

**BERA E-Newsletter 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020** - [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk) (printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)

Dear Member

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

Please also continue to look at the BERA website for the daily updates under the 'newsletters' section. We will endeavour to send out the next e-newsletter on Tuesday/Wednesday.

Keep well,

Regards

Ron

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic**

**24 July 2020**

### **Purpose**

This briefing is to update all our Councillors daily on the ongoing development and management of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the current situation in the UK, and some key wider public health responses, mainly from a national level.

### **Latest on Coronavirus**

- Risk Level – 3
- UK Tests and Deaths: **a total of 297,914 (2,097 since 21<sup>st</sup> July) were confirmed positive**. There has been a total of **45,677 (255 since 21<sup>st</sup> July) COVID-19 related deaths**.
- In Southend-on-Sea there were **698 positive cases (1 new case since the 21<sup>st</sup> July)**.
- There were **189 confirmed deaths (2 new registered deaths since 21<sup>st</sup> July)** in both the hospital and community.

### **Access to Local Data going forward**

After of today, 24<sup>th</sup> July, I will no longer provide this update and will be moving to using our Coronavirus website to provide the new national website information and

we will add the local deaths on the site on a weekly basis (these are now small numbers).

The direct link to this new page is: <https://www.southend.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/test-trace/5?documentId=1014&categoryId=200233>

## **Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP) Revision**

Following on from the publication of new powers for Upper Tier Local Authorities, I am in the process of updating our LOCP. We are also updating the various agreements between Public Health England and Southend Borough Council in the prevention and response to suspected outbreaks across all the settings (for example, schools or workplaces). The revised version will be published next Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

### **Key updates/actions**

#### **• 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.

#### **• Symptoms and testing:**

If people have COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) they should stay at home, isolate and get tested by calling 119 or visiting [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

#### **• Face coverings:**

Face masks should be worn in shops and supermarkets from today. A media release was issued today:

<https://www.southend.gov.uk/news/article/1977/face-coverings-should-be-worn-in-shops-and-supermarkets-from-this-friday> and a

dedicated webpage has also been set up:

<https://www.southend.gov.uk/facecoverings>

Exemptions do apply which can be found on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).

#### **• Summer sports:**

Parks grounds maintenance staff have been working hard in recent weeks to bring bowls greens and cricket squares back up to a playable standard.

Priory Park bowls greens were available for use last Saturday and those at Belfairs Park, Cavendish Park and Shoebury Park will be available from tomorrow (Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July). Those wishing to bowl will need to pre-book and have a pre-paid ticket.

The cricket squares at Belfairs Sports Ground and The Garrison were also available for play on grass wickets from last Saturday. Grass wickets will be available at Chalkwell Park and Southchurch Park from the 1<sup>st</sup> August for pre-booked games.

- **Discretionary business grant scheme:**

Small and micro businesses are being encouraged to check their eligibility and apply online at [www.southend.gov.uk/businessgrants](http://www.southend.gov.uk/businessgrants). We have received 344 applications, with 44 of those requiring further information. We have paid out £241,000 to 82 businesses. Businesses are being asked to apply as soon as possible and attach all relevant documents to their applications.

- **Retail, hospitality and leisure and small business grants:**

We have now paid out £36.8m to 3028 businesses.

### Other

- Please continue to visit and promote [www.southend.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://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 the Government Announcements, 24 July 2020**

Please see below the latest government announcements regarding COVID-19:

Department of Health and Social Care has published a suite of guidance:

- [New guidance](#) stating providers will work to vaccinate more than 30 million people during this flu season – millions more than received it last year

- [Updated guidance](#) stating anyone can now use this testing service if they have coronavirus symptoms. You can choose a drive-through or walk-through test centre for a quick test, or order a home test kit
- for yourself, if you have symptoms now (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- for someone you live with, if they have symptoms
- if you have been told to have a test before you go into hospital, for example, for surgery
- if you live in Leicester, where there's an outbreak
- This service is for people of all ages
- [New guidance](#) showing that seventh week of NHS Test and Trace figures show people are being reached by the service more quickly and more people are providing details of their close contacts.
- [New guidance](#) on the pausing of lockdown easements in Blackburn with Darwen, and Luton. Blackburn with Darwen and Luton councils are doing excellent work with their local communities to address an increase in coronavirus cases and we continue to work collectively with them. Strong community engagement, major boosts in testing and increased support are already underway to manage outbreaks in these areas. The latest data shows the incidence in these areas is higher than in other areas of the country, and we have today agreed to support both local authorities to pause the further easing of lockdown measures in these areas. This means indoor gyms, swimming pools and other sport and exercise facilities will not reopen in Luton or Blackburn with Darwen on 25 July, the priority must be to protect local residents by stopping the spread of this virus
- [New guidance](#) on draft legislation options to show how government could respond to a local or regional outbreaks without returning to a national lockdown. We now are able better to identify outbreaks at an early stage at local and regional levels, and have taken steps to ensure appropriate local intervention, providing local authorities with new powers to act more quickly where speed is paramount to prevent outbreaks from spreading more widely.
- This page sets out how ministers could use existing powers to control an outbreak if more wide-ranging action is necessary, building on the approaches taken nationally and in response to local outbreaks. They include draft options for intervention that illustrate how

