

Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

October 2022

Patrol hours TOTAL:	212	ASB incidents TOTAL:	27
Foot (high visibility)	148	Noise/Miscellaneous	14
Vehicle	74	Neighbours	
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	3	Driving/Vehicles/Parking/Bikes/E-Scooters	6
Fixed Penalty Notice		Animals/Dogs	
Yellow card warning	3	Alcohol/Drugs	1
Community Protection Warning/Notice		Crime/Crim Dam	6
Parking alert		Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	16
Police reports TOTAL:	15	Fly tipping / flyposting	4
Phone (including 101 and 999)	3	Graffiti	1
Email	1	Dog fouling	5
Intelligence report	7	Litter	1
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)		Drug litter	5
Verbal	4	Hazards	
Media reports TOTAL:	10	Community events attended	4
Press release / Community magazines	1	Reports to Operation Crackdown	4
Social Media	9	Safeguarding referral	
Admin	40	School contact	14
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	14	Youth engagement	100+
Signposting	12	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

SRCG - Station Road Community Gardens

LSRG - Lower Station Road Recreation Ground

MOP - Member of the Public.

YP – Young People.

[ASB/Crime/Criminal Damage](#)

A house was egged in the village after the resident had gone to bed. This caused some anxiety to the resident, and it also took a lot of cleaning to remove the egg from the outside of the house. The resident was later called to check on her welfare and offer suitable advice.

Someone had put some branches from trees onto the seating in the green shelter at SRCG and set light to them. Thankfully, although some of the branches had set alight, most didn't as they were wet. We managed to clear away the mess and cleaned the seat so people are able to utilise the area.

A resident reported to us that a for sale sign was damaged by two unknown males in East Street in the early hours of the morning. This has been passed to police for their attention and patrols and we will also patrol the area during our shift hours.

There have been numerous reports from Amblehurst Green of vehicles being broken into and door handles tried on vehicles. There has been some very good ring doorbell footage of at least 4 young males so hopefully someone will recognise them.

Reports have made that approximately at 00.15hrs unknown people were trying to get into vehicles on the Penfold Grange estate, no reports of any thefts as yet.

We went to the area for a reassurance patrol; speaking to many residents about what had happened and gave as much reassurance as we could. We also gave some crime prevention advice to those that asked for it along with a copy of our leaflet with our contact details. Police are investigating the incident/s and patrolling the area for reassurance and intel gathering.

There have been reports of young people knocking on doors and running away in Coombe Hill and Honeysuckle Drive. We will be patrolling the area and trying to identify those responsible. The young person who was responsible for the door knocking in Coombe Hill has been identified and spoken to and given advice regarding their behaviour. We were made aware of issues at an address in Honeysuckle Drive by the school. The issue was occurring after school, so we made sure we were in the area for a few afternoons. As far as we are aware there were no further incidents of door knocking at the address.

Houses in Frenches Mead and Amblehurst Green have been egged and a car in New Road was egged by people in a passing vehicle. Please report all anti-social such as this to the Wardens billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk and Sussex Police on 101.

We have had reports of door kicking - this time it was in Little East Street at nearly 10pm and caused the residents some distress as they felt the door was being kicked in. Some crime prevention advice was given and with the neighbours' CCTV we hope we maybe able to identify the individual/s doing this.

Whilst on patrol spotted a large group of youths in the Daux Avenue area who, it appeared, were trying to climb gates/fences. We engaged with them and some local residents and advice was given to both parties. Residents were reassured and advice given along with our leaflet. The youths were advised and moved.

We assisted a mother in the village after concerns about her daughter. Advice and assistance was given to the daughter and after some time, along with some assistance from friends and family members, managed to persuade the young female to go home.

A vehicle seen in and around the train station was subject to a SORN this was reported to the police as the driver was acting suspiciously having sighted us.

We gave verbal warnings to several young people regarding ASB in the area including climbing onto railway tracks, trespassing onto a building site, and playing knock down ginger on the Marringdean Acres estate.

There have been several reports of young people stealing sweets at Amblehurst Green which had been left out for local children on Hallowe'en evening. This meant that some of the young children could have been left without anything if it hadn't been for the kindness of residents who went and bought some more sweets, so no-one went without. There was some very good CCTV of some of the culprits which is going to be shown to The Weald School for the identification of those involved.

Cars in East Street and the High Street had damage to their vehicles by ball bearings, which were possibly shot from a moving vehicle. There was also another incident previously in Coombe Hill. It is believed in the East Street case that this may have occurred between 0100 – 0600hrs.

