

Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

September 2023

Patrol hours TOTAL:	101	ASB incidents TOTAL:	13
Foot (high visibility)	87	Noise	0
Vehicle	14	Neighbours	1
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	4	Driving/Vehicles/Bikes	9
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Alcohol	3
Yellow card warning	0		
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0		
Parking alert	4	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	17
Police reports TOTAL:	10	Fly tipping / flyposting	2
Phone (including 101 and 999)	1	Graffiti	0
Email	3	Dog fouling	1
Intelligence report	2	Litter	3
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	8
Verbal	4	Hazards	3
Media reports TOTAL:	12	Community events attended	6
Press release / Community magazines	0	School Contact	8
Social Media	12	Youth engagement	70+
Admin	15	Reports to DVLA	1
Vulnerable people welfare checks	11	Reports to Operation Crackdown	8
Signposting	14		

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 Recreation Grounds

MOP - Member of the Public

ASB

There was a report from a member of the public that young people were in Manor Fields inhaling nitrous oxide via a balloon at approximately 6pm on a Saturday evening. This area is patrolled on a regular basis; however, the police still need to be informed on 101 or via their Sussex Police website.

A black bin bag full of full/empty nitrous oxide bottles were reported to us, they were situated close to Manor Fields entrance. As we were not on duty, we contacted the local PCSO Tom Fontyn and he came along and picked up the bag and the bottles were disposed of safely.

There have been further reports of young people smoking cannabis and being anti-social close to the play park in Amblehurst Green. We patrol regularly, however, you can always 'phone us and, if we are on duty, we can come down to speak to the young people and move them on.

There are still signs that nitrous oxide is being inhaled by young people in various parks. Possession of nitrous oxide can carry a sentence of up to two years in prison. It is believed that heavy use of nitrous oxide can lead to a deficiency of vitamin B12 which is a form of anaemia and, in some severe cases, nerve damage or paralysis. If too much is taken, the person risks falling unconscious and/or suffocating from lack of oxygen. People have died this way. If parents would like to learn more information about drugs, then go to <https://www.talktofrank.com>. The website gives an honest insight into drugs, their effects and the law.

On the evening of Monday 18th September approximately five young people went to the Scout Hut in Lower Station Road. They were acting in an anti-social way, trying to get into the Scout Hut etc. The gates into the Scout Hut were locked to prevent them getting in. However, they came back at the end of Scouts and were harassing parents who were waiting for their child, swearing and acting up. One of them took the bolt for one of the gates, and it was noted that the guttering to the shed may have been damaged but this is not certain. Some of the names of those involved are known so may well be dealt with.

Someone has damaged the fence that surrounds the allotments, a piece of the fencing had been cut into which allowed entrance into the allotments. It is believed this may have been over a weekend. It has been reported to the police for their attention.

We have had lots of reports regarding three people drinking and asking for money - they have been moved on multiple times. Turning Tides and Police are assisting with this matter. Please do not give money if asked; if you really would like to help then offer them a hot drink and something to eat.

There have been further reports of issues in Lower Station Road Recreation Ground, particularly in the evenings. Young people have been seen climbing over the fence to play football on the tennis courts, they also have been banging on the windows of the Scout Hut and Tennis Club. The guttering to a shed in the Scout Hut area was damaged, this has been reported to police. We will monitor the situation and will patrol the area, if the issues continue we will change our shifts to work later to try and deter the young people from committing this kind of activity.

[Parking/Vehicles](#)

We have reported eight vehicles to Operation Crackdown for illegal parking in the High Street.

We issued four parking alerts to drivers causing an obstruction to other road users in Billingshurst.

We have put five crime prevention leaflets into two unattended vehicles that had left windows open in their cars.

A report has been made to DVLA regarding a vehicle that is being driven with no tax or MOT.

[Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti](#)

There has been some fly tipping in Newbridge Road West, this has been reported to Horsham District Council (HDC) for removal.

Thank you to two lovely mums who were in Manor Fields picking up rubbish that had been left all over the play area, and there was a lot of it. The bin was overflowing as well, but one phone call to John the Parish Litter Warden and the bin was emptied and the park was completely clear of rubbish.

