

## E-Newsletter – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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### **1) Information Corner**

#### **Essex Police – Your local update**

##### **Community Policing Team**

Throughout this month they have continued their usual work but after a very tough year they wanted to do something positive and help the Community. They launched their Christmas Giving Tree in early December, a BIG THANKYOU to everyone that donated. They collected around 800 gifts which, with the help of their partners, were distributed to children across the district who may not have otherwise had any presents to open on Christmas Morning. The leftover gifts were donated to Neptune Ward at Southend Hospital.

##### **Renewal Time**

It is membership renewal time, so please see below your renewal form for you to complete and return with your payment. There are four ways for you to pay this year.

- 1) Paypal via our website ([www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk))
- 2) Online bank transfer from your bank account (please see our website for our bank details)
- 3) £10 cash
- 4) £10 cheque (made payable to Burges Estate Residents Association)

If you wish to pay by cash or cheque, please see our website for Ron and Mikes addresses for you to post or deliver your form and payment to.

**BERA – The Residents’ Association - [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk)**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM for new and existing members**

**January - December 2021**

**Please pay £10 by cash or make cheques payable to:**

***“Burgess Estate Residents Association”***

**There is also the facility to pay by Paypal or online by bank transfer  
(see payment page of [www.bera.co.uk](http://www.bera.co.uk))**

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Dr, Rev): .....

First Name: .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code:.....

Telephone: .....

E-mail: .....

**Please include your email if possible, to enable us to send you  
weekly E-Newsletters.**

**Please return the completed form with payment to:**

**Cllr Ron Woodley, Chair BERA**

**91 Tyrone Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 3HD**

**OR**

**Cllr Mike Stafford, Treasurer BERA**

**85 Maplin Way, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 3NL**

## **Flooding in The Broadway**

Despite SBC aiming to arrange the CCTV this week, their contractor's first availability to undertake this work is Friday 22nd January.

The survey is booked for 7am on the 22nd and we will update you on the findings as soon as the survey is completed.

## **Please do not feed the foxes**

We have been contacted by a member whose garden is being damaged by foxes coming in, i.e. holes dug under the perimeter fence and his arbour ripped apart on one side (see below). He has been told in the past that some neighbours are feeding the foxes.

Foxes that are regularly fed by humans tend to lose some of their fear of people. This puts them at increased risk of road death, of poisoning (accidental and deliberate), trapping, and snaring. It encourages them into gardens where they can make a mess, disturb people, kill domestic pets, spread disease and due to their growing lack of fear, come into contact with young children.

So as tempting as it is, please think carefully before you leave any food out for foxes and consider their wellbeing and your neighbours.



## **Essex Police – Fraud Alert - FAKE NHS VACCINE TEXT WARNING**

Another fraudulent text message is circulating claiming to be from the NHS, encouraging people to 'apply' for their COVID vaccine.

The text message contains a link that takes recipients to a very convincing website which proceeds to ask for personal and payment details. This should be an immediate red flag, along with bad grammar and spelling mistakes.

**Remember:** the COVID-19 is free via the NHS only. It is not possible to purchase the vaccine or obtain via other methods.

If you are not in one of the priority groups, and are not expecting contact regarding the vaccine, report these messages to Action Fraud (actionfraud.police.uk or 0300 123 2040). If you wish to confirm, contact your GP on a trusted number.

## **Possible Scams**

### **a) Royal Mail**

A member received a text from number 02031518813 stating " Hello (and the gentleman's first name). Your royal mail parcel is waiting for delivery. Please confirm the settlement of 2.99 GBP on the following link :<https://royal-mail-tracking.co/>". The member said that he was not waiting for any parcels, that the actual Royal mail site is Royalmail.com and the phone number is in India.

### **b) HMRC**

Another member received a phone call from 01612505077 pertaining to come from HMRC stating that he should call back on that number and it was "time sensitive". He sent an email to reportphishing.gov.uk as it was obviously a scam.

