

E-Newsletter – 1st March 2024

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1) Information Corner



BERA Coffee Morning

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

When: **Thursday 21st March 2024 at 10.00am to midday**

Our next coffee morning Thursday 21st March, so please join us again for engaging chats and laughter, accompanied by free tea, coffee, and homemade cakes.

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

Member Request

Hi All,

Whilst it is nice to feed our wildlife, please be considerate to your neighbours as their mess can cause corrosion and can be a great nuisance to others.

Thank you

BERA Renewal

If you have not yet renewed your BERA membership either by cash, cheque or bank transfer, please do so by the 31st March 2024 to enable us to continue the good work that we do for you and our area. Thank you

2) National Corner

Concern as more councils plan to turn off street lights

The majority of councils across England and Wales have introduced measures to dim or cut street lights over the past 15 years, some saving millions of pounds a year. Some local authorities have increased the cuts in an effort to fill gaps in budgets, with Croydon, Cornwall, Havering and Hampshire the latest to declare plans to switch off lights.

Smokers to be hit with another tobacco tax rise

The Government is set for another increase in tobacco duty in the upcoming Budget, it is reported. Jeremy Hunt announced last year that there would be a rise in tobacco duty, with hand-rolled cigarettes hit with the steepest hike and it is now understood the Chancellor could impose another tax increase on smokers, by ramping up duties on tobacco products.

Mental health hub expansion

Walk-in centres for children and young people are to be expanded as part of efforts to provide more mental health help in the wake of the pandemic. On Tuesday, ministers will announce the roll out of 24 “early support hubs” to give counselling, group therapy and specialist advice to those who are struggling to cope. The centres for those aged between 16 and 24 aim to provide help without referral by a doctor or school.

Cancer survival rates lagging

Cancer survival rates in the UK are lagging 10 to 15 years behind some other countries, according to new research. A pair of studies compared how often cancer patients are treated with chemotherapy and radiotherapy in the UK to those in Canada, Norway and Australia. They found the UK is behind all three countries in treating various types of cancer, who also have higher five-year survival rates.

Tax rises and cuts

Analysis from the Labour Party has revealed that the benefits from a 2 per cent tax cut to National Insurance proposed by Chancellor Jeremy Hunt MP will be cancelled out by council tax rises. The analysis has shown that typical Band D tax rises will be up to £420 over 2024-2025 while the Government puts savings from the tax cut for the average salaried worker at £450. This comes after the Chancellors decision to allow more flexibility for councils to raise council tax up to 5 per cent in order to fund social care and statutory services.

Arts, parks and leisure centres

A survey from the LGIU has shown that more than half of councils are likely to be unable to balance their books over the next 5 years, with two-thirds proposing funding reductions to services. Services will be reduced despite rising council taxes with parks, leisure facilities, arts and culture most at risk. The survey of council leaders and officers showed that of the 128 authorities surveyed, one third plan on reducing spending for parks, leisure, arts and culture.

School absence fines

Fines for parents taking children out of school without permission will rise across England from September. The minimum fine will increase from £60 to £80 per parent as part of a government drive to increase attendance.

Children face 'shorter, unhappier lives' from obesity

The NHS has warned that more than 1.3 million British children face "shorter and unhappier lives" due to obesity. New analysis by the NHS shows that obesity rates have nearly tripled in UK schoolchildren over the past three decades, with the sharpest increase seen in boys

Senior council officer pay

The Taxpayers Alliance and MPs are calling for all council officer salaries of more than £100,000 to be voted on and approved by councillors. Conservative MP Paul Birstow is introducing a Private Members Bill to make this law.

3) Crime Report 19th to 25th February 2024

Ward	Thorpe
Crime Reference Number	42/29360/24
Offence Description	Theft of a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	23/02/2024 16:52
Committed Date (From)	21/02/2024
Street partial postcode	CHESTER AVENUE SS1 2
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN BY MEANS UNKNOWN HAVE STOLEN VICTIM VAUXHALL MOKKA IN BLACK WITH REG LM14***.

