

Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

December 2022

Patrol hours TOTAL:		ASB incidents TOTAL:	
Foot (high visibility)	101	Noise/Miscellaneous	0
Vehicle	95	Neighbours	0
Notices/warnings TOTAL:		Driving/Vehicles/Parking/Bikes/E-Scooters	1
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Animals/Dogs	2
Yellow card warning	1	Alcohol/Drugs	0
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Crime/Crim Dam	3
Parking alert	1	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	
Police reports TOTAL:		Fly tipping / flyposting	1
Phone (including 101 and 999)	1	Graffiti	2
Email	1	Dog fouling	3
Intelligence report	2	Litter	0
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)		Drug litter	3
Verbal	3	Hazards	1
Media reports TOTAL:		Community events attended	5
Press release / Community magazines	1	Reports to Operation Crackdown	5
Social Media	12	Safeguarding referral	0
Admin	62	School contact	10
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	11	Youth engagement	50+
Signposting	8	Reports to DVLA	

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 Gardens

LSRG - Lower Station Road Recreation Grounds

MOP - Member of the Public.

YP – Young People.

ASB/Crime/Criminal Damage

There have been a few thefts of catalytic converters in the Billingshurst area and across the West and East Sussex districts, as well as theft from vehicles. According to someone who works in an accident repair shop, the only way to prevent the converter from being stolen is to fit a catalytic converter lock. Other ways of hindering the thieves is to:

- Park in an area that is well lit and overlooked and try to park next to fences or anything that would make it difficult for the vehicle to be jacked up.
- Don't mount the car onto a kerb if possible as this makes it easier for thieves to jack the car up.
- Talk to a local garage about having the catalytic converter welded on the car.
- Tilt sensors will trigger an alarm on the vehicle if the vehicle is tampered with.
- If at all possible, register the converter with a forensic marker, which in turn will make it harder for the thieves to dispose of and maybe get a sticker to put in your car window to show that you have it marked.
- Also covering your car at night may help.

Most of the thefts occur at night however if you see anyone acting suspiciously around a Honda, Mazda, or Toyota in particular then please call it in on 999 if it is happening at that time or 101 if it has already happened and you wish to report a theft or something that you seen on CCTV. You can also report it online as well.

Pond Close, Billingshurst – between 2340hrs 14th December and 0005 hours 15th December, an attempt was made to enter a property. The property was locked, no entry was gained and nothing was stolen. The police reference is 0657 15/12/22.

Some small fires were set in the public toilets in the library carpark. Bits of toilet paper had been ignited and, although no real damage has been caused, some of the paper was still slightly alight and smoking so could have easily reignited. We have informed the Fire and Rescue Service to let them know so they can add the area to their patrols. We will also be keeping an eye on the area for any possible issues

Damage to the public toilets in the library carpark has been reported, litter including crisp packets were put into the toilet and the toilet roll holder was broken. We will be patrolling this area closely to try and catch/deter further issues.

We noticed three young people going into one of the cubicles of the public toilets in the library car park, which had been damaged in the few days before. We had a key which we used to unlock the toilet door; the young people's faces were a picture, thankfully no damage had been done. Stern words of advice were given to all three, as we had no evidence to prove they had caused the damage to the toilets before.

It has been reported that some books were set on fire in the small carpark behind Austen's Hardware this has been reported to the Fire and Rescue Service for their information and the police were also informed.

We came across a young person who was in the library who told us that a delivery van had been following them. They had seen the male earlier in the day when they were at work, the male had asked for their telephone number which was declined. The van driver became an issue, so the young person took refuge in the library and waited for her parent to come and pick her up. We advised her to ring the police and log the incident, and also contact the delivery company to inform them, especially as the driver had been to her work with a delivery, so there should be a log of who the delivery driver was. We waited with the young girl until the parent arrived to ensure that the delivery driver didn't return.

A significant number of little silver Nox bottles were found in the carpark which backs onto Coombehill. This was reported to the police for their info.

[Parking/Vehicles/Bikes/E-Scooters](#)

We have reported 5 vehicles to Operation Crackdown for parking illegally in the village.

[Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti](#)

There has been graffiti again on the youth shelter - some of which is offensive. This has been reported to Horsham District Council (HDC) for removal.

