

# Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

May 2023

<b>Patrol hours TOTAL:</b>		<b>ASB incidents TOTAL:</b>	
Foot (high visibility)	84	Noise	0
Vehicle	12	Neighbours	1
<b>Notices/warnings TOTAL:</b>		Driving/Vehicles/Bikes	21
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Alcohol	2
Yellow card warning	0		
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0		
Parking alert	2	<b>Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:</b>	
<b>Police reports TOTAL:</b>		Fly tipping / flyposting	3
Phone (including 101 and 999)	0	Graffiti	1
Verbal	3	Dog fouling	1
Intelligence report	3	Litter	0
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	1	Drug litter	8
		Hazards	1
<b>Media reports TOTAL:</b>		<b>Community events attended</b>	<b>7</b>
Press release / Community magazines	2	<b>School Contact</b>	<b>9</b>
Social Media	14	<b>Youth engagement</b>	<b>70+</b>
<b>Admin</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Vulnerable people welfare checks</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Signposting</b>	<b>8</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 Road Community Gardens

**LSRG** - Lower Station Road Recreation Ground

**MOP** - Member of the Public

## ASB

We received a report that young people were in the park behind Carpenters and Cleve Way lighting a BBQ, that the bench had signs of burning and there were lots of matches about. This occurred on Bank Holiday Monday. We will be patrolling the area more frequently and have advised the Fire Service so they can also add the area to their patrols.

A member of the public reported that there were lots of broken beer bottles in the children's play park at Station Road Gardens. The resident picked up what they could to prevent any injury to small children. Extra patrols of all the parks when on lates will be conducted to try and prevent any issues.

There were reports of young people climbing over a fence into the Weald School to access the 4G pitch on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. One young person injured their ankle and were assisted by the Fire Service. This also happened again on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May when a resident reported young people climbing over the fence to get into the Weald. We reported this to the school and the premises team for them to check. We will now be patrolling the Weald more regularly to see if this deters the young people.

A resident has reported that two young people caused damaged to flowers in a hanging basket. CCTV has been obtained for identification purposes so that parents can be informed of their child's behaviour to prevent any further escalation of such behaviour.

There was a report that young people who were in a park in the Amblehurst Green estate area had pulled a resident's dog along by an electric scooter. The dog owner was then verbally abused which in turn frightened their young child so much that they hid in a bush. The resident has reported the incident to the police. We patrol the area of Amblehurst Green as regularly as we can, however, we will keep this incident in mind and will be upping patrols both on foot and in a vehicle to deter any further issues such as this.

A resident has made a report that a group of boys were seen going into one of the public toilets on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. After about 10 minutes they all came out, when a young person went to use the toilet, they came straight back out and went to another toilet. A member of the public said that it smelt heavily of weed (cannabis). We will now be keeping an eye on the toilets again to try and deter the toilets being used for this purpose.

The public toilets have suffered further damage which is costing the Parish Council to repair and these costs will be passed down to the residents. We are patrolling the area as often as we can and challenging the young people who are using the toilets in groups. The local PCSOs will also be assisting with this in order to stop the toilets being used for smoking weed and trying to prevent any further damage to the toilets.

The library has had issues with ASB including damage to some guttering. We advised that this be reported to police via 101 and we will continue our patrols and ask if the PCSOs can help with this when they are on duty.

A resident made us aware about the bins and dog poo bins being turned over in Cleveland's Gardens. There was rubbish and poo bags everywhere so the resident picked up what they could and the rest was picked up by one of the lovely Parish Litter Wardens.

The goal posts in Jubilee Fields have been damaged again, plus lots of broken glass has been picked up by residents. If this behaviour is seen, please contact the football club and police. We often work evenings so please give us a ring as we will come down if we are on duty.

Some garden chairs which had been donated to The Men's Shed were damaged – the legs were sawn off two of the chairs. Also, damage was caused to a wooden bench, there was a small burn mark of the floor of the shed and damage to some of the roof felting which they nailed to the opening of the shed so they couldn't be seen. This is soul-destroying for the members of the Men's Shed, who have worked so hard to get the shed up and running. It now means they will have to stop the work on the shed and get the fencing put up to prevent any further issues.

## Parking/Vehicles

We received a report from a member of the public that a vehicle had driven down East Street and left a piece of sheet metal in the road. This has been reported to prevent it injuring anyone else. Advice was given around reporting speeding and fly tipping. The item was picked up later that day by Horsham District Council (HDC).

