Neighbourhood Wardens' Monthly Report

October 2026 – Billingshurst Parish

The monthly update from your Neighbourhood Wardens, Louisa Hull and Ross Phillips

Project Work

'Brick Lab' Construction Club



We continue to work on promoting our new Brick Lab Construction Club. Uptake has been a little slower than we envisaged but October has seen illness amongst some young people and us wardens too! An advert has been placed in the "Village Tweet" magazine, and we are continuing to promote on social media pages aimed at home-schooled and home educated children. Please do help spread the word.

Brick Lab is essentially a LEGO building club that aims to bring children together that are home-schooled/educated to learn social, and team building skills and make new friends.

The Club is open to children aged 8-14 years and runs at 'The Depot' 83a High Street, Billingshurst, RH14 9QX on Thursdays between 10:00am & midday. The first session is free, thereafter it is £2 per session. All children must be accompanied by an adult and cannot be left.

Chapel Corner Gardens – Trinity United Reformed Church

With the weather finally settling, we are so pleased to have been able to move on to the next phase of the garden plan: installing the benches and planting. We are absolutely delighted with how the garden is already looking and look forward to seeing it used by the community and developing over the coming years.






If you wish to help with the planting or ongoing maintenance of this community garden, please contact us at billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk

Fundraising – Go Fund Me



The Go Fund Me page is still live and we will need to purchase some topsoil, and more plants so please do donate if you are happy to. The GoFundMe page can be accessed by scanning the QR code or by visiting the link: https://gofund.me/66b275c9e

Chapel Corner Gardens social media is available via the links below.

On Instagram:

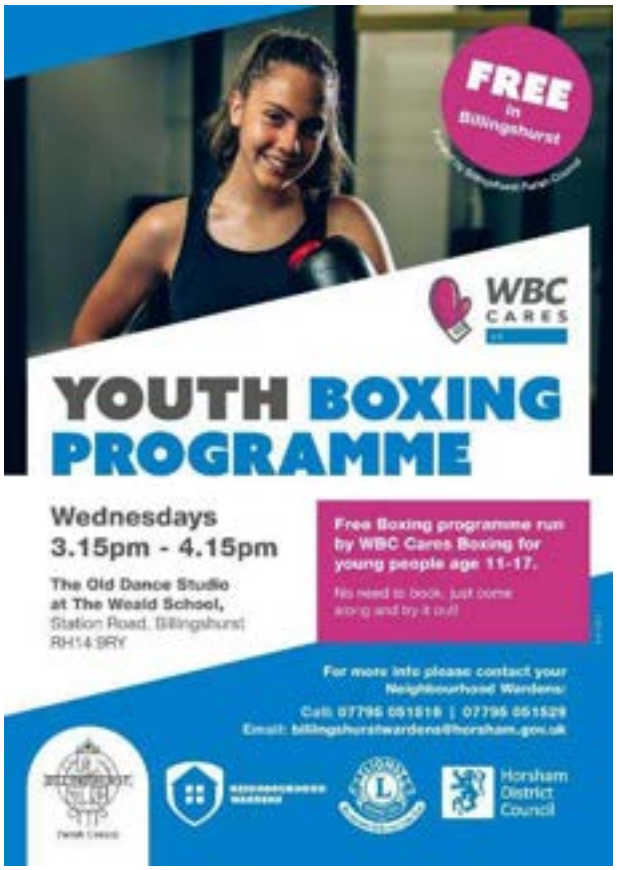
https://www.instagram.com/chapelcornergardens

On Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/chapelcornergardens

Youth Provision

Youth Boxing Programme



Our boxing programme continues to go from strength to strength, with good numbers attending each week and a brilliant spread of age groups and genders. The programme is open to all young people aged 11 to 17, whether or not they attend the Weald School, so please just turn up or get in touch with us for more information. If you'd like to know more about WBC Cares UK please take a look at their website here:

https://www.wbccaresuk.org/

Youth Club @ The Depot










October has been a fun month at Youth Club with Halloween activities from decorating mini pumpkins to Halloween biscuit designs.

It has been so postive to see the Youth Club expand since its opening at Easter with a regular 15 – 20 young people attending each week.
We have continued to support the Youth Club run by 4TheYouth to help with staffing levels but are pleased to update that a new member of staff Jess has now started to asssist Youth Worker Katie and so we have now taken a step back, but will still be popping in, in the future.

The Youth Club is currently aimed at young people in school years 6-8 although some young people in older year groups are returning to help support running activities and the tuck shop. The numbers of young people attending has really shown the need for a safe place for young people to meet and spend time with their peers. Sessions cost £3 to attend for non-members of 4TheYouth and £2 for members. Details about all the youth clubs run by 4TheYouth and how to become a member are available at their website:
https://www.4theyouth.co.uk/

Events and Meetings Attended This Month

Partnership Development Day: Safe and Happy in Horsham – Tuesday 6th October

Hosted by Horsham District Community Safety Partnership and the Safer West Sussex Partnership we attended a Partnership Development Day held at Parkside in Horsham. Presentations were given about: Violence Against Women & Girls, Risk Outside the Home, Artificial Intelligence, Community Cohesion & Mis/Dis Information and Sharing Community Intelligence with Sussex Police – a very full agenda!

