

BERA E-Newsletter 1st July 2020 - www.bera.co.uk (printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)

Dear Member

Please see today's update, along with other information that is happening in our area.

Please also continue to look at the BERA website for the daily updates under the 'newsletters' section. We will endeavour to send out the next e-newsletter on Saturday.

Keep well,

Regards

Ron

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

30 June 2020

Purpose

This briefing is to update all on the ongoing development and management of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the current situation in the UK, and some key wider public health responses, mainly from a national level.

Latest on Coronavirus

- Risk Level – 3
- UK Tests and Deaths: **a total of 312,654 (689 previous 24hrs) were confirmed positive.** There has been a total of **43,730 (155 previous 24hrs) COVID-19 related deaths.**
- As of the 30th June, in Southend-on-Sea there were **638 positive cases (8 new cases – Pillar 1 = 3 cases and Pillar 2 = 5 cases since the 26th June).**

Pillar 1 (total 461) - tests carried out in NHS laboratories; **Pillar 2 (total 177)** - testing by commercial partners of the mass-testing programme.

- There were **177 confirmed deaths (1 new registered death since 26th June)** in both the hospital and community.

Local Updates

Test, Trace, Contain and Enable

The Council has now submitted the Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP) which has endorsed by the Regional team on behalf of the government. This is to support the NHS Test and Trace service allowing us to test and identify all the people who are exposed to the virus and minimise the spread.

The final LOCP which will remain a live document, due to the unpredicted nature of this pandemic and our need to tailor to any changing needs, has tonight been uploaded on our website – we have provided a summary and the full document is attached:

<https://www.southend.gov.uk/testandtrace>

Key updates/actions

- **Local Outbreak Control Plan:**

The Council's Local Outbreak Control Plan will be submitted to the Government later today (30th) and published on our website, along with public facing content. Further details will also be included in the Director of Public Health's Tuesday briefing later today.

- **Three things to help prevent Coronavirus spread:**

Residents are reminded they are the most important link in new test and trace system: Read more here:

<https://www.southend.gov.uk/news/article/1951/residents-are-the-most-important-link-in-test-and-trace-system>

- **Discretionary business grant scheme:**

This scheme aimed at small and micro businesses has now been launched and businesses are being encouraged to check their eligibility and apply online at www.southend.gov.uk/businessgrants. We have received 231 applications, with 60 of those requiring further information. We have paid out £50,000 to 16 businesses. Businesses are being asked to apply as soon as possible and attach all relevant documents to their applications.

- **Retail, hospitality and leisure and small business grants:**

We have now paid out £36.5m to 2998 businesses.

- **Anti-litter campaign:**

An anti-littering campaign was launched last week.

The campaign materials can be downloaded on our Flickr site:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/southendbc/albums/72157714867073311>

Other

- **Out of hours:** Urgent issues arising out of hours should be reported to the out of hours service in accordance with standard practice. The phone number is 01702 215000. The out of hours service will then contact the relevant Council officer who is on-call or the relevant contractor such as Veolia. They also have access to the town link radio and CCTV.
- Sections within the Coronavirus pages on the Council's website have been created for financial support available to local people and local businesses as a result of the various Government funding measures announced. Please use these links to signpost if you get enquiries: [Resident financial support pages](#)
[Business financial support pages](#)
- Please continue to visit and promote www.southend.gov.uk/coronavirus to local people.
- Please encourage local people to sign up for [regular e-newsletters on Coronavirus:](#)

Please follow our social media accounts and share our Coronavirus related content.

1) Information Corner

Possible Scams

a) Amazon Prime

We have been contacted by two members regarding possible scams. Please see the information below:

I received a message purported to be from Amazon which said, 'Dear Customer your bank has refused the bank details we have for your Amazon Prime Account. Please contact us via the attached form giving your up-to-date details so we can reapply them'. I don't have an Amazon Prime Account fortunately but it is possible to automatically activate Prime by ordering some items online. I just deleted.

b) TV Licence

I would like to inform you of a scam which involves your TV Licence. People over 75 had a free licence until June this year and it was decided to charge us again from June 2020.

There is a scam being sent by email asking people for their bank details etc so as to renew their TV Licence.

I have spoken to TV Licensing about this & they have told me that due to Covid-19 the licence will **not** be renewed until the end of July and they only notify you by **POST, not Email.**

Please be aware and do not open anything that you do not recognise and just delete it.

