

BERA E-Newsletter 21st 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 Friday/Saturday.

Keep well,

Regards

Ron

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

17 July 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 293,239 (1,866 since 14th July) were confirmed positive**. There has been a total of **45,233 (265 since 14th July) COVID-19 related deaths**.
- 14th July - In Southend-on-Sea there were **680 positive cases (8 new cases – Pillar 1 = 1 and Pillar 2 = 7 cases since the 14th July)**.

Pillar 1 (total 482) - tests carried out in NHS laboratories; **Pillar 2 (total 198)** - testing by commercial partners of the mass-testing programme.

- There were **187 confirmed deaths (1 new registered death since 14th July)** in both the hospital and community.

National Update

The government has issued new guidance to support Local Authorities with better containing local outbreaks. I have reviewed this in detail and I believe it is a robust framework that will both enable us to use additional local powers as well as clarity on how and when we can ask for national support, especially if issues are far too complex for us as a Council or we are unable to contain a growing outbreak.

We will update our Local Outbreak Control Plan after the Health Protection Board meets up next week. Here is the link to the national guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

21 July 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 295,817 (2,578 since 17th July) were confirmed positive**. There has been a total of **45,422 (189 since 17th July) COVID-19 related deaths**.
- 20th July - In Southend-on-Sea there were **697 positive cases (17 new cases since the 17th July)**.
- There were **187 confirmed deaths (no new registered death since 17th July)** in both the hospital and community.

Access to Local Data going forward

After this Friday, 24th July, I am no longer planning to provide this update and will be moving to using our Coronavirus website to provide the new national website information and we will add the local deaths on the site on a weekly basis (these are now small numbers).

The direct link to this new page is: <https://www.southend.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/test-trace/5?documentId=1014&categoryId=200233>

There is additional information (see screenshots below) provided on here such as the number of calls and triage via NHS 111, with more of testing shifting to Pillar 2.

Once on the site, please use the drop down menu to select 'Southend-on-Sea' and you can use the next drop-down menu to select different time intervals (in days – 1,3,7,10,14,30 and 60) or the total to-date (select 'All' – Table 1 below). If you select a time interval (say 7-day – see Table 2 below), you will also see how this has changed in the previous same time interval (here last 7 days).

Table 1

Summary data from 30 January 2020 to 19 July 2020 (All-Day Interval)	
Region Filter	East of England
UTLA (Upper Tier Local Authority) Filter	Southend-on-Sea
Interval Selector for Summary data (days)	All
111 Online Covid Triages	10,383 change from previous interval 0
Pathways 111/ 999 Covid Triages	2,793 change from previous interval 0
Total Covid Triages	13,176 change from previous interval 0
Cases (where local authority is known)	697 change from previous interval 0

Table 2

Summary data from 13 July 2020 to 19 July 2020 (7-Day Interval)	
Region Filter	East of England
UTLA (Upper Tier Local Authority) Filter	Southend-on-Sea
Interval Selector for Summary data (days)	7
111 Online Covid Triages	59 change from previous interval -7 (-11%)
Pathways 111/ 999 Covid Triages	45 change from previous interval 10 (29%)
Total Covid Triages	104 change from previous interval 3 (3%)
Cases (where local authority is known)	15 change from previous interval 1 (7%)

Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak - 17 July 2020

Key updates/actions

- **Containing and managing local outbreaks:** Guidance for local authorities and local decision-makers on containing and managing COVID-19 outbreaks at a local level has been released today: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks>

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.

Summary of the Govt. Announcements, 21 July 2020

Please see the latest government announcements re COVID-19 below:

Education:

- Guidance has been updated to now reflect that [early years settings can return to normal group sizes](#) and includes updated information about autumn funding, wraparound care, managing requests for site visits for new admissions in September, data collection changes, and reporting to Ofsted.
- Guidance has been updated outlining how councils can use their [dedicated schools grant \(DSG\) funding differently in exceptional circumstances during the coronavirus outbreak](#) and includes a section that sets out the government's plans for funding councils and providers in the 2020 autumn term.

