



## Neighbourhood Wardens' Monthly Report August 2025 – Billingshurst Parish

**An August update from your Neighbourhood Wardens, Louisa Hull and Ross Phillips**

### **Project Work**

#### **A new church garden - Update**

As was mentioned as coming up last month, we met a representative from the church to discuss their plans for redeveloping the gardens into more of a communal garden that can be used by not only churchgoers but is accessible to all community members.

Having presented our thoughts (which seemed to go down extremely well), we are waiting for the designs to be pitched at their committee meeting in mid-September, where, if approved, there is something very exciting coming to Billingshurst!...





### Modern Board Games Club

We are currently investigating suitable games and seeking indications of interest for modern board games clubs to be set up in the village. We plan, subject to interest, to split them into separate youth (11-17) and adult (18+) sessions which will be run from the Parish Council 'Depot' premises in the High Street.

Please let us know if you are interested in hosting these, attending as a player, or have any spare modern board games that you could donate to this exciting new project?



### Visits and engagement sessions at Billingshurst Primary Academy

We are grateful to the school for welcoming this initiative, which involves weekly lunch-play sessions every Tuesday afternoon. Weather permitting, we aim to join the children on the playing fields during their lunch break, creating opportunities for them to get to know us and for us to build positive relationships with them as they move through primary school and transition into secondary education.



### Billingshurst Timebank

Due to the holiday period and a large number of projects demanding our attention, we have yet to progress much with this initiative. Initial talks with stakeholders have been positive and we look forward to having some exciting updates about this next month. <https://timebanking.org/howitworks/>



## Billingshurst Youth Forum

While this initiative has been on hold, the reopening of schools now gives us the opportunity to restart conversations and create meaningful platforms for our young people to share their voices and experiences.

## A Virtual Day Out

In collaboration with Age UK and Whistlestop Arts, we are looking to bring 'Virtual days Out' <https://www.whistlestoparts.org/virtual> to the residents of Billingshurst.

Initially this will be a one-off session, but if it proves popular and funding can be sourced, this could become a more regular event.

## Youth Provision

### Playpark Fun Sessions

During the latter part of the summer holidays, we ran free stay-and-play sessions for families in the Lower Station Road recreation ground. Activities included cricket, football, basketball and a variety of 'chucky-things' for the sporty-types and colouring in and bubble-wands for some quiet-time. Thankfully the weather stayed kind and the sessions were well-attended and much appreciated by all.





## Youth Boxing Programme

Sessions have paused over the summer holidays and will return on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September** in The Old Dance Studio at The Weald School.

These sessions are funded by the Parish Council with support from the Billingshurst Lions Club.

For more information about WBC Cares UK, who run the sessions, please visit their website:

<https://www.wbccaresuk.org/>

## Dungeons & Dragons (D&D)

We are still working with the Parish Council to see if there can be a youth group back in the village and are also looking at starting a Dungeons and Dragons group at The Depot or other suitable venue, following a very successful introduction to the fantasy role-playing game that we undertook back in Pulborough.





## Events and Meetings Attended

### Autism & SEN Event - 1<sup>st</sup> August

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August Louisa attended the Summer Event for Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Autism held at Chanctonbury Leisure Centre to assist colleagues from the Storrington and Ashington Warden teams and spend time with local families and their children.

The event once again proved popular, and Lou spent time improving her table tennis skills with one young person from Billingshurst and speaking with parents. The sensory dome was very well used, and the feedback was positive and highlighted the need for increased SEN provision for young people in rural communities.





### Horsham District Council Staff Briefing – Local Government Reorganisation Public Engagement – 5<sup>th</sup> August

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August we attended a briefing at Alberly House in Horsham given by CEO Jane Eaton about the latest developments regarding the Local Government Reorganisation and the staff and residents surveys that had been launched.