## **Nextdoor Thorpe Bay**

We have been contacted by members who have received a letter from a gentleman in St Augustine's Avenue, inviting residents in St James Avenue to join up. The letter says our neighbourhood is now using a free app called Nextdoor Thorpe Bay.

My advice is that even though I have heard about this organisation, I never get involved with anything I cannot check where it's coming from.

## **Police, Fire and Crime - #StaySafeEssex**

Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer 'lifeline' to domestic abuse victims

Victims of domestic abuse will be able to access much needed support from thousands of pharmacies across the UK, backed by the government.

The Ask for ANI scheme allows those at risk or suffering from abuse to discreetly signal that they need help and access support. By asking for ANI, a trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space where they can understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services such as a national or local domestic abuse helplines.

As an essential retailer based on high streets across the country, and with specifically trained staff, pharmacies can provide a safe space for victims to sound an alarm if they are isolated at home with their abuser and unable to get help in another way.

## **Look out for your household notification letter**

Households in Southend-on-Sea will shortly be receiving a letter from the council asking residents to check that the information held on the electoral register is correct.

Residents are asked to read the household notification letter carefully, follow the instructions and only respond if they need to. They can also apply for a postal vote as part of the process.

Alison Griffin, chief executive of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council said: "The electoral services team are working hard to ensure that the electoral register is up to date, so please follow the instructions on the letter carefully.

"If you need to respond because details are incorrect or need updating, please do so online if you can via [www.householdresponse.co.uk/southend](http://www.householdresponse.co.uk/southend) and enter the security codes provided on the letter.

"Residents can follow these same steps if they wish to apply for a postal vote too or by calling the electoral services team on 01702 215010 or emailing [elections@southend.gov.uk](mailto:elections@southend.gov.uk).

If a resident is eligible to register to vote but their name does not appear on the household notification letter, they can register to vote by visiting [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or call the electoral services team on 01702 215010.

## **Rapid Covid Testing site at Shoebury Youth Centre – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

As we step up our community testing across the Borough, the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) have approved a new rapid testing site offering lateral flow device (LFD) tests in the main hall at Shoebury Youth Centre. The site is planned to open on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 2pm and will operate seven days per week from 8am to 7pm. The site will offer lateral flow device tests that will provide the person with a result in approximately 60 minutes from taking a test. The site will be staffed by Commisceo who recruit locally and is aimed at local people without symptoms.

An appointment is required and there is an online booking system that is available for all lateral flow device testing sites going to the following site:

[www.southend.gov.uk/gettested](http://www.southend.gov.uk/gettested)

The Shoebury Youth Centre details will be added by the end of this week.

## **Verge Feasibility Study**

SBC are having an increasing issue with verges across the borough being damaged by overrun or people accessing their properties illegally.

They are aware of this and have instigated a consultant to undertake a Verge Feasibility Study across the borough to allow an Action plan to be developed.

## CityFibre works schedule

CF Permit Reference	Status	Road Name	Scheduled start	Scheduled End Date
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN038-21	IN PROGRESS	VICTORIA ROAD	04/01/2021	29/01/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN081-04	IN PROGRESS	BUTTERYS	04/01/2021	29/01/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN06-05	IN PROGRESS	SHAFTESBURY AVENUE	11/01/2021	22/01/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN071-06	IN PROGRESS	COLBERT AVENUE	11/01/2021	05/02/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN083-05	IN PROGRESS	ACACIA DRIVE	12/01/2021	25/01/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN081-02	PROPOSED WORKS	WOODGRANGE DRIVE	14/01/2021	27/02/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN038-17/A	PROPOSED WORKS	VICTORIA ROAD	15/01/2021	19/01/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN080-15	PROPOSED WORKS	NORTHUMBERLAND CRESCENT	15/01/2021	19/01/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN038-17	PROPOSED WORKS	NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE	15/01/2021	19/01/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN081-05	PROPOSED WORKS	WOODGRANGE CLOSE	18/01/2021	29/01/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN080-11	PROPOSED WORKS	GREENWAYS	19/01/2021	21/01/2021
KG027-SE-FTTH-PN083-06	PROPOSED WORKS	ELM GROVE	21/01/2021	25/01/2021

- FYI - Due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and winter weather, our program is subject to change on a daily basis but we will endeavour to keep you informed of any significant changes.

