

K.E.R.A Newsletter

1st February to 28th February 2022

New research by experts at the University of Oxford shows that severe COVID-19 infection in pregnant women, particularly in the third trimester, significantly increases the risk of harmful outcomes for mother and baby. Pregnant women over the age of 30 years, those of Black, Asian, or other minority ethnicity and those who are obese or have health conditions, such as gestational diabetes and pre-existing hypertension were identified as being at greater risk of severe COVID-19 infection.



Use the online [NHS Booking service](#) to book your jab, walk in centres are available as well. You can find an [COVID-19 walk in vaccination centre near you online.](#)

REFURBISHMENT OF CITY BEACH FOUNTAINS COMPLETED



A major refurbishment of the water fountains on Southend's City Beach has been completed. This includes changing the lights, the motors, and drivers, as well as upgrades to the lighting controls enabling more control of the display settings.

Its excellent that the timing of this, coincides with Southend LuminoCity this week and the celebrations of Southend becoming the country's newest city.

Additionally, this refurbishment has improved one of the best family attractions on the seafront, for visitors to enjoy this summer.

KERA MEETING WITH HARP

On January 17th, 2022, a meeting was held between KERA, Cllr Tricia Cowdrey and Gary Turner, HARPs Service Operations Manager and Nicky Bowling, HARPs Property Development Manager. The following topics were discussed, some of which relate to HARP:

Project Green:



Harps front and side gardens have had a negative long-term impact on the street scene and house values within our estate. Gary Turner from HARP said that they are due to have the containers removed by March 2022 and he would consider placing hedges around the perimeter of HARPs gardens and make use of window boxes

with flowers inside, to help progress Project Green.

Issues with alcohol being consumed on the Green in York Road, along with anti-social behaviour, littering and the benches being removed to stop them being used as beds, were discussed. KERA made a request that the benches were replaced as they were used by residents ascending and descending the hills between town and the seafront.

Project Shopping Parade:



KERA asked HARP about their business expansion and requested that they consider providing cafés for their residents and potential residents to sit at during the day as at present there are problems relating to groups of people congregating in various locations within our estate, for example within the streets, the car park at the top of York Road hill, the Green as mentioned previously, the tunnel that connects Hastings Road and Lancaster Crescent, and is dangerously close to the local primary school, and finally around All Saints Church. KERA feel that street drinkers would feel a lot less intimidating if they were sat at tables, much like the street drinkers in Leigh Broadway. Further to this KERA requested HARP consider opening second hand clothes and furniture shops within Southchurch Avenue shopping parade and York Road shopping Parade. Cllr Tricia Cowdrey asked for a HARP representative to attend the Essex Police local community meeting, she also requested that HARP residents become involved in litter picking activities along with residents. KERA suggested that our estate is often in need of gardeners and painters and wondered if HARP residents would be able to gain meaningful employment from property owners within our estate.

LUMINOCITY FESTIVAL



To mark the forthcoming City Status, illuminations returned to Southend seafront and town centre.

The LuminoCity Festival of Light has attracted families and visitors to brave the chilly nights as the town and seafront was taken over by stunning music and illumination displays.

The display comprised of around 10 light shows and installations and celebrated the city status granted in memory of Sir David Amess MP who was killed last October.

Storm Eunice



Storm Eunice caused disruption in Southend-on-Sea as wind speeds of 90mph were recorded by the pier and foreshore team.

Starting just after midday, high winds caused the High Street to be closed from Clifftown to London Road due to safety concerns. Unsecure scaffolding and building damage, led to businesses being notified and advised to close.

More than 80 trees have fallen across the borough, and the Council Park Teams have been kept very busy clearing up.

Hoarding, attached by the developer to the front garden wall of the old Ashlea School house in York Road, caught the wind and dragged down the beautiful front garden wall. Let's hope the developer restores the front garden wall as it gave the house character and matches the front garden wall of the house next door.

Veolia Crews braved the winds to collect people's secured rubbish.

Southend Luminocity Festival had to be cancelled on certain nights due to the high winds. For further information see links to Southend Council news below.

