

# Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

June 2023

<b>Patrol hours TOTAL:</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>ASB incidents TOTAL:</b>	<b>7</b>
Foot (high visibility)	88	Noise	0
Vehicle	14	Neighbours	1
<b>Notices/warnings TOTAL:</b>	<b>6</b>	Driving/Vehicles/Bikes	5
Fixed Penalty Notice	1	Alcohol	1
Yellow card warning	0		
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0		
Parking alert	5	<b>Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Police reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>10</b>	Fly tipping / flyposting	0
Phone (including 101 and 999)	2	Graffiti	3
Verbal	3	Dog fouling	2
Intelligence report	5	Litter	0
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	10
		Hazards	0
<b>Media reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Community events attended</b>	<b>8</b>
Press release / Community magazines	1	<b>School Contact</b>	9
Social Media	15	<b>Youth engagement</b>	90+
<b>Admin</b>	14	<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	1
<b>Vulnerable people welfare checks</b>	9	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	18
<b>Signposting</b>	5		

## 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

There were reports that a group of approximately 9 young people were hanging around the library and people felt uncomfortable going in. As we arrived, they were heading away and they all stopped to speak to me before leaving. We spoke to the library staff, who had also made an online report to the police. There was evidence that they may have been drinking alcohol as they left empty beer bottles. It is also reported that they were going into the toilets three at a time.

A shop had an issue with a male that had been told he was banned. He caused a scene and threatened to smash their window. This has also been reported to the police for information.

There has been more damage to the Men's Shed in Station Road Community Gardens. This wonderful community initiative is for everyone to enjoy; including those who are doing the damage. We have been patrolling when on duty, as often as we are able. If anyone hears or sees anything please contact the police and also us the Wardens, as if we are on duty we can go and see what is happening.

Some young people were reported to have been on the roof of Meadows Wellbeing premises which was reported to the police by a resident.

There was a report that a window was broken in Little East Street on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, this has been reported to police by the owner of the property plus CCTV has also been sent. We have visited the business owner and gave advice and support for crime reassurance purposes.

There have been further attempts to damage a broken window in Little East Street, this time by two different young people. The school have been asked if they can identify the young people involved as one still had their school uniform on. We will speak to the parents and the young people involved to give words of advice regarding their behaviour.

A bin was set on fire in Station Road Community Gardens. It appears a small tree was uprooted, the roots set alight and placed in the bin. Thankfully we were able to put the fire out without any issues, this was reported to the Fire Service, so they include this area on their patrols.



There have been reports of young people going to Daux Wood and having BBQs/lighting fires, which if not looked after properly with the dry grass etc could be catastrophic and could cause a lot of damage to the surrounding areas. We patrol as regularly as we can to check the area, however we have informed the Fire Service so they can add this to their patrols. Police have also been made aware.



We have received a report from the Amblehurst Green area that young people have been very noisy, loud and generally just being anti-social. They have also swung the swing and wrapped it around the top rail. Whilst this may be low level ASB to some, when this happens night after night then it becomes a problem. We patrol the area when we are on duty and the police have been also made aware.

## Parking/Vehicles

We put a parking alert on a vehicle that was causing an obstruction to other drivers who were trying to get out onto Coombehill. This vehicle has now moved to a safer parking space.

A vehicle has been reported to Operation Crackdown regarding the use of a 'phone whilst driving. A report was made to DVLA regarding no tax or MOT.

Another vehicle has been reported to Operation Crackdown because the driver was using a mobile 'phone whilst driving.

We have reported 17 vehicles to Operation Crackdown for illegal parking in the village.

One of the vehicles that has been reported to Operation Crackdown was given a Fixed Charge Notice by a Civil Enforcement Officer for parking on double yellow lines.

A vehicle was reported to Operation Crackdown for careless driving.

One vehicle which was parked in a car park was left with a window open. We put a crime prevention leaflet into the car. We are currently experiencing thefts from motor vehicles in the area.

Nine further vehicles who had the car window left open had crime prevention leaflets put into the car.

We also gave crime prevention advice to the owner of a vehicle who had left their keys in the ignition, and a resident who had left their keys in the lock of the front door.