### Heavy and prolonged rain can cause surface water issues

With heavy rain yesterday (14<sup>th</sup>), the council is reminding local people that excessive rainfall and high tides can cause surface water issues across the Borough.

While most of the time rainfall doesn't cause a problem, occasionally when it rains heavily or for prolonged periods and combines with particularly high tides, the central seafront area and other parts of the Borough are liable to surface water flooding.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is seeking to reassure residents that they work with Anglian Water and their contractors to solve issues and are carrying out environmental studies to make drainage improvements further upstream.

## **Schools may not reopen after February half-term, PM suggests**

Schools in England may not reopen after the February half-term, Boris Johnson has suggested. He said the Government's priority was to get pupils back in the classroom "as soon as possible", but that this depended on the success of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, the effect of new variants, any other possible changes in the virus, and the success of lockdown measures.

## **2) Temporary Road Closures**

### **High Street Shoeburyness – Emergency Water Repairs – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for 1 week.**

To facilitate emergency water repairs; they have imposed a Prohibition of Traffic in High Street, Shoeburyness.

Whilst this notice is in operation, all vehicles will be prohibited from proceeding on High Street Shoeburyness from its junction with Southchurch Avenue & Gunners Road.

These prohibitions or restrictions came into effect on **8th January 2021**. This notice will remain in force for a period of 21 days or the duration of the works whichever is the earliest. It is anticipated that the works will last **for 1 week**.

Whilst this section of Fairmead Avenue is closed, an alternative route for traffic will be marked on site and resident's access will be maintained where possible.

### Weekly Major Works

Address	<b>EASTWOOD BOULEVARD</b>
Start End	18/01/2021 18/01/2021
Works Reference	AD037-RO57895102
L.A.Ref	112540
Traffic Management	Road closure - delays likely

Address	<b>DREWSTEIGTON</b>
Start End	18/01/2021 29/01/2021
Works Reference	AZ007-1000862790
L.A Ref	100372
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion

Address	<b>AYLESBEARE</b>
Start End	05/01/2021 25/01/2021
Works Reference	AZ007-1000862794
L.A Ref	100371
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion

Address **GRANGE CLOSE**  
 Start End 05/01/2021 26/01/2021 (date changes)  
 Works Reference AZ007-1000875057  
 L.A Ref 101618  
 Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion

Address **HEYCROFT ROAD**  
 Start End 05/01/2021 16/03/2021 (date changes)  
 Works Reference AZ007-1000876043  
 L.A Ref 101719  
 Traffic Management Road closure - delays likely (T.M change)

Address **SOUTHCHURCH BOULEVARD**  
 Start End 18/01/2021 23/04/2021  
 Works Reference AZ007-1000906944  
 L.A Ref 104538  
 Traffic Management Lane Closure - delays likely

Address **SUNNYBANK CLOSE**  
 Start End 05/01/2021 02/02/2021 (date changes)  
 Works Reference AZ007-1000964816  
 L.A Ref 109230  
 Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion

Address **BISHOPSTEIGNTON**  
 Start End 18/01/2021 05/03/2021 (date changes)  
 Works Reference AZ007-1000964855  
 L.A Ref 109233  
 Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion

Address **DRAKE ROAD**  
 Start End 15/01/2021 26/02/2021 (date changes)  
 Works Reference AZ007-1000987001  
 L.A Ref 111335  
 Traffic Management Give and take - delays possible

Address **THORPE HALL AVENUE**  
 Start End 13/01/2021 10/03/2021  
 Works Reference AZ007-1000994632  
 L.A Ref 111886  
 Traffic Management Lane Closure - delays likely

Address **JOHNSTONE ROAD**  
 Start End 13/01/2021 02/02/2021  
 Works Reference AZ007-1000994634  
 L.A Ref 111887  
 Traffic Management Road closure - delays likely

