



@ProjectSouthchurch

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@YourSouthchurch



THE START OF THE VACCINATION



The Covid-19 vaccination has started to be rolled out across Southend. Councillor Matt Dent describes day one at the vaccination centre in Belle Vue Church, Southchurch.

“One of the advantages of being prominent in the community is that you tend to find out pretty quickly from people when something goes wrong. The first I knew of the issues at the vaccination centre at Belle Vue Church on Saturday 16th January was at about midday. That was, in fact, the first I knew that the site was being used for vaccinations.

“The situation was clearly a long way from what we want to see. There were long queues with vulnerable people forced to wait outside in inclement weather as there were delays, resulting in more than one person suffering a fall. Considering that the vaccination programme has started with the most vulnerable, hearing this sort of thing was even more worrying.

“I am incredibly grateful, therefore, to the quick thinking of one particular resident who contacted Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS). SAVS in turn enlisted some of Southend’s boundless and inspirational volunteers, including the peerless folks at One Love Soup Kitchen, to come and help tend to those waiting for their vaccinations, providing them with hot drinks and working to keep them safe. They helped avert what could have been a disaster.



“This country has never seen anything comparable to this vaccination rollout before. It’s being done at pace, for obvious reasons, and mistakes are going to be made. What’s important is that they are learned from and not repeated.

“Lessons have already been learned from what happened at Belle Vue. Processes have been changed and amendments made. The Council is working alongside the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Primary Care Network and the local NHS Trusts to mitigate these issues and prevent them from reoccurring. I stress that the Public Health team at the Council have been working extremely hard to help facilitate the vaccination programme. I also make no criticism of the church at all; they are simply the venue and I know will have offered themselves up out of their abundance of community spirit.

“Additionally, I note that subsequent vaccinations have gone more smoothly, so clearly lessons are already being learned.

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“As always, if Kursaal residents have any concerns, they can feel free to contact me at cllrrent@southend.gov.uk and I will do my best to assist.”

Cllr Matt Dent
Councillor for Kursaal Ward

Since the first day, and the difficulties faced, the system reportedly runs smoothly. In a conversation with a local doctor's surgery, unconfirmed estimates of 85 – 90% of the target groups have now been vaccinated.

Project Southchurch thanks all venues, volunteers and vaccination staff for their work and commitment at such difficult times.

LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER – JAMES DUDDRIDGE MP



Dear Resident,

I do hope you are keeping safe and well in what has been a rather challenging start to the year. Firstly, may I commend everybody who is doing their bit to help defeat this awful virus. Whether you are an NHS worker, part of the emergency services, a keyworker or simply staying at

home to protect the NHS – thank you for playing your part.

Despite the lockdown, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and I am sure like me, you have been impressed with how the largest vaccine roll out in British history is progressing. I am grateful to all the NHS staff, the volunteers and Armed Forces who are doing so much to vaccinate so many, so fast.

As we look to the future, I think it is only right that we start to think about how we want to bounce back after the pandemic. That is why, I have set up a new online residents' survey, to help us shape that recovery plan in places like Southchurch. It only takes a few minutes and can be completed via [my website](#).

Finally, on my part, I am continuing to work hard as your Member of Parliament. My door remains open (although virtually for now) for any constituent who needs help or support; therefore, if that sounds like you, please do not hesitate to get in touch, my email is james@jamesduddridge.com.

Thank you, again, for doing your bit to beat this virus.

Yours sincerely

James Duddridge MP
Member of Parliament for Rochford and Southend East.

TOTALLY LOCALLY SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ONLINE SHOP

We have been representing Southchurch on a working group regarding retail and its reopening after lockdown. We joined many other organisations across Southend in the group led by the Southend Borough Council Economic Development Team.

We were delighted to be joined by Jade Ware, owner of Blades on Southchurch Road, as our organisation's Co-ordinator for Southchurch Retail. Jade provided a direct insight into the experiences and challenges facing traders and was able to provide guidance.



David Elcock, Totally Locally Co-ordinator of the working group, explains more.

"We believe that independent shops and businesses are the lifeblood of our borough. We also believe the future of independent high streets and retail areas is a combination of

bricks and mortar businesses with a strong online presence.

"We were excited to meet with the guys at Totally Locally recently. They are an award-winning not-for-profit organisation that has spread across the world (including Leigh-on-Sea). Their message over the past 11 years has been simple - support your local independent businesses. Walk past the big chains, spend something with the small guys, keep tills ringing and towns thriving."

The working group has recently been developing the 'Local Independent High Streets Online' project. Town-based websites that bring together their independent businesses, all in one place. Customers can buy products and services from multiple local businesses, choose click & collect or delivery and pay all in one go at the checkout. This one-stop-shop allows people to discover more of their local independent businesses and the shop owner has the option of allowing them to click and collect their orders, select postal delivery or simply head to a business's existing website to learn more about them.

This is where we need your help. If we get enough independent businesses from across Southend-on-Sea interested, Totally Locally will set up a website for us which represents the vibrant independent retail scene across our borough. Each business will get a secure, bespoke online shop. Shoppers can choose to support their town by visiting, browsing and buying from multiple businesses in the place they live. It's a virtual high street, open 24 hours a day!