We have reported 2 vehicles to Operation Crackdown for driving dangerously and at speed.

Two businesses have been contacted regarding the illegal parking of their business vehicles.

We have reported 15 vehicles to Operation Crackdown for parking illegally/ obstruction in the village and surrounding areas.

A vehicle was reported to Operation Crackdown for speeding and dangerous overtaking of two vehicles; one of which was our warden vehicle.

A vehicle has been reported to be driven dangerously fast in the Marringdean Acres Estate, there is CCTV of the vehicle and it could be seen taking a corner very fast. The area has a lot of children and if a child had been crossing the road, then they would have been hit and the result could have been catastrophic. This has been reported to the police, along with the name of the driver, by a resident so hopefully they will be spoken to at the very least. The vehicle has been seen being driven dangerously all over Billingshurst so will need to be stopped before someone is killed.

## Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti

We are beginning to find small empty clear bags that had contained cannabis in various parks. Therefore, we will be increasing our patrols in those areas.

Whilst on foot patrol we came across several cans of nitrous oxide - usually they come in a small silver cannister. However, on this occasion we found at least 6 or 7 large cannisters and some used balloons which had been used to inhale the nitrous oxide. It is registered under the Psychoactive Substance Act. Possession of nitrous oxide remains legal unless it is being supplied to others with the intent of inhaling it.

Normally nitrous oxide is a gas used medically as anaesthetic gas with pain relieving properties i.e.: in childbirth (when mixed with oxygen) and is commonly used by dentists or doctors to calm a patient and reduce their anxiety before a procedure. It is also used in cannister form and can be used for cooking, for whipped cream and other industrial purposes.

Although young people think inhaling nitrous oxide is safe, this is certainly not true, it can make the user relaxed, giggly, dizzy, anxious and in some cases paranoid. Sometimes it is taken in combination with other drugs so its effects can be unpredictable. The high with nitrous oxide is short-lived which can lead to young people taking more than they had intended. This can carry risks of falling unconscious or worse, so therefore we will be actively patrolling to deter the use and work with other agencies and partners to educate young people about the risks they are taking with their health.

The cannisters and black bag of rubbish has been reported to HDC so that the cannisters can be disposed of safely. The bag and cannisters were picked up by HDC the same day.



The green shelter in Station Road Gardens had a number of empty nitrous oxide cannisters and balloons in it and this was cleared by the litter warden. The area will be added to the growing list of places to patrol.

Whilst on patrol we came across a fly tip in Rowner Road, this has been reported to HDC for removal. Some of the items were a hazard which included capped needles and syringes.

We are finding empty drug bags behind the Billingshurst Centre and the staff are checking CCTV to see if those involved can be identified.

Drug litter, including empty drug bags and balloons used for the inhalation of nitrous oxide, has been found by a bench in the park by Challen Street.

A member of the public witnessed a vehicle emptying the contents of their boot into the car park behind the Six Bells. The vehicle's details, description of the person involved and photo of the fly tip was sent to HDC. This will be followed up by an HDC Environmental Enforcement Officer.



## [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 have different agencies/ groups to come and chat with those attending some of the weeks and we will be inviting the fire crew from Billingshurst to come back and have a cuppa with us all.

On Thursdays 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.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May not only did we have the weekly Coffee Morning, which was very well attended, we also had the Coronation Tea Party for 100 people. So, in the morning and on the day before, we were busy in the kitchen making scones and decorating cakes. After which it was time to set up the hall, which looked amazing. Then once everyone was seated, there was lots of tea, coffee and fantastic food. Rob the singer who has an amazing voice, sang to us all and he was wonderful. The afternoon was an overwhelming success and we and the Parish Council have been asked if something like this can be put on again. So, watch this space.

In the evening it was the lighting of the beacon with a Scottish piper. This was attended by a number of the community. Parish Councillor Paul Berry lit the Beacon after making a short speech. Sadly Paul will be standing down as Chairman of the Parish Council after 12 years of hardwork and commitment. I'm sure everyone will agree that he has done Billingshurst proud. So thank you Paul for everything you have done over the last few years. However, thankfully we won't be losing Paul completely as he will be staying on the council as a Parish Councillor.



On Sunday there was the Billingshurst Parish Picnic in Station Road Community Gardens with a lady playing the steel drums, which was brilliant, and a very good magician who entertained the children. The Billingshurst Scouts were there with light refreshments. The weather was beautiful, and everyone enjoyed the sunshine, there was only one blip when a child went missing, however they were found in a tree, as they found it a peaceful place to be.