Address **WOODLEIGH AVENUE**  
 Start End 05/01/2021 04/02/2021



Works Reference	AZ007-1001014415
L.A Ref	113137
Traffic Management	Road closure - delays likely
Address	<b>ARTERIAL ROAD</b>
Start End	04/01/2021 25/01/2021
Works Reference	AZ007-1001014416
L.A Ref	113136
Traffic Management	Lane Closure - delays likely
Address	<b>JOHNSTONE ROAD</b>
Start End	18/01/2021 04/02/2021
Works Reference	AZ007-1001016163
L.A Ref	113234
Traffic Management	Give and take - delays possible
Address	<b>WAKERING ROAD</b>
Start End	04/01/2021 19/02/2021
Works Reference	AZ007-1001016166 MAJOR
L.A Ref	113233
Traffic Management	Road closure - delays likely
Address	<b>HAMSTEL ROAD</b>
Start End	04/01/2021 21/01/2021
Works Reference	AZ007-1001016169 MAJOR
L.A Ref	113238
Traffic Management	No carriageway incursion - delays unlikely
Address	<b>LANSDOWNE AVENUE</b>
Start End	11/01/2021 12/02/2021
Works Reference	JR001-F/WRESURFLANSM/M
L.A Ref	106826
Traffic Management	Give and take - delays possible
Address	<b>VICTORIA ROAD</b>
Start End	04/01/2021 29/01/2021
Works Reference	KG027-SE-FFTH-PN038-21
L.A Ref	112789
Traffic Management	Give and take - delays possible
Address	<b>ARNOLD AVENUE</b>
Start End	06/01/2021 26/01/2021
Works Reference	KG027-SE-FTTH-PN038-16 MAJOR
L.A Ref	112669
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion
Address	<b>COLBERT AVENUE</b>
Start End	11/01/2021 05/02/2021
Works Reference	KG027-SE-FTTH-PN071-06
L.A Ref	112318

Traffic Management Road closure - delays likely

Address **WOODGRANGE DRIVE**  
 Start End 14/01/2021 27/02/2021  
 Works Reference KG027-SE-FTTH-PN081-02  
 L.A Ref 112862  
 Traffic Management No carriageway incursion - delays unlikely

Address **BUTTERYS**  
 Start End 04/01/2021 29/01/2021  
 Works Reference KG027-SE-FTTH-PN081-04  
 L.A Ref 112885  
 Traffic Management Give and take - delays possible

### **3) A127 Major Works (A127 & the Bell Junction)**

#### **A127 Bell Junction - 16th Jan to 22nd Jan**

Mon-Fri, there will be daytime (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures on Hobblythick Lane; and eastbound and westbound off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) lane closures Mon-Fri on the A127 (at the Bell Junction), for new carriageway widening and footway works.

Full time left turn closure into Rochford Road for A127 eastbound traffic, for construction of new kerb lines and new pedestrian crossing island.

#### **A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 18th Jan to 22nd Jan**

Monday there will be a night-time (20:00 to 06:30) northbound road closure and southbound lane closure on the A127 Victoria Avenue from the junction with Carnarvon Road to Cuckoo Corner Roundabout for carriageway stabilisation works.

Tues-Fri there will be night-time (20:00 to 06:30) southbound road closures and northbound lane closures on the A127 Victoria Avenue from the junction with Cuckoo Corner Roundabout to Carnarvon Road for carriageway stabilisation works.