At this stage, we want to see who's interested, no commitment. Like putting your hand up and saying, "Looks interesting, I'd like to know more."

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You will need to be an independent business and have a registered business address in the Borough of Southend-on-Sea, namely SS0, SS1, SS2, SS3 and SS9.

If that's you, just complete the short form online [here](#) and we'll be in touch.

<http://bit.ly/RegisterInterestTotallyLocallySouthendOnSeaOnlineShop>

GREETINGS FROM THE INSPECTOR



Hi, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

My name is Paul Hogben and I am the Inspector for the Southend Community Policing Team.

I have been in post since September 2020, having moved over from the Town Centre Team in Basildon. I have been a Police Officer for 11 years and worked in a variety of different roles, including response, custody and working with the Chief Officer Team at Headquarters. However, my passion really is community policing. I enjoy the problem-solving element and working with partners and the community to make a real difference.

Since taking post I have been working on the structure of the team, to provide greater opportunities for us to take a proactive approach to tackling the problems you want us to deal with. Over the coming months, my hope is that the Community Policing Team will be able to commit more time to high visibility patrols, plain clothed patrols and acting on intelligence provided to us by the community.

My team is made up of different roles, each of which play an important part in helping people, keeping people safe and catching criminals, including:

- Neighbourhood Constables – these are the officers that spend most time patrolling, developing intelligence and problem-solving local issues.
- Police Community Support Officers – these really are our eyes and ears. They spend the vast majority of their time on patrol in anti-social behaviour hotspots and have powers to deal with low level crime and disorder.
- Child and Young Person Officers – these officers work closely with schools, care homes and the Youth Offending Team to try and divert children away from criminality, and take enforcement action where it is required. They also spend a lot of time working with schools on education programmes.

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- Child Sexual Exploitation Officers – these officers work closely with children who we believe are at risk of being sexually exploited by criminals, gangs or anyone else. They also work with other departments to take enforcement action against those responsible.
- Op Censor – this team works closely with our Operation Raptor team to engage with children that we believe are being, or likely to be, coerced into county lines drugs gangs. Where diversionary and education options fail, the team will take enforcement action, but always act in the best interest of the children and taking every opportunity to safeguard them.
- Op Quartz – this is our dedicated hate crime investigation team. They have had some great successes and have charged more people with hate crime offences than any other district in the county.

Going forward, we will provide a monthly update on activity the team has been completing through this newsletter. In the meantime, to find out what we are up to and get crime prevention advice on crime trends in the area, please follow us on Facebook at [Essex Police – Southend District](#).

COMMUNITY WORK

We continue to work across many partnerships throughout the community, many linked to the challenges faced by this pandemic. Our Community Ambassadors are still helping where they can: delivering essentials to those isolating, volunteering at vaccination centres and providing updates of other community issues.



As an organisation, we were invited to attend the quarterly meeting of Southend against Modern Slavery. We have, in Southend, a fantastic team of people and organisations who are working to solve this issue. From Southend Vineyard, CAST, the Borough Council, Justice & Care, SOSRC, Carries Outreach and many more organisations; the help and support they offer is just staggering. We are humbled by what they have achieved to date and pledge our support to help in any way we can.

We were pleased to be invited to join Southend Independent Advisory Group. We will continue to support any initiative that makes Southend a safer place to live and work in. This is just an extension for us, of our strong partnership with Southend Community Police Team.



STAY SAFE – REPORT IT

STAY SAFE



We receive weekly crime reports from Kevin Blake and his team at Neighbourhood Watch. There is always a trend around specific dates and seasons. While Southend is statistically safer than many other places across Essex, there is evidence of seasonal increases in opportunistic crimes.

So please, can you remove all temptation from your vehicles when parked up? Loose change, items of value and portable technology removed from view.

Make sure all vehicles are secure and alarms activated.

There is also a seasonal increase in entry to outbuildings, porches and communal entrances. Please make sure everything is locked and where possible any items of value are removed from sight. If you have a pathway with a gate, close the gate. A strange but true fact: many years ago, the Met Police had evidence that even if there was no wall either side, a closed gate put opportunistic criminals off.

One of our initiatives at Project Southchurch is StreetSafe. The focal point to this campaign is to report: all reports of suspicious, anti-social and other unusual behaviour are important. There is no such thing as a silly question or observation. Our community police team will respond in either attending or including it in intelligence regarding the individual or area.

If you have a CCTV enabled doorbell, its footage can be used to build timelines of incidents. If something happens in your immediate area, advise the Police and they will check to see if there is any relevant evidence.

When you read articles like this, you may think the worst. We live in a safe neighbourhood with an extremely proactive Community Police Team. Yes, incidents will occur, but please don't think contacting and reporting to the Police is a 'waste of time'; it isn't.