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

We have reported two lots of graffiti in Station Road Community Gardens to Horsham District Council for removal. This was done; however, we have had to report further graffiti which appears to have been done by younger teenagers from the pictures they are drawing/ spraying.

We are finding lots of drug litter including empty drugs bags, balloons and in some cases NOX bottles in areas such as Newman's Way park area on the Amblehurst Green estate, Manor Fields, Jubilee Fields, Station Road Community Gardens, Jengers Mead, etc. This is reported to West Sussex County Council who map the areas, and to the police. It also enables us to focus our patrols on the areas that need us most.

We went to assist with the Community Gardening at Station Road Community Gardens; however, we must have got the wrong day. So instead, decided to do a litter pick. The main issue is around the green shelter, but the benches do have some litter under them. All in all, it wasn't too bad on this occasion.



## Community Engagement/Events/Meetings

With the success of the Warm Space Coffee Morning, the Parish Council and the Billingshurst Centre have now decided to carry on the Coffee Mornings every Friday between 10-midday. Barry and Julie, the Wardens will be there to greet you, so please come along and enjoy the morning with us. We will occasionally have different agencies/ groups to come and chat with those attending. We will be inviting the fire crew from Billingshurst to come back and have a cuppa with us all. We have now introduced toast and crumpets for those who would like them, however, if this is successful then it may move onto bacon butties etc.

On Thursday there is a Healthy Horsham Walk we meet at The Billingshurst Library at 11am and go for a walk, with lots of chatter and laughter. Then after we all go for a coffee and further chats and laughter. If you are interested, please come along and see what you think. The group is growing in numbers as more of the community are joining in. It is a very friendly group and no-one gets left behind.

We assisted at the Weald with painting large boards, for the students GCSE Art exams which was great fun and there was pizza, which was very nice indeed.



We visited the community larder today, to say hello to the volunteers and to the residents waiting to go in.

The Men's Shed is now coming along nicely - the electric will be going in soon and then the doors and the windows. If anyone who is interested in becoming part of the Men's Shed Group, then I would highly recommend you go and take a look, as new members are welcome.

A member of the Men's Shed asked if we could put something on social media to see if anyone had a fridge they could have for the shed. We asked if any members of the community could offer a fridge and within two days the Men's Shed now has a new fridge donated by an amazing resident of Billingshurst

We had a meeting with Sheri Birch from Sussex Clubs for Young People. We discussed a few things including going out with Sheri on some detached work around Billingshurst in the next couple of weeks.

Unfortunately, we have heard that Sussex Clubs for Young People have ceased trading and all clubs and activities have now closed, which is so very sad for those young people who attended The Depot and for Sheri and her team who worked so hard in our community. A big thank you to all the Sussex Clubs for

Young People team, for all their hard work and commitment to the young people in Billingshurst and the wider Sussex area.

The Billingshurst Show was brilliant, the sun was shining and the community of Billingshurst came out in force. We had lots of chats with residents and young people about various topics. It was lovely to see the community of Billingshurst come together and enjoy a really lovely day.



We joined the local PCSOs on their street briefing outside Sainsbury's. It wasn't busy as we had hoped, however, a few residents did stop and chatted with both the PCSOs, and me and Barry.

Derwent Lodge invited us to their BBQ and, although the weather wasn't very nice, the staff made sure that the residents had a wonderful time. The food was very lovely and to top it all off we all had a good sing-song. Thank you to all the staff at Derwent Lodge who made the afternoon such fun for everyone.

The new Chairman of Billingshurst Parish Council came to the Friday Coffee Morning and chatted with all the ladies. They asked Ken lots of questions about what being Chairman is all about. Hopefully Ken will come back and see us all again soon. Also, Penny from the Prevention Assessment Team (talking to Ken the Chairman of Billingshurst Parish Council in the 2<sup>nd</sup> picture below) came along to talk about the PAT and what their role is. This includes providing information, education, advice and support to enable independence and self-care, reducing the need for patients being admitted into hospital. It was very interesting to hear all about this worthwhile initiative.



## 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.

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 and they can also get to know who we are.

We had a meeting with the Pulborough Wardens about a joint project that we are all looking at regarding a Youth Forum. We will be looking at either a joint forum between Billingshurst and Pulborough or separate ones depending on the numbers of young people who want to become involved. A Youth Forum gives a voice to young people enabling them to express their thoughts and ideas and discuss topics that are important to them.