Bushcraft Sessions Planning Meeting – Friday 9th October

We are working jointly with Billingshurst Lions Club to offer young people bushcraft and outdoor survival skills sessions during the half term holidays next year. Three sessions are planned: an extensive fire lighting course on 17th February, knife skills and carving on 2nd June, and foraging and plant identification on 27th October. Further information will be released nearer the time.

Messy Church – Wednesday 14th October







We called into Messy Church on Wednesday 14th October. It's lovely to receive such a warm welcome from everyone there. October's theme was "Messy Harvest" and we assisted with some bird feeders being made and had a try with a very nifty gadget used to peel, core and slice apples!

More information about Messy Church can be found on their Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/MCBillingshurst

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Meeting – Friday 16th October

We have been working with our colleague, Neighbourhood Warden Alison Page to rework and update the warden's Standard Operating Procedure. Our role has developed and changed over the years as well as policies and procedures being updated, and the document needed a large review. We are now nearing the end of this piece of work following a meeting on the 16th October.

Mediation Training Workshop – 'Understanding Conflict, Listening Skills and Mediation' - Tuesday 20th October

We attended this training session, which was kindly delivered by Mediation Plus, who provide mediation and conflict resolution services across West Sussex. The workshop was highly informative, and our key takeaway was the value of early intervention: mediation works best when offered at the first sign of difficulty, rather than being treated as a last resort.

Billingshurst Wardens Steering Group Meeting – Tuesday 20th October

Also, on Tuesday 20th we held our quarterly steering group meeting with our team leader Ross Spanton, and members of Billingshurst Parish Council staff and councillors. The meeting gives us the opportunity to discuss our project work within the community and council priorities.

Chapel Corner Gardens Meeting - Friday 23rd October

In late October Louisa met with members of our Chapel Corner Garden Committee to discuss next steps for phases 2 and 3 of the project and to decide on some further fundraising opportunities.

Billingshurst Neighbourhood Wardens - Come & See Us



If you have anything you would like to discuss with us, whether it be community issues or concerns or to find out more about what we do and the projects we are working on, you will find us on:

- Saturday 5th December between 10.00am & 3.00pm at the Christmas Fayre, Billingshurst Centre.



Dates for our early 2027 drop-ins will follow in next month's report.

You can also discover other warden events happening across the district here:

https://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/wardens-events

Local Neighbourhood policing events can also be found here:

https://www.sussex.police.uk/area/your-area/sussex/horsham/billingshurst-shipley-pulborough-and-coldwaltham/meetings-and-events/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area

Social Media

Billingshurst Wardens Instagram Account

Don't forget we now have our own dedicated Billingshurst Wardens Instagram account. Please give us a follow at the link below:
https://www.instagram.com/billingshurstwardens/

Horsham District Neighbourhood Wardens

We also share a Facebook account with the other Horsham District Neighbourhood Warden Teams so please do follow us at:

https://www.facebook.com/HDWardens

Parish Specific/Other

Don't forget .....

Friday Coffee Mornings @ The Billingshurst Centre







Not only are our Friday Coffee Mornings a great place to meet up and chat but there is also the opportunity to join in with a good puzzle or even a game of dominoes.

The coffee mornings are held in conjunction with The Billingshurst Centre and run between 10am and midday every Friday throughout the year (except Good Friday and over the Christmas period) and everyone is welcome!





The Billingshurst Community Police Office is also open when our coffee morning operates so you can also pop in and seek help and advice there too.

To find out what else is happening at The Billingshurst Centre please check out their website: https://billingshurstcentre.com/

Station Road Gardens Volunteer Gardening Days

Once a month the Station Road Gardens volunteer team work hard gardening and maintaining Station Road Community Gardens for everyone to enjoy. They would love for more volunteers to join them so please do pop along and meet them to find out more. Banners/signs will be up at Station Road Gardens with dates of the next volunteering days. Keep an eye out for 2027 dates soon.

The Billingshurst Men's Shed is often also open during these sessions so a great opportunity to pop along and speak to both organisations, if you are interested in joining.

Keep updated about Station Road Community Gardens here:

https://www.facebook.com/FOGBillie

You can find out more about Billingshurst Men's Shed at their Facebook Page here:

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082344994408

Horsham Matters Support On The Move Visits



Horsham Matters continue to provide valuable support around the district in their "Support On The Move" vehicles. If you need support with things such as benefits checks, signposting, careers advice, housing and budgeting they will be outside the Billingshurst Centre on Friday 27th November between 10am and 11:30am as per the schedule above.