HMRC are running free webinars over the next two weeks on the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme. [The webinar](#) provides an overview of the scheme, including how the scheme works, eligible establishments, registering and making a claim and what happens after a claim has been made.

1) Information Corner

Face coverings should be worn in shops and supermarkets from this Friday

Face coverings are already mandatory in healthcare settings, GP surgeries, hospitals and on public transport. They are also recommended when sharing cars with those outside of your household, and when you find yourself unable to maintain a 2 metre distance indoors with others from outside your household.

To be effective, face coverings should:

- cover both your nose and mouth
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- include at least two layers of fabric, ideally three
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

Users should heed the following guidance when putting on and taking off face coverings:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on and before removing a face covering
- avoid wearing face coverings on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not share with anyone else
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

The council's director of public health says: "Each and every one of us has a role to play in reducing the spread of the virus. This latest guidance on face coverings should ensure that community related transmission of the virus is further reduced.

"Coronavirus (COVID-19) is spread by droplets from coughs, sneezes and through speaking, shouting or singing. These droplets can also be picked up from surfaces, particularly if you touch a surface and then touch your face. This is why wearing a face covering is so important in controlling the spread of the virus.

“When used correctly, face coverings may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances. Because face coverings are mainly intended to protect others from coronavirus (COVID-19) they are not a replacement for social distancing and regular hand washing which remain as important as ever. However, if everyone wears a face covering in the settings identified, everyone is more protected, including yourself, and we can continue to reduce transmission rates. If you are not exempt, please remember to wear a face covering in shops and supermarkets from this Friday and continue to stay safe.”

Anyone experiencing coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, continuous cough or loss of or change in sense of smell or taste) should immediately stay at home, self-isolate with their household and visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 to find out how they can get tested.

Those who test positive for COVID-19 will be helped by the NHS test and trace service to identify the people they've recently been in contact with so they can be alerted.

People who have had close recent contact with someone with coronavirus must then self-isolate for 14 days, if they are advised to do so by the NHS test and trace service, to help contain the spread of infection.

For further information on face coverings, please visit www.southend.gov.uk/facecoverings

A list of exemptions is also available on GOV.UK

Feeding the seagulls

We have been contacted by a member who has been annoyed by seagulls flying over her garden several times during the day. The member believes someone must be feeding them as she has seen the seagulls flying away with large chunks of bread in their beaks. They appear to have got used to being fed and they now expect the food during the day. The member has said that the seagulls are messing over her conservatory and her grandchildren were quite frightened when they visited her last weekend. They were having lunch in the garden and the seagulls were swooping over them.

The RSPCA advise people not to feed birds snacks like bread which is high in calories but otherwise of poor nutritional value. Feeding seagulls can result in over-population and the birds becoming a nuisance as they quickly learn where there are ready sources of food. They may even become aggressive to people if they realise that the public are likely to have food.

All in all, it is better for both people and seagulls if we refrain from feeding these seabirds. They do not prosper on a diet of bread and other scraps and quickly become a serious nuisance when they start pestering people for their next meal.

Two possible scams

a) MBNA

We have been contacted by a member who has received an email from MBNA and he does not even bank with them. The member has also put a note on saying the address ends with de meaning Germany. Please see below:

MBNA - We have tried to contact you.

----- Original Message -----

From: diana wilkins <dianawilkins.rayne@talktalk.net>

To:

Date: 14 July 2020 at 07:17

Subject: Fwd: MBNA - We have tried to contact you.

New Page 22 ----- Original Message -----

From: MBNA <ingo.babbel@t-online.de>

To: Recipients <notice@noreply.com>

Date: 13 July 2020 at 08:52

Subject: MBNA - We have tried to contact you.

We believe that an unauthorized party may have accessed your MBNA account. For your security, we have assigned a temporary password to your account and reversed any changes made by this party. Any pending orders have been placed on hold until account verification is complete.

