

Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

July 2024

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| Patrol hours TOTAL: | 92 | ASB incidents TOTAL: | 20 |
| Foot (high visibility) | 74 | Noise | 0 |
| Vehicle | 18 | Neighbours | 0 |
| Notices/warnings TOTAL: | 8 | Driving/Vehicles/Bikes | 20 |
| Fixed Penalty Notice | 0 | Alcohol | 0 |
| Yellow card warning | 0 | | |
| Community Protection Warning/Notice | 0 | | |
| Parking alert | 8 | Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL: | 17 |
| Police reports TOTAL: | 8 | Fly tipping / flyposting | 0 |
| Phone (including 101 and 999) | 0 | Graffiti | 1 |
| Email | 3 | Dog fouling | 0 |
| Intelligence report | 2 | Litter | 0 |
| E-CINS (multi-agency reporting) | 0 | Drug litter | 15 |
| Verbal | 3 | Hazards | 1 |
| Media reports TOTAL: | 14 | Community events attended | 5 |
| Press release / Community magazines | 0 | School Contact | 4 |
| Social Media | 14 | Youth engagement | 70+ |
| Admin | 14 | Reports to DVLA | 1 |
| Vulnerable people welfare checks | 9 | Reports to Operation Crackdown | 8 |
| 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

SRCG - Station Road Community Gardens

LSRG - Lower Station Road Recreation Ground

MOP - Member of the Public

HDC – Horsham District Council

There was a report regarding a young person placing a plastic barrier across Stane Street just by the Weald School during the late evening. They then drove their vehicle and reversed into the Cedars and turned their headlights off. This could have caused a nasty accident but is also a little suspicious, obviously it could also be a prank which could have gone badly wrong.

Reports are still coming in about young people using catapults and ball bearings. Please make sure any sightings or incidents are reported to the police so it can be logged on their system.

We received a report from a resident about a drunk male close to the Primary School. We conducted an area search for him but didn't find him.

We have had many complaints about the increase in E-scooters in Billingshurst and that they are going extremely fast both on footpaths and roads, without concern for pedestrians and in some cases road users. The law around E-scooters is clear - you can buy one however you can't ride them on a public road, pavement or cycle lane. The only place an E-scooter can be used is on private land. The reason this is the case is because E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles, so they are treated in the same way as a motor vehicle and are subject to the same legal requirements such as:

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

The scooters can reach speeds of up to 30mph, there is no noise from an engine, lights, or other any other methods to alert road users of their presence, thus making E-scooters a danger to riders, road users and pedestrians.

If the riders are seen riding the Scooters on a road, then police can seize the scooter under Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act, this may result in the rider being reported for traffic offences.

We, as Wardens, have no powers regarding E-scooters but have on many occasions given advice regarding the use of the scooter to the people riding them.

If you are having an issue with the use of E-scooters, please inform the police on 101 to make them aware.

We were informed about two young people who were seen throwing objects at cars in Amblehurst Green. On our arrival we saw one young man who fitted the description given of one of the boys. After a quick talk he told us it was sweets that had been thrown at the cars and that both boys had been called home by their parents after they had seen it on social media. Words of advice were given and off he went home.

[Parking and Vehicles](#)

There have been 7 vehicles reported to Operation Crackdown for parking illegally in the village.

Two vehicles have been reported to Operation Crackdown for driving offences.

We have issued 8 vehicles with parking alerts for parking issues, two of which for obstruction of the pavement.

One vehicle was reported to DVLA for no tax on behalf of a resident.

We informed a resident about Operation Crackdown and gave them advice on how to report vehicles in the future.

We came across a vehicle that had stopped with their hazard lights flashing on the A272, just before the junction where the tip is. We stopped and spoke to the driver who said they were lost, so we directed them away from the main road and into the road leading into Jubilee Fields where we were able to safely give directions to the driver.

A vehicle was parked in a strange place with a male apparently asleep, so we stopped and checked on his welfare. He was ok just having a sleep after a long drive in the heat so stopped to rest.

[Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti, Community Engagement/Events/Meetings](#)

There has been some fly tipping in the car park by Cherry Tree Close play area. This had been reported to the housing association who owns it. However, the Parish Council's Environmental Operatives have cleared the area of the mess.

There was some graffiti on the bus stop in Station Road which we cleaned off with our graffiti wipes.

The Horsham Healthy Walkers invited us to their Summer Meal. The company and food were amazing thank you so much for inviting us and thank you to the Kings Head for your hospitality. A special thank you to Kelly, Jamie and Paul for all your hard work.



A few of the Horsham Healthy Walkers and the Wardens went on a longer walk in the Billingshurst countryside ending with a lovely lunch together. It was a nice afternoon, and the food was lovely, thank you to Fran and her wonderful team.



We held a Road Safety event on Tuesday 23rd July opposite the Billingshurst Primary School. Unfortunately, the school had closed earlier than we expected. However, we had a few passers by who stopped to say hello and talk to the various partners we had with us: West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, roads policing, police, highways, CEOs, Speed Watch and Billingshurst Community Responders.



Eleven pieces of drug litter have been found in various parks, by benches and behind the Billingshurst Centre. These are mainly empty drug bags that would have contained cannabis.

We also came across the packs below; these are gummies and a vape that have been infused with a THC which is the main psychoactive component in cannabis. It can come in various forms, such as gummies, chocolates, baked goods and vapes.



