

# Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

January 2023

<b>Patrol hours TOTAL:</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>ASB incidents TOTAL:</b>	<b>10</b>
Foot (high visibility)	92	Noise	0
Vehicle	25	Neighbours	0
<b>Notices/warnings TOTAL:</b>	<b>3</b>	Driving/Vehicles/Bikes	6
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Alcohol	0
Yellow card warning	3	Crim Dam/ Crime reassurance	4
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0		
Parking alert	0	<b>Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Police reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>9</b>	Fly tipping / flyposting	1
Phone (including 101 and 999)	1	Graffiti	0
Email	2	Dog fouling	0
Intelligence report	4	Litter	2
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	11
Verbal	2	Hazards	0
<b>Media reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Community events attended</b>	<b>5</b>
Press release / Community magazines	1	<b>School Contact</b>	<b>6</b>
Social Media	8	<b>Youth engagement</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Admin</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Vulnerable people welfare checks</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Signposting</b>	<b>9</b>		

## 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 Roads Gardens

**LSRG** - Lower Station Road Recreation Grounds

**MOP** - Member of the Public

## ASB

After the previous criminal damage in the public toilets in Mill Way, we have been patrolling regularly to check the toilet area and deter further issues.

Unfortunately, there has been further damage in one of the toilets which was completely blocked up with paper etc and even plunging the toilet didn't clear the blockage. When we see a group of young people all going into the toilet together we will, and have been, opening the door and this will continue until the damage stops. This has been reported to the police by the Parish Council and the local PCSO can also focus their patrols around the area of the anti-social behaviour (ASB).

When we checked the toilets on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January we found that the first toilet had been used to smoke a bong which had been left behind, and the middle toilet which had only been fixed that morning was flooding again. So, to prevent any further issues we locked the toilets early. Which is not great for the residents of Billingshurst however, it was only about 45 minutes before the toilets self-lock for the evening and we felt that this was the best option.

It has been reported to us that there has been ASB and some young people have been smoking cannabis around the shops by Jengers Passage in the early evening. We will patrol the area as often as we can and have asked that the issue is also reported to the police to inform them of the issue. The shop proprietor has now been spoken to in person and they have already informed the Weald as they recognised two of the young people as students. They have our numbers so will contact us if there any further issues and police are aware as well. Jengers Mead and Jengers Passage will be an area we will patrol and monitor regularly over the next few weeks.

There have been many reports regarding a man begging outside Sainsburys. The man is known to us and the police so he will be monitored and moved on. We have contacted the relevant agencies to make them aware of what is happening to get the support that he obviously requires. We have contacted an agency who has worked with the man before, and they will offer him some support around some of the apparent issues he is having. PCSOs have been down to Sainsbury's and have spoken to him regarding the begging. There have been quite a few sightings of the man who has been seen begging by members of the public who have been advised to report to the police for it to be logged. The man is subject to conditions which prevent him from being in the area for the purposes for begging.

The library's banner was broken by young people on the evening of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January at about 19.30hrs. From the CCTV footage, there were three young males sitting on the bench. They found an item of clothing from somewhere and had great fun putting over their heads and thinking they were ninja warriors. It is thought that perhaps the T shirt came from the floor adjacent to the clothing bin which must have been soaking wet from the rain, plus any animals who needed to go wee. The faces are blurred, however two of them had quite identifiable tracksuits on and one had a man bag. We will ensure some of our patrols are focused on the area to deter any more issues for the library.

A resident who is next to Cleveland Gardens had a group of 5 young people enter their back garden by an open gate. They climbed onto the garage, but were chased by the owner of the property. The young people ended up jumping from the garage into Cleveland Gardens. The resident felt it was just boys being boys however, although there was no ill intent meant, it is still trespass. The resident has now shut and locked the gate to prevent any further problems.

## [Parking/Vehicles](#)

Parking outside the school is always an issue, however one individual decided it was a good idea to reverse onto the pavement in Carpenters where parents and children were standing. When parents spoke to him about this he gave a mouthful of abuse. He did the same to another resident who was walking back from the school. This has been reported to Operation Crackdown for their attention and DVLA for no tax. We have also forwarded this information to the local PCSO for their information and attention.

We are also working alongside the CEOs to try and cut down on those vehicles parking illegally.

We have reported 6 vehicles to Operation Crackdown for parking illegally in the village and one of those was reported for no car tax.

## [Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti](#)

A large number of Nox bottles were found in the Jengers Mead carpark behind Coombe Hill which has been reported to the police to make them aware. No more cannisters have been found in the last two weeks.

The bins behind Jengers Mead have a large amount of waste including food waste all over the floors by the bins. This was reported to the appropriate agency to be cleaned up to prevent any environmental issues such as mice and rats. **Update:** the area around the bins has now been cleared.

## [Community Engagement/Events/Meetings](#)

We had a lovely time at a Quiz afternoon on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at Osmund Court. We are always made welcome by the staff and the residents plus Julie and her Quiz partner Jean came 1<sup>st</sup> alongside Penny.

We held a Warden Drop-In the foyer of Lidl's on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January and had quite a few positive engagements with the community. We gave out several of our leaflets to the shoppers going into the shop and one of our lovely residents came along to support and bought us some homemade coffee to keep us going.