Because of this activity, we processed charges in the amount of £ 84.25 on your Credit Card

We recommend that you verify your details and review all recent activity on this card and report any unauthorized charges to your financial institution

To verify your account activities, kindly proceed below:

[ACCOUNT VERIFICATION PROCESS]

Thank you for choosing MBNA Card.

MBNA Personal Finance

b) Sent an email from a friend

The same member received an email from a friend of his but the member said that his friend would not send him a message with links to click onto without telling him what it is about. He believes that someone has got his friends e-mail contacts list and sending mails to everyone on the list. The clue for you all to be aware of is in the incoming mail address. PH at the end of the address means the Philippines.

As always, please be careful when opening email and if you do not know who they are from or you think they look suspicious, do not click on any links and just delete them.

Petition Update Status - Stop nitrous oxide (N₂O / laughing gas) abuse in our communities

As of 19:42 on the 17th July 2020, there has been 10,000 signatures to the Petition.

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

To be discussed in Parliament this week....Shock warning: Bored British teenagers are 'killing themselves' with laughing gas

Source: Express <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1311393/hippy-crack-laughing-gas-nitrous-oxide-rosie-duffield-warning-ban>

New restrictions on the sale of nitrous oxide are needed to stop bored teenagers risking their health by using it as a drug, Parliament will be told this week.

Bored British teenagers are 'killing themselves' with laughing gas. Concern is escalating about the nerve damage that can be caused when the so-called "laughing gas" or "hippy crack" is inhaled.

Canterbury MP is alarmed at the sight of nitrous oxide canisters scattered across "parks, pavements and promenades" and a rise in antisocial behaviour. She has secured a debate to press for "fast action".

She claims it has been linked to 25 deaths since 2010 and is concerned at the ease with which teenagers can buy the canisters online. She said that we really need to further restrict how it is sold and distributed and education on why this isn't just harmless fun really needs to be ramped up at home and in schools."

New restrictions on the sale of nitrous oxide are needed to stop teenagers risking their health.

The drug and alcohol treatment manager at Public Health England, said the risks were “especially dangerous when mixed with alcohol”. He said the effects can include dizziness, confusion, loss of coordination, sound distortions and hallucinations. It is very difficult to judge how much you have used and the substance has been linked to a number of deaths.

The Government has said it has “no plans to change the law to make the possession of nitrous oxide for personal use an offence”.

However, the health minister stated this month: “Those who supply nitrous oxide who know, or who are reckless as to whether, it will be used for its psychoactive effect may be subject to a maximum sentence of seven years’ imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both.”

Stop. Swap. GO!

A campaign aiming to make it easier for people in Essex to switch from cars to sustainable travel, such as walking, cycling and using the bus, is live.

Stop. Swap. GO! is led by Essex County Council. Follow the link to find out more at:

https://www.stopswapgo.co.uk/?utm_source=comms%20toolkit&utm_campaign=ssg&utm_medium=partner%20link

Fire Service helps make almost 700 ambulances available during pandemic

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service has been working with the East of England Ambulance Service Trust during the pandemic, helping to make 696 ambulances available. During the last 12 weeks, on-call firefighters from the Service have given 8,350 hours and have responded to an average of 4175 emergency calls.

Job Vacancy

Could you be the next Head of Performance and Scrutiny (Policing & Crime)? Successful candidates will support the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex in scrutinising the operational and financial performance of Essex Police. Find out more about this exciting opportunity that really contributes to making Essex a safer place here:

<https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/recruitment-and-vacancies/>

Could you be an on-call firefighter?

On-call firefighters live or work within 5 minutes of an on-call fire station and are paid to protect their local community.

To find out more about the role and how you can apply, visit: join.essex-fire.gov.uk/on-call

Providing a lifeline through the Southend Coronavirus Action helpline

Unlikely friendships and heaps of gratitude are the happy by-product of the Southend Coronavirus Action Helpline as it is confirmed the service will remain open.