### **4) List of Applications Registered** **Week Ending 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Application Number: 20/02183/FULH  
 Officer: Janine Rowley  
 Erect single storey rear and side extension with roof lantern  
**142 Barnstaple Road Thorpe Bay Essex**

**Ward: Southchurch**

Application Number: 20/01855/FULH  
 Officer: Oliver Hart  
 Erect single storey side/rear extension with roof lantern

**Ward: Thorpe**

## **48 Rutland Avenue Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 20/02109/FULH

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: Janine Rowley

Install vehicular access onto Northumberland Crescent

**36 Northumberland Crescent Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 20/02196/FULH

**Ward: West Shoebury**

Officer: Kara Elliott

Erect single story rear extension with roof lantern and convert garage into habitable accommodation

**154 Maplin Way Thorpe Bay Essex**

## **List of Applications Registered** **Week Ending 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Application Number: 20/02199/CLP

**Ward: Southchurch**

Officer: Oliver Hart

Hip to gable roof extension with dormer to rear (Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed)

**55 Hamstel Road Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 20/02204/FUL

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: Robert Lilburn

Erect external metal staircase to rear

**First Floor 32 Shaftesbury Avenue Southend-On-Sea**

Application Number: 20/02197/FULH

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: Oliver Hart

Erect part single/part two storey extension to front, erect part single/part two storey extension to sides/rear, install roof lantern to rear and alter elevations

**14 Elm Grove Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 21/00003/FULH

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: Janine Rowley

Erect single storey side and rear extensions

**59 Marcus Avenue Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 21/00004/CLP

**Ward: Thorpe**

Single storey outbuilding to rear (Lawful development certificate-proposed)

**59 Marcus Avenue Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 21/00022/CLP

**Ward: Thorpe**

Erect dormer to rear with juliette balcony to form habitable accommodation in the loftspace, install rooflights to front (Certificate of Lawful Development - Proposed)

**191 Kensington Road Southend-On-Sea Essex**

## 5) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

APPLN. NO: 19/01687/FUL **Ward. Thorpe**  
 Officer: Robert Lilburn  
 DEMOLISH EXISTING GARAGE BLOCK TO REAR, ERECT TWO STOREY  
 BUILDING WITH BASEMENT COMPRISING OF TWO ADDITIONAL HOTEL  
 APARTMENTS, STORAGE AND BIKE STORE, LAY OUT PARKING SPACES TO  
 REAR  
**CAMELIA HOTEL 176 - 178 EASTERN ESPLANADE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**  
 Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01858/FUL **Ward. Thorpe**  
 Officer: Julie Ramsey  
 INSTALL VEHICLE CROSSOVER ONTO KENSINGTON ROAD  
**95 KENSINGTON ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**  
 Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

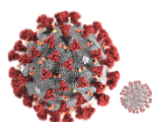
APPLN. NO: 20/01915/CLP **Ward. Thorpe**  
 Officer: Julie Ramsey  
 ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH ROOF LANTERNS  
 (CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT - PROPOSED)  
**17 RODBRIDGE DRIVE THORPE BAY ESSEX**  
 Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 20/01929/FULH **Ward. Thorpe**  
 Officer: Julie Ramsey  
 ERECT DORMER TO SIDE, INSTALL BALCONY WINDOW TO REAR  
**45 COLBERT AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX**  
 Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01886/FULH **Ward. West Shoebury**  
 Officer: Julie Ramsey  
 ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION  
**44 RICHMOND AVENUE SHOEBURYNESSE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**  
 Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01944/FULH **Ward. West Shoebury**  
 Officer: Oliver Hart  
 CONVERT GARAGE INTO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION, ALTER FRONT AND  
 SIDE ELEVATIONS (RETROSPECTIVE)  
**179 BISHOPSTEIGNTON SHOEBURYNESSE ESSEX**  
 Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

## **6) Coronavirus Information**



### **Mass daily testing in schools refused**

Plans to test millions of children for COVID-19 in schools are in doubt as the UK regulator has refused to formally approve the decision. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) told the Government that they were concerned the 30-minute tests would give people false reassurance if negative, leading to pupils staying in school and potentially spreading the virus.

### **200,000 waiting for routine operations**

More than 4.5 million people are currently on the NHS waiting list, with almost 200,000 waiting a year for treatment, including routine operations, a figure that is up from 1,163 less than a year ago. With COVID-19 cases and hospitalisations high and hospitals forced to free up intensive care beds, cancer treatments and life-saving organ transplants have been cancelled across the country.

