

Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

November 2022

Patrol hours TOTAL:	229	ASB incidents TOTAL:	17
Foot (high visibility)	150	Noise/Miscellaneous	4
Vehicle	95	Neighbours	
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	7	Driving/Vehicles/Parking/Bikes/E-Scooters	12
Fixed Penalty Notice	2	Animals/Dogs	1
Yellow card warning	2	Alcohol/Drugs	
Community Protection Warning/Notice		Crime/Crim Dam	3
Parking alert	3	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	15
Police reports TOTAL:	10	Fly tipping / flyposting	1
Phone (including 101 and 999)	2	Graffiti	2
Email	1	Dog fouling	7
Intelligence report	2	Litter	2
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	2	Drug litter	3
Verbal	3	Hazards	
Media reports TOTAL:	10	Community events attended	3
Press release / Community magazines	1	Reports to Operation Crackdown	10
Social Media	9	Safeguarding referral	
Admin	50	School contact	8
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	7	Youth engagement	80+
Signposting	5	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 Community Gardens

LSRG - Lower Station Road Recreation Grounds

MOP - Member of the Public.

YP – Young People.

[ASB/Crime/Criminal Damage](#)

We have been made aware of some ASB issues in Austen's Home Hardware whereby young people have been going into the shop and throwing things around and being disruptive. We are working closely with the shop by patrolling the area at the times given to try and deter further issues. They also have our leaflet with contact numbers so they can call us if necessary.

The issue with ringing doorbells has started again in Longhurst Drive, which has been causing some distress to residents particularly those who may have mobility problems. We will patrol the area as often so we can identify those responsible. Then the young people will have a visit from Police to talk to their parents about their behaviour. Police are also patrolling to assist in this issue.

A resident in Carpenters had their tyres cut overnight. Police are aware and hopefully another resident may have picked something up on their CCTV or ring doorbell.

There has been graffiti to the skate ramp on Lower Station Road Recreation Ground and the play equipment in the park, some of which was offensive. This has been reported for removal by the graffiti team at Horsham District Council (HDC). However, there was also a lot of damage to the fencing surrounding the play park which will have to be replaced. Patrols of the park will be conducted by us the Wardens and by the police to deter any further issues. If anyone does see damage being done anywhere in the Parish, then please call police on 101 or access their website and there is a form called "Something you have seen or heard". This form will then be sent on to the police for attendance, however if you are witnessing a Crime then please call it in on 999. If it has already happened and suspects have left, then call it in on 101 or use the forms under reporting. It may be also a good idea to contact us as if we are on duty, we can attend to see what's been happening.

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

As part of our priorities set by the Parish Council one of which is parking in the High Street, by the station and outside and opposite Tesco's, we worked alongside the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) on a planned parking blitz. One Parking Charge Notice (PCN) was given to a vehicle parked on double yellow lines by the CEO; 4 other vehicles were moved on with words of advice in the High Street and at least 4 more vehicles that saw our presence in the area drove off before as we approached their vehicles.

In the Tesco loading bay, at least 5 drivers of vehicles were spoken to by the CEOs to give words of advice regarding not parking in the loading bay and another 5 vehicles moved off in Daux Road just because of the presence of the CEOs and ourselves. Overall it was a good result with some good positive engagement with the community and only a couple of negative interactions with people not agreeing with what we were doing. We will be working with the CEOs again for another blitz soon, in hope that this will encourage drivers to not park illegally.

We had another successful joint patrol with the CEOs, this time outside Billingshurst Primary School. Many vehicles were moved on from parking on the double yellow lines in Carpenters, however one person refused to move their vehicle, which was parked on a junction and on double yellow lines. They were warned by the CEOs that they were on a 5-minute countdown to move their car, or they would be given a parking ticket. They continued to the school to pick up their child and so, after the 5-minute grace period had passed, a PCN was placed on the vehicle windscreen.

We are working with HDC parking services to encourage residents who park illegally outside their properties and on the pavement to refrain from doing so after complaints from other residents. Letters have been sent and we await the outcome to measure how successful or not this is.

We have reported 10 vehicles to operation crackdown for parking illegally in the village.

One business vehicle was seen parking illegally in the High Street. The driver was warned and the business contacted.

We have submitted a police intelligence report in reference to a suspicious vehicle seen parked up in the village.

There has been a complaint regarding young people riding electric scooters in Marringdean Road. We will continue patrolling the area and will speak to anyone we see riding E-scooters along the road. We have also advised the PCSOs about this so they can keep the area in mind when patrolling.

[Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti](#)

There was some graffiti on the green shelter in Station Road Community Gardens, some of which was offensive. This was been reported to HDC and was removed within a couple of days.

Graffiti on the play equipment in Lower Station Road Recreation Ground was reported by one of the Parish workers and was removed the next day.

There has been a large fly tip in Rowner Road, which is mainly building material however, thankfully the road is clear. This was reported to HDC and was removed within two days.

[Community Engagement/Events/Meetings](#)

We put out regular Tweets and Facebook posts to engage and update the community.

We hold regular drop-in sessions in and around the village which we publicise 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. There have been a few new faces who have joined and who are enjoying the boxing. The Boxing Programme will run until the end of March 2023.

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, giving advice where we can. We update the residents at the next meeting.

We regularly attend a sheltered housing complex to engage with activities set out by their local coordinator.