Central Government announced they will be stopping centralised support including food parcels from 1 August. However, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has decided to continue with the helpline and supporting those residents who need it.

The Southend Coronavirus Action helpline was set up by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, in partnership with local charities and the voluntary community in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The aim is to support vulnerable residents who have no local support and are unable to leave their homes because of shielding or isolation, to get food supplies, medication, help with shopping or even dog walking.

Relying on volunteers to make it work, the helpline has shown the amazing community spirit of the town and created some otherwise unlikely friendships.

If you can't get out and need food or prescriptions, and you have no family or friends locally, please call our helpline on 01702 212497. The helpline is available 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

If you think you or someone you live with has symptoms, please stay in your home and [View GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for the latest Government advice and instructions

For trusted information about Coronavirus, please visit: www.southend.gov.uk/coronavirus

Telecoms giant BT is to move more than a million customers onto a new and 'more expensive' deal - as the company aims to simplify its pricing structure.

Source: Echo News https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/national/uk_today/18584886.bt-move-1-3-million-customers-more-expensive-plan---opt/

This is everything you need to know if you're a customer.

Which BT customers are affected?

The phone provider is moving 1.3 million landline customers over to its Unlimited Minutes plan, but this will add £4.50 a month to their costs.

In total, the price hike works out at an extra £54 each year.

The new deal will offer customers unlimited landline and mobile calls at any time, at a price of £15 a month instead of the usual £10.50.

However, the telecoms company calculates that the average person will only pay £1.83 more a month after the change. This is due to the savings customers will make on call charges.

When will the change take place?

BT said it is now writing to customers about the switch, with the change scheduled for September 1, 2020.

The company said that it was making the change in order to better suit how people use their phones now.

Can I move plans or leave BT?

If you don't want to pay the extra monthly cost or don't think it's the right plan for you to be on, then BT has said you can move to a different plan with the provider, or leave without being charged a fee to exit.

But customers should note that, in order to be able to move penalty-free, you have to let BT know your plans within 30 days of receiving the letter which tells you about the upcoming change.

Customers who have been identified as vulnerable and have a fixed voice service with BT, but no broadband, will not be moved over to the new plan.

What have BT said?

A spokeswoman from BT said: "If a customer is unhappy with the new package, we have other options available to replace their outdated plan, such as our Limited Minutes Plan, which includes 700 minutes to call UK mobile and landline numbers for a total of £7 a month or they can opt out for no cost."

2) Temporary Road Closure – Tylers Avenue & Clifftown Road, Southend-On-Sea – Essential carriageway works - 23rd July for 2 nights

Whilst this notice is in operation, all vehicles will be prohibited from:

Entering Tylers Avenue from its junction with Chichester Road to its junction with Clifftown Road; and

Whilst the works take place a Temporary suspension of the One-Way Street Order for Clifftown Road will be in place thereby making the Road Two-Way during the times stated to allow vehicular access to Central Station.

These prohibitions or restrictions will come into effect **on 23rd July 2020 for 2 nights from 20.30 hours to 05.00 hours the following morning**. This notice will remain in force for **5 days** to allow for unexpected events/delays and possible

remedial works. Whilst the closure and temporary suspension are in operation, a diversion route via Chichester Road, Queensway, A13 London Road, Milton Road, Cambridge Road, Scratton Road to the junction of Clarence Road will be in place.

3) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 17 July 2020

APPLN. NO: 20/01039/CLE **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Hayley Thompson Date Valid. 2 July 2020 Area BORO
ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE - EXISTING)
15 WARWICK ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

APPLN. NO: 20/01040/FULH **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Scott Davison Date Valid. 2 July 2020 Area BORO
ERECT SINGLE STOREY FRONT/SIDE EXTENSION
395 WOODGRANGE DRIVE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

APPLN. NO:20/01072/PA3COU **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Robert Lilburn Date Valid. 6 July 2020 Area BORO
CHANGE OF USE FROM RETAIL (CLASS A1) TO RESTAURANT/CAFE (CLASS A3) AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING SHOP FRONT (PRIOR APPROVAL)
199 EASTERN ESPLANADE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

