

Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

August 2023

Patrol hours TOTAL:	97	ASB incidents TOTAL:	9
Foot (high visibility)	84	Noise	0
Vehicle	13	Neighbours	1
Notices/warnings TOTAL:		Driving/Vehicles/Bikes/E-scooters	7
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Alcohol	1
Yellow card warning	0		
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0		
Parking alert	4	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	8
Police reports TOTAL:	5	Fly tipping / flyposting	0
Phone (including 101 and 999)	1	Graffiti	1
Verbal	2	Dog Fouling	2
Intelligence report	2	Litter	3
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug Litter	2
		Hazards	1
Media reports TOTAL:	17	Community events attended	2
Press release / Community magazines	1	School Contact	1
Social Media	16	Youth engagement	40
Admin	11	Reports to DVLA	0
Vulnerable people welfare checks	12	Reports to Operation Crackdown	6
Signposting	10		

Key:

ASB – Anti-social behaviour

BTP – British Transport Police

101 – Police non-emergency reporting contact number

Operation Crackdown – Joint initiative with Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Sussex Police to report abandoned vehicles or anti-social driving.

WSCC – West Sussex County Council

CEO – Civil Enforcement Officers who deal with parking offences.

PSPO – Public Spaces Protection Order

SRG - Station Road Community Gardens

LSRG - Lower Station Road Recreation Ground

MOP - Member of the Public

ASB

We have had reports from a resident in St Gabriels Road that their front door was kicked extremely hard, no apparent damage was seen at this time. Three young boys were seen heading into Silver Lane, one was on a bike and the other two were running. Advice has been given to the resident and patrols will continue in the area.

It has been reported that there is loud noise and overturning of bins in Rowan Drive late at night, this has been reported to the police for their attention.

We were contacted about young people meeting on a bench in Lower Station Road Recreation Ground close to the tennis courts. The reports stated that cannabis was being smoked and it could be smelled around the park area. There has been lots of shouting and swearing, verbal abuse and lots of rubbish being left behind. A small group was spoken to about this issue, there was no cannabis use, swearing etc. and we only spoke to them to see if they were part of the group - which they were. They have said they will speak to the others that congregate there to let them know and to ensure they respect the park, the tennis players, residents and other park users.

It was reported that young boys were riding motor bikes with no helmets on in Wooddale Lane and in the surrounding vicinity. The person reporting was concerned that they would be hit by a car. We went to the area and did a wide area search twice but did not see or hear the vehicles driving around.

A rock was thrown at a window of the Age UK charity shop at approximately 20.30 hrs on Thursday 31st August, which has caused damage. We went to speak to the ladies in the shop to make sure they were ok and will continue patrols around that area. Police are aware and will be dealing with the incident.

Parking/Vehicles

We have reported six vehicles to Operation Crackdown for parking illegally in the High Street.

We have put three crime prevention leaflets into vehicles that had their windows left open.

Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti

We reported some graffiti to Horsham District Council that was on the green shelter (some of which was very offensive) for removal.

There were reports of rubbish left by a tree behind Daux Avenue. It appears a group of young people had been having a bit of a party. We picked up two and a half black bags of rubbish and bottles.



Community Engagement/Events/Meetings

The Coffee Mornings which are held on Fridays between 10am to midday at the Billingshurst Centre are really going well. There are more people joining all the time and this week we went al fresco and sat outside in the lovely sunshine. If you are interested in joining us, then please come along we would love to see you. The coffee morning isn't about just having a chat and a cup of tea, it's about inclusion, reducing social isolation within the community and we have seen real friendships grow from the group, which is lovely to see.



We held a Warden Pop-up in a park just off Newman Way on Amblehurst Green. The weather was a bit damp although the rain mainly held off for us. We spoke to approximately 11 residents about issues they are having around the park area. Mainly anti-social behaviour on two benches just behind the play park. The issues were about young people smoking weed, inhaling nitrous oxide and possibly using other substances and being very loud during night-time hours. Advice was given to all of those who spoke to us and we will continue our patrols around the area. Unfortunately, the weather didn't hold long enough for us to hold our next Drop-in at the park off Challen Street, so we changed the date to Tuesday 8th August. Again, the weather wasn't brilliant, however we did have a chat with a local resident regarding a new initiative that she is starting and which we would like us to be part of.

We attended the Quiz Night at the Kings Head in aid of The Royal Marsden, who have recently looked after our very own Paul Berry a Parish Councillor and ex Billingshurst Parish Council Chairman. The money raised will be added to Kate's (Paul and Liz's daughter) sponsored walk fund which is going to be around £2,500 which is amazing and, as they say, it's the taking part is all that matters, we didn't win, and we weren't last (only just). However, it was a brilliant night and we all had fun trying to come up with a half sensible answer.