we could legislate in a targeted, proportionate way to respond to the particular circumstances of an outbreak.

- These draft regulations are not an exhaustive list of options, and the government will continue to keep under review the actions necessary to most effectively contain outbreaks.

FCO has [updated guidance](#) on its global advisory against 'all but essential' travel, exempting destinations that no longer pose an unacceptably high risk for British travellers.

DfT has published [new guidance](#) stating from Tuesday 28 July 2020, passengers may not need to self-isolate when arriving in England from Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

DfE has published a suite of:

- [Updated guidance](#) for settings managing children and young people with complex SEND
- [New guidance](#) on entry testing for admission to state-funded selective schools
- [New guidance](#) setting out a list of face covering exemptions, as they are mandatory in additional enclosed spaces
- [New guidance](#) on changes to faith oversubscription criteria in faith school admission arrangements which have been affected

Border Force have published [new guidance](#) for Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and the National Asylum Intake Unit and others who may have close contact with individuals showing symptoms.

MHCLG has published:

- [updated guidance](#) for the owners and operators of beach, countryside and coastal destinations.

Updated and launched the fourth round of its coronavirus data collection to gather information about the financial pressures local authorities are experiencing as a result of the pandemic. As with previous rounds, the information collected is to be used for planning purposes, to help identify where the greatest pressures are likely to be in the future and to inform the assessment of likely future costs. The data collection is again being carried out via the DELTA system, and registered users should have received a notification with guidance on how to complete the form. This time round, MHCLG have made some changes to the questions and guidance to ensure a proper assessment of council pressures. (no link available)

## **1) Information Corner**

**New speed humps have been installed in Thorpe Bay to prevent dangerous driving after a car was driven at pedestrians.**

Source: Echo News <https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/18602489.speed-humps-installed-thorpe-bay-gardens-tackle-dangerous-drivers/>

The traffic calming measures were put in place along Thorpe Bay Gardens earlier this month, following incidents of dangerous driving in the town.

The seven speed humps were installed by Marlborough Highways, the Southend Council's highways contractor.

The council have been working with Essex Police, ward councillors and residents to tackle anti-social incidents and dangerous driving in the area over the past few years.

Most recently on June 23 a car was driven at people following an incident involving a number of teenagers. The car was filmed driving on the grass and veering towards teenagers.

The following day the police issued a dispersal order for 48 hours.

The speed humps are one of various measures put in place by the council over the last 12 months in the area, including increased highways enforcement visits and more community safety unit patrols outside of normal operating hours.

## **Essex Police Welcomes 8 New Special Constables**

Essex Police have welcomed eight new Special Constables after they received their warrant cards on Monday 20 July.

They read an oath to keep your communities safe in front of the Assistant Chief Constable, Justice of the Peace and the Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner at Essex Police headquarters in Chelmsford.

The superintendent, who heads their Special Constabulary, said: "I want to thank all the Special Constables for their hard work and determination. "

## **Young and pre-driver campaign #My Small Change**

Road crashes are the biggest killer of 17-25 year olds in the UK, so in an effort to combat this, the #mysmallchange campaign asks young drivers to pledge a small change that will inspire other young drivers or passengers and help save lives.

If you live, work or study in Essex and are between 16 and 25 sign up and you'll be entered into a prize draw to win some great prizes - from £50 amazon vouchers to £500 towards your car insurance. To find out more and sign up, go to <https://www.mysmallchange.co.uk/>

### **Would you be interested in joining our team? PFCC (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex)**

The PFCC's office are currently seeking two outstanding individuals to join our team as Head of Performance & Scrutiny (policing and crime) and as a Scrutiny Officer. To find out more about these challenging and exciting roles go to <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/recruitment-and-vacancies/>

### **More people in England to be offered flu vaccine**

The traditional flu vaccination programme will be extended to include all over-50s for the first time as well anyone on the shielding list and the people they live with, the Government has announced. Also, for the first time, children in their first year of secondary school will be offered the vaccine. Vice Chair of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, said: "Extending the free winter flu jab to as many people as possible is essential if we are to tackle two potentially deadly viruses head-on and prevent one seasonable and predictable virus creating the conditions for a second, more serious and unpredictable deadly second wave of COVID-19. It is absolutely critical that all our health and care workers get themselves vaccinated, to protect both themselves and the people they look after, including our elderly and most vulnerable, from a potentially devastating second wave of infections."