On Monday there was the Community 'Big Help Out' in Station Road Community Gardens where over 40 residents came together to tidy the flower beds and gardens ready for the summer months. There will be another event (possibly on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June) - this will be confirmed in the next few weeks.

We attended the Dementia Café on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May and indulged ourselves with tea and cake. The cakes were so nice we had to have two. It was lovely speaking to some of those who attended and also the staff and volunteers from the United Reform Church who run the morning and also make the very yummy cakes.

Afterwards we went to the family boardgames session in the library, but no-one was there, so we had a chat with the staff who filled us in on things that had been happening after they close. So, we will be adding this area again to our patrols.

The library has an archive box containing some photos of what the village looked like right back in history. It was so interesting to see how the village has changed over the years, although you can still make out a lot of the High Street.

We walked with some children to school for the walk to school week. Walking to school is regular exercise so is good for your health. Its also good for the environment as cars are a big source of air pollution and lastly, it's good for happiness as you get to spend time talking to each other.

Day 2 of the walk to school week saw another sunny day and lots of lively chattering about do you like doughnuts or Jammie Dodgers better?, Messi or Ronaldo?, bananas or apples?, and so it went on all the way to school. It was so nice to chat with the pupils of Billingshurst Primary and we enjoyed our walk to school with them.



We attended the Cost-of-living drop-in session in the Trinity United Reform Church and we managed to talk to quite a few of the agencies there. We have invited them to come to the Friday Coffee Morning at the Billingshurst Centre to have a chat and a cup of tea.

We had Lisa from the Health and Wellbeing team, who came to the coffee morning and conducted a Wellbeing MOT check on a few of the group. They had the chance to talk through the results confidentially with Lisa and discuss steps to improve their health and lifestyle. Those who attended said it was very helpful and it was well worth doing.

The Health and Wellbeing team will be at the coffee morning on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June for the Men's Health Week. So, if you're man and would like a Wellbeing MOT please ring **01403 215111**.

We attended the Monday Lunch Club at St Marys Rooms and had a lovely cup of tea and a piece of cake. It was lovely chatting with the people there and catching up on their news.

We attended a meeting at the Weald with Head of DaVinci House to discuss a joint project. It is still in the early stages but we are very pleased to be involved.

We had our warden drop-in at the railway station on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May and had lots of positive engagements with those going out for the day and some lucky enough to be flying away to other sunny destinations.

## [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 HDC.

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, the public 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, this is 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 will get to know them before they start at the Weald, and they can also get to know who we are.

We went to the Rosehill Residents meeting to see if there were any issues that they wanted to discuss and have a cup of tea with them. It was good to hear that they have a new warden manager, and we hope to meet them soon. Thankfully there were no issues that they needed to discuss on this occasion.

## 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, we always refer 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 continues to flourish. The young people enjoy the classes, in fact one young person said that that they wished that the Boxing was on every day because they enjoy it so much. We are seeing the young people grow in confidence, motivation, determination and focus. Their fitness levels have greatly improved over the last year or so, and each week we have new young people joining.

## Dog related issues.

A resident will be receiving a warning letter and or a fine from Horsham District Council regarding either on occasions; not picking up their dog's excrement or picking up the excrement and putting into bags but then discarding the bags onto a footpath. This has been seen on CCTV which will be used in evidence.

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 dog owner'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 responded to a member of the public via email after they reported an incident or incidents involving E-scooters to the parish council. We have given advice regarding this issue and how and who to report to.

We have spoken to two young people regarding riding E-scooters both on the road and pavements. Words of advice have been given and it has been explained to them that E-scooters are not permitted to be ridden in public spaces and that if seen by police the scooter can be seized.

Reports have come in that a motorcycle has been driven over Jubilee Fields and along the footpath that runs behind Manor Fields. Patrols in the area have been increased, and residents have reported this to the police as well.

## 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 called by the Weald regarding a student who had not returned home, we were asked if we could check the area for the young person. So, we went and checked all the parks, the railway stations and any other areas where we felt that they may go to. Thankfully after an hour of searching we were informed that the young person had been found safe and well, which was amazing news.

A resident has been having issues with a neighbour, so we gave them advice, support and signposted them to the relevant agencies who will be able to help them.

A resident in Billingshurst has been having issues with neighbours, we will be supporting the family and have also signposted them to other agencies that can help them.

**“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”**