The Financial Services Register - Beware of Financial Scams

The Financial Services Register is a public record that shows details of firms, individuals and other bodies that are, or have been, regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and/or the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). It also has information on firms regulated by the Financial Services Authority that had cancelled or stopped being regulated before April 2013.

Why search the Register?

You can search the Register to find out whether a firm you are using, or plan to do business with, is authorised or by the PRA and/or FCA, or is exempt. You can also see if a consumer credit firm has interim permission to provide consumer credit.

Beware of Financial Scams

Firms and individuals can only offer most financial products and services in the UK if they are authorised, registered or approved to do so, or are otherwise exempt.

Yet some act without our authorisation or registration, or without being exempt, and some knowingly run scams.

If you deal with a firm (or individual) that is not regulated you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service or Financial Services Compensation Scheme if things go wrong. Search for a firm or individual to find out how you are protected.

Protect yourself from scams

Find out how to check you are dealing with a regulated firm.

You can see what to do if you have been scammed, are concerned about an investment or have been contacted by fraudsters.

You can also help us protect other people if you report a scam or unauthorised firm.

https://register.fca.org.uk/ShPo_Homepage

Libraries Click and Collect service set to launch

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is pleased to announce residents can soon pick up their favourite books and novels through a new 'Click and Collect' service launching Monday 6 July.

The service will allow residents to make use of the libraries once again whilst the council works within Government guidance around social distancing with their plans to reopen the libraries in full.

Initially this service will be available from 10am – 2pm Monday to Saturday, with the team waiting to select books for you and make them available to collect safely from a library of your choice.

The service is available online or by telephoning your local library. Tell us what you like to read or if you have favourite authors, and our team will choose up to seven books based on your preferences, and also introduce you to authors who may write like your favourite authors.

Just let our staff know if you prefer large print or paperback or if you normally borrow from our audio book collection, and they will select the books for you and contact you with a pick up date and time for your preferred pick up library.

You will need your:

- Library card number
- Your library account PIN

To request an item, or to find out more, please visit www.southend.gov.uk/libraries or telephone 01702 215011

Our normal reservations service will be available again from Thursday 2 July.

Unfortunately, reservations from our SELMS partners are not possible at this time, but we hope to resume this service as soon as it is safe to do so.

Lockdown easing and warm weather a 'perfect storm' for tourist destinations

The Government's easing of lockdown and hot weather could create a "perfect storm" and overwhelm England's busiest seaside resorts, officials have warned. Following scenes at beaches across the country last week, some council leaders are urging the Government to do more to discourage tourists from travelling to overcrowded destinations.

PM plans to put nation on diet

The Prime Minister is taking measures to tackle obesity, including banning price promotions such as “buy one, get one free” as he draws up a new strategy – expected next month - to try to limit the impact of a potential second wave of COVID-19. Meanwhile, new figures from the National Child Measurement Programme show that Britain’s childhood obesity crisis has been made worse by lockdown.

Back-to-school safety plans for autumn in England leaked

A draft of plans to be announced later this week, published by the Huffington Post, has shown the return-to-school plan for autumn in England will involve entire year groups staying in separate “bubbles”. Separately, the Education Secretary has said that parents who do not send their children back to school in September will face fines.

Children will be told to walk or cycle to school rather than take public transport

Ministers have drawn up plans which will see children encouraged not to rely on public buses, trains and trams to travel to and from school, especially not at peak times. Children will be told to walk or cycle to school rather than take public transport when the new term begins in September, the Government will announce this week. Officials reportedly considered relaxing the statutory duty on local councils to provide home-to-school travel arrangements for children.

Rental e-scooters to be made legal on roads from Saturday

Rental e-scooters will become legal on roads in Great Britain from Saturday, in a bid to ease pressure on public transport amid the coronavirus crisis. The vehicles are banned on pavements, will be limited to 15.5mph and it is recommended that riders wear helmets, after the Department for Transport said local authorities can allow or run e-scooter sharing schemes in their areas as part of 12-month trials.

PM sets out economic recovery plan

Boris Johnson has set out a post-coronavirus recovery plan, pledging to fix longstanding economic problems and promising a £5 billion “new deal” to build homes and infrastructure. This will include spending on schools, roads, hospitals and high streets in a bid to create jobs and kickstart economic growth amid the pandemic. Planning laws would also be streamlined to encourage building, including allowing many commercial buildings to change to residential use without needing planning permission, while people will also be given “fast-track approval” for loft conversions.

