



# BERA

## The Residents' Association

January 2017

Dear Member

A Happy New Year to you. This is a short newsletter to advise you about local news and the **BERA AGM, which will be taking place in St Augustines Church at 8pm on Tuesday 28th March**. We would love to see as many of you there as possible and there will be time for refreshments and a chat after the meeting.

Don't forget to check the BERA website for updates on local issues ([www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)). There is a page regarding the Tram Stop Project, with regular newsletters posted, and events that support and raise money for this project

### Street News

1. Greenways residents parking is now in force. This should improve the safety aspects of children going to and from school, including improving the air quality, and avoiding the unnecessary parking of school staff in Greenways itself.
2. We have seen a number of mobile homes being parked in the area. Council Officers have now given the following advice in relation to the legality of these vehicles being parked:
  - a. Action can be taken against a person who is "residing in a vehicle" on the highway under S.77 and 78 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. The Council can issue a direction to leave the land and remove the vehicle – and non-compliance is an offence. Whilst occasional overnight parking at the side of the road is not prohibited, if it becomes a problem S.77 and 78 gives the Council power to take action.
  - b. On 2 December 2016 a letter was placed on the windscreens of several motor homes in the Thorpe Bay area, where it was suspected that a person or persons may be residing in the vehicle. This gave a warning and said the Council would be monitoring the position closely. At the time the letters were placed on the windscreens there was no-one in any of the motor homes. Clearly, proving people are living in their mobile homes is not an easy matter. However, the area ECO and supervisors are aware of the situation and undertake random patrols to see if there is any evidence of residence. No further complaints have been received since the letters were issued.

If members do see motor vehicles parked, please gather evidence that people are sleeping in them overnight, and we can then ensure the Council takes action.

3. Don't forget it is an offence under the Highways Act to drive over pavements and kerbs where your property doesn't have a proper crossover. You may find that the council will take enforcement action against households that do not comply with the Act.
4. Trees and shrubs donated by BERA are due to be planted at various locations on the Burges Estate soon. If you have any requests for next year please let us know.

## **Winter weather**

We are now experiencing the winter weather and I would urge all of you with elderly neighbours to knock and ask whether you can help with shopping, put their rubbish at the front of their property on collection day or just ask if they are ok. We have a strong community spirit in Thorpe Bay and if you are prepared to help others then others will be prepared to help you, should you need it, in the future. Schemes like "Adopt a neighbour" are a good idea and could be looked into. We understand that some people already meet up at Café Ciao and perhaps this could be more of a formal time each month – we are considering a regular coffee morning for BERA members, possibly to be held at one of the local churches? This is one of the items to be discussed at the AGM.

## **Letters being received through the post – Warning**

Some of you have received letters from a company called Churchill Retirement Living regarding the possibility of selling your freehold to them. We thought we had dealt with this matter, but it seems they are still sending out letters to home owners. We advise you not to consider the matter as even if you wanted to sell your freehold to them, it would not pass the planning stage as we would vigorously defend the covenant which states a property can only be a single private dwelling house. **Let's not put ourselves in a leasehold problem again!**

## **Policing**

The Home Office is always quoting that crime is decreasing but this may be because people no longer feel it is worth reporting crimes have taken place as the police do not follow up on the information anyway. Maybe now is the time to report all crimes so that those in charge realise the true extent of crime and instead of keep cutting funding to the police it should be increased, thereby halting the dwindling revenues they currently have to operate on.

Thorpe Bay is still a safe area to live in, but keeping an eye out for each other and reporting anything out of the ordinary will help the police and discourage any criminal activity. Always ensure cars are locked and nothing is left on view. BERA can supply panic and personals alarms if required.

## **Southend Energy**

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. You can call Southend Energy on 0800 408 6711 to receive a revised quote at the end of your contract, and then we suggest you check with other energy companies to find out whether this is still the best tariff for you.

Finally, do you have new neighbours or know someone who is not a member of the Association? If so, why not introduce them to BERA. The stronger we are the more we can achieve and maintain the area we live in.

Please notify us if your email address or contact details change during the year as this enables us to keep you in touch with any local news.

**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)

# BERA - The Residents' Association

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – January-December 2017

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 email 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.

### BERA Committee Members 2017

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

Mike Stafford – Treasurer  
Debbie Fuller  
David & Margaret Harper

### BERA New Committee Members to be confirmed at the AGM:

Freddie Dawkins  
Theo Still  
Cliff White  
Ken Swain

Alan Meredith  
Cecily Bonallack  
John Sykes

**Please return the completed form to:**

**Ron Woodley, Chair BERA, 91 Tyrone Road, Thorpe Bay, Essex, SS1 3HD**

**OR**

**Mike Stafford, Treasurer BERA, 85 Maplin Way, Thorpe Bay, Essex, SS1 3NL**