Chief Inspector Ian Hughes commented, *"Thank you to the community of Southchurch, I recognise that the continuation of lockdown is a frustrating and impactful situation. Your understanding and adherence is really appreciated, we acknowledge that it is the minority of people who are flouting the restrictions and please be reassured that where enforcement is necessary, robust action will be taken. Please remember to visit our Twitter and Facebook pages to see all the great work your officers do on a daily basis."*



Continued...

STAY SAFE – REPORT IT

REPORT IT

Dawn Woolcott, Communities and Engagement Co-ordinator, Local Policing Support Unit, also reminds us of the numerous methods of reporting.



“We're offering more ways of reporting non-emergency crime and anti-social behaviour, making it easier and more convenient for you to get in contact with us.

“We're encouraging people to go online to make non-emergency reports to help ease demand on our 101 telephone service, enabling us to provide a better, more efficient service for our communities, and assist those asking for our help as quickly as possible.”

LIVE CHAT

One of the new ways of contacting the Police is through 'Live Chat', an online chat service, which allows people to send and receive real-time direct messages with online operators.

Every day, between 7am and 11pm, you can report non-emergency crime or provide information through this service, which you can access on the [homepage](#) of Essex Police's website by selecting the 'Live Chat' button at the bottom right of the page.

The service can be accessed from a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or even a mobile phone, making it easier and more convenient for you to report non-emergency crime, anti-social behaviour or share information.

If you don't want to use the 'Live Chat' service, there are also options to [submit a report](#) or [request information](#) through the website. You can also do things like [report lost or found property](#), advise about [something you've seen or heard](#), or [report a Covid-19 regulation breach](#).

In an emergency you must always dial 999. There is still the 24-hour [101](#) service which people can call if they feel it is more appropriate to speak to the Police or don't have access to the internet.



CONCRETE CULTURE



You may already be aware of the fantastic proposals set out for the Kursaal, by our friends at Concrete Culture. We wholeheartedly support their proposals for the #KursaalComeback to restore this iconic building for use by all arts and also by the community.

To create a venue that could house spotlights on music, drama and art from local to national standard and a place that local organisations can use in many formats to benefit the community.

The plans are as exciting as they are versatile, the ideas sourced by local residents; so, have your say – there's still time to take part in the [consultation](#). This iconic venue was, and will be again, very much part of the fabric of this town.

CONNECT 4 SOUTHCHURCH!



Project Southchurch continues to grow as an organisation and implement many more of its initiatives. We continue to form partnerships with other organisations across Southend, helping with a variety of campaigns to improve our community.

We need your help, please contact us to find out more and how you, as an individual or organisation in the area, can get involved. Please pass on this newsletter and our message to four of your friends, family, neighbours or colleagues, and ask them to do the same.

Join us in our Connect 4 Southchurch campaign and help us improve Southchurch as a place to live, learn and work.

NEW EDITOR FOR *THE WIRE*



This issue of *The Wire* is the first to be collated and edited by Matt Pinnock. Matt is Director of Isthmus Consulting and provides training, authoring and proofreading services. He has a great love for the community and volunteers for local causes as much as possible, and sometimes too often...

He is a member of Southend Round Table 106 and, in the summer, enjoys standing in a field pretending to play cricket for Old Southendian & Southchurch CC.

EVENT UPDATE



At this moment, HopeBox, our Street Food Festival scheduled for August, is still on track. We will keep you updated on the progress. Our production management team, Kiwi Productions, is working on the initial stages.

We all hoped 2021 would be different, but we remain in a fluid situation and changes can be made suddenly.

We had planned for an Urban & Retro Sports Day for May in Southchurch Park. This was to be a mixture of fun and a promotion of local sports clubs. Due to operational and promotional challenges, we will have to postpone this event until 2022. If conditions are safe, we may still organise a scaled down version in May, hosted by our very good friends at Southend Manor FC. We will keep you updated.



Our friends at Southend Foodbank continue to require donations during these extreme and challenging times. Please visit [their website](#) to check what is required. Simon and his team are doing an absolutely tremendous job and our thanks go out to each and every one of them. Also, to those who have and intend to donate.

CONTACT US

You may be aware, we have launched a Facebook page, @[ProjectSouthchurch](#), and we remain contactable via Twitter, @[YourSouthchurch](#), and [email](#). *The Wire* will remain free; however, it will switch to a subscription platform from the next edition. You will receive subscription details when confirmed. Finally, on 1st March 2021 we will have an online presence when our website will be launched.

AND FINALLY...

The next edition of *The Wire* will be out first week of April, if you have any articles you wish to add please email them to the [editor](#) by 29th March 2021.

We would like to thank James Duddridge MP, Cllr Matt Dent, David Elcock, Chief Inspector Ian Hughes & Inspector Paul Hogben for their contributions.

This issue was the first edited by Matt Pinnock, we would like to thank him for his patience and for producing an excellent newsletter.

During this first month of 2021 we passed a tragic landmark of those who we have lost during Covid-19. I would like to take a moment to send our thoughts and prayers to those bereaved and those suffering during this brutal pandemic. Thank you to all venues, professionals and volunteers who have given their time to help others.

Photo Credit: Southchurch Park lake (cover, top left) Tèrese Wilmot