

BERA E-Newsletter 29th August 2020 - www.bera.co.uk

Dear Member

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

We will endeavour to send out the next e-newsletter on Tuesday/Wednesday.

Keep well,

Regards

Ron

Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak - 28 August 2020

Key updates/actions

• **National and local data:**

Please visit the test and trace section of our website for the latest national and local data: www.southend.gov.uk/testandtrace

A link to the national [NHS Digital](#) information shows information by time intervals (for example, 3-days, 7-days, 30-days, etc), as well as the total numbers and requests or referrals to NHS 111.

- **An Antibody Testing Programme** to determine whether people have had COVID-19 is being made available to all care home, social care and domiciliary care staff working in Mid and South Essex and West Essex. This is a voluntary test and is not mandatory for anyone. Opening on 1 September, the Southend testing site has been set up at Sutton Road Surgery, 508 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5PN

The antibody tests are being provided free of charge by the NHS to staff whether they have had symptoms or not. The antibody test is a voluntary blood test which involves taking blood from the arm and determines whether you have had Coronavirus. Antibody tests differ to swab tests, which test to see if you currently have the virus. It is important to note a positive test result for antibodies only means that someone has had Coronavirus. Only anonymised data about positive results will be shared with Public Health England to help understand how the disease spreads and where it has been present in different regions of the country.

There is currently no evidence to show that someone cannot be re-infected with the virus, or pass it on to others, or have protective immunity. This means anyone with a positive antibody test will need to continue following government guidelines, such as social distancing and using personal protective equipment.

- **Secondary schools**
Parents and pupils will have an additional secondary school preference to select this year. This follows changes made to the 11+ exam in the wake of recent Government guidance and Coronavirus.
- **Landlords:**
As the Government eases restrictions on evictions put in place due to Coronavirus, tenants and landlords are being urged to call Southend-on-Sea Borough Council first.
- **Bus passengers** are being encouraged to consider when they travel to prioritise children going to school.

- **Eligibility for discretionary business grant scheme widened to those based at home:**

A further group of businesses can now apply for funding aimed at helping those whose finances have been badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic and this now includes businesses **who are based from a home location** and do not have a commercial mortgage in place. With this change, we are reviewing applications that have previously turned down to see if we are now able to award.

Please encourage small and micro businesses to check their eligibility and apply online at <https://www.southend.gov.uk/businesscorona>

The application period will close at midnight on 28 August 2020 as all payments must be made by the closure of the national business grant scheme on 28 September 2020.

Other

- **Out of hours:**

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.

- 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 Covid-19 related Government announcements 28/08/2020

MHCLG

- In a [press release, legislation has been introduced, so landlords must give tenants 6 months' notice before they can evict](#) until March 2021, in most cases.

The Department for Education

- [Guidance for schools and local authorities on school meals arrangements during the coronavirus outbreak](#) has been updated. Changes include updated information on school food from September 2020, costs incurred, contracts, eligibility, providing water, and support for pupils isolating.
- [Guidance for children's social care services](#) has been updated to include provisional guidance on the Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2020, which come into force 25 September. The update reflects latest changes on social distancing and shielding and educational settings will reopen in September.

Department of Health and Social Care

- In a [press release, restrictions are being lifted in parts of Greater Manchester, Lancashire and West Yorkshire](#). Two households can mix from 2 September in parts of these areas. This follows the locally led approaches seeing results as COVID-19 cases drop in some hotspot areas in northern England.
- [In an announcement today](#), The UK Government is investing £8.4 million in COVID-19 immunology research projects, including at the universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee.
- Views are sought on proposed changes to the Human Medicine Regulations 2012 regarding [distributing vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 and flu](#).

PHE

- [Guidance on Technical and regulatory standards for PPE](#) has been updated to include detailed manufacturing requirements for health and social care settings.

Competition and Markets Authority

- [Guidance on contract cancellations and refunds due to coronavirus](#) have been updated to include further detail on the CMA's views on the law in relation to cancellations and refunds.

- o [The CMA's view](#) remains that a consumer will generally be entitled to a refund when they have paid money in advance for services or goods that cannot be provided because of the pandemic.

1) Information Corner

Reminder:

New Which subscription logon details:

Email or Username: burgesestate

Password: Bera2020

"Which Garden" - log on to Which as usual, but pick the "House and Garden" option at the top. Then pick "Garden" and you will find reviews for all types of gardening tools and accessories.

Daily COVID-19 cases highest since mid-June

The number of daily UK cases of coronavirus has risen to 1,522 in the past 24 hours - the highest tally since mid-June.

Matt Hancock warns of extensive lockdowns

England could face nationwide restrictions and very extensive local lockdowns in the event of a second wave of coronavirus this winter, the Health and Social Care Secretary has warned. Meanwhile, a leaked government report suggests a "reasonable worst-case scenario" of 85,000 deaths across the UK this winter due to COVID-19.

Coronavirus case could mean all year group out of school

A single confirmed case of coronavirus in a school in England could mean sending home an entire year group to isolate for 14 days, according to new government guidance published on Friday. In areas with a local lockdown, secondary pupils could be put on a rota of two weeks in and out of school. Meanwhile, a survey by Public First revealed that most parents would keep their children at home if there were to be a local or national lockdown.

Offices are COVID-safe, says Grant Shapps

The Cabinet minister, Grant Schapps, has warned there is a “limit” to home working as the Government prepares to launch a publicity campaign to get people back to the office amid warnings of “devastating consequences” for towns and cities. Meanwhile, a survey of 25 councils by the Mail found that up to eight in 10 council workers will not be expected to return until next year or until the pandemic is over. Separately, the Prime Minister will reportedly offer commuters three-day season tickets to entice them back into the office.

Restrictions eased in parts of northern England

Tightened restrictions to stop the spread of COVID-19 are to be eased in parts of Greater Manchester, Lancashire and West Yorkshire. Andrew Western, the leader of Trafford Council has accused the Government of “overruling” the council by lifting the restrictions.

Delivery firms to help detect pothole hotspots

Delivery companies - including Deliveroo, Uber, Tesco and Ocado – will be used to help map England's pothole hotspots, the Government has announced.

‘Alcolocks’ planned for cars

The Government is planning to introduce “alcolocks” in cars and more accurate roadside breathalysers after a rise in drink-driving crashes. Figures published by the Department for Transport show that there were 5,890 crashes recorded in 2018 in which at least one driver was over the limit, a rise of 3 per cent in 12 months.

2) Southend NHW Crime Report - 17th - 23rd August 2020

Ward:- Southchurch
Reference:- 42/128166/20
Offence Type:- Theft from a motor vehicle
Reported Date:- 16/08/2020 15:50
Committed From:- 16/08/2020 14:00
Street and Town:- Glynde Way, Southend-on-Sea
MO :- SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS STOLEN THE PASSENGER SIDE MIRROR FROM THE VICTIMS RENAULT MASTER VALUED FIFTY POUNDS. IN DOING SO THEY HAVE DAMAGED A WINDOW VALUED TWO HUNDRED POUNDS.

Ward:- Southchurch
Reference:- 42/128588/20
Offence Type:- Theft of a motor vehicle

Reported Date:- 18/08/2020 07:18
Committed From:- 18/08/2020 07:13
Street and Town:- Whittingham Avenue, Southend-on-Sea
MO :- SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE CUT THE BIKE LOCK BY MEANS UNKNOWN AND HAVE STOLEN THE VEHICLE. VEHICLE IS A GREY COLOURED HONDA MSX, VRN IS EY69GWA.

Ward:- Southchurch
Reference:- 42/130323/20
Offence Type:- Attempted - Theft if not classified elsewhere

Reported Date:- 18/08/2020 08:55
Committed From:- 04/08/2020 00:00
Street and Town:- Sherwood Way, Southend-on-Sea
MO :- SUSPECTS UNIDENTIFIED ARE A GROUP OF 4 LOCAL YOUTHS WHO HAVE STARTED SITTING IN THE RESIDENTS COMMUNAL GARDEN SMOKING. THE SUSPECTS WERE CHALLENGED BY RESIDENTS AND THE SUSPECTS RAN OFF TAKING 3 PLASTIC CHAIRS WITH THEM, ABANDONING THEM NEARBY. THESE WERE RECOVERED BY RESIDENTS. THE SUSPECTS KNOCKED OVER A NUMBER OF LARGE GARDEN POTS WITH FLOWERS IN CAUSING NO DAMAGE.

Ward:- Southchurch
Reference:- 42/131788/20
Offence Type:- Theft of a motor vehicle
Reported Date:- 22/08/2020 15:02
Committed From:- 21/08/2020 15:00
Street and Town:- Sherwood Way, Southend-on-Sea
MO :- SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE REMOVED THE VICTIMS GREY VAUXHALL CORSA EX19TZN FROM THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

Ward:- Southchurch
Reference:- 42/131577/20
Offence Type:- Theft if not classified elsewhere

Reported Date:- 22/08/2020 12:00
Committed From:- 22/08/2020 11:30
Street and Town:- Poynings Avenue, Southend-on-Sea
MO :- SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS HAUWEI P20 MOBILE PHONE FROM THE EXTERIOR OF THE VICTIM TOYOTA PRIUS.

Ward:- Thorpe

Reference:- 42/128294/20

Offence Type:- Theft if not classified elsewhere

Reported Date:- 17/08/2020 17:02

Committed From:- 16/08/2020 18:00

Street and Town:- St. Augustines Avenue, Southend-on-Sea

MO :- SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS CUT THROUGH CHAINS AND STOLEN A SINGLE MAN KAYAK AND HAVE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO TAKE THE 2 MAN KAYAK BUT HAVE LEFT THIS AT THE SCENE AS IT IS BELIEVED SUSPECT WAS WORKING ON THEIR OWN AND THE 2 MAN KAYAK WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO HEAVY TO CARRY.