We attended the Weald School to meet with the Business Manager and with Dan Fairchild (HDC Youth Provision Officer) regarding a possible idea that we have. It was a very constructive meeting and we will have further discussions before making a final decision, but it all looks very positive. Since then, we have revisited with Matt and Alfie the boxing coaches and all agree that the school has a really good venue for the boxing. It will be a very good opportunity for Matt to engage with the young people who may be struggling at school for many reasons. With Matt's guidance and support we hope that with these young people will decide to make a positive change in their lives through boxing.

Our Warden drop-in outside Sainsburys with Age UK was a very wet and blustery event, although we had several positive engagements. We also had one negative one as a gentleman decided to park his vehicle on the roundabout on double yellow lines so he could go to the cash point. He was told very politely that he couldn't park there. However, he decided that he didn't like being asked to move, so he swore at us, but did move his vehicle. He will be getting an Operation Crackdown letter through the door in the next week or two which may prevent him from doing this again.

We attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service; the roads were lined with the Community of Billingshurst, and the church was full to the brim. The service was extremely moving and it was so lovely to see all the young people from the Explorers, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows altogether taking part in such a poignant reminder of all those men and women who fought and died for the freedoms we enjoy.

We held a second annual road safety event outside Billingshurst Primary School, which was well attended by school children and their parents. We also had our local Fire Service, local police, Highways Agency, Community Speedwatch and CEOs in attendance. Unfortunately, we were unable to secure use of the local fire engine on this occasion; due to the heavy rain and flooding the engines were in use helping vehicles and their drivers/passengers who were stuck in the flooded roads. We had parents come and say to us how good the event was and asked if it could be held in the summer as well, so we are now in the early stages of organising another event for Spring/Summer next year.

We went along to a coffee afternoon that Age UK had set up so they can meet residents and advise and support them with issues they may be having; plus, we met our new Social Prescriber, Kathryn. We had a good couple of hours talking to residents who had come along and also to Hayley (Age UK) and Kathryn about how we could support them in their role.

Patrols

We carry out patrols (foot/visible and car) as follows:-

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.

Conducting 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 saw a parked work vehicle with the driver's door wide open. We rang the number on the van and established that the driver was working in a nearby property. Advice was given to the owner, due to the presence of work tools in the vehicle that could have easily been stolen by an opportunist thief. The owner hadn't realised that they had left the door open so were very thankful that we had let them know.

Whilst on foot patrol we saw a person of interest to the police driving past us in a vehicle. As advised by the police, we called this in on 999 to inform them that the person was in the area.

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.

A parent asked if we could help with their child as they had refused to go into school. Although we spoke to the child to see if there was anything bothering them and had a general chat, the child would still not go into school. We spoke to the school for advice and explained what had happened and it has been decided that a meeting will be organised between parent, child, and school to establish what the issue is and what support can be given to both the child and parent.

We were contacted by the school to assist in an issue that a resident was having before and after school. We attended the school and spoke to all parties concerned and advised the resident to report any issues they are having via 101.

We received a call from a resident about a local elderly male who is suffering with his mental health. We have advised the resident and will sign post the elderly male to the appropriate agencies.

We received a call from the school regarding an issue between students that was threatening to spiral into a violent altercation. We patrolled the area and came across three young people, one of whom matched the description of one of the young people involved and who appeared to be waiting for someone. We decided to check the home address of the other student involved to check they were home, which they

were. We discussed with the parent about what support could be given and suggested speaking to the school and logging incidents with the police if this keeps happening.

Licensing

Animals/Dogs/Cats

We have been conducting dog poo patrols and spraying the offending excrement red which makes it visible to children and the public, so no-one steps in it. Whilst in Station Road Community Gardens, we were made aware of a resident who regularly allows her dog to defecate in the park area. When asked by members of the public to pick it up, she firstly denied it was her dog, and then secondly told them it's a public place so her dog can poop there. We will be continuing our patrols in the gardens in hope that we see the dog walker concerned. She will be advised as to the responsibility of a dog owner and how refusing to pick up her dog's poop will end up with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). We have patrolled parks and public footpaths and it has been very disappointing to see the amount of dog poo that is being left by dog owners - not only is an eyesore it is also a health hazard to others.

We have also contacted the Primary School about the possibility of their students creating posters to educate people about picking up after their dogs. This was agreed and will be done in the New Year, so we can put posters up in those areas that are the worst for this issue.

We were contacted by a resident from Loxwood who wanted advice regarding a dog-on-dog attack. They were advised to contact Chichester District Council and inform them of the incident and contact the Dog Warden and police.

Cycling:

Parish Specific/Other/Railway

We reported to the managing agent for the site that the gates in Newbridge Road West into Platts Island were not secured. The gate was locked when we went back 1 hour later.

We were made aware of an issue with the pedestrian lights in the High Street which could have caused an accident. We reported this to Telent who mentioned that they had many calls already and were sending someone out to investigate. The workman was there within a short space of time and the lights appeared to work at that time.

The pedestrian lights again were not working correctly so we again contacted Telent. A workman came out within the hour and fixed the lights again. It is believed the heavy rain was getting in the grey box by the lights causing them to malfunction.

If the lights ever malfunction the telephone number to report a fault to Telent is 0808 164 2260.

We received complaints about some low level ASB around the Kings Arms that had recently been closed. There had been damage to benches out the front of the pub, bins which still had glass bottles and cans in were emptied around the building causing an eyesore plus broken glass everywhere which we cleared up. Also round the back a store cupboard with paint, cleaning products, etc was left insecure. We found out

who the brewery were that owned the pub and emailed them to make them aware of the issues and asked if the benches could be put away and perhaps have a gate put up to prevent any further ASB. We are pleased to report that the brewery took our email seriously and have done what was asked.

“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”