### **Moderna vaccine approved and 10 million doses ordered**

The Moderna vaccine has become the third coronavirus jab to be approved for use in the UK, with seven million doses already ordered by the Government and a further 10 million doses expected to follow. The US-based company's vaccine was shown to have 94 per cent efficacy against COVID-19 in final trials, but it will likely not become available until March.

### **Vaccine benefits 'may be outweighed by rise in infections from COVID rule-breakers'**

The benefits of the coronavirus vaccine roll-out may be outweighed by a rise in infections from people believing they no longer need to follow COVID rules, the Government's scientific advisers have warned. A survey found more than a quarter of people (29 per cent) planned to adhere less strictly to restrictions once they have received a vaccine, according to the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Behaviours (SPI-B).

### **Mass vaccination centres open as tighter lockdown restrictions reportedly considered**

Thousands more people will be invited to have their COVID-19 jab at seven new mass vaccination sites opening in England today (11<sup>th</sup>). Hundreds more GP-led and hospital services would also open later this week, the NHS has said. Health Secretary Matt Hancock also said every adult in the UK will be offered a jab by the autumn. It comes amid reports that ministers are considering tightening the lockdown in England even further, banning people from exercising with those they don't live with. Downing Street is also said to be preparing a campaign to force businesses and workplaces to improve coronavirus-compliant safety measures, with a particular

focus on supermarkets. Mr Hancock will set out the Government's vaccine delivery plan at a press conference later. The Government is also to publish its first daily figures showing how many have been given the vaccine.

### **Care homes at risk of being overwhelmed**

The Government has been warned that care homes risk being overwhelmed again by the coronavirus, with the number of outbreaks having tripled in the past month. Figures from Public Health England show they went up by 60 per cent in one week alone, while a survey by the National Care Forum found care homes were operating staff absence rates of up to 50 per cent.

### **Care home bosses fear over COVID-19 jabs**

Care home providers have said they have been "left in the dark" and hit by outbreaks while waiting for the COVID-19 vaccine. The Mail spoke to 28 providers – which run a combined 556 homes with around 30,000 residents – and 17 told them not a single resident had been vaccinated.

### **NHS COVID-19 vaccination letters 'confusing over 80s'**

Patients who are waiting to receive their COVID-19 jab say they are confused by letters from the NHS asking them to travel to centres miles away from their homes. The first 130,000 letters have been sent to people aged 80 or over who live around 30 to 45 minutes' drive away from one of the seven vaccine centres.

### **2.6 million jabs given to 2.3 million people**

More than 2.6 million coronavirus vaccine doses have been given to almost 2.3 million people, the Health and Social Care Secretary has said, as the Government published its COVID-19 Vaccines Delivery Plan. Matt Hancock told a Downing Street news conference that the Government was on course to achieve its pledge of offering a vaccine to the top four priority groups by the middle of February, a total of 15 million people, with more than 2,700 vaccination sites across the UK and everyone in England within 10 miles of one by the end of January. Meanwhile, the Government is under pressure to expand the vaccination programme and offer jabs "round the clock", 24 hours a day, in order to speed up its rollout.

### **Hospital patients to be sent to hotels to free up beds for critical COVID-19 cases**

Thousands of hospital patients are to be discharged early to hotels or their own homes to free up beds for patients who are seriously ill with COVID-19. Under the "home and hotel" plan, patients discharged early into a hotel will receive help from voluntary organisations such as St John Ambulance and the British Red Cross, armed forces medical personnel and any available NHS staff. The London Hotel

Group (LHG) has started taking COVID-19 patients who are homeless from King's College hospital in south London.

## **Retailers clamp down in bid to halt COVID-19 growth as councils asked to step up enforcement**

John Lewis became the first major retailer to suspend its click-and-collect service yesterday amid pressure on shops to do more to help to contain the virus. Tesco, Asda, Aldi and Waitrose joined Morrisons and Sainsbury's in banning shoppers without masks from stores unless they have a medical reason. Supermarkets in England will be spot-checked by council staff to ensure that they are COVID-secure.

