

BERA – E-NEWSLETTER 10th APRIL, 2017

- 1.** This week, for those of you who usually have your **refuse collected** on a Friday, the pick-up will be on Saturday 15th April due to the Good Friday bank holiday.
- 2.** **Thorpe Bay Art Group** meet from 1.30-3.30pm in the Methodist Church every Wednesday afternoon during term time. The group caters for beginners through to advanced level and you can do whatever type of art you want to. New members are always welcome so if you are interested please call Mo Bowden on 01702 585382.
- 3.** Please be aware. A member has advised us of a caller who carries on ringing the front door bell even when they have answered remotely via the intercom. This could be to check whether the house is occupied. Be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police.
- 4.** Below is an email from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. It explains about the delays to the work at **Kent Elms junction** with work on the south (outbound) side of the junction continuing until September. This is very disappointing and the first time that we can recall when a deadline will not be met.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is putting measures in place to ensure traffic into and out of the town flows as smoothly as possible during the summer season after encountering delays by utility companies which will see some outbound street works activity continuing into summer.

Work by National Grid to divert their gas main was scheduled to take three weeks to complete. However, it has subsequently taken 16 weeks to complete their work. This has caused a knock-on delay to other utilities work that needs to be carried out at the junction. As much as possible, the Council have focussed their work on areas of the highway that are not affected by the gas mains diversions, predominantly in the north (Southend-bound) side of the junction. Over 80% of the work is still scheduled for completion in mid-June. However, the result of this unforeseen delay is that the Council will need to continue some work on the south (London-bound) side of the junction through to September.

Because of these utilities delays the Council have worked up a revised programme with their contractor, Eurovia, which aims to minimise disruption to traffic during the peak season. Work on inbound carriageways is still scheduled to complete before the summer but there will now be some off-peak closures of single lanes on the London-bound carriageway during the summer period.

The Council have put the following arrangements in place to minimise pressure on the A127 during busy holiday periods.

Easter and end-of-May school holidays

In consideration of the impact of lane closures during these busy periods, there will be two lanes Southend-bound kept open throughout the day. On the London-bound carriageway, there will be no peak lane closures and Eurovia will also endeavour to keep off-peak (09.30 – 15.30) lane closures to a minimum.

Summer school holidays

All lanes will be completed on the Southend-bound carriageway before the summer holidays. Some off-peak lane closures may still be necessary at times but a minimum of two lanes on the Southend-bound carriageway will be kept open throughout the day. On the London-bound carriageway, there will be no peak lane closures and Eurovia will also endeavour to keep off-peak (09.30 – 15.30) lane closures to a minimum.

New footbridge

The Council are currently asking companies to submit bids for the replacement of the footbridge over the A127 at Kent Elms. The Council anticipate that the bridge will be assembled offsite and swiftly constructed in modules in the autumn. This will keep the number and duration of lane closures to a minimum at this point. The Council have made a commitment to keeping school crossing patrols in place during term times until a new footbridge is in place.

Further updates will be posted to the Better Southend webpage (www.southend.gov.uk/bettersouthed) as a new work programme is agreed.

If you have any enquiries regarding the work programme please contact michaelsargood@southend.gov.uk or telephone 01702 534322.

5. Below is an email from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council about junction improvement works along Victoria Avenue

Junction improvement works along Victoria Avenue are substantially complete and now allows vehicles to turn right onto Victoria Avenue from Carnarvon Road and Great Eastern Avenue.

Installation of detection loops to support the new signals is programmed for next week and will require the following **closures**:

- **Overnight lane closures** on Victoria Avenue Southbound leading to and from the junction with Great Eastern to just beyond Great Eastern on **Monday, 10th April 2017** between **20:00 – 06:00**
- **Lane closures** on Victoria Avenue Northbound 100m south of the junction with Great Eastern Avenue to just beyond the junction on **Tuesday, 11th April 2017** between **09:30-15:30**
- **Overnight road closure** on Great Eastern Avenue on **Tuesday, 11th April 2017** between **20:00 – 06:00**
- **Overnight road closure** on Carnarvon Road and **lane closures** on Victoria Avenue Northbound leading to and from the junction with Carnarvon Road on **Wednesday, 12th April 2017** between **20:00-06:00**
- **Overnight lane closures** on Victoria Avenue Southbound leading to and from the junction with Carnarvon Road on **Thursday, 13th April 2017** between **20:00-06:00**

Diversion routes will be in place for the duration of the works.

Further details about the project are available at www.bettersouthend.com with regular updates sent via Twitter at **@bettersouthend**.

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

You can also email bettersouthend@southend.gov.uk