

BERA E-NEWSLETTER 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)

(printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)

Reminders:

New Which subscription logon details: Email or Username:

burgeseestate Password: BERA2019

“Which Garden” - log on to Which as usual, but pick the “House and Garden” option at the top. Then pick “Garden” and you will find reviews for all types of gardening tools and accessories.

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).

BERA Coffee Morning - The next BERA sponsored coffee morning will be on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 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 and bring a friend. 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) Temporary Road Closures

The Effect of the order will be to prohibit any vehicle from stopping, waiting, loading or unloading from outside and opposite No74 to No86 Moseley Street.

The closure is scheduled to commence on 19th August 2019 till 23rd August 2019 or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting. The Order will come into effect on 19th August 2019 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. The suspension is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst new gas supply works take place.

Access for emergency vehicles, residents and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure. The prohibitions or restrictions will apply only during such time and to such extent as indicated by traffic signs prescribed by the TRAFFIC SIGNS REGULATIONS AND GENERAL DIRECTIONS 2016. Any vehicle waiting in contravention of any restriction/prohibition imposed by this Notice may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice and removed under the provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

## 2) Summer Crime Prevention Advice

During the summer months we see a rise in the number of “Creeper Burglaries” where burglars take advantage of open gates, windows and doors.

An open or insecure garden gate will provide the thief with access to the back of your home. If you have unoccupied rooms that are accessible to others from outside or off flat roofs make sure the windows are closed, if you need ventilation in these rooms whilst at home at least lock the larger window and only have the small window open even during the daytime. If you only have bigger windows consider a lockable window restrictor and a small alarm sensor on the window to detect entry.

Leave any accessible door open or insecure and an opportunist thief will pop in and anything lying around will be gone. You may have only popped next door, or down the end of the garden or having a quick shower; it only takes a second for a thief to steal.

Tips for a crime free summer:

1. Parked cars – Don't leave property on display in the car. Are the windows shut and doors locked (don't assume that by pressing the button on the remote it is locked, try the handle too)? A lot of thefts are from insecure cars and vans.
2. Don't attract a thief with visible insecure and unattended pedal cycles.
3. Keep side or rear gates, sheds and garages shut and securely locked.
4. Doors closed and locked? Don't forget that with a PVCu multi-locking door you may have lifted the handle but until you turn the key or thumb turn on the inside you have not locked all the locks in place. Before going out or turning in

for the night don't forget to check all doors, someone may have closed it but did they lock it?

5. Windows - lift the blinds or open the curtains and check they are closed, the sun may have been on the TV when it was hot, and so the curtains were drawn with the window open. Remember the above advice about open windows. Make sure in case of fire that keys to windows and doors are readily accessible to occupants but not in view of possible burglars.
6. If you have an intruder alarm activate it when going out and activate the zone for the unoccupied area whilst in.
7. Car keys - don't take them to bed with you, where possible leave them in noisy drawer/location. Keep the keyless fob in a "Faraday" bag.
8. If you do hear a suspicious noise in the house that you are not happy with dial 999 and make a noise, shout out, it could cause any intruder to flee, they may not have known you were home, remember your life is more important than your property. If safe to do so get a good description of the person/s and if possible the car index number and direction of travel.
9. Stopping for lunch, a drink or a cuppa whilst out, soaking up the sun, or going down to the sea, don't drop your guard. If you don't pay attention to your camera, mobile phone, sunglasses, purse or wallet and a thief sees them they will steal them.
10. Social Media – When using "Facebook" or other social media be wary of announcing to the world that you are away and your house is empty. Make sure your profile does not contain private information that would identify you or your address to a stranger.

Last bit of advice - Going on holiday? Cancel the milk and newspaper deliveries and look after each other, get a neighbour or friend to keep an eye on your property, ensure neighbours have contact numbers for a key holder and where possible let them park their car on your drive. To make your home less attractive to the thief create the illusion that your house is occupied (TV simulator, lights and radio on timers, a doorbell that you can answer from your mobile phone) it is less likely to be broken into.

