

## E-Newsletter – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

[www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)



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### **1) Information Corner**



#### **BERA Coffee Morning**

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

When: **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 10.00am to midday**

Thank you to all who attended yesterday's coffee morning, it was great to see you all. Our next coffee morning is on Thursday 18th April, 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.

#### **BERA Renewal – Please renew by 31<sup>st</sup> March**

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

#### **A date for your diary**

This year's AGM, will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm at St Augustine's Church hall. More details to follow nearer the time.

## Have your say on playground improvements in Southend's parks

Southend-on-Sea City Council, in collaboration with Ground Control Professional Services, is seeking resident input on proposed playground improvements across the city's parks.

The council is planning the refurbishment of playgrounds in Priory Park, Southchurch Park, Chalkwell Park, Bournes Green Park, Belfairs Park, Oakwood Park, and Friars Park. With an investment of £1 million from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), these upgrades aim to enhance recreational facilities for residents of all ages.

Planned refurbishments include a range of improvements, including the addition of new playground equipment, improved pathways, maintenance of existing structures, better safety standards, integration with natural surroundings and improved biodiversity and better air quality, and inclusivity and better accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Residents are encouraged to review the proposed designs for each park's play area, available on the council's Your Say Southend website, before taking part in the consultation. Your feedback will play a vital role in shaping the future of our city's parks.

The consultation closes at 5 pm on Monday 6 May 2024. To participate and have your say, visit Your Say Southend.



## New selfie signpost on Southend Pier

Southend-on-Sea City Council is delighted to announce the installation of a new selfie signpost at the western tip of Southend Pier's head.

This new attraction showcases distances to various destinations, ranging from the nearby Hadleigh Castle and Red Sands Fort, to London and New York. The signpost also features a nod to Southend Pier's role during World War II, when it served as a muster point for boats heading to Dunkirk to evacuate troops.

The signpost's strategic location at the pier head offers breathtaking views of the Thames Estuary, making it an ideal spot for capturing memories.

The selfie signpost is part of a broader initiative to revitalise Southend Pier in 2024, with numerous exciting developments planned to enhance the visitor experience. These enhancements are designed to celebrate the pier's historical significance while introducing modern attractions that appeal to both local residents and tourists.

The council invites locals and visitors alike to explore the pier and its latest addition this Easter. With its blend of historic charm and new attractions, Southend Pier continues to be a must-visit destination that offers something for everyone.

For more information about Southend Pier and its upcoming attractions, please visit [www.southendpier.co.uk](http://www.southendpier.co.uk)

## Major Works 24/03/2024 - 31/03/2024

Address	<b>PARKANAUR AVENUE</b>
Start	08/01/2024
End	04/04/2024
Works Reference	AZ502-1001279887
L.A.Ref	140247
Works Status	IN PROGRESS
Highest TM	MULTI-WAY SIGNALS - DELAYS LIKELY

Address	<b>THE BROADWAY</b>
Start	04/03/2024
End	28/05/2024
Works Reference	AZ502-1001280674
L.A.Ref	140362
Works Status	IN PROGRESS
Highest TM	SOME C/W INCURSION - DELAYS UNLIKELY

Address	<b>FERMOY ROAD</b>
Start	22/03/2024
End	26/04/2024
Works Reference	AZ502-1001280675
L.A.Ref	140363
Works Status	PROPOSED WORKS
Highest TM	SOME C/W INCURSION - DELAYS UNLIKELY



**THORPE BAY**  
**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
***FLOWER AND***  
***HOME CRAFT SHOW***

**AT ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH HALL**  
**JOHNSTONE ROAD THORPE BAY**

**SATURDAY: 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**AT 2.15pm**

**Admission £1 Members free**



## **2) National Corner**

### **Local roads at “breaking point”**

The amount needed to fix the backlog of local road repairs has reached a record £16.3 billion, up 16 per cent from £14 billion a year ago, according to the annual ALARM survey by the Asphalt Industry Alliance. It found councils were expected to fix two million potholes in the current financial year - up 43 per cent on the previous year and the highest annual total since 2015/16.

