

## **BERA E-NEWSLETTER 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018 – [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)**

### **REMINDERS:**

The next **BERA sponsored coffee morning** will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 from 10am to 12 midday at The Methodist Church on the corner of Johnstone Road and The Broadway. This is free for members. If you have any neighbours or friends living in the area who may be interested in joining BERA please bring them along.

The **BERA AGM** will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at St Augustine's Church from 8pm onwards. This will be for BERA members only.

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### **Health News**

#### **1a. A brief synopsis from the Mid and South Essex Sustainable Transformation Plans (STP) meeting at the Maritime Rooms, Cliffs Pavilion on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

The Chief Executive of all three hospitals finally publicly stating the real reason for the STP: "We do not have the money to run services as they are".

This made a refreshing change to consistently hearing that the STP is all about 'patient outcomes' and not about cash which is what they have been maintaining in an attempt to deceive the public and local Councillors. The lack of transparency does not bode well.

Dr Gowrie Balasubramaniam, Renal Consultant explained they simply do not have the Consultants to manage complex cases at Southend due to staff losses after 4 Consultants have left in the past 18 months, as well as other grades of staff. So yet again, is this about a workforce crisis and not patient outcomes?

Southend CCG GP Chair Dr Garcia-Lobera again stated that he abstained from the vote on the STP due to concerns about primary care funding and staffing being in place to support the hospital aspect of the STP.

Dr Skinner, Chief Medical Officer is still insisting that the estimated number of emergency patients who will need to be transferred between hospitals will be 5433 each year.

Dr Fenton told us nothing new about the internal transfer system which would be needed to transport 5433 patients per year. He alluded to the transfer service going 'out to tender'. This might be the situation because senior reps from East of England Ambulance Service confirmed after the meeting that there is not the operational capacity and staff to support these transfers as they are struggling to cope with current demand.

If you haven't already done so please fill in the consultation document for Southend Hospital. A copy of the document is available by phoning 01245 398118, emailing [meccg.stpconsultation@nhs.net](mailto: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.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90059489/NHS-Mid-and-South-Essex-STP](http://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90059489/NHS-Mid-and-South-Essex-STP).

**NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT as the consultation ends on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.**

**1b. Brief update on visit to the Stroke Unit – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

There is no doubt that the consultants, nursing and other staff are fully committed to achieving the best outcomes for patients going into the stroke unit. I was very impressed with their professionalism and caring attitude but it is clear that although Southend has all the equipment necessary to be the main stroke hospital carrying out specialist stroke care including thrombolysis, there are not enough staff and certainly not enough staff being trained even though we have one of the leading stroke consultants in the country. During the meeting it was clear that decisions being made are treating mid and south Essex as a second class area in the country. Since 2011 it appears there have been staff reductions, with stroke nurses being used to cover general nurse vacancies and asked to attend the general wards instead of remaining in the stroke unit wards. Southend has approximately 2,000 patients going into the stroke unit each year, which is more than Basildon and Chelmsford, yet there are still no clear transport policies to move patients across the county. My interpretation is that the trained specialists, including nurses, are very proud of the work they do and want Southend-on-Sea to be the specialist stroke unit in the plan of the STP. In other words it is apparent that Southend-on-Sea should become the specialist stroke unit for the mid and south Essex district. The staff want it, the residents want it so we should demand it. In industry you put the resources to the area of most need. What the current proposals are doing is putting the most resources in an area of least need. This does not make sense.

**1c. A message from a member who recently went to the doctors.**

In the waiting room there was a pile of brochures on the proposed changes to the hospitals etc. ('Your care in the best place' brochure, the STP plan). I asked if my doctors will be doing the things listed in the brochure (adding more/wider services, physio, mental health specialists, blood tests and so on, including extended hours, tests, scans, outpatient appointments and specialist care for the elderly). They laughed and said NO. 'Where would we find space to do all these things, where do we get staff and who will pay for all this?'

I then asked about the new 50 or so doctors who are to be recruited. This brought even more laughter. They stated that the problem is that many of the current doctors in this area are approaching retirement age. When they all go, who will replace them, let alone find another 50?

Looks like our own doctors don't even believe in the proposal.

**2.** One of our members has mentioned that due to the roadworks in Marcus Avenue people are parking all over the place making it difficult to pass, blocking the pavement and destroying the grass verges. We have informed the council and they will be sending an enforcement officer round.

If this is happening in your road, especially if you notice **damage being caused to pavements and grass verges** please let Martin Terry (Tel: 07919 527557), Ron Woodley (Tel: 01702 588662) or Mike Stafford (Tel: 01702 870895) know and this will be forwarded to the appropriate council officer.

