

BERA E-NEWSLETTER 8th February 2020 – www.bera.co.uk
(printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)

1) Preparations being made as yellow weather warning in place

The council is preparing for Storm Ciara and is urging local people to be aware of the yellow weather warning that has been issued by the Met Office for Sunday.

Strong winds and gusts of up to 70 mph are predicted.

Ron has advised that strong winds are forecast for Sunday, and coupled with the high spring tides at 12.30pm it is highly likely that we will see surface water flooding along the seafront due to spray and waves breaking, just as we did in mid-January.

The wind is predicted to be stronger than it was then and tide predictions are higher. With this combination there is a high probability of potential disruption along the seafront, and the possibility of disruption in other areas from high winds that could cause trees to fall for example.

The Councils resilience team are carefully monitoring the Met Office forecasts and information, as the wind predictions could change and move into next week and I encourage local people to monitor the Met Office website, follow the Councils social media feeds for any up to date information, and stay safe if out and about.

The wind strength on Sunday will be closely monitored and a decision will be taken on the day if the Pier needs to be closed for example. The Council are also prepared to work with their partners and contractors to put traffic management measures in place if they are required.

If you need to report an issue on Sunday, such as a fallen tree or highway obstruction, please call out of hours on 01702 215000.

Follow @metoffice or visit www.metoffice.gov.uk for weather updates and @SouthendBC for council updates.

2) A message from UK Power Networks

Our electricity network is built to be resilient but extreme weather can damage overhead power lines resulting in some customers losing their electricity supply. Where this happens we work to restore power as quickly and safely as possible, and we have organised for additional staff

in our contact centre and more engineers on the ground to be available to help customers whose electricity supply might be affected by the predicted weather.

You will be able to find regular updates on our website www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk and social media @UKPowerNetworks throughout this period.

Anyone experiencing a power cut should:

- Call 105 to report power cuts and damage to the electricity network, or 0800 3163 105 (from a corded phone or mobile phone if you have no power)
- Visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk for the latest updates
- Visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut and type in their postcode to view our live power cut map
- Tweet @ukpowernetworks to report a power cuts or to receive updates

We advise people to stay clear of power lines and report damaged power lines immediately by calling 105 free from either a landline or a mobile phone. If they see electricity lines that are down or causing significant risk to the public they should call 999.

We provide extra help to customers on our Priority Service Register during a power cut. Households with older or disabled people, those with children under five, or where someone uses medical or mobility equipment that requires electricity as well as other reasons can join the register. You can find out more information about our Priority Service on our website: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority.

If you would like to share information about preparing for the storm or the priority service register on social media you might like to use the following:

As a result of #stormciara, heavy rain and high winds are due to arrive this weekend. @UKPowerNetworks has extra staff and engineers on hand. Call 105 to report a powercut and visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut for the latest updates #ukpnnews

Do you, or someone you know, need extra support during a power cut?

@UKPowerNetworks provides free services to vulnerable customers. Visit ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority for more information #stormciara #ukpnnews