

# E-Newsletter – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

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Dear Member,

Thank you for supporting BERA for the past year and Ron, Mike and the Committee would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## 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 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 10.00am to midday**

Thank you to all who attended our Christmas coffee morning yesterday, it was great to see you all.

Our next coffee morning is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, so please join us for engaging chats and laughter, accompanied by free tea, coffee, and homemade cakes.

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

### Recycling

It costs the council £4m a year to dispose of the black sacks and £2.5m a year to clear the litter. Please recycle as much as possible over the festive season and put out your food waste which is now being collected singly again, rather than your food waste being emptied into someone else's bin to await collection. If you need any pink or food waste sacks, please email Ron at [ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ronwoodley@hotmail.co.uk)

### Local Fraud – Please Be Aware

We have been contacted by a member and on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, he had a caller in the afternoon who was approximately in his late twenties/early thirties and spoke with an Irish accent.

The caller said that he had called to check work his company had done on the members gutters. The member was surprised by this as he has cast iron gutters that are in perfect condition.

The caller then said that he must have the wrong address, and would contact "the office" and get back to the member. The member advised the caller not to contact him again.

Then on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> December, the member went to visit his elderly friend who also lives locally. She informed him that on the 14<sup>th</sup> December a man with an Irish accent in a van with ladders knocked and said he had come to fix her roof. There was nothing wrong with her roof and she had not asked anyone to call but she allowed him to spend an hour tinkering about with her roof, after which he asked for

£4000. She told him she did not have that sort of money around, so she gave him a cheque for £3000, and the rest in cash.

The lady said he seemed so genuine. They contacted her bank, and were trying to get the cheque stopped before phoning the Police.

Please, please be aware and always talk to family, friends or neighbours and do not have any works done on your property without have 3 independent quotes.

## **Flooding under the bridge at Thorpe Hall Avenue**

We have contacted the council and Ron has taken the officer to have a look at the flooding and please see their reply below:

*Veolia attended the Thorpe Hall/Burges Rd drain and removed the surface water there. Organisation for a survey of the drain to be carried out to ascertain if roots from the tree or something else is contributing to the issue is being undertaken. This will be slightly post Christmas now but we will keep you informed on outcome.*

*I'm sure you are aware that shortly after the site meet the Thorpe Hall Ave area was flooded following a central carriageway storm drain overflowing. I (waste contract manager) returned to site and could see for myself the amount of water and the flooding at both ends of the road. I reported it through our internal Bronze Flooding Group and it was confirmed that the drain(s) causing the consistent flooding are the responsibility of Anglian Water and this continues to be pursued with them. As also discussed, Veolia now have a stock of sandbags and can assist with household provision if/as required.*

## **Southchurch Park WC - Update**

The council have confirmed that they are able to do ground works and excavations on the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> January and the power will be turned off on the 10<sup>th</sup> to the North WC, the power can then be reinstated on the 19<sup>th</sup> and re-opened.

As before they will signpost you to other WC's in the park and while it is frustrating the works cannot be closer together, it's been very difficult for the two companies to align their schedules.

## **Industrial action and NHS services over the Christmas period**

In response to the planned industrial action, the NHS locally is calling on local people to help minimise disruption as far as possible and to safeguard patient care.

Junior doctors at all major hospitals in the mid and south Essex area are scheduled to strike for three days, starting at 7am on Wednesday, 20 December, and ending at 7am on Saturday, 23 December.

This will be followed by a more prolonged strike, beginning at 7am on Wednesday, 3 January, and concluding at 7am on Tuesday, 9 January.

Local people are being urged to plan ahead if they take prescribed medication regularly, by making sure they have enough to last until the New Year.

GP practices across mid and south Essex will be closed on Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 December. They will reopen on Wednesday 27 December until Friday 29 December, with normal service resuming from Tuesday 2 January.

Urgent and emergency services will be under pressure and waiting times for care may be considerably longer than usual.

Additionally, some routine and pre-planned appointments may need to be postponed due to having to reprioritise those with urgent needs during industrial action. Patients affected by these changes being contacted directly.

## **Two arrested following Speedwatch**

Volunteers from Community Speedwatch and Special Constables worked alongside Roads Policing Officers to tackle road safety in Essex, arrest two people wanted on warrant in Southend.

On Wednesday 13 December, in collaboration with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP), volunteer officers led events at two Southend locations as part of our work to keep roads in Essex safe.

Southend volunteer officers, also known as Specials, conducted the traffic evening of action in Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay, focussing on speed enforcement.

The team captured seven speeding offences, issuing tickets to all drivers, when the top speed of 42mph on a 30mph road was captured and a ticket for no MOT was issued.

During a total of 35 hours of high visibility policing to keep our communities safe, they also executed four high priority warrants and arrested a person wanted on warrant for the offence of assault on an emergency worker. A second person, wanted on recall to prison, was also arrested.

## **2) National Corner**

### **Energy bills to rise to cover customers' debts**

The energy price cap is set to be lifted to help suppliers recover bad debt accrued through unpaid gas and electricity bills, Ofgem has announced.