Patrols (foot/visible and car)

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 see if there are any issues we can help with.

We also conduct car patrols for the purposes of fly tipping and to cover the outer areas of Billingshurst such as Adversane and Five Oaks. We conduct these patrols twice a week so that we can keep a close eye on the areas that tend to suffer with fly tipping.

We go out on foot patrol on a daily basis as this helps to engage better with the community. We have been going into the parks to check for any damage to equipment and talk to anyone that is in the park. Our walks around Jubilee Fields are always pleasant as we see the dog walkers and now the skate park has opened, we see how much the people of Billingshurst love it. It's great to see how it is being used and all those using it are making sure everyone gets their turn. It's a great amenity and it is already loved by those who use it.

When the new school term starts, we will be going back in to patrol at the Weald School at lunchtime. For the first few weeks we will be going into the year 7 area so that we can see how they are getting on from their transition from the Primary School. Also, we meet those students who had come from other primary schools outside of Billingshurst.

We have continued our patrols outside the Billingshurst Primary School, and it is great to see that parents are starting to park both legally and safely. However, it is important not to park on corners/junctions, over residents' driveways or on double yellow lines. The Wardens and the CEOs will be patrolling regularly so please keep all the children safe by parking legally.

Our 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). If there any areas that you feel may need patrols, please let us know.

billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk

Barry – 07795 051516

Julie – 07795 051529

Please try both phones if one of us doesn't answer, as one of us may be on a rest day or annual leave or email us details as above.

Older, Vulnerable People and Youth

We make doorstep visits to check residents' Careline and smoke alarms. Whilst there, we also check to see if there are any other welfare issues that we can help with or signpost to the various agencies that are available and who have the experience to guide residents 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 came across a male when we were on patrol who looked very down, we spoke to him for a quite a while and offered help and advice. He said he appreciated the fact that we stopped and spoke to him and now knows where we are located and will come and see us now and then.

We were invited to the Weald School for their Enrichment Day which we spent with Year 9s who learnt about what defines a community and how we can make it a better place to live in, whether it's a place like Billingshurst, a school etc. Then each group went on a litter pick; the first group went to Station Road Community Gardens and the Weald School sports ground in Luxford Way, the next group went to Jubilee Fields and the third group went to Lower Station Road Recreation Ground. Most of the students enjoyed the litter pick and engaging with dog walkers and other residents of Billingshurst. We are sure they made a good impression on those who saw them at work.

We were contacted by the Weald School and asked to assist with the removal of an ex-pupil from an event. The young person willingly left with us and the event continued without any further issues.

We made a call to neighbouring council about a concern we had regarding the welfare of an elderly resident who comes to Billingshurst quite a lot.

A vehicle was parked in the Billingshurst Centre car park and we found someone sleeping in the car. After a chat they told us they were feeling very low due to issues with housing. They were offered a hot drink which was declined and after a few minutes the vehicle had gone. Due to the nature of the conversation, we had concerns for the welfare of the person involved and we contacted the police who put out an alert to stop the vehicle and check on the occupant. Later that day we saw the vehicle and managed to see where the person went, we updated the police and hope that they managed to catch up with them and check that all was well.

Dog Related Issues

None have been reported to us this month. Please look at the link below as this will give you some guidance on reporting any issues.

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/reprt/dog-attacks>

Cycling

None this month.

Parish Specific/Other/Railway, Social Media/Press

We use social media quite a lot to advertise our Warden drop-ins, Parent Support Socials, Games Café and The Journey – The Autism and SEN group, among many other things as well.

On Monday 29th July we conducted a litter pick with some members of Billigreen. It was a boiling hot morning, however, five of us split up - two went down the bypass footpath towards Hilland Road and the footpath into the industrial estate, the other three went along the footpath into Jubilee Fields and into the car park. We picked up five bags of rubbish between us. Sorry there are no 'photos as we were all hot and sweaty messes afterwards. The rubbish was the usual; bottles, cans, paper, dog poo bags and one broken Sainsburys basket.

Our second coffee morning at Adversane Hall went well although we are small in numbers at the moment. However, we did not stop talking and there was lots of laughter. We have been told that next time we will have a few more residents coming along to join us.



The next Adversane coffee morning is being held on Tuesday 13th August at Adversane Hall between 10.30am and 12.00 noon. Come and say hello and have a cuppa and biscuits or maybe toast if you wish

The SEN and Autism group was held on Monday 15th July and there were lots of supportive and encouraging discussions between the group.

The next Journey – SEN and Autism Group is on Monday 23rd September at The Depot, 83A High Street opposite Rhodes the shoe repairer between 9.30 and 10.30am. (The doors will be open from 9am so if you want to pop in on your way home then please do)

The next Games Café is on Friday 16th August between 3.30 and 5.30pm at The Depot. This is for all ages and if you would like to bring your own games with you then please do.

We held our Warden Drop-In on Saturday 20th July in Jengers Mead. We had a few residents come to speak to us and there were no major issues at the present time from those we spoke to which is good news. Plus, we had the company of a lovely 6-year-old young lady who kept us amused with her antics. The rain held off until the very end, so we were extremely lucky.

The next Warden Drop-In is being held on Thursday 15th August at the Newman Way play area in Amblehurst Green between 4 and 6pm. So, if you have any community issues you would like to discuss then please come and see us.

We work various shifts on weekends and weekdays between the hours of 8am and 9pm. However, this is subject to change and dependent on the needs of the parish.