**An amazing day of Arts, Culture,
Literature, Entertainment and Music.**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26TH 2022
12.00 - 5PM**

SOUTHEND WINTER PRIDE 2022

**ST MARKS CHURCH HALL
PRINCES STREET
SOUTHEND
SS1 1QA**



**COMMUNITY STALLS
INDEPENDENT TRADERS
ENTERTAINMENT
KIDS CORNER
DRAG STORY TIME
REFRESHMENTS**



Benefits and Grants to help pay energy bills - Southend-on-Sea City Council



[Council urges residents to take advantage of benefits and grants to help pay energy bills – Southend-on-Sea City Council](#)

Last week, energy regulator Ofgem confirmed that there will be a 54% rise in the price cap for energy from April and that the average household's yearly energy bill in the UK will increase by £693.

Heating your home to at least 18°C (65°F) is important for your health and immune system, especially if you are 65 or over, have reduced mobility, or an existing health condition such as heart or lung disease.








The following national and local grants and benefits are currently available to Southend residents who meet the relevant criteria. For further information follow link above

SOUTHEND FOODBANK CALLS FOR DONATIONS




Today [Southend Foodbank](#) have had to stop making up boxes of food to go out to families next week as they have run out of meat meals.

They urgently need:

-  Tinned hot dogs.
-  Tinned meat balls.
-  Tinned chilli con carne.
-  Tinned curry.
-  Fray Bentos pies.
-  Tinned stews.
-  And so on.

The Southend Foodbank warehouse is located at 484 Southchurch Road, SS1 2QA, and is open until today until 16.00. Please donate if you can.


Essex Police Local Community Meeting



ESSEX POLICE

Protecting and serving Essex
Southend Central Wards
Local Community Meeting
28 February 2022
19.00 at the Civic Centre

Come along and hear from local police about recent activities,
and feed back issues and concerns in the town centre.



CLLR MATT DENT
YOUR VOICE FOR KURSAAL

Attending these meetings provide a great opportunity for residents to communicate directly with the officers working the local beat and raise any concerns or problems.

If you can't attend, but would like something raised, please contact Cllr Matt Dent who is happy to do so on your behalf.

ONLINE FUNDRAISING GIN TASTING FOR MAYOR'S CHARITIES



TrustLinks
Gin Tasting Fundraiser

Friday 4th March at 7pm

Join us from the comfort of your own home!

Register to buy your gin tasting kit and to gain VIP entry to our online event hosted by

PINKSTER
ACQUA BLANCA DISTILLERS GIN

£30 (+ delivery)

For more information and to book visit: bit.ly/TrustLinksGin

Over 18's only
Closing date 25.02.22

www.trustlinks.org Charity No. 1092324



The Mayor of Southend-on-Sea, Cllr Margaret Borton, is holding a fundraising lunch to raise money for her mayoral charities, [Trust Links Charity](#) and Little Heroes ASD Support.

The event will take place at 19.00 on Friday 4 March 2022, with tasting kits sent out to attendees in advance. Tickets cost £30 plus delivery. To book your place, please visit <https://bit.ly/TrustLinksGin>.

KILWORTH ESTATE - GRAND BUILDINGS

St Erkenwald

Now that Southend has been granted City Status, we have decided to run a series featuring grand old buildings built within our Estate.

This month the chosen building is the ghost of St Erkenwald church, a church built during the period 1905-1934, to a design by Sir Walter Tapper, who at that time was one of the country's foremost twentieth century ecclesiastical architects. Located on the corner of Southchurch Avenue and York Road it was a noble church built with cathedral-like proportions to serve Southend's expanding population and summer visitors. St. Erkenwald's was of special interest because it was the only example of Tapper's ecclesiastical work in Essex and because it was a fine example of early twentieth century church architecture.



In 1995 Cllr David Garston cast the deciding vote to demolish St Erkenwald church.

Fly-tipping and Rubbish Problems in Kilworth Estate

On Sunday 6th February 2022, opposite the intended Southend Cathedral corner, at the junction of York Road and Southchurch Avenue, these garages were finally cleared of unwanted mattresses and furniture for the first time in many months. Thanks to Cllr Tricia Cowdrey, who contacted the Private Housing Team at Southend Council.