To find out the latest updates about Devolution and the Local Government Reorganisation please visit the HDC website here:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr>

### Family Activity Day – Jubilee Fields – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August

The sun shone on the day, and this fantastic event was well attended by the community. It was a pleasure to speak to so many people and to have the opportunity to help, and to explain our role in the community. As well as our information table we provided Lego for the children to play with, and many parents were grateful for the opportunity to sit and chat and seek some shelter from the sun. We look forward to working on next year's activity day.





## Street briefing with PCSO Fontyn - 12<sup>th</sup> August



We joined the Billingshurst PCSO Tom Fontyn for a street briefing at Moles Country Store in Billingshurst, which gave members of the community the opportunity to easily access Sussex Police and ourselves. We were able to advise about current scams doing the rounds and also received some very useful intelligence about a recent incident that the Police will be following up on.

### **Change, Grow, Live (CGL) service presentation – 13<sup>th</sup> August**

We attended a briefing session with Rebecca Roberts from 'Change, Grow, Live', the West Sussex Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Network, where she outlined their work in providing treatment services for adults and young people struggling with alcohol and, or drugs.

Individuals can self-refer to CGL by contacting their 'First step' team on 0330 128 1113 or emailing them at [westsussex.firststep@cgl.org.uk](mailto:westsussex.firststep@cgl.org.uk)

### **VJ Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August**



What a special evening this was! A balmy late summer's evening and a live band playing on the green. This was a truly fitting way to join the nationwide VJ day celebrations.

### **Board Games Cafe @ The Depot – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

Sadly after another poor attendance in August at our Board Games Café, and over the last 6 months, we have spent time reviewing this. We have decided that this facility will no longer continue and instead we are going to put our efforts into the new Modern Board Games Club and potential new D&D (Dungeons & Dragons) Group as mentioned above.

Discover more 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-shingley-pulborough-and-coldwaltham/meetings-and-events/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area>

## Parish Specific/Other

### Friday Coffee Morning



*Finished puzzle*



*Quiz underway*



Our Coffee Mornings continue each Friday at The Billingshurst Centre between 10 am and midday. They are well attended but there is still room for more! There is the regular jigsaw corner, and we have introduced some quizzes to challenge the attendees.

### Dementia Cafe

A reminder that the Dementia Cafe at the Trinity United Reformed Church operates on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month in the hall at Trinity URC from 10.00am-12.00pm. We continue to attend when our shifts allow.

More information can be found on their website: <https://billingshursturc.co.uk/dementia%20cafe.html>

## Whilst Out on Patrol

### Abandoned vehicle – Newbridge Road West

Whilst out on our patrols we noticed a vehicle abandoned in Newbridge Road West. We checked whether the vehicle has current road tax, and it is showing as SORN. We also checked whether it has a current MOT and this has also expired. We made a report for it to be removed.



Did you know that the way you can report abandoned vehicles has changed?

As of July, they are no longer reported to Operation Crackdown but directly to the local authority. You can report abandoned vehicles to Horsham District Council via the link below:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/report/abandoned-vehicles>

### Graffiti & Other Damage



Graffiti on 30mph sign on the A272 Billingshurst Road heading towards Coolham. We reported this to HDC Street Cleansing, WSCC Highways and Prevent Teams, and Sussex Police.



*Leaning and graffitied sign*



*Broken bench in Station Road Gardens*

## **Fly-tipping**



On our patrols of the quieter lanes around the village, we quite often unfortunately come across fly-tipped items. This time it was this rather sad looking sofa in a layby in Okehurst Road

## **Anti-Social Behaviour**

### **Old Barclays Bank Building, High Street**

Further to the ongoing anti-social behaviour and criminal damage taking place at the old bank, we made contact with the building owner and arranged a site visit with their property management team on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August.



The main point of concern was the front porch which provided access to the flat roof, and through a broken window, the interior of the building. The rest of the building was in a state of disrepair and required proper security measures.

Works were agreed and were scheduled in for later that week. Subsequently, the porch was removed, and the windows were re-boarded improving not only the security, but also the look and feel of the building.





