





# <u>Warden Monthly Report</u> March 2025 – Billingshurst Parish

# **Project Work**

# Journey Support Group - The Depot, 83a High Street

Our next date is Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April from 10am – 11am. Neighbourhood Wardens across the district provide safe space for parents and carers of autistic and SEN children to talk about their journey. Please see our teams' up and coming dates. Come along this month to any of our sessions and meet other parents on a similar journey to you. No diagnosis required, no pressure, just a free cuppa and chat.



### **Coffee Morning**

Friday Coffee Mornings have been well attended by members of our community. They are a safe space to meet new people, play games or just enjoy a free cuppa and a natter. We host each week and not only do we make great toast but also provide information and guidance around personal safety and signpost to relevant agencies.

We have given the poster an updated look so keep your eyes peeled for it around the village and let people know that everyone is welcome.



#### **Board Games Café**

We started our Board Games Cafe on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March, and this will continue the last Thursday of every month at The Depot between 3.15pm and 5.15pm – open to all. We welcomed a small number of players, some brought their own games, some just enjoyed the space to play with different games, have a hot drink and eat biscuits.

If anyone has any board games at home that they no longer play, we are more than happy to accept donations.



#### **Our New Team Member!**

This month we have welcomed a new member to our team - "Billi" the tabby cat. Billi is a robotic cat that feels and sounds like a real cat. It has built-in sensors that respond to motion and touch, realistic soft fur, and makes soothing purrs and pleasant meows, but doesn't require any special care, feeding or trips to the vet! Our plan is to take Billi the cat to events, care homes, children's groups and home visits to those who may be house bound.

Pictured are Ben from Billingshurst Family Church meeting Billi for the first time and Warden Supervisor Carol Boniface who called into one of our Friday Coffee Mornings.





# **Youth Provision**

# **Youth Boxing Programme**

We have continued to attend the Wednesday afternoon Youth Boxing Programme sessions at The Weald School. It has been important to get to know the coaches and young people better and it has been lovely to welcome a couple of new students to the sessions.

We have invited the students and coaches to an end of term "Pizza Night" at The Depot on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April after the last boxing session of the term, as a well done celebration. We look forward to updating you about how it went in our April report.

For more informartion about WBC Cares UK who run the sessions, please visit their website here:

https://www.wbccaresuk.org/

# **Events & Meetings**

# **Quarterly Warden Team Meeting**

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March we attended the quarterly warden team meeting at the new Horsham District Council Offices at Albery House. The meeting provides us with the opportunity to spend time with the other members of the wider warden team and to share ideas and discuss the projects we are working on and supporting in our parishes. This quarter we also received updates from HDC's Head of HR, Housing Team and Health & Well Being Team.

More information about Horsham District Wellbeing can be found at the website below:

https://horsham.westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/

#### Meeting with Sarah Edwards, Head Teacher, The Weald School

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March we met with Sarah Edwards at The Weald School to introduce ourselves as the new wardens. Sarah is extremely supportive of the Warden Scheme and is more than happy for us to visit the school anytime but especially during break times so that we can get to know the students better.

# **Peer Group Conference**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March we joined the Peer Group Conference meeting via Teams.

A Peer Group Conference meeting has been created to discuss, in a multi-agency environment, vulnerable young people who are coming to the attention of the Police for anti-social behaviour or are at risk of being exploited.

This group is not intended to discuss young people who are already involved in the Criminal Justice system, regularly going missing or have an allocated Social Worker. Instead, this project targets individuals for early intervention with the aim of diverting young people away from potential criminal activity and exploitation.

This project is a Community Safety Partnership initiative, and meetings are chaired by a Horsham District Council Community Safety Officer.

#### **Fire Station Charity Car Wash**

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March Billingshurst Fire Station held their annual Fire Station Charity Car Wash. As our Warden vehicle was looking a little dirty, we decided to take it along for a clean and to support this wonderful event. A huge well done to all the crew, their families and friends who raised over £650 on the day.



Following break-ins to two Fire Stations in West Sussex, we have provided some vehicle patrols of Billingshurst Fire Station and surrounding areas and provided a "Smile You're on CCTV" sign to deter unwelcome visitors. Please report any suspicious activity to Sussex Police online or by dialling 101 or 999 in an emergency.

# Neighbourhood Warden & Age UK Drop-In at Billingshurst Library

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March we held a drop-in session at the library with Hayley Dower, Senior Community Developer for Horsham Locality from Age UK. Although the session was fairly quiet, we did have a couple of useful conversations with residents about our services and local issues.



Page 6 of 13

## **Meeting with the Billingshurst Street Pastors**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March we met with Street Pastors Brenda and Mary to discuss how they help people when they are out and about conducting their patrols in the village. We chatted about our role and updated them on our projects and ideas for the future. A very productive meeting.

