

Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

October 2023

Patrol hours TOTAL:	92	ASB incidents TOTAL:	6
Foot (high visibility)	80	Noise	0
Vehicle	12	Neighbours	1
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	3	Driving/Vehicles/Bikes	4
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Alcohol	1
Yellow card warning	0		
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0		
Parking alert	3	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	59
Police reports TOTAL:	8	Fly tipping / flyposting	0
Phone (including 101 and 999)	1	Graffiti	2
Email	2	Dog fouling	30+
Intelligence report	2	Litter	3
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	24
Verbal	3	Hazards	0
Media reports TOTAL:	10	Community events attended	8
Press release / Community magazines	0	School Contact	6
Social Media	10	Youth engagement	70+
Admin	14	Reports to DVLA	1
Vulnerable people welfare checks	10	Reports to Operation Crackdown	4
Signposting	9		

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 Recreation Grounds

MOP - Member of the Public.

ASB

On Saturday 7th October at the tennis courts in Lower Station Recreation Ground, a young person and her father were playing tennis, when they were pelted by young people with dog poo bags, which they had taken out of the bin.

On Sunday 8th October at approximately 5.30pm a group of approximately 6 young boys were seen firing a slingshot at the windows of Dauxwood Pre-school, it is strongly believed that at least two windows were broken with Ball bearings.

The same group were seen by the tennis court, and it was then noticed a window was broken, and a ball bearing can be seen.



Earlier on that day a resident saw the boys walking up Church Path firing ball bearings at a Pidgeon, the resident is unsure if they managed to kill the bird.

The Mens Shed had a window broken as well, this was also with a slingshot and Ball bearing, possibly on the same day as the other reports of criminal damage.

There have been reports of egg throwing at cars in Natts Lane, not only can this be dangerous it is also considered criminal damage if the car/ house is damaged in any way. Please report incidents to the Wardens Julie: 07995 051529 and Barry: 07795 051516 and the Police on 101. This will help us to focus our patrols to the areas that need special attention. We will be visiting the local shops to make them aware that this is happening and what they can do to help prevent issues such as this.

This also happened along the High Street as well, hopefully with all the CCTV along the High Street those involved will be identified.

A resident has contacted us regarding a very unpleasant incident with some young males on two separate occasions. We have the descriptions of the boys, and the resident will contact us if it happens again. If we are on duty, we will go and liaise with them and hopefully find out who is acting in a truly disgusting way. Police will be informed by the resident.

Osmund Court had a rear window broken possibly by a catapult and ball bearing/ BB Gun on Monday 23rd October at around 4.30pm. They also had a window broken on Thursday 19th October by a catapult and ball bearing or BB Gun. This has been reported to the Police by the manager, we will be patrolling the area more frequently to either catch the persons doing this or deter further issues. Apart from the unnecessary damage to the windows, it must be remembered the effect on those that had fought in the war; the sound of the bang on the window can be not only frightening, but it can also cause flashbacks which are known to cause extreme anxiety and stress.

A resident close to Marringdean Road has been having young people knocking on her door and running away, to start with they weren't too worried. However, after many weeks of this they have said it is causing them stress and frustration. Advice has been given regarding this; our patrols will continue in the area.

Parking/Vehicles

One vehicle has been reported to DVLA for no tax.

Three vehicles have been reported to OP Crackdown for illegally parking in Billingshurst.

There have been reports regarding vans being broken into during the night-time hours between 05/10 – 06/10 in Billingshurst and Pulborough. Tools were being targeted in the thefts; Police are investigating the incidents. We will continue our reassurance patrols and gather any intelligence or Ring doorbell footage and will inform the Police.

Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti

There has been an increase in littering, particularly in Station Road Gardens, around the benches and also the Green Shelter. Whilst on patrol we noticed a large amount of rubbish around the Green Shelter and the benches close to the shelter. We did a quick litter pick around the area and managed to fill a large back bag with rubbish.

