

BERA – INFORMATION

Southend Energy - Message from Ron Woodley

I have recently received my October bill from Southend Energy. Without informing me, the yearly fixed tariff had finished and I was moved on to a variable rate. When I called them about this, they put me back on a fixed rate for another year, backdated to when the previous contract finished. Make sure you know when your fixed contract finishes and then be aware to re-fix otherwise you will be automatically put on a variable rate. Call Southend Energy if you have any concerns on 0800 408 6711.

Parking

At a recent council meeting, parking problems in Thorpe Hall Close were discussed. Residents have been asking for some form of parking control to stop people parking over their driveways. Our Independent councillor, Derek Kenyon, fought hard to convince the committee to send this back for another look. Unfortunately, the Conservative councillors who have the majority, voted against this. It just goes to show you should be careful who you vote for!

Adult Social Care

The local Government Association states that the quality and safety of adult social care services received by elderly and disabled people in England are in danger, as care homes close and providers pull out as they are no longer making enough profit. We have already seen closures of care homes in Southend-on-Sea. The number of care homes in England has fallen by 8% in the past 6 years, which with budget reductions has led to a large deterioration in social care, at the same time as the demand for it is increasing. Why then, at last night's council scrutiny meeting on adult social care, were the Conservatives still insisting on not following through with the local authority trading company, established under our Chairman's leadership of the council, which would have supported and delivered excellent care for the elderly? It seems the Conservatives are hell bent on just having the private sector provide care for our elderly residents. It beggars belief.