Whilst Out on Patrol

Found hoodie and mobile phone - Station Road Gardens

While on patrol around Station Road Gardens, we were approached by two Weald students who had found a mobile phone and a jumper left behind by a family in the play park. We thanked them for their community spirit and agreed to take the items and try to return them to their owner. With further help from the two students, we were able to reunite the items with the family. We have informed the Weald of the students' actions and hope they receive recognition for their kindness.

Abandoned vehicles







We have been made aware by residents and local Facebook posts about the car photographed above being abandoned in Forge Way and it has now sustained damage. A report has been submitted to the abandoned vehicles team at Horsham District Council and work is being done to try and contact the owner.

Fly Tipping & Litter

Litter







Sadly, it has been disappointing to see a large volume of litter still being left at Station Road Gardens, the footpath to Myrtle Lane and in the vicinity of the railway station. The Parish Council Environmental Operatives and SRG Volunteers work tireless trying to keep the area nice for local people to enjoy. We have also carried out litter picks in the area during October and replaced the inner section of one bin that a group of young people thought was funny to leave in the middle of the green.

Please remember to put your litter in the bins provided and if they are full – take your litter home.

Fly tipping around the parish







October has seen a substantial amount of household waste fly tipped within the Parish

If you have additional household rubbish that won't fit into your bins at home, it is very easy to book a slot at the WSCC recycling centre in Billingshurst. You can do so at the link below:

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-waste-prevention/recycling-centres/billingshurst-recycling-centre/

Anti-Social Behaviour/Damage

Reports of Indecent Exposure around Station Road Gardens

We continue to patrol the area and are liaising with Sussex Police regarding ongoing reports of indecent exposure towards Weald students.

Anti – Social Behaviour – Vicinity of the railway station/takeaways, Station Road

Through our Community Safety colleagues in Horsham, we were made aware of an ongoing issue with young people gathering and littering in a doorway near the takeaways by the railway station. Although the issue had not been reported to us or to Sussex Police, we patrol the area regularly and had not observed any anti-social behaviour. To establish whether others were affected, we worked with Horsham District Council to carry out a letter drop in the road, asking residents and businesses to let us know if they had experienced any problems.

Anti – Social Behaviour – Myrtle Lane

We are dealing with ongoing complaints from residents of Myrtle Lane about young people gathering, smoking cannabis and damaging plants and structures in and around the footpath between Station Road Gardens and Myrtle Lane. We are liaising with the residents and maintaining regular patrols in the area, and have asked that every occurrence be reported to Sussex Police for their information.

Graffiti

Good news! We have not received any reports of new graffiti this month within the parish.

WHO DO I REPORT TO?

Please see the graphic below that helps to explain who you should report crime and anti-social behaviour to and how. If you see it, it is important to report it.



Sussex Police Website:

https://www.sussex.police.uk/

Useful links for reporting litter, fly-tipping or graffiti:

You can report litter issues to HDC at the following link:
https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/litter

You can report a damaged or overflowing litter bin here:
https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/report-a-damaged-or-overflowing-litter-bin

If you witness fly-tipping in action, please call Sussex Police and, if possible, provide them with the registration of the offending vehicle and subsequently any relevant dash cam footage you may have.

You can also report it direct to HDC at: https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/fly-tipping

Abandoned shopping trolleys can be reported on the 'Trolleywise' website at: https://www.wanzl.com/en_GB/360-degree-service/TrolleyWise

You can report incidents of graffiti direct to Horsham District Council via their website:
https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning

Horsham District Council App



Horsham District Council have a useful app that can be used to find out lots of information, report litter, fly-tipping, and graffiti, and you can even set up handy reminders about your waste collections too. The app can be downloaded from the Apple or Google Play stores. More information and links to download are available on the HDC website: https://www.horsham.gov.uk/mobileapp

Dog Related Issues

Dog fouling can be reported via the HDC website:
https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/dog-fouling

Any attacks by dogs need to be reported immediately to Sussex Police. Their advice is that if there is an immediate threat to human or animal life to call 999. Otherwise report to the police on 101 or via the Sussex Police website reporting form.
https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

If a neighbour is allowing their dog to bark excessively causing a persistent noise nuisance this can be reported to Environmental Health & Licensing Team here:

https://www.horsham.gov.uk/environmental-health/noisy-neighbours

Dogs Roaming Free

If you find a dog roaming free and not being supervised, you may wish to consider reporting it to Horsham District Council's approved contractor on 07512 089777 and they will come and collect. ***This is a 24/7 service, but the dog does need to be contained for them to collect.***

***** Please note Horsham District Council does not have dog wardens *****

Rough Sleepers and Homeless Persons

https://thestreetlink.org.uk/ connecting people sleeping rough to local services.