Littering In Lower Station Road Recreation Ground is increasing, especially around the bench nearest the tennis court. Some of the young people who were at the bench were still wearing their school uniform from the Weald. A resident has reported this to the school and to the Wardens. This was happening on a Friday after school, so when on duty we will patrol the area and engage with the young people involved and give them words of advice regarding their behaviour and the impact it has on the residents, the wildlife and our environment.

Graffiti in East street has been reported to Horsham District Council for Removal.

A sign on the A29/272 that had been Graffitied has been reported to Horsham District Council has been reported for removal.

Drug litter is being found in all the parks this included empty drug bags and NOS cannisters, the cannisters have been taken to Hop Oast to be disposed of appropriately.

If you come across any fly tipping, please use the link below this brings up a form which is easy to fill in. If you have a photo of the fly tipping, then please add that to the form.

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/fly-tipping/fly-tipping>

Community Engagement/Events/Meetings

Julie and The Pulborough Wardens attended The Weald School during their lunchtime break, to speak to young people who may be interested in setting up a Youth Forum in Billingshurst/ Pulborough. The Youth Forum is run and developed by young people for young people. It is to represent the views of young

people, giving them the opportunity to not only be heard on their ideas, opinions and needs. But also, to give them a voice about positive changes that they can make in the area that they live and make it a better place to live.

On Saturday 14th October PCSO Tom Fontyn and PCSO Adrian Bell held a Hate Crime Awareness event in Jengers Mead, we went along to hold our Warden drop in. It was a very successful afternoon as we engaged with lots of residents who needed advice and support.



We attended The Weald School for the Student Voice; it was amazing to hear how enthusiastic, and articulate the young people are. They have some brilliant ideas for the future of the school, we look forward to the next session.

It was lovely to visit the Wednesday Club again, it was a celebration of the club and how it has changed over the years. We have been invited to speak to at one of their meetings about what we do in our role which we will look forward to doing.

We had a meeting with Jess Hillicks who is the Community Development Coordinator for West Sussex for the Alzheimer's Society and Dawn Fairbrother who talked about their role. In changing people's perceptions of dementia. The aim is to change the way the public thinks, acts and talks about dementia, and who to talk to if someone has a concern about a relative, who they may feel as dementia. The other part of the role is to educate people how to prevent/ defer the onset of Dementia by:

Prevent and Manage High Blood Pressure.

Managing Blood Sugar.

Maintaining a Healthy Weight.

To be Physically Active.

Quit Smoking.

Avoiding heavy drinking of Alcohol.

Prevent and correct hearing loss.

To get enough sleep.

Socialising with others.

Jess and Dawn are happy to come and talk to people about their role and about Dementia itself so if you would like to organise a talk or just want to find out more, please contact:

Jess Hillicks: jess.hillicks@alzheimers.org.uk Mobile: 07749 003365

Dawn Fairbrother: dawn.fairbrother@alzheimers.org.uk Mobile: 07749 435758.

Sue Elliott from West Sussex Mind came to talk to us about her role as a Children and Young People's Social Prescribing Worker. Sue is one of the mental health workers based in GP practices including our very own Billingshurst Surgery. West Sussex Mind offers mental health support to children and young people from age 8 – 17 years and you can speak to your GP who can refer you to one of the team.

Here is the link to find out more.

https://www.westsussexmind.org/help_and_support/specialist-services/our-specialist-workers-in-gp-practices

We patrolled with Lucy Hargreaves and Tamsie Hicklin from the Community Safety team to show them the local areas where ASB is or has been an issue. We look forward to working with them, to reduce the risk of young people who may later develop anti-social and criminal behaviour with effective early intervention by various agencies.

[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 train station etc to make sure that there are no problems they need to discuss with us.

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.