### 3) For Your Information

#### New tax planned on sugary milk drinks

The Government is planning a “milkshake tax” to tackle childhood obesity. It is said to be part of a Green Paper considering ways to improve children’s health and tackle air quality. The paper warns it will target milk drinks unless makers switch to healthier recipes.

#### Baby snacks contain unacceptable levels of sugar, warn health chiefs

Public Health England has warned that baby and infant food manufacturers are loading products with unacceptably large amounts of sugar and wrongly promoting them as good for health. In an exposé of the booming baby food market, PHE said sugar makes up almost half the content of fruit and vegetable-based snacks for babies and infants.

#### Class sizes on increase in England’s schools

Class sizes in England’s secondary schools have increased for the fourth year running, government figures show. Data from the Department for Education indicates classes have an average of 21.7 pupils, up from 21.2 in 2018 – the equivalent of one extra pupil compared to two years ago.

#### School uniform

Parents face a “postcode lottery” when receiving school uniform grants. The Mirror found parents on job seekers allowance – earning less than £16,190 a year – are no longer eligible for up to £150 for help buying uniform in Cambridgeshire, Northumberland, Surrey, Essex, Cornwall, Blackburn and Manchester.

#### Drivers face £100 fine for leaving engine running

Motorists could be handed £100 on-the-spot fines for leaving engines running while parked, under new rules to combat air pollution. The Department for Transport is considering increasing the existing £20 penalty to create a greater deterrent, it is reported. A public consultation on the change will begin over the summer as part of reforms designed to reduce emissions from vehicles in England. Guidelines will be

drawn up for local authorities on how to improve monitoring of idling vehicles and target repeat offenders. Idling engines can produce higher exhaust emissions than moving vehicles. Currently, refusing to turn off an engine when asked can lead to a fixed penalty notice of £20, rising to £40 if unpaid after 28 days.

#### Ministers promise to axe leaseholds for new homes

The Government is to outlaw the sale of new-build houses as leasehold, a form of ownership which has left thousands of homeowners with large fees and, in some cases, unsellable properties. All new houses will be sold on a freehold basis and ground rents on new leases will be reduced to zero, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced. Leaseholders are granted the right to live in their property for an agreed period, usually between 99 and 125 years. Under the lease, the freeholder typically charges ground rent to the leaseholder. Charges can also be levied for making alterations to a leasehold house. A significant number of leaseholders say they have been hit with unjustifiable rises to the ground rent or unfair charges for making minor cosmetic changes such as changing a doorbell.

#### Freeholders and Leaseholders Demand A Crackdown

Freeholders and leaseholders who were ripped off and let down by managing agents are demanding that the government act on its proposal to regulate the 'Wild West' industry. Almost nine million households use managing agents who are responsible for £3.5 billion of residents' money paid for service charges. Campaigners say lack of regulation is leaving honest homeowners vulnerable to theft and mismanagement. Sebastian O'Kelly, a director at the Leasehold Knowledge Partnership, a charity campaigning on behalf of leaseholders said 'At the moment anybody can be a managing agent. It's an unregulated business, which is ridiculous'. The housing ministry says it is still 'committed' to regulating managing and lettings agents and that a working group chaired by Lord Best was investigating how a regulatory structure could work and was likely to report in July.

#### 4) Southend NHW Data (24th to 30th June 2019)

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
Southchurch	42/100503/19	Theft of a motor vehicle	26/06/2019 10:05	25/06/2019 07:20	Whittingham Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE REMOVED THE VICTIMS LOCKED AND SECURED GREY PEUGEOT 208 INDEX EF17KJZ BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
Southchurch	42/100554/19	Theft if not classified elsewhere	26/06/2019 10:02	26/06/2019 00:00	Southchurch Rectory Chase	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS ENTERED THE VICTIMS GARDEN AND STOLEN VARIOUS ITEMS AS WELL AS MOVING OTHER ITEMS AROUND.
Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
Thorpe	42/99831/19	Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling	25/06/2019 12:08	24/06/2019 16:00	Colbert Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY INTO THE VICTIMS GARDEN SHED BY REMOVING THE PADLOCK BY MEANS UNKNOWN. ONCE INSIDE THE SHED, SUSPECTS HAVE REMOVED THE VICTIMS AYTER LAWNMOWER AND LEFT THE VICTIMS WHEEL

