

Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

July 2023

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| Patrol hours TOTAL: | 103 | ASB incidents TOTAL: | 8 |
| Foot (high visibility) | 88 | Noise | 0 |
| Vehicle | 15 | Neighbours | 0 |
| Notices/warnings TOTAL: | 3 | Driving/Vehicles/Bikes/E-scooters | 8 |
| Fixed Penalty Notice | 0 | Alcohol | 0 |
| Yellow card warning | 0 | | |
| Community Protection Warning/Notice | 0 | | |
| Parking alert | 3 | Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL: | 18 |
| Police reports TOTAL: | 6 | Fly tipping / flyposting | 2 |
| Phone (including 101 and 999) | 1 | Graffiti | 0 |
| Verbal | 1 | Dog Fouling | 0 |
| Intelligence report | 4 | Litter | 0 |
| E-CINS (multi-agency reporting) | 0 | Drug Litter | 16 |
| | | Hazards | 0 |
| Media reports TOTAL: | 19 | Community events attended | 4 |
| Press release / Community magazines | 3 | School Contact | 9 |
| Social Media | 16 | Youth engagement | 80+ |
| Admin | 12 | Reports to DVLA | 0 |
| Vulnerable people welfare checks | 16 | Reports to Operation Crackdown | 10 |
| Signposting | 12 | | |

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

There has been some damage to play equipment in the Amblehurst Green Estate, this has been reported by a resident to the management company for that area.

We have received many reports regarding young people smoking cannabis in various areas so we have been patrolling the areas regularly.

It was reported to us that someone was seen with a knife; police had been called and we were in the area. However, there was no-one in the area when we got there but the police had been given descriptions of three young males by the informant and we left the area for them to continue their search.

We have received reports that young people are accessing the rear of the GP Surgery via Bowling Lane in order to smoke cannabis. This is causing damage to the fence between the surgery and the houses and has been reported to police by the residents. We have been patrolling the area for reassurance purposes.

Parking/Vehicles

We have reported 10 vehicles for parking illegally/causing an obstruction in and around the village.

We have given out 6 crime prevention flyers to those unoccupied vehicles that have windows left open. The leaflets give the owners of the vehicles information and advice to prevent thefts from motor vehicles.

Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti

We came across some fly tipping in West Chilton Lane which has been reported to Horsham District Council for removal.



We have come across lots of empty drug bags in Manor Fields, Newman Way, Challen Street and Cherry Tree Close play areas and also in Station Road Community Gardens. All these have been reported on the

West Sussex County Council website. Patrols in all these areas will be continued to engage with the young people concerned.

[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 Drop-In with Bone Canis in Jubilee Fields on Tuesday 11th July. We had several dog owners who came to speak with Mark and Holly about their dogs. Advice, and lots of treats, were given. We will be holding another event with Bone Canis on 5th September in Jubilee Fields.



We were invited to The Weald School Career Speed Networking, it worked very much like speed dating (so I'm told).

It was an opportunity for year 9 pupils to talk to different people in various roles i.e. police officer, engineer, author, forestry, army, HR and many more. For 10 minutes we were asked questions about our job, who we work for, what do we do, what are our powers, what jobs have we done before, what qualifications we need for the role and so on. After the 10 mins we moved to the next table and the same questions were asked again. In all we moved to 12 tables. It was a brilliant idea and the young people appeared to get a lot from it. We found that we have some budding pilots, engineers, IT and software specialists, those that would like to join the army and work with animals. However, one young person who felt sorry for us said they would like to do work experience with us - so all is not lost.

On Friday 21st July we held a Road Safety Event outside Billingshurst Primary School. The event is to promote responsible road use and stop/prevent the suffering that results from road crashes, deaths and injuries.

We were supported by the Billingshurst Fire Service, the Highways Department, the Safer Roads Partnership, Community Speed Watch, a Civil Enforcement Officer and Ken Peters, Chairman of Billingshurst Parish Council alongside Parish Councillor Sarah Wilson. We would like to thank you all for your help and support on this very successful event and hope to see you in November for the next one.



On Wednesday 26th July we held the first of the football sessions which we are holding during the summer holidays for 7 years upwards. The sessions are being held in Lower Station Road Recreation Ground on Wednesdays (except 2nd August) from 12.00 – 2-pm.

The young people that attended had a brilliant time - Barry went on to help and I was the first aider for any injuries and also a cheer leader. The next one is on Wednesday 9th August at above time and location.



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 Green Estate - both of which have previously had issues all of which are patrolled on a regular basis.