## **Large trial of new COVID-19 treatment begins in UK**

A large-scale trial of a new treatment it is hoped will help stop COVID-19 patients from developing severe illness has begun in the UK. The first patient received the treatment at Hull Royal Infirmary on Tuesday afternoon. Early findings suggested the treatment cut the odds of a Covid-19 patient in hospital developing severe disease - such as requiring ventilation - by almost 80 per cent.

## **PM urges shoppers to respect coronavirus rules**

Boris Johnson has urged the public to respect coronavirus regulations when out grocery shopping and buying takeaway coffee, amid concerns from food retail workers over their safety. Morrisons and Sainsbury's have said they will enforce the wearing of face masks in its supermarkets, with security guards at the doors of stores. Councils have also said they will work with the Government to enforce rules in supermarkets. An LGA spokesperson said: "We are aware that an ongoing concern among councils and enforcement officers relates to levels of social distancing, the use of face masks and infection control compliance at supermarkets and are pleased that the Government is currently looking into this. We will continue to work with councils and Government to ensure that any changes brought in to increase safety in our communities are done so effectively."

## **Fines 'increasingly likely' for rule-breakers**

It is "preposterous" that anyone could be unaware of the need to follow the coronavirus lockdown rules, the UK's most senior police officer has said. Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, said Covid rule-breakers were now "increasingly likely" to be fined by officers and that people were still holding house parties, raves and gambling gatherings in basements.

## **New exercise restrictions 'under active consideration'**

A ban on people in England walking or exercising with anyone from outside their household is under "active consideration" it is reported, although Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock yesterday insisted that he did not want to have to tighten the rules. Discussions are said to have taken place in government about returning to the rules of March 2020, which limited people to one form of outside exercise a day, such as a run, walk, or cycle, either alone or only with people you live with.

## **Care home bosses ‘jumping ahead of elderly’ for vaccine**

Care home executives, NHS staff working from home and members of the public are reportedly jumping the queue for coronavirus vaccinations. Families of care home residents criticised two chief executives who have received coronavirus vaccines, while some hospitals are said to be giving the jab to those outside the priority list who request the vaccine, rather than allowing supplies to be wasted.

## **Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

### **Key updates/actions**

#### **National lockdown:**

The Prime Minister announced a national lockdown on Monday night.

Our seafront car parks remain closed, as does the cinder path between Chalkwell and Old Leigh. Public toilets remain open.

#### **Vaccination:**

The Mid and South Essex Care Partnership have issued an update on the vaccination programme. Read the update on their website. Details of vaccination sites as they go live are also on their website. The key messages from the NHS on the vaccine are as follows:

- Please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, they will contact you;
- When they do contact you, please attend your booked appointments on time – please avoid arriving early as the NHS want to avoid queues;
- Please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives.

#### **LFD testing sites:**

The Council is working with the DHSC to set up four new Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing sites for people without symptoms. LFD tests give results within one hour. The four sites will be located in different areas across the Borough; central Southend, east central Southend, Leigh-on-Sea in the west and Shoeburyness in the east. Each site will look to accommodate 500 LFD tests each day.

The first site opened in central Southend, at University Square on Monday 4 January, and is open from 7am to 3pm, seven days a week.

The second site opens on Monday at St Aidan's Church, The Fairway, Leigh-on-Sea from 2 to 6pm. From Tuesday it will be open from 7am to 6pm, seven days a week.

People need to book an appointment via our website. People unable to book online can call the COVID response helpline on 01702 212497 from 9am to 5pm weekdays.

#### **COVID-19 testing ‘collect and drop off point’:**

A pop-up testing site opened at Shoebury Youth Centre on Wednesday 6 January and is open until Sunday 10 January from 10am to 5pm. There are a limited amount



of self-testing PCR kits available at this site for residents to collect and do in the comfort of their own home, before returning the test back to the site as soon as possible (and within 48 hours maximum), for it to be couriered straight to the lab.