							BARROW UPSIDE DOWN OUTSIDE OF THE SHED.
Thorpe	42/100078/19	Theft from a motor vehicle	21/06/2019 10:21	17/06/2019 22:00	Colbert Avenue	Thorpe Bay	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY INTO THE VICTIMS VEHICLE BY FORCING THE REAR DOOR OPEN. ONCE INSIDE SUSPECTS HAVE REMOVED TOOLS.
Thorpe	42/101803/19	Theft if not classified elsewhere	28/06/2019 14:41	25/06/2019 00:00	Wyatts Drive	Southend- on-Sea	TWO SUSPECTS UNIDENTIFIED HAVE KNOCKED ON THE VICTIMS DOOR TO JET WASH THE VICTIMS PATIO AND WHEN THEY LEFT THEY SWAPPED HER NEW GARDEN TOOLS FOR THEIR OLD ONES.
Thorpe	42/102955/19	Interference with a motor vehicle	27/06/2019 04:27	26/06/2019 04:48	Marlborough Road	Southend- on-Sea	SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS TRIED THE DOOR HANDLE TO THE VICTIMS VEHICLE BMW.
West Shoebury	42/99411/19	Other criminal damage to	24/06/2019 16:24	22/06/2019 20:00	Tudor Gardens	Southend- on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE USED
Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO

		a vehicle (Under £5,000)					A SHARP IMPLEMENT TO PUT DEEP SCRATCHES INTO THE VICTIMS WHITE MERCEDES B200, COVERING BOTH THE DRIVERS DOOR AND THE OFF- SIDE PASSENGER DOOR.
West Shoebury	42/100685/19	Burglary - Residential - Non- Dwelling	23/06/2019 12:01	22/06/2019 20:00	Cornworthy	Southend- on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE ENTERED THE VICTIMS SHED BY MEANS UNKNOWN AND REMOVED A PEDAL CYCLE FROM WITHIN AND LEFT WITH PROPERTY.
West Shoebury	42/100538/19	Theft of a motor vehicle	26/06/2019 07:13	25/06/2019 22:30	Ulster Avenue	Southend- on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE STOLEN THE VICTIMS BLUE SUZUKI CARRY VAN INDEX EK02DAA BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
West Shoebury	42/101672/19	Theft of a motor vehicle	28/06/2019 11:13	27/06/2019 23:00	Blyth Avenue	Southend- on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE STOLEN VICTIMS

							GREY VAUXHALL ZAFFIRA INDEX NUMBER KP14 XCS BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
West Shoebury	42/102691/19	Other criminal damage to a dwelling (Under £5,000)	26/06/2019 13:11	26/06/2019 03:45	Ness Road	Southend- on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE THROWN A GLASS BOTTLE AT THE VICTIMS WINDOW CAUSING IT TO SMASH AND SHATTER.

## 5) Release from Southend Borough Council

Parents asked, can you see the signs?

No-one ever thinks their child could become embroiled with drugs, gangs and knives so an information event has been arranged to educate parents to see the signs. As part of our work to tackle County Lines, the free information event is being held to help educate parents of children aged nine plus, about the signs they need to know to spot such issues and keep their children safe.

Forget stereotypes; any child, regardless of their situation and upbringing can be affected, which is why the information event on Tuesday 9 July has been arranged. Any and every child is susceptible and gangs are targeting the 'unlikely' suspects for that exact reason – they are unlikely to be suspected and caught. The "See the Signs" campaign was designed by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council in partnership with Essex Police to raise awareness of the issues. The first stage "Who's controlling your child?" was launched in October 2018, aimed at parents and was viewed over 485,000 digitally. The second stage was a Christmas themed campaign during December 2018 aimed at recreational drug users called #MerryMuletide: Just a bit of festive fun? This was viewed over 191,000 times.