**3.** With regards **to dogs mess not being cleared up**, the council are now aware of hotspots and will be monitoring these areas and issuing fines, if appropriate.

**4.** **Nottingham knockers** have been operating in the area again, trying to sell poor quality cleaning products for very high prices – remember if cold callers don't get any sales in your area they are less likely to return. If you would like a personal or panic alarm please let either Mike Stafford (Tel: 01702 870895) or Ron Woodley (Tel: 01702 588662) know and they will arrange for delivery/collection. These are free of charge to BERA members.

## 5. Crime statistics

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO – filtered
Southchurch	42/27157/18	Theft from a motor vehicle	26/02/2018 08:44	25/02/2018 20:30	Thorpe Hall Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS HAVE USED AN UNKNOWN DEVICE TO TRIGGER THE LOCK ON VICTIMS BMW 118DM AND REMOVED A COAT, A WALLET CONTAINING BANK CARDS AND DRIVING LICENCE TOGETHER WITH FORTY POUNDS IN CASH.
Southchurch	42/27174/18	Theft from a motor vehicle	26/02/2018 08:55	25/02/2018 00:00	Bovinger Way	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS BY MEANS UNKNOWN GAINED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS BLACK HONDA CR-V ND REMOVED ITEMS FROM WITHIN
Southchurch	42/27201/18	Interference with a motor vehicle	26/02/2018 10:11	25/02/2018 21:30	Barnstaple Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS HAVE GAINED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS WHITE HYUNDAI I30 BY UNKNOWN MEANS.SUSPECTS HAVE THEN TAMPERED WITH THE PLASTIC BELOW THE STEERING WHEEL AND THE WIRES, BELIEVED TO BE IN AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE VEHICLE.
Southchurch	42/28690/18	Theft if not classified elsewhere	01/03/2018 17:41	27/02/2018 15:30	Bournes Green Chase	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS REMOVED THE VICTIMS PHANTOM 4 DRONE AFTER IT MALFUNCTIONED IN FLIGHT AND LANDED.

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO - filtered
Thorpe	42/28109/18	Theft if not classified elsewhere	28/02/2018 11:32	23/02/2018 17:30	Eastern Esplanade	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE TAKEN VICTIMS PURSE WHICH WAS LEFT IN THE BACK OF A TAXI
Thorpe	42/28465/18	Burglary - Business And Community	01/03/2018 08:32	28/02/2018 19:00	Lifstan Way	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS BY MEANS UNKNOWN REMOVED THE PLASTIC SURROUND FROM THE WINDOW AND REMOVED THE GLASS TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE PREMISES. ONCE INSIDE TREATMENTS AND ANIMAL FOOD HAS BEEN STOLEN.

There were no recorded crimes for West Shoebury.

Here is a brief summary of the **Southend-on-Sea crime information for the past two months:**

	<b>December 2017</b>	<b>January 2018</b>
All crime	194	234
Anti-social behaviour	56	55
Bicycle theft	0	2
Burglary	11	15
Criminal damage and arson	15	36
Drugs	1	4
Other crime	2	1
Other theft	11	21
Possession of weapons	1	1
Public order	9	8
Robbery	2	4
Shoplifting	4	9
Theft from the person	3	2
Vehicle crime	19	9
Violence and sexual offences	60	67

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

6. We have members from the **Barnstaple Road area** concerned about the condition of the road between Daines Way and Samuel Drive. We have been advised that Barnstaple Road is due for inspection this month and any defects found will be dealt with at that time.

7. In an earlier newsletter we asked you to notify us of any **empty homes** in the area and some of you responded. These houses in Leitrim Avenue, Marcus Avenue and Samuels Drive are now being checked and the owners being contacted.

#### 8. **Demolition of Kingsnorth Power Station postponed**

The chimney at the defunct Kingsnorth Power Station has had a stay of execution. The 650ft chimney was set to disappear from Medway's skyline this week. However, due to the adverse weather conditions, particularity of the Hoo Peninsula, the demolition is off. It has been postponed because of the snow, but a new date for it to be razed to the ground, has not been fixed.

A new date for the demolition has yet to be officially announced, but there is some suggestion it will now take place on Thursday, March 22 at 10am.

9. **Just to make clear, the BERA Committee is strong, is dedicated and all believe in serving residents in whatever capacity or area our members reside – in Thorpe, in Southchurch and West Shoebury. Residents can see that, through the Committees dedication, we have one of the best areas to live in Essex and we will ensure it stays that way. One of the ways of doing this is to ensure that every planning application that comes in for approval is examined in detail by our planning specialist and if we then feel it is against the best interest of the estate we make representations to the council on behalf of our members and we have been very successful in our efforts. If you have applications sent to you that you are concerned about please contact us for advice.**