We came across some fly tipping in Newbridge Road West at the entrance to Platts Meadow. This was reported to HDC and was cleared within 24 hours.





[Community Engagement/Events/Meetings](#)

We put out regular Tweets and Facebook posts to engage and update the community, this appears to be working well and people are now recognising us from the posts we put up.

We hold regular drop-in sessions in and around the village, these are publicised on Facebook and Twitter. If anyone has an area they would like us to attend please let us know.

The Boxing Programme is still flourishing, the young people are thoroughly enjoying the Programme and have gained fitness, confidence and are a lot more focused. We are also talking to young people around the village to get them to come along. The Programme will now be running until the end of March 2023 and hopefully beyond, our wish is to have a designated Boxing Club for Billingshurst which will be an inclusive club for all the community. Although a lot of our young people have not been coming to the Boxing during the summer holidays, there have been a few new faces who have joined and who are enjoying the Boxing as well.

We have monthly meetings with Billingshurst Fire & Rescue Service in order to discuss issues in Billingshurst and how we can work together to make Billingshurst a safer place to live. There is a particular problem with the increase in the lighting of small fires around Billingshurst. We have discussed some ideas regarding the young people who live in Billingshurst and how we can engage and support them.

We assist with Billingshurst Speedwatch on an ad hoc basis as and when required. They always need more volunteers to assist them in this very worthwhile cause.

We attend a residents association meeting and chat about issues that are concerning some of the residents, we give advice where we can. We update the residents at the next meeting.

We attended the Residents Association for Rosehill's Coffee Morning and had a chat with the residents there. One of the residents put on a Winter Solstice event and we learnt about the origins of the Solstice and how it is the time of ending and new beginnings, the letting go of things you wish to change and setting intentions of what you would like to bring into your life - in our case a lot of us would like to learn how to dance.

We regularly attend a quiz afternoon at one of the local sheltered accommodations. It can be a slightly competitive afternoon however it is enjoyed by both staff and residents, and by us.

The Billingshurst Healthy Walkers Group had their Christmas meal which we attended. The meal was absolutely delicious and company was wonderful. We had a lovely couple of hours with them all and look forward to walking with them in 2023.

Osmund Court had an afternoon of mince pies, light refreshments and a Grand Raffle which certainly was grand. The afternoon was fun and it was great to see all the residents enjoying themselves, including Baxter the puppy who was given lots of cuddles by the residents and visitors.

We had an impromptu walk with two of the Horsham Healthy Walkers on a walk around the village, finishing with a coffee and chat.

Patrols

We carry out patrols (foot/visible and car)

We carry out Parish-wide patrols and fly tipping checks in known hot spots.

We continue to regularly patrol the green spaces around the village to act as a deterrent and give a visible presence.

We conduct weekly patrols of the High Street to visit shops and check the area.

Regular patrol of Jubilee Fields/ Manor Fields/Cleveland Gardens/Station Road areas.

Regular patrols of Penfold Grange and Ingfield Manor.

Regular patrols of the Daux Road area and fields at rear of the industrial estate.

Regular patrol of local farms for reassurance.

Monthly patrol outside schools with CEOs and school staff to try and prevent dangerous and illegal parking.

We patrolled with the CEOs in the High Street, outside the railway station and also Tesco Express by the loading bay. Although no PCNs (Parking Charge Notices) were issued by the CEOs on this occasion, a number of drivers were informed and educated in regard to parking in a loading bay. They were told that the area is only for goods vehicles delivering to the shop and is not available for those wishing to nip into Tesco or get money from the cashpoint. More joint patrols will be conducted in the New Year in those areas and also by Billingshurst Primary School, including Forge Way and the roads nearby that have double yellow lines.

Elderly and Youth

We meet with the school council on a regular basis, where young people discuss issues of the day or anything else, they want to talk about. This brings about a lot of interesting discussions which all students on the council engage with and enjoy.

We are continuing to make doorstep visits to check residents' Careline and smoke alarms and to see if there are any other welfare issues that we can help with. We will also be ensuring that they are keeping warm during the winter months and can refer them to supporting agencies if necessary.

We attend two Seniors' coffee mornings as often as we can. This gives the residents time to talk to us about any issues they may be having and we also are able to signpost the residents to the appropriate agencies if needed.

