

Neighbourhood Wardens for Billingshurst

What do YOU think????



You may remember that Billingshurst Parish Council (BPC) previously consulted on the subject of Neighbourhood Wardens, at the time an offer was made by the Police and Crime Commissioner to give a grant to set up a scheme. Although the decision was made to proceed, concerns emerged about the ongoing management and administration of the scheme, so the Council withdrew from the project. Horsham District Council (HDC) has recently asked Parish Councils if they would be interested in looking into setting up Neighbourhood Wardens in their areas, this time they would be recruited, trained, managed and have their equipment supplied by HDC, but would be tasked through a steering group including Parish Council and other representatives, with staff being based in our parish.

HDC state that the role of Neighbourhood Wardens is very broad but could involve carrying out the following functions in their communities:

- ❖ **Acting as advocates ensuring local people benefit from important services.**
- ❖ **Targeting support for vulnerable members of the community.**
- ❖ **Encouraging social inclusion by developing local activities and volunteering opportunities.**
- ❖ **Promoting health and wellbeing initiatives.**
- ❖ **Reducing crime and the fear of crime by patrolling the area to provide a highly visible and reassuring presence utilising powers conferred by the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.**
- ❖ **Working in partnership with a broad range of partners to ensure local needs are met and important issues for local people are addressed.**

The cost of a Warden scheme with two staff working full time on a shift pattern is £70,000 per annum. HDC is currently offering a grant of £30,000 to help set up 2-year pilot scheme. If BPC proceeded and was successful in obtaining a grant this would mean that in the first 2 years, a dedicated two warden scheme for Billingshurst would cost an average Band D household around £14.09 per year (28p per week).

After the first 2 years, the scheme would cost an average Band D household around £17.93 per year (35p per week).

Would you like to see Billingshurst Parish Council take this step and set up a Neighbourhood Warden Scheme in Billingshurst?

The Council is setting its budget at a meeting on 24th January 2018 so please attend the meeting or make your views known in writing by 23rd January.

Email - council@billingshurst.gov.uk

Post - Billingshurst Parish Council, Billingshurst Community and Conference Centre, Roman Way, Billingshurst. RH14 9QW.

