Centre
11. Better facilities and property standards on the majority of fire stations
12. An improved organisation that is continually evolving

Having now handed over the responsibility of the fire and rescue service in a joint administration with the police to the Police and Crime Commissioner it is imperative that the collaboration and expertise continues so that the people of Essex feel safe in their homes and on the streets.

3. Smart meters

The link below has been forwarded by a BERA member and is a useful article. You should all bear in mind that if you change your power supplier you will have to change your smart meter.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/bills/article-4922822/Power-giants-tricking-getting-smart-meters.html>

4. **Coffee morning**

The next BERA sponsored coffee morning will be on Thursday 19th October at the Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone and The Broadway, from 10am to 12 midday. There will be panic alarms and personal alarms available to those that want them. We look forward to seeing you all there.

5. **Aggressive hawkers**

Another tale of aggressive hawkers has reached us, this time with the men threatening to put a brick through a member's car if they didn't buy something, and implying they had just got out of prison. Please contact the police on 101 if they knock on your door and especially if you are threatened.

6. **Which membership**

For any new members, or existing ones who have lost the information, please find below the details for logging on to Which:

Username: burgesestate

Password: BERAResidents

BERA pay this subscription for our members and we hope you find this useful.