For this term we are going into the Weald School at lunchtime to visit year 7 students to help them settle in. This is working well as now when we go in to see the students they chat quite happily with us and are now speaking to us out of school as well.

We are also going into the Billingshurst Primary School during the year 6 lunchtime to get to know those young people who will be joining the Weald School in September. It will hopefully help with the young people's transition to the Weald and they will know our faces if they ever need any help or assistance. This is also working well as now some of the young people are recognising us when we are out on patrol and will say hello or stop for a chat which is exactly what we were hoping for.

We assisted a resident with sorting out an issue with their laptop. Thankfully it wasn't anything too difficult and now they can access the apps they need to.

The Boxing Programme is still flourishing, and the sessions are extremely well attended, however, as we felt that some young people are still missing out, we had a meeting with the Business Manager at the Weald to see if we could try and find a way of making the Boxing Programme more accessible by having the session at the school. The meeting went very well and we have successfully secured a room that fits the requirements of the Boxing Programme. We are grateful to the Weald who are working hard to make the school more accessible to the Billingshurst community.

We were invited to the Weald Christmas Party for the community and it was lovely to see the students chatting to those attending, serving them light refreshments etc. The choir sang carols beautifully and there was a quiz that got us all thinking - especially the geography questions!! DaVinci House had written an extra Christmas card which was handed out to the people attending and also we were given some to hand deliver to the homes of some of our older residents. There were also some bags made up with some small gifts put together by a couple of the students which was a lovely thought. Next year DaVinci House will be making scarves for the Christmas Party. It was a lovely afternoon which everyone enjoyed, including us.



We were asked to speak to a young person who had been behaving out of character - doing and saying things that were not usual behaviour for them. After a long discussion it was apparent that they regretted what they had done and said and reflected on the event and feel it isn't something they wouldn't do again. The parents have taken all the right steps in setting boundaries, showing that bad behaviour will not be tolerated but all done in a loving and caring way. Hopefully this was just a one-off incident and they have learnt a very valuable lesson.

The Weald called about a young person that hadn't returned home and whose parents were concerned as this had never happened before. We patrolled the area looking for the young person, however thankfully after about 30 mins we got a call to say they had been found safe and well which was a great relief to the parents and all those involved.

Age UK contacted us regarding a local resident who they were concerned about. We visited the address to check on the resident's welfare and, whilst there, discovered that neither television was working due to an issue with the signal. We were unable to resolve the problem so contacted a neighbour who came round and also checked everything and spoke to Sky on the phone to get advice, however nothing worked. The neighbour contacted us the next day to inform us that her daughter had been to the address and found a lead had become loose so this was adjusted, and the TV in one of the rooms was now working. The second television will be fixed by Sky in early January but, at least with one TV working, the elderly resident wasn't without a television for the whole of the Christmas period. We made the resident aware of the Billingshurst Family Church (BFC) Christmas Lunch and BFC were going to contact the lady to see if she would like to go along for some food and company on Christmas Day.

[Licensing](#)

[Animals/Dogs/Cats](#)

There have been reports of dogs off leads who do not return to their owners when called. A report was made about an incident whereby a dog bit someone. The dog was off the lead and the recall was extremely poor. This hopefully has now been reported to the police for action.

There have also been reports regarding dogs off lead in residential areas. The dogs are running about and sometimes jumping at children and this has caused some anxiety to residents, especially as again the dog was not under control and had no recall. We are looking at what we can do to help residents with these issues. If you have a dog please keep it on a lead in residential areas and ensure it is under control at all times as not everyone likes dogs jumping at them or their children.

[Cycling:](#)

[Parish Specific/Other/Railway](#)

A report came from a resident regarding overgrown foliage in the High Street close to St Marys Close, this was reported to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) for their attention. The homeowner was sent a letter by WSCC to ask them to cut back the foliage to make it easier for pedestrians to get round the corner safely particularly those with walking aids or mobility scooter.

An inspection cover in Myrtle Lane was reported to us as a hazard to pedestrians. This was reported to WSCC for their attention.

We reported two overflowing dog bins on the Amblehurst Green Estate to the management company to empty. The company answered our email and said the bins would be emptied on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

“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”