The cabinet member for community safety and customer contact, said: "Please bear in mind, this is an issue in every town in the country, it is not specific to Southend any more than it is for anywhere else. We must take it seriously, the risks and harms are well documented. We need everybody, but especially parents, schools and youngsters themselves to recognise the signs of exploitation, whilst raising awareness to the people who use drugs that their behaviour will impact on the lives of young children either directly or indirectly." Chief Inspector Neil Pudney, Southend's District Commander, said: "It takes a community to tackle the issues of knife crime, gangs and drugs." "We all have a part to play in educating not just young people but ourselves and parents to look out for the key signs that a child may be involved in these crimes or the gang lifestyle. This information evening is an excellent opportunity for us all to come together and share that knowledge so that parents know what to be on the lookout for and we can all intervene to divert young people away from this life before it is too late."

The event is being held at the Civic Centre on Tuesday 9 July between 6.30pm and 8pm. There is free parking at the Civic Centre or Civic Centre East (behind the police station) after 6pm.

Please note the event is not suitable for children to attend as it does include some sensitive and graphic detail. Your child will be receiving similar age-appropriate information at school, if they haven't done so already. There are no childcare facilities available.

## 6) Parking at Southend Airport

Since our last newsletter, we have had a few queries regarding the parking at Southend Airport. Please go onto the Southend Airport Parking website (details below), which should answer any further questions that you may have.

<https://southendairport.com/getting-to-and-from/parking>

## 7) Councillors to consider measures to tackle anti-social behaviour

Senior councillors are to consider proposals to help tackle anti-social behaviour, aggressive begging and street-drinking at a meeting of cabinet next week.

They will consider whether to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which would prohibit a raft of antisocial activities, a breach of which could result in fines and potential prosecution.

The report makes it clear that the purpose of the PSPO would not be to target people based solely on the fact that someone is homeless or rough sleeping. The Council will continue to assist such individuals who require help and support. The purpose of the PSPO is to assist in tackling the repeat offenders whose anti-social behaviour makes the 'Restricted Area' a less pleasant place to be. The PSPO is intended as a last resort once it is clear that all attempts of assistance by the Council have been unsuccessful.

Following consultation earlier this year, the area originally proposed for a PSPO has also been extended to include Southchurch Hall Gardens, Hamlet Court Road and York Road. The significant majority of those who took part in the consultation were in favour of introducing a PSPO.

The activities that the PSPO proposes to prohibit include:

- Urination, defecation, spitting or littering
- Drinking alcohol or failing to surrender any containers believed to contain alcohol when an authorised officer has asked someone to stop
- Taking drugs or substances believed to be psychoactive
- Begging
- Sleeping in a public place in a manner that has a detrimental impact on the quality of life of others in the locality
- Putting up tents
- Approaching passers-by to ask for subscriptions or future donations to charity (chugging)

The area that would be covered by the proposed court order includes central Southend and the seafront between Thorpe Bay and Westcliff and now also Southchurch Hall Gardens, Hamlet Court Road and York Road.

Under the proposals, anyone found in breach of the PSPO could be issued a penalty of £100. If they then failed to pay the penalty within 14 days, they could be prosecuted.

A cabinet member for community safety & customer contact, said:

“A Public Spaces Protection Order covering the town centre, seafront and other public spaces like Hamlet Court Road could be a useful additional tool to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour taking place in some of the busiest areas of our town.

“The Council has consulted with the police and businesses in the areas covered by the proposed order and their feedback was in favour of augmenting our powers to tackle these issues, which are felt to deter shoppers and visitors to our town and make people feel unsafe.

“However, we must also be clear about what a PSPO can achieve, and whilst it adds enforcement tools to help us tackle anti-social behaviour, and allows some council staff to become authorised officers, they are not a complete solution to all the challenges we face.

“The report makes it clear that the purpose of the PSPO would not be to target people based solely on the fact that someone is homeless or rough sleeping. The Council will continue to assist such individuals who require help and support and we will continue to ensure that genuinely homeless people have access to support services that can help them turn their lives around, including providing appropriate accommodation, support with alcohol or drug problems and support with mental health problems.”