

BERA E-NEWSLETTER – 9TH JANUARY 2018 – www.bera.co.uk

1. Please find below our first Newsletter of 2018. We hope you had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. You will soon be receiving a booklet about BERA, along with a 2018 membership renewal form, through your door. We have kept the cost of renewing at £10 for this year and for this you receive, among other things, regular e-newsletters, free planning and legal advice, free membership to Which, a free monthly coffee morning at the Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone and The Broadway (the next one is Thursday 18th January from 10.00am to 12.00 midday), and the opportunity to request trees and shrubs be planted in your street. We also pay for the Christmas lights in The Broadway and make donations to local good causes (once approved by our Committee). We really hope that you will re-join for another year so that we are able to continue providing what we hope you think is a valuable service to the community. If you would prefer to pay online via bank transfer, then please go to our website www.bera.co.uk and you will find a link on the home page.

2. As you may be aware, BERA feel very strongly about ensuring **Southend Hospital** is fully functioning, fighting to stop any downgrading of our Hospital. Many of you may have seen that Local Independent Councillor Martin Terry, a member of BERA, has recently had a letter published in The Echo about the risk downgrading poses to patients from this area.

The consultation document for Southend Hospital is now out. A copy of the document is available by phoning 01245 398118, emailing meccg.stpconsultation@nhs.net or writing to:

Consultation Team
Mid and South Essex STP
Wren House
Colchester Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 5PF

If you are concerned about what is planned for our hospital then we urge you to please make your views known either by emailing or writing to the email or address given. Alternatively you can complete an online survey by going to www.surveymoz.com/s/90059489/NHS-Mid-and-South-Essex-STP. NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.

Just to advise you, there is a march and rally taking place, which has been organised by Save Southend NHS Campaign, on Saturday 27th January at 1pm. They request that everyone assemble at 12.00 midday at Pier Hill, Southend.

Additionally, BERA have received the following document about our **Local Hospitals** by email. We cannot verify the content but want to keep you all informed of any information passed to us.

Under new cost-cutting plans by health bosses in Essex, patients who have had heart and lung operations or a stroke will not be allowed to recover locally. Instead, patients will be moved to Basildon from hospitals in Chelmsford and Southend. [1] Andy, a local 38 Degrees member, thinks this could potentially put patients' recovery at risk.

But the plans have not gone through yet. Health bosses have just opened a consultation - and they want to hear your views. [2] Andy has started a 38 Degrees petition to show that local people disagree with the proposed plans. [3]

So, will you add your name now to stop the cuts to emergency care in your area?

SIGN THE PETITION

Basildon Hospital has already suffered from recent funding cuts and has been on black alert in the past. [4] These new plans could put more pressure on the hospital that's already struggling to cope. On top of this, lots of people will find it hard to visit loved ones in hospital because of poor transport links.

This isn't the first time Andy has led the fight to protect local NHS services in his area. Last year he started a campaign to save the A&E at Broomfield hospital in Chelmsford - and won! [5] If thousands of us sign this petition too, then we could stop the plans in their tracks.

Can you add your name to the petition now? It takes less than 30 seconds.

SIGN THE PETITION

NOTES:

[1] These changes are being proposed as part of the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP) for the NHS. STPs are five-year plans covering all aspects of NHS spending in England.

BBC News: Essex hospitals plan to move seriously ill patients:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-41989240>

[2] Basildon and Thurrock NHS: Health and care organisations proposals for consultation:

<https://38d.gs/basildonandthurrockNHS>

[3] 38 Degrees: Stop the Mid/South-Essex NHS cuts to emergency care:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-the-ps400-million-local-stp-nhs-cuts>

[4] Basildon Echo: Basildon Hospital declares black alert due to shortage of beds in A&E:

<https://38d.gs/basildonecho>

[5] 38 Degrees: Victory: Broomfield's A&E in Essex has been saved!:

<https://home.38degrees.org.uk/2017/07/24/victory-broomfields-ae-essex-saved/>

3. A quick reminder about security. Be careful when opening your front door to strangers as we have had reports of people trying to barge their way in to houses - always use a chain if possible, especially at night. Make sure you lock your cars securely at all times and make sure your doors and windows are properly locked, even if you only pop out of your house for a short time. Also, let us try and keep an eye on our neighbours properties and call the police if you suspect a crime is in progress.

Here is a brief summary of the **Southend-on-Sea crime information** for October/November:

	October 2017	November 2017
All crime	260	215
Anti-social behaviour	80	72
Bicycle theft	1	5
Burglary	16	15
Criminal damage and arson	20	30
Drugs	3	3
Other crime	8	4
Other theft	16	11
Possession of weapons	0	2
Public order	10	13
Robbery	2	0
Shoplifting	8	5
Theft from the person	2	1
Vehicle crime	27	12
Violence and sexual offences	67	42

Please visit <https://www.police.uk/shape/xA0vx3/> for more information including outcomes for these crimes and contact information for your local policing team.

4. We have received news today that the tarmac on the pavements is being replaced on the north side of Burges Road. Initially, they will tarmac up to the big trees but then cut back to make it presentable and fill with a material to protect the tree root. They will be picture framing the young trees that have recently been put in and then covering them with earth. They have also been advised to re-do the recently completed areas around the trees in the pavement on the south side of Burges Road and we have asked them to go down Johnstone Road to do the same again.

5. We are getting regular messages from residents about potholes occurring. If you notice any that are more than 5cm deep please call Ron Woodley on 01702 588662 and he will pass your concerns on to the relevant officer at the council to arrange for them to be fixed.

6. If you have anything you would like included in our next newsletter, please send it to ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk. If you would prefer to call, please call Ron on 01702 588662.