Unfortunately, within the week further mattresses had been dumped. The resident's association had in 2007 cleared this garage and painted the garages black, since then it has continuously been used as a fly tip and had rubbish blown into it by the wind. KERA members would like to see the landlord fix the broken alleyway fence and attach elegant gates to the entrance of the garage area to deter any further fly tipping and enhance the street scene.



A guide to use Report it on Southend Council Website.

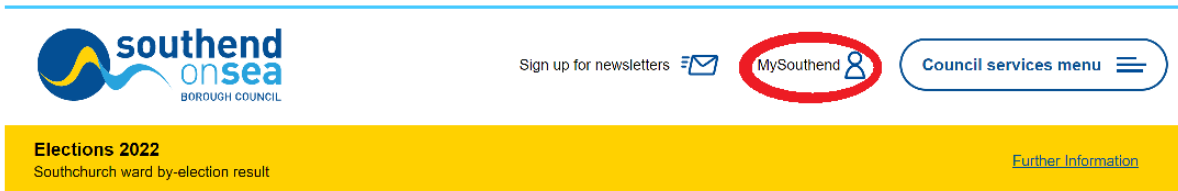
To use Report IT on Southend Councils website visit <https://southend.gov.uk>

On Screen 1 Select MySouthend as shown by the red circle

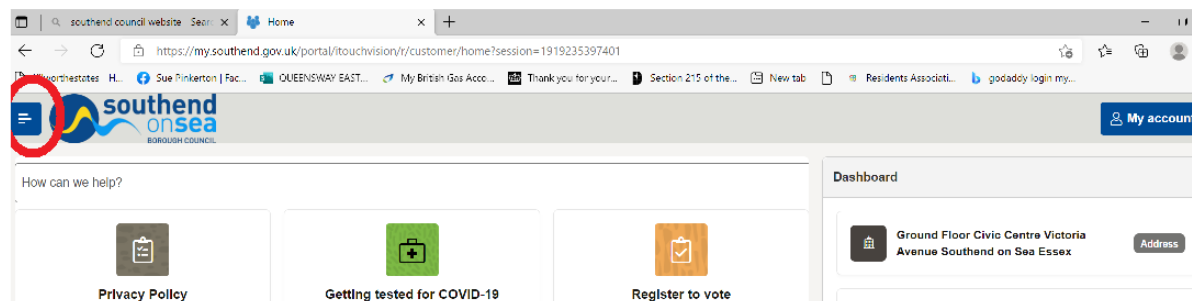
On Screen 2 Drop the blue menu bar as shown by the red circle

On Screen 3 Select Report It and follow instruction and selections from there.

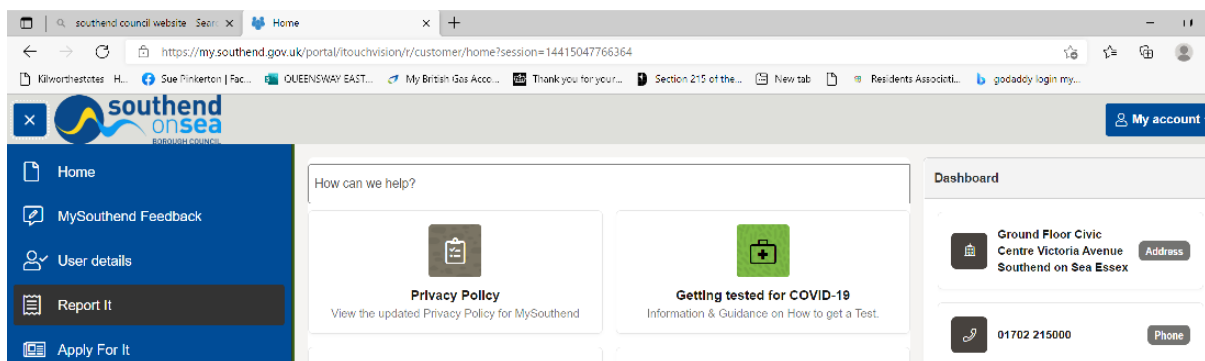
Screen 1



Screen 2



Screen 3



Southend Council News

1st- 28th February 2022

Radiance: Tenth installation confirmed for Southend LuminoCity and new sponsor announced

Genting Casino have joined Southend LuminoCity to sponsor another amazing installation, bringing the total number of installations to ten.