We were made aware of the fly tipping of a mattress and other items in the Parbrook next to the pathway that links Natts Lane to Station Road and Station Road Gardens. This has been reported to HDC for removal.



If you come across any fly tipping, please use the link below to bring 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>

A resident has complained, and rightly so, regarding litter around the green shelter and benches where students sit. They have made the Weald School aware, and we will patrol the area at the relevant times when we are able to ensure litter is not left on the ground.

We conducted a litter pick on Saturday the 30th of September after coming across litter all around the benches close to the green Shelter and in the shelter itself. Three young girls said they felt sorry for the fact we had to pick up litter that other people drop. They were very concerned about it, which was so very sweet.

After that we went to The Lower Station Road Recreation Ground where people felt it was a great idea to break glass bottles all over the skate ramps. It was everywhere and took quite a bit of time to clean up. This could have caused serious injury to a child, dogs and wildlife.

There was quite a considerable number of empty drug bags in the Newman Way park by two of the benches. These were all picked up and disposed of.

Community Engagement/Events/Meetings

The Coffee Morning on Fridays is going very well. We have a steady group of around about 14 – 16 people who come along. On Friday 1st September we had Penny from the Prevention Assessment Team come along to chat with the group. Sarah Wilson, a Billingshurst Parish Councillor, and Ken Peters the Billingshurst Parish Council Chairman also came along to have a chat.



We went to the Rosehill Residents Coffee Morning, where residents spoke about the parking on pavements in the High Street, and two E-scooters going into Little East Street up onto Amblehurst Green. The obvious concern being that if one of the residents came out of their gates and got hit by one of them, they could be seriously injured. Parking on pavements is something we deal with on a regular basis by reporting to Operation Crackdown. The E-scooters is slightly more difficult due to the speed the scooters go and often we are on foot. However, this will be reported to the local PCSO to see if something can be done to help as we have no powers to deal with E-scooters.

We went to see the residents of Osmund Court and had a chat with some of them, it was nice to see them again. The Billingshurst Cubs went litter picking in Station Road Community Gardens and in Lower Station Road Recreation Ground. It goes towards the Community part of their World Badge. All the cubs were very well behaved and put lots of effort into picking up the litter they found. We will be doing this again with them at some stage and hope to visit them again soon.



On Saturday 16th September we held a Community Walk from Billingshurst to the Bat and Ball in Newpound, Wisborough Green. The weather was lovely, and the walk went very well, it was warm but luckily, we had a gentle breeze. Everyone including us enjoyed the walk. Unfortunately, no photos were taken on the walk, but we have a photo of the walkers at The Bat and Ball.



Mark and Holly from Bone Canis came to our Warden drop-in at Jubilee Fields to give advice and support to those who needed it. We had quite a few dogs and owners come to say hello and a number of dogs that came over to say hello and obviously for a dog treat.



There were so many photos taken, however I couldn't put them all on but its good to say that we have very cute dogs here in Billingshurst.

[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 is anything they'd like 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 he Amblehurst Green Estate - both of which have previously had issues.

We conducted foot patrol around Amblehurst Green for reassurance purposes regarding further break-ins to vehicles. We stopped and spoke to a couple of residents and gave some crime prevention advice.

The CEOs came to Billingshurst to conduct a joint patrol outside Billingshurst Primary School. On this occasion no parking tickets were given, however, it was an opportunity to give advice and education around illegal parking. If the same vehicles are seen parking in the same way next time, then tickets may be given.

We patrolled outside the Billingshurst Primary School with the CEOs. One vehicle was given a penalty charge notice (PCN) for being illegally parked. Many others were asked to move on, which they did.

We have conducted regular patrols in the Manor Fields and Cherry Tree Close play areas due to some incidents with some of the younger children. At the moment, the incidents have appeared to have resolved themselves, but we will continue our patrols to ensure that the problems don't happen again.