Residents are the most important link in test and trace system

Local residents are being asked to do three simple things as work to prevent the spread of Coronavirus continues.

The reminder that everyone has individual responsibility to help comes ahead of local arrangements for testing and tracing coming into place later this week.

Residents can **stay safe by doing the following:**

- **Stay apart** – if you are spending time with others, keep apart from people you do not live with, or who are not in your ‘bubble’
- **Wash your hands** properly and for at least twenty seconds
- **Stay home, isolate, get tested** - if you have symptoms **you must** stay home and **isolate** as soon as you notice symptoms and have no face to face contact with anyone outside of your household. Do this straight away, and for everyone in the household to isolate as they could also be infectious even without symptoms. As soon as you isolate, visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 to **book a test**. Stay in isolation until you receive your results, which will include instructions on what to do next

NHS Test and Trace isn't only about symptomatic individuals: when a positive test result arrives, teams of contact tracers will search for everyone the COVID-19 positive individual has been in recent contact with and will alert them.

If you are alerted by NHS Test and Trace, you must isolate for 14 days after your contact with the individual. If you develop symptoms, you must book a test at the NHS coronavirus website and your household must isolate.

Local arrangements are in place to deal with complex cases and settings, with the council set to submit its local outbreak control plan to Government on the 30th June (see below).

For more information on NHS Test and Trace, visit GOV.UK and NHS.UK

Local test and trace system launches in Southend-on-Sea and Essex

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Essex County Council are proud to announce that they have launched their local contact tracing service.

The Essex and Southend Contact Tracing Service is one of the first local systems launched by any authority areas in the country. However, both Essex and Southend's public health chiefs have warned vigilance is still needed.

At the end of May, the Department of Health and Social Care (DoHSC) launched the national NHS Test & Trace system, as part of this it was announced that local contact systems would be set up by Local Authorities. Essex County Council received £5.78m while Southend-on-Sea Borough Council received £887,000 of grant funding from the DoHSC to deliver the local contact tracing service.

The local contact service will be responsible for identifying, containing and reducing the spread of Covid-19 at the local level. Local contact services will be responsible for "complex cases". So, the Essex and Southend-on-Sea service will support contact tracing for schools, care homes, work places and vulnerable groups.

The local service will use testing data from Public Health England (PHE) to track and trace known connections of positive cases, and provide them with advice and guidance. All individuals who have been in close contact with a known positive case will be asked to isolate at home for a period of 14 days. This generally means that if people have maintained the ideal two metres distance they will not need to self-isolate. However, for those that have been within one to two metres of a positive case, self-isolation may be required.

The councils have commissioned Provide CIC to deliver the contract tracing service, who will work alongside specialist Public Health colleagues in both organisations, as well as Environmental Health Officers in City and District councils.

Alongside the contract tracing system, both councils have developed their own outbreak control plans, working with regional Public Health England colleagues, local NHS and other stakeholders. The outbreak control plan, as well as including information around the contract tracing system, includes processes and plans for identifying and containing potential outbreaks.

2) Southend NHW Crime Report - 22nd to 28th June 2020

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
Southchurch	42/90792 /20	Robbery (Personal) (Indictable)	22/06/2020 15:19	22/06/2020 00:00	Wick Chase	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN ASSAULTED THE VICTIM CAUSING A CUT ABOVE THE VICTIMS RIGHT EYE. DEFENDANT HAS ALSO ASSAULTED THE VICTIM CAUSING A 1 INCH PUNCTURE WOUND IN UPPER-REAR RIGHT THIGH. DEFENDANT HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS MOBILE PHONE.
Southchurch	42/91456 /20	Interference with a motor vehicle	23/06/2020 13:16	22/06/2020 00:01	Poynings Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS BROKEN VICTIMS WINDOW TO GAIN ENTRY TO HIS RENAULT AND REMOVED NOTHING.
Southchurch	42/93078 /20	Theft from a motor vehicle	26/06/2020 09:43	24/06/2020 00:00	Shoebury Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS REMOVED THE CATALYTIC CONVERTER FROM VICTIMS SILVER TOYOTA PRIUS BY UNSCREWING THE CATALYTIC CONVERTER FROM THE VEHICLE.
Thorpe	42/91941 /20	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	24/06/2020 12:58	08/06/2020 00:00	Warwick Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT HAS USED A KEY TO SCRATCH THE VICTIM WHITE MAZDA.
Thorpe	42/94001 /20	Theft if not classified elsewhere	27/06/2020 18:32	26/06/2020 00:00	Woodgrange Drive	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS ATTACHED A DEVICE TO CASH DISPENSER ON THE ATM, PREVENTING CASH BEING DISPENSED TO THE CUSTOMER. SUSPECT RETURNS LATER TO INTERCEPT THE MONIES OF 300GBP.
West Shoebury	42/93218 /20	Other criminal damage to a vehicle	26/06/2020 13:23	25/06/2020 22:00	Church Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE POURED PAINT STRIPPER OVER EACH PANEL OF THE VICTIMS VEHICLE.