We went along to the Rosehill Resident's Association coffee morning to have a chat with the residents and see if there are any problems that they wished to discuss. However, on this occasion the main topic of conversation was Harry and Meghan, and it seems everyone agreed about their thoughts about the book and TV interviews. Thankfully there was nothing else concerning the residents currently, which was good news.

The very first Warm Space was a great success, with about 15 people coming together to have a cup of tea/coffee, with lots of chatting and laughter. Age UK and WRVS came along to give advice to those that needed it. Thank you to Billingshurst Parish Council and The Billingshurst Centre for opening its doors for such a brilliant initiative.



We had a wet and slightly blustery walk with the Healthy Horsham walkers, it certainly blew the cobwebs away that's for sure. Ending with a coffee and chat, again with no concerns or issues that we could help with.

We had a meeting with Sheri and Helen from Sussex Clubs for Young People (SCYP) and Gareth Miller from Renegades to discuss how we can try and have some more youth activities in Billingshurst. There are lots of things to consider so we and SYCP will be looking at this together.

Billigreen and the Wardens had a litter pick along the path that leads to Jubilee Fields where litter has been thrown into the bramble areas and has been difficult to see until now. I have to say the ladies managed to get themselves over the fencing and cleared the area amazingly well even though at times they were in precarious positions. It would be nice if people did not throw their rubbish in places such as these, as the litter was very difficult to get to and it causes so much damage to the wildlife in the area and the environment. So please, take your rubbish to a bin and leave the lovely countryside as clean and as beautiful as you found it.



## 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 the 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 estate both of which have previously had issues.

## Older, vulnerable people and Youth

We have been continuing to make doorstep visits to check residents' Careline and smoke alarms. Whilst there we also check that the resident doesn't have any other welfare issues that we can help with, especially with the cold weather and the cost-of-living crisis. Anyone that we do meet that requires further help, we always refer to the supporting agencies who have the experience to guide them through the appropriate channels. We also go back and revisit the resident a couple of weeks later to check that they are ok and getting the help that they need.

We were contacted by another agency to check on the welfare of an elderly person in the community, who a family member had been unable to contact. Unfortunately, talking to neighbours we found that they had passed away a couple of months before. The family member was then contacted to let them know.

We have been supporting an elderly person in the community who has been quite poorly. Although they are now recovered, they were finding they were feeling lonely. They were signposted to local groups and activities that they could join including, the Monday Club at the St Marys Rooms, the Warm Space at the Billingshurst centre and Kings Head and the other activities at the Billingshurst Centre.

The Boxing Programme has resumed at the Weald School, we had a very good attendance and the young people were very pleased to see the Boxing back again as well as their coaches Matt, Alfie and Tyler. We have also had some new people join the programme and they appeared to have enjoyed themselves.

The school contacted us regarding two missing students who they were very concerned about. We focussed our patrol on looking for the two missing young people, liaising with the railway station and with other wardens for them to keep an eye out for them. It is believed they got on a train but at the time of writing we are unsure which way they were heading. Police had already been informed by the school and so had BTP. **Update:** Both students were found by police in the early hours of the morning, both were safe and sound, albeit quite a long way from home.

## Dog related issues.

The main issue is dog fouling in the Billingshurst area, which we are looking into. However, the main thing is that if you have a dog then pick up after it and place the bags in a bin or dog bin. We are seeing a lot of trees, hedges, fences etc being decorated by bags of dog poo which is not very nice and is definitely not good for the wildlife and environment.

## Cycling

### Parish Specific/Other/Railway, social media/press

It has been reported to us that young people are using the toilets on the station platform to smoke cannabis. This has been reported to BTP by staff, however, as part of our patrols we will go to the station and check the toilets as regularly as we can.

We have been able to give advice and support to someone in the Billingshurst community who is having an issue with housing. They have also been signposted to other agencies regarding other matters that they require professional help with.

There was a fair-sized branch covering one side of Lordings Road which Julie managed to move safely to the side of the road before promptly dropping it on her foot! There may have been some rather unusual language that was said under her breath.

A resident reported a telephone call that they had regarding an Amazon renewal and the withdrawal of £90 from the resident's account. The resident promptly put the phone down and blocked the number, which was an 01403 code. We reported the issue to Action Fraud to make them aware and asked that the resident reported the call on 101 so it could be logged with the police.

A resident contacted us about a strange incident whereby they found several shopping trolley coins by their car. When looking at the ring doorbell footage, a male was seen taking a photo of the house. This was reported to police by the resident and Neighbourhood Watch to ensure other residents are aware. We visited the resident for reassurance purposes and will patrol the area as often as we can.

We Tweet and put statuses out on Facebook. This month has been about the Boxing, Warm Space, Bushcraft, plus sharing of other agencies' posts.

We put an article in the Village Tweet every month. This month it was about the Boxing, Warm Space and our Warden drop-ins.

We went to the Men's Shed meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January. It is good to see that things are now moving along nicely and that they are now able to be doing something practical in getting the Shed underway. It was a lovely positive meeting, and hopefully by Spring the sheds will be up and operational.

**“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”**