



# BERA

## The Residents' Association

December 2015

Dear Member

A BERA meeting was held in St Augustines Church in September, which many of you attended. Some of the topics discussed were parking, crime, litter, damage to pavements, care homes and care of the elderly and flood defences. Below is a brief update on some of these topics, along with links relating to events taking place in the Southend-on-Sea area, which you may find useful over the Christmas period.

As part of the Associations ongoing support of the local shops in the Broadway, once again we have donated towards placing Christmas lights on the tree and light columns, and hope you enjoyed the event in the Broadway on the 14 November. Southend-on-Sea is a very busy town and there are many events organised that residents miss as they are unaware they are taking place. We have undertaken a bit of research and found some good websites for adults and children, that are up-to-date, and in many cases, free. The best sites are:

[www.onsouthend.com/events](http://www.onsouthend.com/events)

[www.visitsouthend.co.uk](http://www.visitsouthend.co.uk)

[www.lovesouthend.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.lovesouthend.co.uk/whats-on)

[www.mytownsouthend.com](http://www.mytownsouthend.com)

[www.southend.gov.uk/events/this\\_week](http://www.southend.gov.uk/events/this_week)

A website that may be helpful if you plan to start or increase the size of your business is [www.bestgrowthhub.org.uk/events](http://www.bestgrowthhub.org.uk/events) which gives details of local authority and third party events. Finally a website that provides all residents of Southend-on-Sea with a network to use when they need help to look after their neighbourhood, or street, particularly in the areas of town where the spread of rental property is now concentrated is [www.mystreetsouthend.com](http://www.mystreetsouthend.com).

As in the past we plan to donate some of our reserves planting trees in the area. We are replacing dead or dying trees and contributing towards the planting of new trees around St Augustines church and in areas associated with BERA. This helps to keep the area looking attractive.

Most of us who drive, drive sensibly, but unfortunately there are some who don't. Speeding is dangerous, and we all know that hitting a pedestrian at 40mph is more likely to cause death or serious injury than at 20mph. There will be a **20mph trial** in Barnstaple Road and Burges Road, after which the Council Scrutiny Committee will consider whether to introduce 20mph to all residential streets in the town.

Unfortunately some roads still have **parking problems**, but hopefully the changes coming through, which will be advertised for comments in the near future, will go some way towards making the situation less stressful. We also have the significant problem of damaged **pavements**, caused when residents or workmen drive over the paving slabs causing them to crack, making them a hazard to pedestrians. The same applies to **litter** which costs £2.4 million per year to pick up. It is important to keep an attractive street scene, as visitors to the town will see we are proud of where we live and we may attract potential investors.

Thorpe Bay has a large number of **elderly residents** who in our particular area are living 10 years longer than other parts of the town. The Council has to plan for the future and ensure there are appropriate services to deal with any health/housing related issues. Social isolation is a huge problem for our elderly and we need to make sure that as far as possible this can be prevented by keeping an eye on our neighbours, especially during the winter months.

As always with winter, we have to be prepared for some inclement **weather**. Heavy rainfall can cause flooding, damage to roads, and traffic chaos. We understand that the Council have the machinery and products needed to deal with any severe weather and will be working to ensure that our main roads are kept free of snow, but please report any problems that go unnoticed to your councillors.

This year, the **police force** have had to deal with huge cuts in funding, but are still managing to provide a good service, and we are happy to report that we live in a low **crime** area. It is important that we remain vigilant and sort out security for our homes, cars and sheds as this will reduce criminal activity. Southend-on-Sea is the only area of Essex that has always kept its street lights on at night, something residents regularly tell us they are pleased about and something that makes them more confident about being out and about during the day and evenings.

There has been a recent application to allow **Shoebury Common** to be listed as a village green. Although it is sad that this has failed, we at BERA remain an organisation that tries to ensure that nothing is changed or built that will be to the detriment of future generations. Also relating to Shoebury there is still the issue of the Sea Wall. New advisers on the sea defences for Shoebury Common are due to report back in the near future. It looks extremely promising and their proposals will follow closely those recommended by our association ie a slight increase in the sea wall and a beach recharge. This will mean there will definitely be no wall of mud built.

The **Tram Stop Shelter** has had a very successful year with their fundraising, and have been contacted by many local companies offering help. Have a look at their website to see how far they have come [www.tramstopshelter.co.uk](http://www.tramstopshelter.co.uk).

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Ron Woodley, Chair BERA, 91 Tyrone Road, Thorpe Bay, Essex, SS1 3HD**  
Contact details 588662 or e-mail [ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk) or [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)

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## The Residents' Association

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – January-December 2016

Please make cheques payable for £10 to: “*Burges Estate Residents Association*”

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Other): .....

First Name: .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Telephone: ..... E-mail: .....

Please include your emails if possible, as at present we have to post/deliver more than 200 documents every time we send a newsletter. For those of you who do not have access to a computer we are happy to continue with this facility.

**Please return completed form to:**

**Mike Stafford, Treasurer BERA, 85 Maplin Way, Thorpe Bay, Essex, SS1 3NL OR  
Ron Woodley, Chair BERA, 91 Tyrone Road, Thorpe Bay, Essex, SS1 3HD**

#### **BERA Committee Members 2015**

Ron Woodley – Chair  
Philippa Peters – Secretary  
Catherine Marks  
Avis France

Mike Stafford – Treasurer  
Debbie Fuller  
David & Margaret Harper

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