### **Tip taxes**

From Jan 1 councils will no longer be able to charge for disposing of waste such as rubble, which the Government has argued will reduce illegal waste-dumping. Cllr Darren Rodwell, environment spokesperson for the LGA, previously warned: "Where councils are no longer able to charge for DIY waste at recycling centres the cost will be passed to all householders, including households that do not have a car and those with no possibility of carrying out building works, for example people living in rented accommodation."

## **Digital landlines rollout**

Virgin Media O2 has denied that telecoms companies are putting the elderly at risk with the rollout of digital landlines, claiming private care providers and local authorities are to blame for issues with the switch over. Cllr Mark Hawthorne, digital connectivity spokesperson for the LGA said: “Councils are managing the impact of the transition on their communities as best they can, including by raising awareness and supporting vulnerable people using telecare devices, to ensure there is no interruption to their service. We continue to call for greater awareness, data sharing, testing and coordination from government, so that the wider public is prepared for the potential impact on homes and businesses.”

## **UK inflation drop**

The rate of price rises significantly slowed again in November to another two year low, official figures show. Inflation stood at 3.9 per cent last month, according to the Office for National Statistics, a dramatic fall from the 4.6 per cent recorded a month earlier as price increases slowed in transport, recreation and culture, and food with the biggest downward pressure coming from fuel.

## **Junior doctors strike**

Hospitals will find it “extremely difficult” to keep elderly patients safe over Christmas as doctors begin the biggest strike in their history today, charities and NHS leaders warned.

## **Facial recognition**

The police will be able to run facial recognition searches on a database containing images of driving licence holders under a new law change. Should the police wish to put a name to an image collected on CCTV, or shared on social media, the legislation would provide them with the powers to search driving licence records for a match.

## **UK at risk of recession after the economy shrinks**

The UK is at risk of recession after revised figures showed the economy shrank between July and September. Gross domestic product contracted by 0.1 per cent after previous estimates suggested growth has been flat, while there was zero growth between April and June, after it was first calculated to have risen by 0.2 per cent.

## **Wood-burning stoves ‘should carry pollution warning’**

Wood-burning stoves should come with health warning labels and councils should be empowered to ban their use on polluted days, according to a think-tank report supported by more than 100 Conservative MPs. Earlier this year ministers asked councils to issue £300 fines for people flouting rules on the appliances.

## **Covid infection rates double in weeks**

Levels for Covid-19 have doubled in England and Scotland since the start of the month, with about one person in 24 infected, the latest figures show. A study released yesterday suggested that in early December about one person in 50 had the coronavirus, with the rates highest among those aged 18 to 44 and living in London and the South East.

**3) Crime Report 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Ward **Southchurch**  
 Crime Reference Number 42/218958/23  
 Offence Description Aggravated Burglary - Business And Community  
 Reported Date and Time 11/12/2023 11:02  
 Committed Date (From) 11/12/2023 00:23  
 Street partial postcode **WAKERING ROAD SS3 0**  
 Offence Details (MO)  
 SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY THROUGH THE ROLLER SHUTTER LOCATED AT THE BACK OF THE PROPERTY, ONCE INSIDE THE SUSPECTS HAVE ALSO KICKED A HOLE IN THE ROOF AND HAVE NOT REMOVED ITEMS FROM THE PROPERTY. SUSPECTS ATTENDED WITH WEAPONS.

Ward **Southchurch**  
 Crime Reference Number Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5,000)  
 Offence Description 11/12/2023 18:31  
 Reported Date and Time 09/12/2023 00:40  
 Committed Date (From) **NEWINGTON CLOSE SS2 4**  
 Street partial postcode  
 Offence Details (MO)  
 SUSPECT HAVE BROKEN VICTIMS FRONT WINDOW GBP 600.

Ward **Southchurch**  
 Crime Reference Number 42/219473/23  
 Offence Description Residential Burglary of a Home (Dwelling)  
 Reported Date and Time 12/12/2023 01:20  
 Committed Date (From) 12/12/2023 01:17  
 Street partial postcode **ASHURST AVENUE SS2 4**  
 Offence Details (MO)  
 SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS ENTERED VICTIMS PROPERTY VIA THE FRONT DOOR, TAKEN A BUNCH OF KEYS FROM INSIDE THE ADDRESS AND THEN LEFT BY DRIVING THE AUDI, INDEX CP23\*\*\*, OFF OF THE DRIVE.

Ward **Southchurch**  
 Crime Reference Number 42/220417/23  
 Offence Description Theft if not classified elsewhere  
 Reported Date and Time 13/12/2023 16:53  
 Committed Date (From) 13/12/2023 16:52  
 Street partial postcode **WICKMEAD CLOSE SS2 4**  
 Offence Details (MO)  
 SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS KEYS.