Patrols (foot/visible and car)

We carry out two fly tip patrols a week to ensure that any fly tipping is dealt with as quickly as possible by reporting to Horsham District Council.

We go out on foot patrols daily so that residents can stop and speak to us about any issues that they are having or just to have a chat. We also visit businesses, shops, the school, the railway station, etc to make sure that there are no problems they need to discuss with us.

We have been conducting car patrols for the purposes of fly tipping and to cover the outer areas of Billingshurst such as Adversane and Five Oaks.

Our car patrols also cover the ASB hotspots including the High Street, Jengers Mead, Jengers Passage, Mill Way toilets, the library, all the parks, Marringdean Acres and the Amblehurst Green Estate - both of which have previously had issues all of which are patrolled on a regular basis.

We go to the local schools for a lunchtime patrol so we can get to know the young people we may not see outside of school. We enjoy seeing the students and engaging with them. We particularly like going to see the Year 6 pupils as we can get to know them before they start at the Weald School, and they can also get to know who we are. We will also be going to speak to the year 7s who have just gone up to the Weald.

Older, Vulnerable People and Youth

The football sessions are going well. Barry is the referee usually, however, this week (9th August) he decided to help on the football pitch and ended up with a broken ankle. Thankfully it is the type of break that isn't a weight bearing one so, with a bit of luck, Barry will be back with us soon.

With Barry out of action a fellow colleague from Storrington Parish, Chris Poore, offered to assist me with the football on the 16th of August. It was a very warm day, but the young people enjoyed themselves. However, after an hour and half of running about it was decided that we should stop the game. With thanks to Chris for being such a wonderful referee, and I'm sure the boys will never forget that when throwing the ball back onto the pitch you must keep both feet on the ground. In the end they were saying it before Chris blew his whistle.



Unfortunately, we had to cancel the last two weeks of football, which was a shame. However, we will be back!

On Friday 18th August we had a bushcraft session. After a weather forecast of rain and thunderstorms, we were all ready with wet weather gear and wellington boots. However, the weather couldn't have been nicer

and just right for a walk around Jubilee Fields looking at berries, trees and a big ant nest. What I learnt was that sloe berries aren't as nice as sloe gin and willow leaves can be used to reduce fevers and pain. Most willows contain salicin which is a key compound that is found in Aspirin.

The young people learnt to put up shelters, what can be used to light fires and, more importantly, how to put them out and lastly to "leave no trace".

Everyone enjoyed themselves including one young person who got stung by a wasp twice, after it got caught in their t-shirt. Plantain, a plant that grows wild, was crushed up and applied to the stings. After a short while the stinging stopped, another great use of plants that can be used for medicinal purposes.

These sessions are so useful, there is so much to learn from nature, and I think all of us left with some more helpful hints about what to look out for when walking in the countryside and woods etc.

A big thank you to Nick Chapman who led the session, it was another amazing afternoon.



[Dog Related Issues.](#)

Whilst getting the park ready for the summer football and sports sessions in Lower Station Road Recreation Ground, it was quite noticeable that a minority of dog owners are not picking up their dogs' excrement. This meant we had to do it for the safety of the young people playing football/sports sessions.

Although we both have dogs, it doesn't mean that we are happy to go round picking up other dogs' poo. It's simple, if you have a dog, it's your responsibility to pick after your dog not other peoples'. We know that it is only a small minority of dog owners who do this as most people are responsible dog owners. This recreation ground is for everyone to enjoy so please pick up your dog's poo.

Cycling

Parish Specific/Other/Railway/Social Media/Press

We regularly put up Facebook and Twitter posts regarding events that we are holding i.e.: Warden Drop-ins, boxing, bushcraft and the coffee morning which is held on Fridays between 10.00 – midday at the Billingshurst Centre, or other information that maybe of interest to the community of Billingshurst.

We were asked to assist in helping someone who is moving to a new area and needed some advice on places to go and meet people. We were able to assist with giving information on places where they can go and meet new people in a safe environment.

Advice was given to a resident regarding a neighbour issue. It was also passed to the Sussex Police Rural Crime Team to look at as there were possible rural issues that they could help with.

We are supporting a resident with an issue that they are having with their landlord and advising them the best way we can.

A resident was concerned regarding a vulnerable person and young person. They were signposted to the appropriate agencies for safeguarding and we will continue to give support where required.

A resident found a knife in Cleveland Gardens on a bench which was given to us to dispose of. We are very thankful this didn't get into the wrong hands or indeed a small child may have found it. The knife has been disposed of in the knife bin at Horsham Police Station.



We work various shifts on weekends and weekdays between the hours of 0800am and 9pm. However, this is subject to change and dependent on the needs of the parish.