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

There have been complaints regarding parking in the High Street. When we see vehicles, we either move them on or report them to Operation Crackdown. Sussex Police run the Operation Crackdown site so any vehicles reported to them will get actioned by police. We have requested that the Civil Enforcement Officers come down to the High Street, Billingshurst Primary School and also by the train station opposite Tesco's where vehicles are being parked on double yellow lines causing obstructions to other road users.

We worked in conjunction with environmental enforcement with regard to warning a business and its vehicle/driver in reference to the dropping of litter and illegal parking.

4 vehicles have been reported to Operation Crackdown for illegal parking in the High Street/dangerous driving.

3 suspicious vehicles have been reported to police after drivers and/or passengers seen acting suspiciously and/or are parked in a known hot spot area.

[Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti](#)

We reported three locations of fly tipping to Horsham District Council (HDC) and removal was carried out the next day.

Two banners were fly posted on a bridge on the Billingshurst bypass and were reported to HDC for removal as political but, more importantly, cars were slowing to read the banner, therefore causing a danger to other road users. They were removed very promptly.

A large fly tipping that was covering right across the road in Wooddale Lane was reported on social media, this was reported for removal to HDC which was removed on 28th October.

[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 and 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 be 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 Service to discuss issues in Billingshurst and how we can work together to make Billingshurst a safer place to live, with emphasis on the increase in the lighting of small fires around Billingshurst. We invited a member of The Men's Shed to our meeting with the Fire Service. We had a great discussion, and the Fire Service will be advertising the Men's Shed by putting a poster in their notice board outside the Fire Station. Representatives of Mens Shed have been invited to the open day next year, where they can sell some of the items they make.

We assist with Billingshurst Speed watch on an ad hoc basis as and when required. The group always needs other 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 quiz afternoon at one of the local sheltered accommodations. It can be a slightly competitive afternoon, however it is enjoyed by staff, residents and us.

We attended The Billingshurst Fireworks; it was lovely to see the community of Billingshurst coming together to watch the fireworks which were amazing. There was a nice community feel to the event and it was a fantastic success, and this all thanks to all those that run the event and the volunteers who made it such a special evening.

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.

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.

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 care line and smoke alarms and to see if there are any other welfare issues that we can help with.

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 sign post them to the appropriate agencies if needed.

We go into the Weald School at lunchtime once a week to now visit year 7 only for this term to help them settle in. This is working well, as now when we go into see the students they chat quite happily with us.

We are also going into the Billingshurst Primary School on the year 6 lunchtime to get to know those young people who will be joining the Weald 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.

Licensing

Animals/Dogs/Cats

We are receiving increased reports regarding dog fouling in local parks and dog walking areas. We have been targeting the areas and spraying the dog excrement with a coloured paint so walkers can see it. Large amounts of excrement will be reported to HDC for removal. If we see a dog owner not picking up their dog's faeces, they will be given words of advice in the first instance. However, further repetitions of this means that a Fixed Penalty Notice will be seriously considered.

Cycling:

Parish Specific/Other/Railway

We were contacted by the school to assist with a search for a young person who had left the school, we searched the area and then attended the home address and spoke to the young person who was at home with an appropriate adult. The school were notified of this and we were thanked for our help.

We assisted police with a search for a missing vulnerable person who was from the Metropolitan area, thankfully she was found safe and well.

We were notified by a member of the public that there was a homeless person sleeping outside the library. We went and spoke to her and contacted Turning Tides and Street Link. The lady has been given advice

about her options and is now awaiting a visit from Street Link. We will be keeping an eye on her to ensure she is safe and well until such time she is either housed or moves on of her own accord. Street Link have been in contact with the lady and have offered advice and support to work towards a solution that will move her away from the streets.

Some offensive graffiti that was on the underside of the bridge of the railway line was reported to Network Rail for removal which was completed within 2 days.

We held a bushcraft event which was very kindly partially funded by the Parish Council. The event was well attended by young people including Barry and myself who are not so young. We learnt about the different trees, berries and plants, including the fact that dock leaves do not actually help nettle stings. Instead, you should use ribwort plantain which you can either chew and put onto the sting or crush the leaves with your fingers and apply to the nettle sting, so an interesting fact was learnt by us all.

After our walk around the area of Jubilee fields we went back to the activity area and the children learnt how to safely whittle a branch from a hazel tree into a tent peg. Then how to light a fire safely and how to put it out and the importance of leaving the area without any trace of us being there. The children learnt the importance of respecting the environment and the wildlife that lives there, we all enjoyed the event so much that we will be looking at putting on another event next February half-term. With thanks to Nick who made it all possible and his two willing helpers who helped with the setting up of the camp and also assisted the children with the whittling.

“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”