Ward **Southchurch**  
 Crime Reference Number 42/222349/23  
 Offence Description Theft from a motor vehicle  
 Reported Date and Time 17/12/2023 08:40

Committed Date (From) 16/12/2023 01:00  
Street partial postcode **ARLINGTON ROAD SS2 4**  
Offence Details (MO)  
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS GAINED ACCESS TO THE VICTIMS VEHICLE BY MEANS UNKNOWN. SUSPECT HAS CONDUCTED A MESSY SEARCH AND STOLEN A WALLET CONTAINING BANK CARDS AND 500GBP IN CASH

Ward **Thorpe**  
Crime Reference Number 42/219456/23  
Offence Description Theft of a motor vehicle  
Reported Date and Time 12/12/2023 01:37  
Committed Date (From) 12/12/2023 01:37  
Street partial postcode **BURGES ROAD SS1 3**  
Offence Details (MO)  
SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE REMOVED THE VICTIMS RANGE ROVER, INDEX K555\*\*\*, FROM THE VICTIMS DRIVEWAY BY MEANS UNKNOWN.

Ward **Thorpe**  
Crime Reference Number 42/219699/23  
Offence Description Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)  
Reported Date and Time 12/12/2023 09:50  
Committed Date (From) 08/12/2023  
Street partial postcode **ELM GROVE SS1 3**  
Offence Details (MO)  
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS USED IMPLEMENT UNKNOWN IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE VICTIMS SIDE GATE OPEN CAUSING SEVERE DAMGE TO FRAME AND BOLT LOCK.

Ward **Thorpe**  
Crime Reference Number 42/220271/23  
Offence Description Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter  
Reported Date and Time 13/12/2023 12:53  
Committed Date (From) 15/11/2023 00:01  
Street partial postcode **ST. AUGUSTINES AVENUE SS1 3**  
Offence Details (MO)  
SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS STOLEN LOOSE CASH AND TWO SAPPHIRE RINGS FROM THE VICTIMS HOME.

Ward **West Shoebury**  
Crime Reference Number 42/221665/23  
Offence Description Theft if not classified elsewhere  
Reported Date and Time 11/12/2023 22:48  
Committed Date (From) 11/12/2023  
Street partial postcode **BUCKLAND SS3 8**  
Offence Details (MO)  
SUSPECT UNKNOWN USING MEANS UNKNOWN, HAVE STOLEN VICTIMS APPLE IPHONE.

## **4) Temporary Road Closure**

**Johnstone Road – 08:00 on the 19th of January 2024 until 17:00 on 1st March 2024 - Gas main replacement works**

To prohibit any vehicle from; -

1. Proceeding on Johnstone Road between its junctions with The Broadway & Parkanaur Avenue.
2. Parking, stopping, waiting, loading or unloading on Johnstone Road between its junctions with The Broadway & Parkanaur Avenue.

The closure is scheduled to commence from 08:00 on the 19th of January 2024 until 17:00 on 1st March 2024.

The alternative route will be via Parkanaur Avenue, Burges Road, The Broadway and vice versa.

The Order will come into effect on 19th January 2024. 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.

## **5) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**

Application Number: 23/01811/FULH

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: James Benn

Erect single storey side extension linking garage to main dwelling and convert part of garage into habitable accommodation (retrospective)

**28 Wyatts Drive Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 23/01898/FUL

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: Scott Davison

Erect single storey residential annex in the rear garden for ancillary use to main dwelling

**143 Ambleside Drive Southend-on-sea Essex**



## **6) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

APPLN. NO: 23/01957/ROT

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: James Benn

REMOVAL OF 12.9M STREET FURNITURE STYLE MAST WITH LUMINAIRE ELEMENT AND INCORPORATING 3NO. ANTENNAS IN GRP SHROUD, 4NO. CABINETS, 1NO. METER PILLAR AND ALL ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT. INSTALLATION OF 17.5M STREET FURNITURE STYLE MAST INCORPORATING 6NO. ANTENNAS, 2NO. CABINETS AND ALL ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT  
**HIGHWAYS VERGE EASTERN AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

Decision: Telcom notice - Do not register

APPLN. NO: 23/01632/FULH

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: James Benn

RAISE RIDGE HEIGHT AND INSTALL DORMER TO REAR TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LOFTSPACE, ERECT FIRST FLOOR FRONT EXTENSIONS WITH GABLES, PART SINGLE / PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH BALCONY AT FIRST FLOOR LEVEL, CONVERT PART OF GARAGE INTO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION AND ALTERATIONS TO ELEVATIONS (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

**526 WOODGRANGE DRIVE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

Decision: Refuse Permission

APPLN. NO: 23/01653/CLP

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Tinotenda Mangwanda

HIP TO GABLE LOFT CONVERSION WITH REAR DORMER TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION AND THREE ROOF LIGHTS TO THE FRONT ELEVATION (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE - PROPOSED)

**117 LIFSTAN WAY SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 23/01733/CLP

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

DORMER TO REAR WITH JULIETTE BALCONY TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LOFTSPACE (CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT - PROPOSED)

**20 ELIZABETH ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 23/01641/FULH

**Ward. West Shoebury**

Officer: Jennifer Doherty

ERECT FIRST FLOOR FRONT/SIDE EXTENSION OVER EXISTING GARAGE AND ALTERATIONS TO ELEVATIONS

**28 SWALLOWCLIFFE SHOEBURYNESSE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

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