**Smoke World, High Street**



These premises have caused issues in the village for some time now with accusations of illegal sales and harassment, but they have cleared out the stock and shut up shop.

Throughout this whole unpleasant episode, we have been liaising with colleagues in Planning Compliance, Environmental Health, and Trading Standards to help all parties resolve the situation. We are however asking for an official update on the status of the business and ongoing use of the premises and will update when we can.

## Caps taken from newly refurbished play equipment at Cherry Tree Close play area



Whilst out on our foot patrols we noticed that some of the new safety capping on the recently refurbished play area had not been screwed into place and had been removed. We found one cap in nearby bushes and returned them to the Parish Council Office and reported the issue.

### WHO DO I REPORT TO?

#### 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](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



Did you know that HDC have a very handy 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 Google Play store and Apple app store.

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/>

## 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.

## Social Media

Please do follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HDWardens>

<https://twitter.com/HorshamWardens>

### Reporting crime and anti-social behaviour

| 999                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 101                                                                                                                                                       | Crimestoppers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | British Transport Police                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Horsham District Council                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>📞 999</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>📞 101<br/>or report online:<br/><a href="http://www.sussex.police.uk">www.sussex.police.uk</a></p>                                                     | <p>📞 0800 555 111<br/><a href="http://crimestoppers-uk.org">crimestoppers-uk.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>📞 0800 40 50 40<br/>Text 61016</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>communitysafety<br/>@horsham.gov.uk</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A crime is happening now.</li><li>• Someone is in immediate danger or at risk of harm.</li><li>• Property is in danger of being seriously damaged.</li><li>• A serious disruption to the public is likely.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All non-emergency incidents where the crime has already happened or there is no immediate risk of harm.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To report crime 100% anonymously.</li><li>• Crimestoppers is not the police - it is an independent charity working to help communities.</li><li>• Information given will be shared anonymously with the police.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-emergency incidents on a train or at a station can be reported direct to the British Transport Police online: <a href="http://www.btp.police.uk/reportcrime">www.btp.police.uk/reportcrime</a>.</li><li>• There is also a Railway Guardian app.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report general anti-social behaviour and repeated public nuisance to the ASB team at Horsham District Council.</li><li>• You can also report litter, fly-tipping, graffiti, dogs and dog fouling online: <a href="http://www.horsham.gov.uk/report">www.horsham.gov.uk/report</a>.</li></ul> |

### See it. Report it.

Reporting crime and ASB means we can work together to reduce it.

Horsham District Community Safety Partnership

Horsham District Council



**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WARDENS**

## YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Billingshurst Parish



**Ross Phillips**  
07795 051516



**Louisa Hull**  
07795 051529

If you wish to speak to us in confidence, please give us a call or email  
[billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk)

 @HDWardens
 @HorshamWardens








**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WARDENS**

## THE WORK WE DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Based within the community, your Neighbourhood Wardens work alongside partner agencies to improve the quality of life for everyone and promote community cohesion and resilience. The Wardens undertake a number of activities, ranging from enforcement to community development.

Neighbourhood Wardens can help the community in the following ways:

- Meet the needs of the community and improve the quality of life for the residents, through engagement, promotion and support.
- Develop projects that benefit the local residents, to tackle community safety issues and promote inclusivity.
- Promote community cohesion, resilience and solidarity to encourage and empower communities to resolve issues.

- Support vulnerable members of the community with activities, advice, welfare checks and signposting.
- Engage with residents daily to get to know their local community and become a trusted friend to offer advice and guidance.
- Offer education and advice when required, before taking enforcement action.
- Contribute to the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership plan by working with other agencies.
- Provide a highly visible and reassuring uniformed patrolling presence.
- Provide an effective eyes and ears service aimed at reducing the fear of crime and improving quality of life.
- Work alongside the Police and submit reports regarding drug use, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

**In an emergency always dial 999**