Ward	Thorpe
Crime Reference Number	42/30687/24
Offence Description	Theft from a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	25/02/2024 16:35
Committed Date (From)	24/02/2024
Street partial postcode	MARLBOROUGH ROAD SS1 2
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ACCESS INTO VICTIMS VEHICLE BY MEANS UNKNOWN HAVE SEARCHED THE VEHICLE AND FOUND A KEY TO THE LOCKED TOOL SAFE AND HAVE STOLEN TOOLS.

Ward	West Shoebury
Crime Reference Number	42/27107/24
Offence Description	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)
Reported Date and Time	19/02/2024 13:08
Committed Date (From)	13/02/2024 13:55
Street partial postcode	MAPLIN WAY SS1 3
Offence Details (MO)	

SUSPECTS UNIDENTIFIED HAVE CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE VICTIMS BLACK JAGUAR XF IN WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO GET THE VICTIM TO LOWER THE VALUE OF THE CAR WHILST SELLING IT.

4) Scam Alert

Crypto scams found hidden on app stores

Which? have uncovered crypto scams disguised as genuine apps on Apple's App store and Google Play. Although many apps on the main app stores (Apple and Google) are safe, it's not the first time scam apps have been found.

Subscription scam and traps to watch out for

Recurring payments are often used by legitimate businesses for genuine services. However, they can also be a gateway to subscription traps – and fraud.

For instance, companies can use premium text alerts to charge you without requesting your card details. This is known as Charge to Bill, and its primary purpose is for donating to charity or voting in TV shows using your mobile phone number.

'A cold call scam drained £96,000 from my pension savings'

A Which? reader was targeted by a complex pension scam.

The cold-calling scammer told the victim they were conducting a pension review and persuaded them to transfer £96,000 into a qualifying recognised overseas pension scheme. Fortunately, the Which? Money expert was able to help the victim recover £39,000 of their losses. However, the fight to recover the remaining losses is not yet over.

5) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 1st March 2024

Application Number: 24/00122/NON

Ward: Southchurch

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

Install 2no. rooflights to front of annex (Non-material amendment to planning permission 20/00504/FUL dated 16.05.2020)

90 Shoebury Road Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 24/00207/FULH

Ward: Southchurch

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

Replace existing front porch

5 Bovingner Way Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 24/00362/NON

Ward: Southchurch

Officer: Abbie Greenwood

Removal of window to rear elevation at ground floor level and removal of requirement for opening height of 1.7m from floor level to window on side elevation in undercroft (Non-material amendment of planning permission 23/01181/FUL dated 13/09/2023)

771 - 773 Southchurch Road Southend-on-sea Essex

Application Number: 24/00214/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Scott Davison

Increase existing vehicle crossover onto Thorpe Hall Avenue

38 Thorpe Hall Avenue Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 24/00338/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Scott Davison

Erect single storey extension to south elevation

52 Burges Road Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 24/00339/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Scott Davison

Demolish existing single storey detached garage and store, erect single storey garage and garden room with habitable accommodation in the loftspace for home office, erect boundary wall to rear

52 Burges Road Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 24/00340/CLP

Ward: West Shoebury

Officer: Hayley Thompson

Single storey extension attached to existing garage (Lawful development certificate - proposed)

23 Bishopsteignton Shoeburyness Essex

6) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 25th February 2024

APPLN. NO: 23/01916/FULH

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

ERECT FIRST FLOOR SIDE EXTENSIONS

117 SOUTHCHURCH BOULEVARD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 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

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 23/01355/AD

Ward. West Shoebury

Officer: Jennifer Doherty

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF DETAILS PURSUANT TO CONDITION 12
(OBSCURE GLAZING) OF PLANNING PERMISSION 19/01629/FUL DATED
26.11.2019 (RETROSPECTIVE)

128 RICHMOND AVENUE SHOEBURYNES SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Refuse Permission

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