

1. Council seeks “Wave Makers” to greet Poppies visitors

A willing band of volunteers is sought to welcome visitors to Shoebury’s Barge Pier when the celebrated Poppies : Wave sculpture, comes to town next year.

The volunteers, or “Wave Makers” as they will be known, are being sought to welcome the thousands of visitors expected to visit the 14-18 NOW Poppies: Wave by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper when the installation comes to the Borough from 12th April to 25th June as part of its UK tour.

Around 150 volunteers are needed to cover a total of 210 four-hour shifts. Full training and an induction will be given with the aim of having a minimum of three volunteers covering each shift. Volunteers can sign up for as few or as many shifts as they would like.

Wave Makers will be on hand to help visitors by answering questions, giving directions or just being a friendly face for a chat.

The installation will be open seven days a week and the proposed shifts are:

- 08:45 – 12:45
- 12:15 – 16:15
- 16:00 – 19:00

2. Carriage way repairs/Information

Thorpe Esplanade night work Carriageway - St Augustines to Maplin Way
10 days

Mon 13/03/17
to
Fri 24/03/17

Sutton Rd roundabout night work Carriageway
5 days

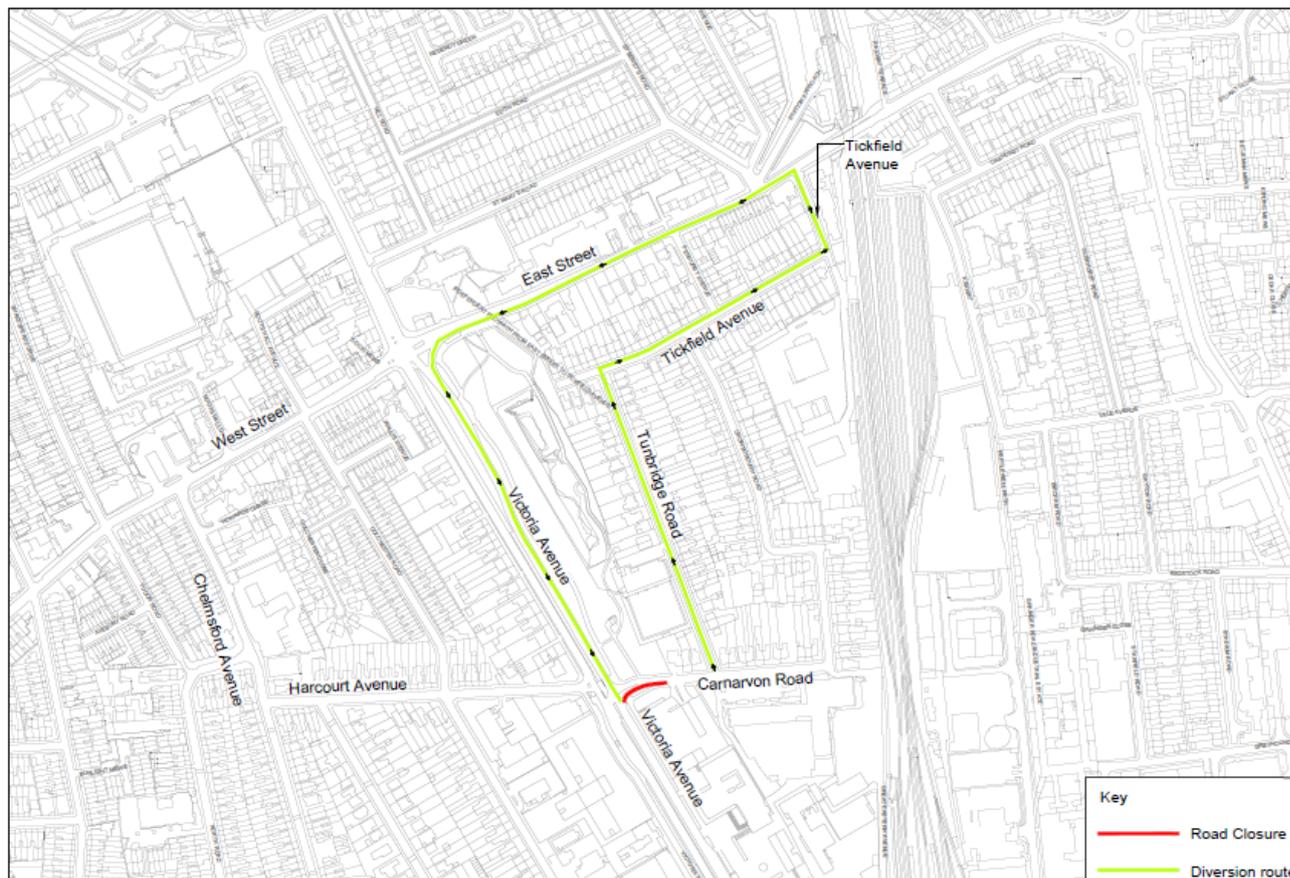
Mon 27/03/17
to
Fri 31/03/17

Works are due to commence to allow right turning movements from Carnarvon Road into Victoria Avenue on 9th January 2017.

The works will begin on Carnarvon Road itself to undertake the reconstruction of the traffic island and the necessary widening works. This has been programmed to last for one week with the intention to then move across to the northbound carriageway of Victoria Avenue to start on the realignment of the central reserve.