If all tests available are collected by residents before Sunday, the site will remain open for people to drop them back off. After Sunday, residents will need to send them back via a priority postbox. Face masks must be worn when collecting or dropping off tests.

### **COVID data story in Echo:**

On Thursday, the Echo printed a front page story stating that 1 in 5 local people had COVID. This was incorrect and due to them misinterpreting the local positivity rate (the proportion of tests which are carried out returning positive results) which is around 18%. The article was amended online and a clarification printed today on Page 5.

### **Local support is in place over winter:**

Please see Livewell Southend website for more details of local support in place.

### **COVID-19 pulse survey:**

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is asking residents to let it know about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and what steps they think the borough can take to ensure a positive future. Read our media release and please share the survey.

### **Coronavirus case data:**

This is published on our website and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000. Some of the data from that page has been pulled out and is below:

7-day rate of positive cases as of 8 January 2021 is 1,219.9 per 100,000 (up from 968.2 per 100,000 on Thursday 31 December 2020).

The rate in the 60 and over age bracket is 969.4 per 100,000, up from 659.5 per 100,000 on 31 December 2020.

### **ONS death data:**

Southend-on-Sea residents' deaths registered inside and outside of Southend-on-Sea with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate that occurred up to 25 December 2020 but were registered up to 2 January 2021: 285 (+21).

### **National and local data:**

A link to the national NHS Digital information shows information by time intervals (for example, 3-days, 7-days, 30-days, etc), as well as the total numbers and requests or referrals to NHS 111.

### **Other**

Members of the public who need to self-isolate but are stuck and have no local support from friends and family can call the helpline on 01702 212497. A full list of support contact numbers is available on the corporate website

## **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.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 8-11<sup>th</sup> January 20201**

### **MHCLG has published:**

New extra support to house rough sleepers and ban on bailiff enforced evictions extended.

### **DfE has published:**

Updated guidance for parents and carers of children attending community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

Updated guidance on remote provision following the new national restrictions and end-point assessment for apprenticeships.

Updated list of critical workers (key workers) and vulnerable children and young people who can access full-time education provision in the case of future restrictions on education. Critical workers section to clarify that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

Updated guidance for schools and local authorities on school meals arrangements.

### **Cabinet Office has published:**

Updated guidance on community asymptomatic testing helping identify and isolate individuals who have coronavirus but do not have symptoms.

### **Department of Health and Social Care has published:**

New public campaign urging people to act like they have the virus.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 12<sup>th</sup> January 20201**

### **DfE**

In new guidance, a framework is published to help schools, and FE providers, identify strengths and areas for improvement in their remote education provision.

In a press release, a further 300,000 laptops and tablets will help disadvantaged children and young people learn at home.

In updated guidance, DfE are asking schools and colleges to resume completing a revised educational setting status form from 11 January.

## **OFSTED**

In updated guidance, Ofsted will start making inspections to primary, secondary and special schools and colleges graded inadequate or requires improvement from 18 January. These will not result in a grade.

## **DfT**

In a written statement to Parliament, from 4am on 15 January 2021, pre-departure testing will be required for all inbound passengers to England.

- In updated travel guidance, The UAE has been removed from the UK travel corridor list.

## **MOD**

- In an oral statement to Parliament, the Defence Secretary detailed support to the COVID-19 response.

## **Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy**

- Published letters to those in the manufacturing sector, and the construction sector. Letters thank industries, and emphasise they can and should continue to work during the current period of restrictions, following guidance.

## **DOHSC**

- A vaccine deliver plan policy paper is published.
- The Health Secretary made a statement yesterday on COVID-19 vaccine delivery:
  - o 2.6m doses are now given 2.3m people.
  - o We are on track to offer a first vaccine to everyone in the top 4 cohorts by February 15.
  - o 40% of over 80s have now received their first dose.
  - o Almost 25% of older care home residents have now received their first dose of the vaccine.
- In a press release, the community testing offer is being expanded across all local authorities to test people without symptoms.

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