We are still conducting the dog poo patrols and spraying the offending excrement with paint to prevent others treading in it and to highlight the issue. We have not seen anyone who hasn't picked up their dog's mess when out on our patrol. If we were to observe this, then we would deal with it in the appropriate manner.

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.

Older, Vulnerable People and Youth

We have liaised with two residents who live in Coneyhurst, who were subjected to a nasty aggravated burglary. The couple live in two caravans just off the road - one of them sculpts pieces of art from wood. This incident has caused a lot of anxiety and fear and, therefore, the couple would like to move to another piece of land. We have tried to help by contacting various agencies and landowners with no luck yet. We will continue to check on the couple regularly to ensure they are ok and offer help where we can.

We are liaising with housing and mental health workers regarding a resident in Billingshurst who appears to require some mental health intervention. Meanwhile, we are checking up on the resident as often as we can to ensure that they don't need more urgent assistance.

We were asked if we could move on a large group of young people so we went and spoke to the group, and they moved on with no issues.

We were made aware of a resident who maybe in need of some help due to mental health issues, we contacted the mental health worker responsible for the person and requested a visit to check on the welfare of the person.

An issue has arisen again whereby a vulnerable person with disabilities has been targeted by young people. On this occasion they were abusive towards the person, and even though the person was visibly upset, they followed and continued frightening them. This has been reported to the police by the family. This type of incident is a hate crime and, as such, is a criminal offence. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property. Therefore, as it is a repeat offence the young people will be dealt with.

We were contacted by a resident regarding concerns over a female who had been sitting in the area since the early hours of the morning. It was reported that she had been very upset. We went and spoke to the lady and all seemed ok at that time. The ambulance service also arrived and assessed her and the woman left the area just after. We continued to monitor the area in case the lady needed any assistance.

Later in the day we came across the same lady, who by this time was in a very distressed state. A passerby had reported to the police. We sat and talked to the lady and tried to reassure her and, although she was extremely agitated, she did respond fairly well. The police arrived and we believe that she was taken to a place of safety. It was very reassuring to know that people were very concerned about the lady, wanted to help and were ensuring that we were ok as well. This just shows what a brilliant, kind and caring community Billingshurst is.

We were contacted by a resident regarding help with a family member. We were able to signpost them to Age UK for additional help and advice.

Dog Related Issues.

We had a Warden Drop-In with Bone Canis who are dog training and behaviour experts, there is nothing too big or too small that they can't help you with. Mark and Holly were absolutely brilliant - so brilliant, in fact, that we are having another event with them on Tuesday 5th September between 12 midday and 2pm. They will also be bringing some items for agility training. So, if you would like your dog to have a go at this then please come along. We will be in the field behind the Pavilion and we look forward to seeing you there.

Cycling

There have been some questions regarding the riding of E-scooters and what Community Wardens are able to do about this issue.

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles, so are subject to the same legal requirements as a motor vehicle which are:

MOT, licensing, insurance, plus drink, drug driving legislation.

If seen by police they will use the Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, which allows police to seize vehicles being used on the road without an insurance policy or driving licence.

E-scooters can only be used on private land with the permission of the landowner.

Wardens do not have the above powers to deal with this - only police can - however, we do speak to the young people who use the E-scooters when we see them and explain the law to them. If you see someone riding an E-scooter, then please report it on 101 or go onto the Sussex Police website and report on there.

We have given 3 warnings to people riding E-scooters and have also contacted the police to try and get their help in dealing with this matter.

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 approached by a dad who told us his daughter and friend were missing, after taking a description we started to look for them. After about 20 mins we were informed that the girls had turned up safe and sound.

It appears that vehicle break-ins continue in some areas, including Sadlers Close, Forge Way, Rosehill and other roads in Amblehurst Green Estate. The only advice we can give is please lock your vehicles immediately after parking up and do not leave any precious items in the vehicle. Please ring the police on 101 to report the incident, or 999 if it's happening at the time, and hopefully the person/persons doing this will be apprehended as soon as possible. We went to visit residents who had someone try their car doors and the ring doorbell picked up the male quite well. We have encouraged the residents to contact the police on 101 and to send in the footage.

We had a meeting with Phillip Day, one of the Parish Councillors for Billingshurst, to discuss youth provision for the area. Lots of ideas came out of the meeting, including the thoughts of young people we had spoken to. Most have said that they would like a place that they can go and sit with their friends, play pool, listen to music, play X-Box (or something similar) and just have time out. There are lots of things to consider, however it was a very positive discussion.

We came across a young female who was crying in her car so we stopped to check if she needed any help. She assured she was ok and when we went back 30 mins later the vehicle and driver had gone.

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.