The westbound exit from Carnarvon Road on to Victoria Avenue will be closed between 9th January 2017 and 13th January 2017 to enable these works and you will still be able to access Carnarvon Road from Victoria Avenue.

Please see map below for the diversion route.



These works are a part of a series of junction improvements along Victoria Avenue that will help to better manage traffic. The planned works include:

- Carnarvon Road / Victoria Avenue junction improvement to allow right turn movements onto Victoria Avenue. This will help address issues of motorists rat-running through side streets between Carnarvon Road and East Street in advance of the completion of the new residential development on the site of the old college. It will also help motorists intending to go northbound along Victoria Avenue to avoid going to Victoria Gateway.
- Great Eastern Avenue / Victoria Avenue junction improvement to allow right turn movements onto Victoria Avenue to support the future expansion of the car park next to the Beecroft Gallery (former library car park).
- Extended right turn lane from Victoria Avenue to East Street to support the improvements at the other two junctions – this has now been completed.
- De-cluttering on the East side of Victoria Avenue from the East Street - West Street junction to the area north of Victoria Gateway. Reducing street clutter will start the process of improving the public realm along Victoria Avenue.

Further details about the project are available at <http://www.bettersouthend.com> with regular updates sent via Twitter at @bettersouthend. You can also email bettersouthend@southend.gov.uk.

Periodic updates will be posted to the Council's official Facebook Page, which can be found by searching for SBCOfficial.

3. A message from one of our members - please be careful when opening your door.

Wondered if you wished to alert all BERA members that it seems the Nottingham Knockers are back in town. Had our first knock Monday night at 5pm. It's not just expensive poor quality goods they are trying to sell but also collecting info as one can see if looking online at www.safelocaltrades.com/consumers/advice/nottingham-knockers.

It seems that Thorpe Bay is a favourite target for them as we never had any problems when we lived in Rayleigh. Too many apparently affluent older and vulnerable people live here perhaps.

4. Is this why the NHS are looking to change?

Estimated NHS Vacancies



Job Role	Mar 16			
	STP Vacancies (FTE)	Vacancy Rate (%)		
		STP	Midlands and East Average	England Average
Nursing				
Adult Nursing	731	13.6%	11.2%	9.8%
Child Nursing	29	10.0%	7.3%	7.1%
Learning Disability Nursing	1	4.1%	11.8%	12.4%
Mental Health Nursing	153	22.2%	13.0%	13.3%
Midwives	10	2.3%	4.6%	5.3%
Dietetics	2	3.7%	1.5%	1.6%
Healthcare Professions				
Occupational Therapy	20	7.7%	7.5%	6.6%
Physiotherapy	47	13.7%	7.1%	5.0%
Radio graphy (Diagnostic)	26	11.6%	8.4%	8.0%
Radio graphy (Therapeutic)	-1	-1.3%	3.5%	-0.5%
Speech and Language Therapy	11	11.6%	3.1%	1.8%
Clinical Psychology	15	17.4%	18.3%	10.9%
Operating Theatres	53	32.8%	6.9%	1.9%
Pharmacists	2	1.9%	8.4%	5.1%
Pharmacy Technicians	7	6.3%	2.3%	3.3%
Psychology	29	28.3%	-2.1%	2.6%
Clinical Support Staff	720	12.5%	7.4%	5.4%
Medical				
NHS Infrastructure Support	344	12.4%	10.0%	8.8%
Healthcare Scientists	43	10.3%	4.7%	2.1%
Accident and Emergency	10	35.8%	20.4%	13.8%
Anaesthetics	13	11.4%	4.1%	2.5%
Cancer and Diagnostics	16	11.7%	9.5%	7.4%
Dentistry / Dental	0	5.9%	-12.4%	2.6%
Intensive Care Medicine	0	0.0%	10.4%	13.2%
Medicine	24	12.8%	12.9%	10.8%
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	2	5.2%	4.0%	4.0%
Paediatrics	3	7.1%	1.2%	1.1%
Psychiatry	1	1.2%	4.1%	8.0%
Surgery	6	4.0%	6.0%	4.1%
NCCG, Trainees and Other Medical & Dental	145	12.4%	9.9%	7.0%
Total/Average	2,493	13.2%	8.8%	7.3%

Narrative

- Mid and South Essex are running with a considerably higher vacancy rate than the national average
- Operating Theatres has the largest vacancy rate and number of vacancies in the country, while the national vacancy rate is quite low
- Accident and Emergency, Clinical Support Staff and Speech and Language Therapy all have the 3rd largest vacancy rates of all STPs
- Physiotherapy and Anaesthetics have the 4th largest rate of all

Notes:

Source: Workforce forecasts May 2016;

Medical Specialties include consultants only, all other grades are aggregated under NCCG, Trainees and Other Medical & Dental.

5. Special Meeting, People Scrutiny Committee

There was a Special Meeting, People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 20th December, 2016 6.00 pm. If you would like to read further information, which includes information about Southend Hospital proposals, please use the link below:

<http://southend.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=2490&Ver=4>

If you are aware of any news, good or bad, that would be of interest to other BERA members, please let us know.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Ron Woodley

Chair