[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, 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 have been supporting a vulnerable person living in Billingshurst who appears to have been targeted and had possessions stolen from them. Police are dealing with this matter as there is CCTV of the incident. We have liaised with family and other healthcare professionals, including the Housing Department, to assist with the person's safety and wellbeing.

It has been reported that there has been an incident where young people have been threatened with a knife. We are unsure if this was a threat as no knife or, in fact, a weapon was seen. This happened in one of the parks. This incident is being robustly dealt with by the police, but we will keep an eye on the area for any issues.

We received reports that young people are setting fires in Daux Woods. We patrolled the woods and came across a few areas where fires had been set, however, these were fire pits dug into the ground and had been appropriately put out. This has been reported to the Billingshurst Fire Service for their attention. There was also a lot of rubbish in the area, which is a shame. If you go into the woods take a bag and bring your rubbish home with you or put it into a bin when you pass one. Let's protect our environment and wildlife.

We were invited to the Weald School open evening on Monday 25th September for the year seven and year eleven parents. It was lovely to chat with parents and let them know what we do, and how we can help them if needed. It was a very positive and well run event. Thanks to all the Weald School staff involved.

[Dog Related Issues](#)

Whilst litter picking with the Cubs, both in Station Road Community Gardens and in Lower Station Road Recreation Ground, it was again noted that there is still lots of dog excrement over the grass areas. Please pick up after your dog, it isn't difficult and it is the dog owners responsibility.

[Cycling](#)

There have been a few reports regarding two males on E-scooters and the fact they are being ridden dangerously around the area of Billingshurst. We saw one riding the wrong way down Coombe Hill but, unfortunately, he didn't hear us call out – mainly because he was going too fast. It was only with luck rather than judgement that he wasn't hit by an oncoming vehicle.

Police are aware of these two males as residents have reported them on 101, so there is a good possibility that the two will be caught up with before they hurt pedestrians/themselves or both.

Also, it has been reported that young people are also riding E-scooters around Honeysuckle Drive and along Marringdean Road both during the day and later in the evening when it is dark so they can't be seen. If you do see anything like this, please call 101 and report it to the police. E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act which means the rules that apply to motor vehicles also apply to E-scooters. This includes the need to have a licence, insurance and tax. E-scooters can be seized by police under the Road Traffic Act 1988.

[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.

A resident reported to us that they had seen a black 4x4 with two males who said they were from HDC. They appeared to be looking at houses and scoping the land that runs from Forge Way to Anvil Close. The resident felt that this activity was suspicious so we contacted the Parks and Countryside Department to check whether this could be one of their vehicles. The vehicle did not belong to them, so police have been made aware of this suspicious activity.

We spoke to a resident who was having issues with a neighbour and gave advice on keeping a diary and who to contact regarding the issue. A resident has been signposted to Environmental Health regarding an issue with a neighbour's overgrown garden.

A resident asked for advice regarding an issue with a dog barking from 11pm to 4am close to Cleveland's Gardens. They have been signposted to Environmental Health as it appears the address of the dog is known.

A member of the public asked for help regarding a homeless person who had been sleeping rough in the Billingshurst area. They were directed to Turning Tides and we also contacted Turning Tides for their assistance in helping the lady. We have continued to support the lady alongside the help of Turning Tides and she has now moved on from Billingshurst. We are not sure where to yet, but hopefully she will be ok.

Whilst on foot patrol near Whispers tearooms, we were called over by a member of staff, as they were concerned about a member of the public who had been taken unwell and wasn't responding. The lady was with friends who had been sitting with her and said she felt hot and unwell. An ambulance was called and within minutes a Billingshurst Community First Responder had arrived and so had the ambulance. The lady was taken into the ambulance to be examined and we wish her a quick recovery.

The Men's Shed is really taking shape now. The inside is nearly completed, and they are painting the outside. It was lovely to sit down with them and have a cup of tea, listening to the plans they have for the future. This is going to be a great asset to the Billingshurst Community. They are a lovely friendly bunch of people so if you are interested in joining them, go down there and have a chat.



Sadly, another knife was found, this time in Manor Fields play area. Police are aware of this, and the knife was disposed of at Horsham Police Station.



“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”