(Under
£5,000)

VEHICLE IS A RED
AND ORANGE
COLOUR RANGE
ROVER SPORT.

3) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 28/06/2020

APPLN. NO: 20/00613/AD **Ward. Southchurch**
Officer: Oliver Hart
APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF DETAILS PURSUANT TO CONDITION 3 (DETAILS OF MATERIALS), 4 (DETAILS OF SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE) AND 05 (DETAILS OF HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING) OF PLANNING PERMISSION 19/01842/BC4 DATED 03.01.2020
ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL PHILPOTT AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
Decision: Grant Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/00764/GPDE **Ward. Southchurch**
Officer: Oliver Hart
ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PROJECTING 4.58M BEYOND THE EXISTING REAR WALL OF THE DWELLING, 2.99M HIGH TO EAVES AND WITH A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 3.49M
36 STEYNING AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX
Decision: GPD Non Conditional

APPLN. NO: 20/00368/AD **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Oliver Hart
APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF DETAILS PURSUANT TO CONDITION 03 (DETAILS OF MATERIALS), CONDITION 4 (DETAILS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY), CONDITION 5 (DETAILS OF WATER EFFICIENCY), CONDITION 7 (DETAILS OF REFUSE/RECYCLING), CONDITION 10 (DETAILS OF LANDSCAPING) , CONDITION 14 (DETAILS OF SUDS) OF PLANNING PERMISSION 18/02273/FUL DATED 10.04.2019
5 ACACIA DRIVE THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Grant Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/00475/FULH **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Julie Ramsey
ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION AND ALTER PORCH TO FRONT
7 LIFSTAN WAY SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/00526/FULM **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Robert Lilburn
ERECT 2M HIGH BOARDER FENCE TO SPORTS PITCH

ALL WEATHER PITCH SOUTHCHURCH PARK SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
Decision: Withdrawn

APPLN. NO: 20/00616/FULH **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Kara Elliott
DEMOLISH EXISTING GARAGE TO SIDE AND ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE
EXTENSION AND EXTEND REAR DORMER
8 CHELSWORTH CLOSE THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/00630/FUL **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Oliver Hart
ERECT REPLACEMENT BEACH HUT
BEACH HUT 371 THORPE ESPLANADE THORPE BAY
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/00697/FUL **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Robert Lilburn
ERECT REPLACEMENT BEACH HUT
BEACH HUT 332 THORPE ESPLANADE THORPE BAY
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

4) Petition Stop nitrous oxide (N₂O / laughing gas) abuse in our communities.

Used in catering, N₂O is available cheaply, easily and without any control or restriction.

We are asking the Government to investigate better controls of its sale/access, educate the public on the dangers of N₂O abuse and make it an offence to inhale nitrous oxide for recreational purposes.

Supply of nitrous oxide for recreational purposes is technically illegal under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. This means anyone found to be selling or giving away nitrous oxide for illicit purposes could face up to 7 years in prison and or an unlimited fine.

However, it is widely available from catering suppliers, online retailers and other outlets without any restriction or control. It is also very cheap and a drug that has limited public exposure and educational awareness.

Sign this petition at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/301247>

At 10,000 signatures, government will respond to this petition

At 100,000 signatures, this petition will be considered for debate in Parliament

5) Road Closure – St Augustine’s Avenue – 13th July – Gas mains replacement works

The Effect of the order will be to prohibit any vehicle from

1. Proceeding on St Augustine’s Avenue from Thorpe Esplanade to Thorpe Bay Gardens
2. Waiting, loading & unloading on St Augustine’s Avenue from Thorpe Esplanade to Thorpe Bay Gardens

The closure is scheduled to commence on 13th July 2020 or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The alternative route will be via Thorpe Esplanade, The Broadway, Thorpe Bay Gardens and vice versa

The Order will come into effect on 13th July 2020 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst gas main replacement works take place.

Access for emergency vehicles, residents and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure.