

E-Newsletter – 30th June 2023

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1) Information Corner



Save the Date!!

Who: **BERA**

What: **Coffee Morning**

Where: **Thorpe Bay Methodist Church** (corner of The Broadway and Johnstone Road).

When: **Thursday 20th July 2023 at 10.00am to midday**

Please see the above date for our July coffee morning, which will be the last one until September.

Come and join us for engaging chats and laughter, accompanied by free tea, coffee, homemade cakes and biscuits. We will be bringing stretchy keychains to keep your purses safe as well as other personal safety devices.

Bring along a friend and we look forward to welcoming you once again.

Permanent repairs being made to potholes

Southend-on-Sea City Council is carrying out better, permanent repairs to potholes that need fixing in 2023/24.

The improvement to the process – where all potholes that have reached or exceed ‘investigatory level’ following an inspection will be permanently repaired - follows feedback from residents. This is opposed to the previous process, which mainly saw temporary filling and patching to remove the immediate risk but often led to further repairs being needed.

The only exception will be on key routes such as the A127 where a temporary fix will be carried out within 24 hours to reduce the risk, ahead of a permanent repair.

Additionally, where a pothole appears in a section of road, in which the surrounding area also needs repair, the council will look to do small scale patching to the whole area where possible.

Permanent repairs tend to take longer to organise and complete, and therefore signage will be used on roads to tell users about any temporary disruption and the work taking place.

Residents and businesses should continue to report potholes via MySouthend to enable the highways team to attend the area for investigation within 24 hours or next working day. Following the investigation, a subsequent repair would be actioned based on the assessed level of risk.

c2c to go ticketless this year as pilot scheme launched

The busy c2c Fenchurch Street rail line is set to go ticketless by the end of the year, which could make ticket machines and offices “surplus” to requirements it has been claimed.

The route from Shoebury to the capital is to launch a pilot scheme which will allow Travellers to use credit or debit cards to ‘pay as you go’, or smart tickets – digital tickets which are loaded onto smart cards or stored on mobile phones.

Announcing the scheme, Sir James Duddridge, Conservative MP for Rochford and Southend East, said the move could put an end to time-consuming queues at ticket machines.

It comes after commuters regularly complained of broken ticket machines at stations.

Sir James said: ‘By the end of the year we should be getting touch-in-touch-out cards so c2c will be one of the pilots and we’ll be able to use our Visa cards and debit cards.

“I was always in favour of what was going to be the Oysterisation of c2c. Now tech supports that in a slightly different way.

“The focus with c2c will be having people at the station but not necessarily being in the ticket office. I suspect the ticket machines will remain for the longer journeys. In some cases you would need to collect tickets so there may be a machine for that but the vast majority of users, the people behind the screens and indeed the machines will be surplus to use’.

c2c says it has no plans to remove ticket machines.

The East Beach Residents’ Association recently gave a 600-signature petition to save the Shoebury ticket office from closure to Mr Duddridge to present to Parliament.

A spokesman for EBRA said: “We are extremely disappointed to hear that residents’ concerns appear to have been disregarded. We have consistently made the point that not all travellers wish to use their debit cards. There should be a variety of ticket purchase options. Additionally, the ticket office staff assist with planning journeys and finding the cheapest and quickest route.”

A spokesman for c2c said: "The Government is committed to rolling out contactless pay-as-you-go and barcode-enabled ticketing across the UK rail network and we're really pleased our customers will benefit from this project.

"This will offer more smart ticketing options and will help customers travel more flexibly and conveniently as well as supporting the wider economic recovery of the region through easier access to rail travel.

"Works are currently ongoing on the c2c network to ensure both forms of smart ticketing are available to customers and we will announce exact timings of the launch of barcode and pay-as-you-go in due course."

Scammers impersonate your friends for gift cards

The latest wave of gift card scams involve fraudsters impersonating one of your email contacts and asking you to buy a gift card for them as a favour.

This scam begins with a fraudster sending a bogus email posing as someone in your contacts list. They then request gift cards for retailers such as Amazon, claiming that they need help purchasing the cards for a sick family member.

As the message appears to come from someone you know, you might think it is real and agree to buy the cards. However, it is important to be careful and double-check any unusual requests, even if they appear to be genuine at first glance.

WHAT'S ON JULY 2023



Open Top Bus

Weekends, bank holidays & school holidays
Southend Seafront

Music In The Park

Weekends & bank holidays
Priory Park Bandstand

Fairytale Weekend

1 - 2 July
Adventure Island

Shakespeare In The Woods

Various dates from 2 July
Venues across Southend

Craft Fair

Saturday 8 July
Leigh Community Centre

Leigh Art Trail

8 - 16 July
Venues across Leigh

Proms At The Vulcan

Saturday 8 July
London Southend Airport

RNLI Fun Run

Sunday 9 July
Thorpe Bay Beach

Herd In The City

From Friday 14 July
Venues across Southend

Southend Pride

Saturday 15 July
Warrior Square

Classic Cars On The Beach

Sunday 16 July
City Beach

Summer Festival

Saturday 22 July
The Ironworks

A Journey Through The Ice Age

Saturday 22 July
Southend Central Museum

Boulder Competition

Sunday 23 July
Indirock

Beatbox Workshops

Friday 28 July
The Forum

Feel Good Festival

Saturday 29 July
Garon Park

**SOUTHEND
TOURISM
PARTNERSHIP**

All event information correct at time of publication.

**VISIT
SOUTHEND
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2) National Corner

Children are ending up in hospital due to excessive vaping

Boys and girls of primary school age are becoming so ill from vaping they are ending up in hospital, an investigation reveals. Figures from NHS England show there were 15 cases where children aged nine or under needed to be admitted in the year to April, up from 12 last year and two the year before that.

"No more free vapes for kids"

The government has announced plans to address a loophole that allows retailers to give free samples of vapes to children in England. This will be done by introducing new rules around the sale of nicotine free vapes alongside fines for shops selling illicit vapes. These measures will run parallel to increased education and dedicated school police liaison officers to keep illegal vapes out of school grounds.

The government's approach follows a 6% increase in 11-15 year olds using e-cigarettes in 2021.

Free prescription age frozen at 60

Following a consultation launched in 2021, to see if free prescriptions should be brought up to the state pension age of 66, the government has decided to freeze the free prescription age at 60 years old and over. Health Minister Neil O'Brien said that this freeze is because of the Cost-of-Living Crisis and the war in Ukraine's impact on the global economy. People aged 18 and under, and in full-time education, will continue to receive free prescriptions as well as those in receipt of certain benefits.

Pay and display machines replaced

Almost one fifth of councils are either scrapping or consulting on removing pay and display parking machines, according to a survey of 1,900 drivers by the RAC. The survey found that around 75 per cent of people over 65 were concerned about the change.

Blue Badge theft

Almost 1,500 Blue Badge thefts were recorded in the year to March 2022, a rise of 41 per cent from the previous year, according to analysis of latest figures from the Department for Transport. Charity Disabled Motoring UK suggests people only display their badge when necessary, as well as advising them to secure them in vehicles with a Blue Badge protector, which can be locked onto the steering wheel.

Green levy

Households will pay a £170-a-year green levy on energy bills in the coming days. It is reported that the two-year suspension of green levies announced last autumn is to end from the beginning of July, after just nine months.

Public sector pay rises

Unions are reportedly unhappy over reports that some public sector pay rises may be blocked by the Government due to fears around inflation being pushed up further.

Despite recommendations from the independent pay review bodies, it has been reported that rises could be overruled if they are considered unaffordable due to concerns of a “wage-price spiral”.

Mortgage rise analysis

Analysis by Public First shows that some households will face paying more than £5,000 a year extra on their mortgages as a result of rising rates – far in excess of the extra energy costs they faced.

Council DIY waste charges abolished

Fees charged by local authorities for DIY waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) have been scrapped, as announced by Environment Minister Rebecca Pow MP. These changes will save households up to £10 for an individual item (e.g. a sheet of plasterboard). The government says this move is designed to make it easier to dispose of waste and hope this will reduce the temptation to fly-tip rubbish.

Doctors back strike action

NHS consultants in England have backed industrial action in their fight for increased pay. A total of 86 per cent of British Medical Association members voted in favour of walkouts, with the union previously announcing that the 48-hour action would take place on 20 and 21 July if doctors voted in support.

3) Crime Report 19th to 25th June 2023

Ward	Southchurch
Crime Reference Number	42/109897/23
Offence Description	Theft of a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	20/06/2023 07:49
Committed Date (From)	19/06/2023 22:00
Street partial postcode	SHOEBURY ROAD SS1 3
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE STOLEN THE VICTIMS VEHICLE A FORD FIESTA STINGER, EJ18WKD, BY MEANS UNKNOWN.

Ward	Southchurch
Crime Reference Number	42/110502/23
Offence Description	Theft of a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	20/06/2023 22:10
Committed Date (From)	13/06/2023 22:00
Street partial postcode	ARCHER AVENUE SS2 4
Offence Details (MO)	MOTORCYCLE STOLEN FROM FRONT GARDEN AND STORED IN A LOCKED GARAGE. VEHICLE RECOVERED.

Ward	Southchurch
Crime Reference Number	42/111662/23
Offence Description	Theft if not classified elsewhere

Reported Date and Time 22/06/2023 17:01
Committed Date (From) 19/06/2023 13:00
Street partial postcode **SOUTHCHURCH ROAD SS1 2**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS FOUND THE VICTIMS BANK CARD ON THE STREET AND HAS THEN USED IT IN A NEARBY STORE TO MAKE TWO TRANSACTIONS TOTALLING 148.96GBP RESULTING IN A FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE VICTIM.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/111330/23
Offence Description Attempted Burglary - Business And Community
Reported Date and Time 22/06/2023 09:19
Committed Date (From) 22/06/2023 05:15
Street partial postcode **WOODGRANGE DRIVE SS1 2**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS ATTEMPTED TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE PREMISES BY KICKING THE BOTTOM OF THE DOOR CAUSING DAMAGE AND TRYING THE DOOR HANDLE. NO ENTRY GAINED AND NOTHING STOLEN.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/111335/23
Offence Description Burglary - Business And Community
Reported Date and Time 22/06/2023 09:22
Committed Date (From) 22/06/2023 05:00
Street partial postcode **WOODGRANGE DRIVE SS1 2**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNKNOWN GAINED ENTRY TO THE PREMISES BY KICKING THE DOOR CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE LOCK. ONCE ENTRY WAS GAINED THE SUSPECT REMOVED CASH GBP 40.00 FROM A DRAWER AND AN ALEXA HUB.

4) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 30th June 2023

Application Number: 23/01039/CLP **Ward: Thorpe**
Officer: Jennifer Doherty
Hip to gable rear roof dormer extension with juliet balcony, two rooflights to the front (Certificate of Lawful Development - Proposed)
46 Marlborough Road Southend-on-Sea Essex

Application Number: 23/01059/CLP **Ward: Thorpe**
Officer: Jennifer Doherty
Dormer to rear with juliette balcony and roof lights (Certificate of Lawful Development - Proposed)
112 Shaftesbury Avenue Southend-on-Sea Essex

Application Number: 23/00851/CLP **Ward: West Shoebury**
Officer: James Benn

Convert existing commercial ground floor unit (Class E) into a self-contained flat (Class C3) (Certificate of Lawful Development - Proposed)
67 West Road Shoeburyness Southend-on-Sea

5) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 25th June 2023

APPLN. NO: 23/00562/FULH **Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Hayley Thompson

ERECT TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION, PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PORCH TO FRONT, TWO STOREY FRONT EXTENSION COMPRISING OF GARAGE AT GROUND FLOOR LEVEL AND ALTER ELEVATIONS (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

66 WILLINGALE WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 23/00817/TEL **Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

REMOVE 3NO. ANTENNAS AND SHROUD, 1NO. CABINET, 1NO. METER PILLAR AND INSTALL 20M STREET FURNITURE STYLE MAST INCORPORATING 6NO. ANTENNAS, AND ALL ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT

HIGHWAYS VERGE EASTERN AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Prior Approval Is Required/Refuse

APPLN. NO: 23/01034/ROT **Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: James Benn

INSTALL 10M MEDIUM WOODEN POLE OPP 131 ASHURST AVENUE

LAND OUTSIDE 131 ASHURST AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Telcom notice - Do not register

APPLN. NO: 23/01035/ROT **Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Jennifer Doherty

INSTALL 10M MEDIUM WOODEN POLE OPP 84 GLYNDE WAY

LAND OUTSIDE 84 GLYNDE WAY SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Telcom notice - Do not register

APPLN. NO: 23/01036/ROT **Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

INSTALL 10M MEDIUM WOODEN POLE OPP 31 PETWORTH GARDENS

LAND OUTSIDE 31 PETWORTH GARDENS SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Telcom notice - Do not register

APPLN. NO: 23/00683/FULH **Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Hayley Thompson

ERECT PART SINGLE, PART TWO STOREY EXTENSION TO FRONT, SIDE AND REAR AND ALTER ELEVATIONS

162 BURGESS ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 23/00703/FULH

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR/SIDE EXTENSION

101 ST JAMES AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

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