Ward:- Thorpe

Reference:- 42/128895/20

Offence Type:- Robbery (Personal) (Indictable)

Reported Date:- 18/08/2020 15:57

Committed From:- 18/08/2020 15:50

Street and Town:- Lifstan Way Southend-on-Sea

MO :- TWO SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE, ACTING TOGETHER, APPROACHED VICTIM AND ONE HELD HIS HANDS BEHIND HIS BACK. SECOND SUSPECT MAKES THREATS TO 'KNOCK OUT THE VICTIM IF HE DID NOT SUPPLY MONEY TO SUSPECTS. VICTIM HANDED OVER A TEN POUND NOTE.

Ward:- Thorpe

Reference:- 42/130755/20

Offence Type:- Robbery (Personal) (Indictable)

Reported Date:- 20/08/2020 18:56

Committed From:- 20/08/2020 18:56

Street and Town:- Thorpe Hall Avenue, Southend-on-Sea
MO :- SUSPECTS UNIDENTIFIED HAVE APPROACHED THE VICTIM AND SURROUNDED HIM CAUSING VICTIM TO FEAR VIOLENCE SUSPECTS HAVE THEN STOLEN THE VICTIMS MOUNTAIN BIKE AND MADE OFF.

Ward:- Thorpe
Reference:- 42/131769/20
Offence Type:- Theft if not classified elsewhere

Reported Date:- 22/08/2020 14:17

Committed From:- 22/08/2020 12:30

Street and Town:- Eastern Esplanade, Southend-on-Sea

MO :- SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAVE TAKEN VICTIM BAG THAT SHE DROPPED AND USED HER BANK CARD IN A SHOP BY MEANS UNKNOWN.

Ward:- Thorpe
Reference:- 42/132752/20
Offence Type:- Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)

Reported Date:- 23/08/2020 14:45

Committed From:- 22/08/2020 13:37

Street and Town:- Warwick Road, Southend-on-Sea

MO :- SUSPECT NAMED DAMAGED THE VICTIMS MAZDA 6, COLOUR WHITE BY SCRATCHING THE OFFSIDE REAR QUARTER OF THE VEHICLE USING AN UNKNOWN TOOL.

Ward:- West Shoebury
Reference:- 42/128016/20
Offence Type:- Theft of a motor vehicle

Reported Date:- 17/08/2020 09:03

Committed From:- 14/08/2020 18:00

Street and Town:- West Road, Southend-on-Sea

MO :- SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE OVER THE WEEKEND STOLEN THE VICTIMS VAN A WHITE FORD TRANSIT INDEX EX52HBD, FROM OUTSIDE THE PREMISES USING MEANS UNKNOWN BEFORE MAKING OFF UNSEEN.

5) A message from Arriva - Schools, Colleges and Arriva in September

As September approaches and schools are gearing up for the return of students, I know that a key concern to many of us and most parents is likely to be how to get loved ones to study safely. With this in mind I'd like to take this opportunity to share some information with you on how our bus services will be operating to ensure that all those wishing to travel with us can do so safely and confidently.

Please be rest assured that all of our buses are Covid-19 secure and undergo enhanced touchpoint cleaning each day in line with HM Government's advice. Good ventilation of fresh air is also ensured by keeping windows open wherever possible. To help reduce the amount of physical contact between students and drivers, we are asking students to only use contactless payment or tickets via the Arriva UK Bus app. Cash will only be accepted as a form of payment in exceptional circumstances and where the correct fare can be paid. Our drivers will not be able to provide change at this time.

As you would expect there are some elements of bus travel that are operating slightly differently this year. We will have some buses on some routes (those that together with local authorities we have predicted will need additional capacity) reserved for school, sixth form and college pupils only, the route number for these services will begin with an "S" before the normal route number. Pupils from any year group and from any school or college on the route can travel on these buses. Our normal, scheduled, services will operate as normal and these are additional buses there to provide additional schools capacity. Students can use either or service but those with an S will be dedicated to students. We are asking those that use these services to please sit with those from their own school, ideally from their own year group. Where possible we are asking pupils to maintain social distancing where possible although capacity on these buses will be increased in accordance with guidelines allowing students to sit next to each other and standing if necessary. The seats behind the driver and any facing another will continue to be taped off and should not be used. We ask that all pupils over the age of 11 wear a face covering unless exemptions apply.

To help increase capacity, we will be using larger buses than normal on certain services and in some cases, we will be running two buses at the same time so that both those travelling to and from school or college and those travelling for any other purpose can do so safely. Obviously, this means that some of our quieter routes may see their normal buses move to the busier routes but be rest assured we have reviewed the data like never before and I am confident we will have got this right.

Should the route students usually travel on does not begin with an "S" it means that there is no dedicated school bus. The route will operate as it does today. They can still use this normal service to travel to school or college, and we have ensured there is plenty of capacity on these services. As per government guidelines, social distancing will be required on these services and is clearly marked out onboard. All those over 11 will be required to wear a face covering on these buses, exemptions apply.

Full timetable details can be found in the Arriva UK Bus app which is free to download from the app store or via www.arrivabus.co.uk.

My annual plea remains the same, even an international pandemic hasn't changed it, please encourage students to "travel early, don't take the last bus that gets you to the gates before the bell" for the first weeks so that I, and the whole bus industry, can get everyone where they need to be on time.