### **Small boat crossings**

The Government is said to be concerned that small boat crossings will spike during the Olympics as police are diverted from Calais to Paris. The Home Office has reportedly asked the French government to keep a sizeable force dedicated to stopping illegal migrants.

### **6.7 million people are in financial difficulty**

Almost seven million people in Britain are in financial difficulty, debt campaign group Debt for Justice has found. A survey found that 13 per cent of adults had missed three or more credit or bill payments in the last six months, a figure that rose to 29 per cent among 18- to 24-year-olds and a quarter of 25- to 34-year-olds.

### **UK house prices rise by 1.5 per cent**

UK house prices have risen by 1.5 per cent this month, the biggest increase in the last 10 months. According to Rightmove the rise is linked to an increase in buyer demand and stronger house sales.

### **Social care spending**

Two thirds of council budgets are being spent on adult social care and children’s services according to County Councils Network (CCN) estimates. Local authorities warn that libraries, parks and road repairs are at risk due to the high and rising costs of meeting legal duties.

### **Yellow box junction fines**

Dozens of councils have been granted new powers to enforce road laws, including for U-turns and yellow box junctions. Eighty-five of the 152 highways authorities in England can now hand out penalties of up to £70 for "moving traffic violations" such as stopping in a box junction or making a U-turn through a bus lane, after a law passed in 2022 allowed councils across England and Wales to apply for the new powers.

### **Councils could be stopped from making profits out of traffic fines**

Ministers are considering removing the power for councils to make profits when fining motorists for minor traffic offences, such as stopping in yellow box junctions or driving in bus lanes. The Department for Transport has put out a call for evidence on “restricting the generation of surplus funds from traffic contraventions.”

### **New £100 on-the-spot fines for smoking**

Powers to issue £100 on-the-spot fines are to be handed to council officers enforcing a landmark law banning future generations from smoking. Children turning 15 this

year, or younger, will be banned from being sold tobacco under the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, which is being introduced today and will also strengthen the powers of council enforcement officers who monitor and investigate retailers.

## UK inflation falls to 3.4%

The pace of general price rises has slowed, falling to 3.4 per cent in February, according to official figures from the Office for National Statistics. This is down from 4 per cent in January and December, and the lowest rate for nearly two and a half years, but the rate of inflation is still above the Bank of England's 2 per cent target.

## Chancellor hints at October general election

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt has hinted a general election could be held in October. He told a Lords Committee the Government's next spending review had to be completed before next April and "if the general election is in October that will mean it's very, very tight".

## Vaping 'linked to cancer and damages body like smoking'

People who vape experience similar changes to their DNA as smokers who develop cancer, researchers have revealed. Scientists at University College London analysed samples of cheek cells from vape users and compared these with those from cigarette smokers, which showed both groups had similar changes and were in turn linked to the future development of lung cancer in smokers.

## Interest rates

The Bank of England is expected to hold interest rates at 5.25 per cent for the fifth time in a row. It is also expected to be cautious about signalling when future rate cuts will be, despite lower-than-expected February inflation figures.

## Junior doctors to continue to strike

Junior doctors in England have voted in favour of continuing strike action in their pay dispute. There have been 10 walkouts so far by junior doctors since March last year.

## **3) Crime Report 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Ward	<b>Southchurch</b>
Crime Reference Number	42/41604/24
Offence Description	Interference with a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	15/03/2024 12:11
Committed Date (From)	14/03/2024
Street partial postcode	<b>PELHAM ROAD SS2 4</b>
Offence Details (MO)	
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS PERFORMED A MESSY SEARCH INSIDE THE VICTIMS CAR A JAGUAR E PACE. NOTHING WAS STOLEN.	

Ward	<b>Southchurch</b>
Crime Reference Number	42/42939/24

Offence Description	Theft of a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	17/03/2024 10:36
Committed Date (From)	16/03/2024 19:00
Street partial postcode	<b>RIVIERA DRIVE SS1 2</b>
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECT UNKNOWN REMOVED THE VICTIMS WHITE FORD TRANSIT LUTON VAN, INDEX SG62***, BY MEANS UNKNOWN AND WITHOUT PERMISSION.