### **Obesity increases risks from COVID-19**

A review of evidence by Public Health England found excess weight put people at greater risk of needing hospital admission or intensive care as a result of COVID-19. It comes as Boris Johnson prepares to announce a range of measures to tackle the nation's obesity crisis, including plans for calorie counts on alcohol, a ban on supermarket buy-one-get-one-free offers, and a consultation on restrictions on junk food adverts before 9pm.

### **Face covering rules come into force**

Face coverings are now compulsory for customers in shops in England, such as supermarkets, indoor shopping centres, transport hubs, banks and takeaways. Police can hand out fines of up to £100 to those who do not comply.

### **Key COVID-19 'mistakes' set out**

A lack of protective equipment, inadequate testing, and discharging people from hospitals into care homes were the key mistakes made by the Government in its approach to coronavirus in England, according to the first responses to the inquiry being run by the APPG on coronavirus.

### **VAT on taking rubbish to tip**

Homeowners being charged for taking their own waste to rubbish tips are facing higher prices after councils were reportedly forced to add VAT onto items.

### **Test and trace failing to contact thousands in England's worst-hit areas**

The Government's test-and-trace system is failing to contact thousands of people in areas with the highest infection rates in England, local leaders and public health directors have warned. It comes as they call for more control over the system amid concerns that their ability to contain the virus is being put at risk. Meanwhile, the army, councils and Whitehall have reportedly been given until the end of August to prepare contingency plans for the winter months with the Ministry of Defence preparing for a fresh wave of COVID-19 and flu cases, Brexit disruption and flooding.

### **Care home visits to resume in England**

Families and friends can finally be reunited with their loved ones in care homes in England, the Government has announced. In its new guidance, the Government said visitor numbers will be limited, hugs and kisses will still be banned and homes will be encouraged to consider using glass or plastic to screen off residents.

### **Indoor gyms and pools in England start to reopen**

Indoor gyms, swimming pools and sports facilities in England have started to reopen today (25<sup>th</sup>) but the leisure sector has warned it will still struggle because of the financial impact of the pandemic. The District Councils' Network said gyms and leisure centres face an "uncertain future", pointing out that the sector is expected to lose about £305 million this year.

**2) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 19/07/2020**

**APPLN. NO: 20/00743/FUL**

**Ward. Thorpe**

**Officer: Robert Lilburn**

**DEMOLISH EXISTING DWELLINGHOUSE AND ERECT A THREE STOREY BUILDING COMPRISING OF 3 SELF CONTAINED FLATS WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING TO FRONT AND REAR, LAYOUT AMENITY SPACE, REFUSE AND CYCLE STORAGE (AMENDED PROPOSAL)**

**3 THORPE ESPLANADE THORPE BAY ESSEX**

**Decision: Refuse Permission**

**APPLN. NO: 20/00797/FULH**

**Ward. Thorpe**

**Officer: Kara Elliott**

**ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PORCH TO FRONT AND ALTER ELEVATIONS**

**117 KENSINGTON ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

**APPLN. NO: 20/00448/FULH**

**Ward. West Shoebury**

**Officer: Julie Ramsey**

**ERECT SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO DETACHED GARAGE AT REAR AND CONVERT INTO RESIDENTIAL ANNEX FOR ANCILLARY USE TO MAIN DWELLING**

**4 WATSON CLOSE SHOEBURYNESS SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

**APPLN. NO: 20/00816/BC3**

**Ward. West Shoebury**

**Officer: Spyros Mouratidis**

**DEMOLISH FORMER GARAGE BLOCK TO THE REAR OF 146-156 SAXON GARDENS AND ERECT 2 SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGHOUSES, LAYOUT PARKING TO FRONT AND AMENITY SPACE TO REAR**

**GARAGES REAR OF 146-156 SAXON GARDENS SHOEBURYNESS**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**



**Officer: Scott Davison**

**Date Valid. 17 July 2020**

**USE EXISTING SHOP (CLASS A1) AS TWO SELF CONTAINED FLATS (CLASS C3) ALTERATIONS TO ELEVATIONS AND DEMOLISH EXISTING GARAGE AND LAYOUT PARKING TO REAR (PRIOR APPROVAL)  
JAYZ CYCLES 117 HAMSTEL ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**