APPLN. NO: 20/01105/GPDE **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Oliver Hart Date Valid. 7 July 2020 Area BORO
ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PROJECTING 4M BEYOND THE EXISTING REAR WALL OF THE DWELLING, 2.6M HIGH TO EAVES AND WITH A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 2.9M
90 RUTLAND AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

4) Southend NHW Weekly Report - 13th – 19th July 2020

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO - filtered
Southchurch	42/103638/20	Theft from the person of another	13/07/2020 13:54	13/07/2020 13:20	Wickmead Close	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS STOLEN A

							FLYMO THAT HAD BEEN LEFT OUT TO BE COLLECTED BY REFUSE COMPANY FROM FRONT DRIVEWAY.
Southchurch	42/104764/20	Aggravated Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	15/07/2020 01:35	15/07/2020 00:00	Poynings Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT NAMED HAS ENTERED THE VICTIMS HOME AND PICKED UP TWO KNIVES WHILST INSIDE AND HAS THEN STOLEN ITEMS AND LEFT THE PREMISES.
Southchurch	42/105995/20	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	16/07/2020 23:45	16/07/2020 23:45	Archer Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS DAMAGED THE VICTIMS VAUXHALL ZAFIRA BY USING A BRICK TO SMASH THE BACK WINDOW.
Southchurch	42/106204/20	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	15/07/2020 16:00	27/09/2019 00:01	Archer Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN OVER A PERIOD HAVE SCRATCHED BODY WORK ON TWO UNATTENDED VEHICLES CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO TWO SILVER VAUXHALL ZAFRIA CARS.
Thorpe	42/104138/20	Interference with a motor vehicle	14/07/2020 07:04	13/07/2020 16:30	Shaftesbury Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE BY MEANS UNKNOWN GAINED ACCESS TO THE VICTIMS BLACK FORD TRANSIT VAN AND HAVE RIPPED PANELS AND CABLES OUT AND PERFORMED A MESSY SEARCH

							IN THE FRONT OF THE VAN.
Thorpe	42/104397/20	Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Pedal Cycle	14/07/2020 12:57	14/07/2020 12:30	Shaftesbury Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN REMOVED THE VICTIMS GREEN, WHITE AND BLUE GIANT TALON MOUNTAIN BIKE AND LOCK FROM WHERE IT WAS SECURED BY UNKNOWN MEANS.
Thorpe	42/105375/20	Theft of a motor vehicle	15/07/2020 22:22	15/07/2020 20:00	Kensington Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE REMOVED THE VICTIMS BLACK FORD FIESTA INDEX NJ13DHD FROM OUTSIDE THE LOCATION BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
Thorpe	42/106343/20	Theft from a motor vehicle	16/07/2020 08:54	12/07/2020 20:00	Kensington Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED REMOVED THE VICTIMS FRONT INDEX PLATE FROM THE VICTIMS YELLOW MINI BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
Thorpe	42/105992/20	Theft of a motor vehicle	17/07/2020 01:31	16/07/2020 19:00	Shaftesbury Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS SECURE GREY FORD FOCUS INDEX OU16KPX BY MEANS UNKNOWN.
West Shoebury	42/103718/20	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	13/07/2020 14:46	11/07/2020 04:30	St. Andrews Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS USED A BRICK TO SMASH WINDSCREEN ON A SILVER VAUXHALL CORSA.
West Shoebury	42/104830/20	Other criminal damage to a	14/07/2020 21:40	14/07/2020 21:39	Avon Way	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS SMASHED

		vehicle (Under £5,000)					THE REAR WINDSCREEN OF A HYUNDAI .
West Shoebury	42/107629/ 20	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	19/07/20 20 18:32	18/07/2020 20:00	Ness Road	Southend- on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS THROWN A BOTTLE THROUGH THE VICTIMS FORD FIESTA REAR WINDOW.