We decided to go on a rural walk to meet some of the rural residents and farm owners. It probably wasn't the best idea to go out in the middle of the day in temperatures of 30c. However, we spoke to a number of people out for a walk and saw a few of our Billingshurst young people enjoying the sun. We met a Farm Manager who told us about a few incidents that occurred, some of which he had reported to police and some he didn't. He had us in fits of laughter about the things he has seen including a naked male running towards the canal wearing nothing but a straw hat, plus other funny stories which can't be mentioned on here. It was a good day and then we went back to go on our general vehicle patrols covering all of the Billingshurst area including the parks, Amblehurst Green, Honeysuckle Drive and the surrounding areas, the areas where we are aware anti-social behaviour occurs.

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June we had Horsham District Councillor John Trollope with us. Firstly, we went on a foot patrol around a couple of the parks, then around a couple of areas where ASB tends to occur. Then we went on a car patrol to show John the areas we patrol most days/evenings including Amblehurst Green, Jengers Mead, High Street, Library carpark, Coombehill and surrounding roads, Honeysuckle Drive and Longhurst Drive, Penfold Grange, Newbridge Road West and Jubilee Fields. On our way back through the village we were flagged down by a group of young people who reported an issue a young boy was having and that another young person had taken some items from an unlocked cabinet. It was explained to the young person that this was theft. The young person who had some issues with the young boy was taken home by the group, after putting all the bags of items taken from the cabinet back for us. It was lovely to

see the young people looking after someone in need and how caring they were. The father of the boy was very appreciative, not only of our efforts but to the young boys as well for getting his son home safely.

## 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 cost-of-living crisis. Anyone that we do meet that requires further help is always referred to 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.

The Boxing Programme is going from strength to strength, with more young people joining each week. It's wonderful to see how far they have all come in the last 16 months since it started. The Programme is held at the Weald School in the Dance Studio from 3.30 – 4.30pm and is fully funded by Horsham District Council. It is supported by the Billingshurst Lions who we are extremely grateful to as their donations have been used to help keep the Programme running on a weekly basis.

We located a missing person and contacted police on 101 to inform them. The person is quite vulnerable and is often around in the village. We will keep an eye on him and try and see what other agencies can offer him support.

We have been trying to support someone in the community who has fallen on hard times and have now referred them for further support with an agency that has experience in the issues they are facing.

We were called by members of the public about young people being outside the library smoking cannabis. We arrived a few minutes later and most of the group had gone. We did manage to speak to a couple of the young people and we couldn't smell cannabis on them, however they did admit to being with the other group of young people. Strong words of advice have been given on this occasion - next time we will be visiting their parents.

## Dog Related Issues.

The dog poo patrols are continuing and its disappointing to see how much dog excrement is just left on pavements, in park areas, twittens, etc. It is the dogowner's responsibility to pick up after their dog/s. It isn't a difficult thing to do and ensures that Billingshurst remains a clean and safe place to be.

## Cycling

We have given words of advice to two young people who were riding electric scooters and explained that they are only allowed to be ridden on private property with the landowner's permission and, if seen by police, the scooter can be seized.



## 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 contacted by the school as one of their students had not turned up for an exam and were asked to make a welfare check at the home address. On attending the address, the student was at home, safe and well. The reasons behind the non-attendance were given to the Head of House.

There have been several attempts/thefts from vehicles in the Billingshurst area over last the couple of weeks or so. Some of the vehicles appear to have been unlocked (although this hasn't been confirmed), so please remember to lock your vehicles and take out any items that are valuable/precious to you. Thankfully, there seems to be quite a bit of Ring doorbell footage available so please contact the police so they can come and look at the footage. With all the CCTV footage that is available, it is hoped that someone will be able to identify the person/s committing the crimes.

We were stopped by a member of the staff from Billingshurst Primary School to say a student had gone missing after school. After about a 45-minute search around the area, and at the home address, the child was found safe and sound.

We assisted a motorist who had one of their wing mirrors knocked off by a passing cyclist. Between us we managed to tape the wing mirror back on so that they could get home safely.

**“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”**