

BERA E-Newsletter 7th November 2017 – www.bera.co.uk

1. Subject: Be Winter Ready

UK Power Networks , on a new national campaign called Be Winter Ready.

Be Winter Ready aims to encourage people to prepare in case they experience a power cut or gas emergency this winter. BERA has been contacted to make our members aware of the campaign and to ask if you could help share this important information.

Background

In recent years the chances of unscheduled problems with electricity and gas supply have dropped dramatically. Since 1990, network companies have invested £80bn in improving the reliability of local energy networks in the UK. As a result, on average, electricity customers have a power cut just once every two years and gas distribution customers will have their gas supply interrupted without advance notice just once every 40 years.

Whilst the UK's gas and electricity supply is very reliable, bad winter weather can cause damage and disruption.

Steps you can take to 'Be Winter Ready':

- Know your free emergency numbers: In a power cut dial 105 or, for a gas emergency, dial 0800 111999.
- Prepare your home: Keep a torch handy and get your appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Register as a vulnerable customer: Vulnerable households can get extra support by signing up to the Priority Services Register. Find out more about the Priority Services Register in London, the South and East of England or to sign up, and follow the few simple steps <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/63952-be-winter-ready> .
- Keep your eyes open: Keep an eye on the weather forecast and, if you have a power cut or a gas emergency, check on your neighbours.

2. Some notes from the Community Speed Watch Newsletter

It seems that in some areas the message is getting across as they have had some encouraging reports of zero offenders during monitoring sessions. Please keep sending out the message that speeding is not acceptable to our communities.

Topic of the Month

“Extra Eyes Campaign”

As you may be aware, since August 2016 the police have been receiving Dash Cam footage and other forms of video such as Go Pro from a wide range of road users via the driving complaints e-mail address driving.complaints@essex.pnn.police.uk, all of which are reviewed and acted upon by the Casualty Reduction Team.

A number of cases have been successfully taken through the courts. Footage has been received from a number of sources including Horse Riders, Cyclists (close pass incidents), HGV and car drivers.

The scheme has proved very popular and has been replicated across other Policing areas such as North Wales who were recently featured on BBC News.

In November this will be moving to the next stage in enhancing the police ability to receive such reports through a scheme supported and promoted via The Safer Essex Roads Partnership entitled "Extra Eyes" which recognises the increased use of dash cam and go pro type devices with a wide range of road users.

The campaign is not only about making our roads safer but could also help to make our communities safer by helping to prevent and identify other crimes. You will also be able to report Expired Tax and MOT details once the system goes live.

Please look out for the launch, which will be supported by a back of bus advertisement and radio campaign.

20th – 26th November Road Safety Week

This year's campaign is about raising awareness about the dangers of driving too fast and this year's campaign will focus on:

- Speed causes deaths and serious injuries on our roads
- Rural roads are not race tracks
- 20mph is the only safe speed in heavily built-up areas used by pedestrians and cyclists
- Going slow = stopping in time
- Speed is scary and noisy. It stops communities being enjoyable places for children and families to walk, talk and play
- Speed cameras work. They save lives.
- Intelligent Speed Adaptation (ISA) is an important development that is likely to be fitted to all vehicles in the future

3. Pavement parking

It seems that the worry about pavements is spreading. An article on pavement parking considers campaigners' calls for clarity over the issue and measures

councils need to be able to tackle it effectively. The Local Government Associations Transport spokesman, said irresponsible parking can be dangerous for pedestrians and called on government to publish more details on its Accessibility Action Plan, which would give councils more flexibility in their local area to tackle pavement parking, and make sure that pathways are clear for their residents. He said: "Councils would like to have the option for a default ban, with the ability to allow pavement parking in certain circumstances, as is currently available in London. This would be simple and easy for everyone to understand. Councils would carefully consult with communities on the best parking provision for their area. This will enable local authorities to better protect vulnerable pedestrians and provide a more consistent approach for all road users." Also at last Southend council is looking at placing an informative on pavement protection (watch this space).

4. Message from a resident

Hi Ron,

Just coming home this evening in the dark at 5.30pm driving down St James Avenue we encountered four cyclists riding loosely across the road, only one with an adequate light of any kind,

On suggesting that they were in danger we were foully mouthed, abused as expected, and they just rode on,

Perhaps the point could be raised particularly to parents who live in the BERA Kingdom and anyone else outside of our remit that decent cycle lights and sensible riding are advisable now the dark nights are here, vehicle drivers may not see the cyclist. **The message here members, is if you and your children are cycling about, ensure clothing that is visible is worn and make sure you all have working lights on your bikes at night.**

5. Just a couple of reminders

Meet the new Chief executive next Tuesday 14th November at 8pm in St. Augustines Church. I have told her that there will be a big audience and we will give her a warm welcome.

Coffee morning Thursday 16th November 10am-12 midday in the Methodist Church at the junction of The Broadway and Johnstone Road.