Whilst on patrol we came across a few empty drug bags and a cannabis grinder which we found in the park, by Challen street in Amblehurst. Also, a glass bottle was smashed all over the basketball court. This took the litter warden John a lot of time to clear up, as there were small slithers of glass all over the place. We understand that young people go to parks and drink alcohol, it has happened practically since time begun. However, please don't smash the bottles, young children run onto the basketball court they could have cut themselves badly. Also, dogs, cats and wildlife could be injured by the glass.



Older, vulnerable people and Youth

We have been continuing to make doorstep visits to check residents care line and smoke alarms, whilst there, we also check that the resident doesn't have any other welfare issues that we can help with, by referring them 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.

We visited another one of our residents who was moving to say goodbye and check if they needed any advice or support. They have now moved to be nearer their family, which is lovely for them.

Another of our residents is also moving, however we will be seeing them regularly at the Horsham Walk and The Friday Coffee morning which is held at the Billingshurst Centre from 10.00 am to Midday every Friday.

There has been a report made about a male that followed two residents, we will be following it up with patrols and they have been advised to report this to the Police.

The Billingshurst Scouts and Guides went on their yearly 6-mile hike, we went to see how they were getting on. Some of the teams were already back as they had started earlier. The others were in different stages, the teams were being monitored as one of each team was carrying a GPRS monitor to check their route. Unfortunately for those teams that started later, they were rained on, as unfortunately the heavens opened. Despite this the young people looked like they all enjoyed themselves; despite the weather as they had big smiles on their faces when they returned to The Scout hut, well done to you all on such an amazing achievement.

Dog related issues.

There have been several reports about the amount of dog poo in Jubilee Fields; in fact, all over Billingshurst. We are looking at ways to encourage dog owners to pick up their dog's poo and place the bags in a bin.

We can give fixed penalties out for this type of thing, but obviously education is also important. Everyone can do their bit to help keep our parks and countryside safe and beautiful.

Cycling

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.

This month we have advertised the Hot drink and Toast which was held at The Depot for young people, and Parent Support Sessions which are being held at The Weald on the first Wednesday of the month, from 5pm to 6.30pm. The support group is parent led, and it's a safe space for parents to discuss issues that they are concerned with about their own children or what they hear about in the village/ social media etc. We will invite other agencies to come to the sessions if that's what the parents would like, so if you are a parent with children, and you have concerns you would like to discuss with other parents then come along. Tea/ coffee and biscuits will be provided.

The Hot drink and Toast sessions is something that we would like to extend to perhaps Pizza, Beans on Toast etc, the young people can lead on this within reason. So, if there are any businesses who could help us with some food items, we are sure that the young people and ourselves the Wardens, would be appreciative of any help that could be given. This again would be a safe place for young people to come along and sit and chat with their friends, we will be there as a listening ear if needed.

A resident has been given advice regarding an issue with a neighbour and signposted to the appropriate agencies who will be able to assist them with the problem.

Advice has been given and a resident has been signposted to the appropriate agency regarding speeding vehicles at night in a residential area.

A business raised concerns over a neighbour who hadn't been seen for a few weeks, they were signposted to the Police for them to conduct a welfare check. Thankfully the person concerned was safe and well.

Sandy Duck a Billingshurst Parish Councillor came on patrol with us, we patrolled the village and went up to Amblehurst to show her the trouble spots, where ASB occurs. Thank you for coming out with us Sandy, it was lovely to chat with you and discuss current projects and new ideas.

The Young people's Hot drink and toast is being held twice over the Half-term holiday; it has been well advertised so hopefully some young people will attend.

Following on from the above, it turns out most young people don't have Facebook, but we spoke to a few of the young people, and they have said they will come along next time, if we tell them when and what time the session is on. So, another session will be held in the next couple of weeks, this will be advertised on social media, posters and word of mouth.

"We work various shifts on weekends and weekdays between the hours of 07.45am and 9pm. However, this is subject to change and dependent on the needs of the parish".