Ward	<b>Southchurch</b>
Crime Reference Number	42/43293/24
Offence Description	Residential Burglary of a Home (Dwelling)
Reported Date and Time	17/03/2024 10:20
Committed Date (From)	17/01/2024 19:18
Street partial postcode	<b>SHERWOOD WAY SS2 4</b>
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS ENTERED THE VICTIMS ADDRESS ON AN UNKNOWN DATE AT AN UNKNOWN TIME AND HAS STOLEN ITEMS.

Ward	<b>Thorpe</b>
Crime Reference Number	42/40743/24
Offence Description	Theft of a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	14/03/2024 07:51
Committed Date (From)	13/03/2024 17:30
Street partial postcode	<b>THE BROADWAY SS1 3</b>
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE BY METHODS UNKNOWN STOLEN THE VICTIMS LAND ROVER DISCOVERY, EU16***, FROM THE DRIVEWAY OF THEIR PROPERTY.

Ward	<b>Thorpe</b>
Crime Reference Number	42/41428/24
Offence Description	Theft of a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	15/03/2024 08:25
Committed Date (From)	15/03/2024 08:05
Street partial postcode	<b>TYRONE ROAD SS1 3</b>
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS BY MEANS UNKNOWN STOLEN THE VICTIMS BLACK JAGUAR E-PACE ALL VARIANTS, INDEX EF73***.

Ward	<b>West Shoebury</b>
Crime Reference Number	42/40651/24
Offence Description	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)
Reported Date and Time	13/03/2024 22:08
Committed Date (From)	13/03/2024 22:05
Street partial postcode	<b>SAXON GARDENS SS3 9</b>
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAS CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLE.

Ward	<b>West Shoebury</b>
Crime Reference Number	42/40761/24

Offence Description	Theft of a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	14/03/2024 05:51
Committed Date (From)	13/03/2024 21:00
Street partial postcode	<b>CAULFIELD ROAD SS3 9</b>
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS STOLEN VICTIMS VEHICLE, INDEX SV69***, JAGUAR E PACE GREY FROM THE VICTIMS HOME ADDRESS. VICTIM STILL HAS BOTH SETS OF KEYS.

## 4) Scam Alert

### **'I lost £750 to a scammer, but only recovered £12.50'**

One reader contacted Which? after being targeted by fraudsters posing as a decorating firm.

The victim had previously used this decorating company and had received a quote after their recent visit. However, a fraudster intercepted the email exchange and used the same email address to follow up with the victim to request a deposit of £750. The victim paid the deposit, but then received an email requesting the deposit be resent due to a 'transaction failure'.

### **How to help someone after a scam**

Witnessing a friend or loved one suffer the aftermath of a scam is a highly challenging experience which millions of people go through every year. Friends and family can play a crucial role in helping victims recover from a scam. They can provide non-judgmental emotional support and assist with the practicalities of mental health and financial recovery.

If someone you care about has been scammed, here are four ways you can help them.

1. Tell them: 'You're not to blame'
2. Find support
3. Help them understand their rights
4. Recognise an emergency

## 5) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Application Number: 24/00453/FULH

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

Raise ridge height, erect first floor front extensions with gables, part single/part two storey rear extension with balcony to first floor, convert part of garage into habitable accommodation and alter elevations

**526 Woodgrange Drive Southend-on-sea Essex**



Application Number: 24/00462/FUL  
Officer: Scott Davison  
Replace existing beach hut  
**Beach Hut 217 Thorpe Esplanade Thorpe Bay**

**Ward: Thorpe**

**6) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

APPLN. NO: 23/02016/FULH **Ward. Thorpe**  
Officer: James Benn  
ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND ALTER  
ELEVATIONS (AMENDED PROPOSAL)  
**37 WARWICK ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX**  
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 24/00037/FULH **Ward. Thorpe**  
Officer: Scott Davison  
ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION  
**99 THE BROADWAY THORPE BAY SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**  
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 24/00078/FULH **Ward. West Shoebury**  
Officer: Scott Davison  
ERECT FIRST FLOOR FRONT EXTENSION (AMENDED PROPOSAL)  
**9 HAYES BARTON SHOEBURYNESSE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**  
Decision: Refuse Permission

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