Where do you get your council news updates?

We are reminding residents, businesses, and visitors that they can receive weekly e-newsletters directly from the council.

Closing event announced for LuminoCity

A spectacular light and sound installation have been confirmed as the free closing event for Southend LuminoCity.

Southend LuminoCity will spread a little love this Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day visitors to Southend will get a sneak preview of some of the amazing artwork that make up the light trail for Southend LuminoCity including a UK premiere.

Sign up to Green Love Southend and work together to help create a better, greener Southend

This Valentine's Day (14 February) sees the start of a two week push to get local businesses, schools and charities working together to address climate change.

Pier has record-breaking start to 2022

Our iconic pier has attracted over 24,000 visitors in January 2022

Southend Adult Community College students to capture Southend LuminoCity

Southend LuminoCity joins forces with Southend Adult Community College (SACC) to offer students the opportunity to photograph the stunning light installations.

New Covid-19 pop-up clinics and 'vax bus' will be available during Southend half term

This half term will see the introduction of several new Covid-19 pop-up vaccination clinics across Southend along with the return of the vaccination bus.

Refresh your business with shop front improvement grants

We are reminding new and existing local businesses of two grants that are available to revitalise shop fronts and bring empty units back into use.

Council urges residents to take advantage of benefits and grants to help pay energy bills

We are urging residents to take advantage of benefits and grants to help pay energy bills.

Mysterious chest once belonging to Hadleigh's infamous 'white witch' goes on display for limited time only

'Wunderkammer: Southend's Cabinet of Curiosity' has been intriguing visitors of all ages since opening last October at Southend Central Museum.

Help make a difference to children and young people this Easter Holiday

Charities, schools, and local businesses are being asked to come forward and help provide heaps of fun for children and young people in Southend-on-Sea this Easter.

Community helps make LuminoCity shine

Southend LuminoCity has lit up the High Street and seafront with installations from across the world, but local people have also helped to make the event extra special by adding a sprinkling of stars.

Plans in place with amber warning for Storm Eunice

Plans are being put in place by the council following an amber weather warning from the Met Office for Friday 18 February as Storm Eunice is set to affect the UK.

LuminoCity – Storm Eunice update

Due to the incoming Storm Eunice, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and the Southend Tourism Partnership have regrettably had to take the difficult decision to pause the LuminoCity event tomorrow (Friday 18 February).

Storm Eunice - useful information

Storm Eunice affected Southend-on-Sea on Friday and there was some disruption in the area.

Do you have a big enough heart to transform young lives?

If you have ever thought about fostering a child, then National Care Day is the perfect time to find out more.

Considerable investment in adult social care as integrated care hub opens

A new mixed-use care facility for adults in Southend-on-Sea has opened to residents.

Southend to become national exemplar for flood and coastal erosion risk management

The council's cabinet will discuss the submission of an outline business case for the innovative Catchment to Coast project tomorrow (Tuesday 22nd February).

Unite in Light brings Southend's diverse faith groups together

A multi-faith event took place over the weekend (Sunday 20 February) as part of a series of ongoing Southend City status events.

Royal visit to mark Southend-on-Sea becoming a city

Southend-on-Sea will celebrate becoming a city on Tuesday 1st March 2022, with a royal visit from Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Major investment into adult social care approved

The council's budget for 2022/23 has been approved by full council tonight (Thursday 24 February).

New strategy for adult social care proposed for Southend

The new strategy for how Southend-on-Sea Borough Council can best support adults with social care needs and all carers has been discussed by councillors.

Preparations for Royal visit in full swing

Preparations for Southend-on-Sea to receive its Royal visit as part of City Status Day are in full swing.