#### The H'Oscars - Staff Awards

On Thursday 20th March we attended the Horsham District Council annual H'Oscars awards ceremony at The Capitol Theatre in Horsham, where staff got together to recognise all of the hard work and achievements over the past year. Several wardens were nominated for awards, including Maria, so a huge congratulations to them and to all the award winners.



Pictured is the Horsham District Council Staff Band

#### **Dementia Cafe – Trinity United Reformed Church**

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March we were welcomed back to the Dementia Cafe. After spending some time chatting to attendees, we gave a short presentation about ourselves, the warden role and gave some scam awareness tips and information.

There is a very useful publication available called "The Little Book of Big Scams" now available in its 5<sup>th</sup> edition. An online version can be found at the Sussex Police website and the link can be found below:

https://www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/advice/operations-initiatives-and-watch-schemes/operation-signature/the-little-book-of-scams

A reminder that the Dementia Cafe operates on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month in the hall at Trinity URC from 10.00am-12.00pm and more information can be found at their website below:

https://billingshursturc.co.uk/dementia%20cafe.html

#### Meeting with Marion Ley, Head Teacher, Billingshurst Primary Academy

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March we met with Marion Ley at Billingshurst Primary Academy to introduce ourselves as the new wardens, Marion is also extremely supportive of the Warden Scheme and invited us to their Easter Bonnet Parade in April, at which we look forward to meeting their young people's creations.

We do provide vehicle and foot patrols around both schools, mornings and afternoons. Please wave if you see us and say hello.

#### West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (WSFRS) Safety Meeting

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March we attended the monthly fire safety meeting at Albery House. The meeting is attended by Steve Bridle from WSFRS Horsham, representatives from HDC's properties team, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and the wardens from Horsham, Southwater and Billingshurst. At the meeting we discuss concerns about any potentially dangerous properties and locations, fires that have occurred in the district and this month we discussed break-ins to two fire stations, one of which is within the Horsham District.

#### **Billingshurst Wellbeing Walk**

This month we have again joined some of the Thursday healthy walks around the village, continuing to get to know the participants and the safest walking routes. This is a welcoming group, and residents are encouraged to join.

More information about the Wellbeing Walks can be found at the link below:

https://horsham.westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/events/3981/horsham-park-stroll-horsham/2025-04-10

# Parish Specific/Other

# Whilst out on patrol ...

#### **Issuing A Community Protection Notice**

In Billingshurst, Horsham District Council uses Community Protection Notices (CPNs) and Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to address anti-social behaviour and other offences, with CPNs targeting individuals or businesses whose actions negatively impact the community's quality of life. CPNs are designed to stop individuals aged 16 or over. The Neighbourhood Wardens issued a CPN on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March to a property in Billingshurst. A breach of a CPN is a criminal offence, potentially resulting in a fixed penalty notice (up to £100) or a fine of up to £2,500.

You can report general anti-social behaviour and repeated public nuisance to the anti-social behaviour team at Horsham District Council by emailing communitysafety@horsham.gov.uk

Crime and anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Police on 101. In an emergency, always call 999.

#### Fly tipping

We observed a mattress that had been dumped by our allotments, this was reported and removed.



When reporting locations to a variety of agencies we often find it easiest to provide a what3words description to help pinpoint exactly where something is located or happening.

So, what is what3words?

The company behind the idea decided to divide the world up into 3 metre squares and then gave each square a unique combination of three words. It is the easiest way to find and share exact locations. What3words is used daily in 193 countries and is available in 60+ languages.

You can find out more about what3words at the website here:

https://what3words.com/about

#### Assisting a young person after fall from their bicycle

Whilst out on patrol on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March we noticed that a young person had fallen off their bike whilst cycling along Marringdean Road. Two kind members of the public had stopped to help. We also stopped and checked the young person was okay. They had a couple of minor injuries, so we walked them and their bike back home and updated their parents.

#### Insecure sub-station in Honeysuckle Drive

After assisting the young person home after their fall, and whilst walking back to our vehicle, we noticed a compound with an insecure door and, worryingly, a board that has been placed over the top of the cabinet to gain entry. We have spent quite a bit of time trying to ascertain who has responsibility for this area. Both Scottish & Southern Electric (SSE) and Southern Water have attended the site and confirmed that it is not their responsibility.



We have made enquiries with another team at HDC who have checked land registry records, and we are now making enquiries with the landowners.

#### Graffiti

Whilst out on patrol on 27<sup>th</sup> March we found some offensive graffiti on one of the bridges that crosses the A29. This was reported to both HDC and WSCC. Due to it being on a highway bridge it has been painted over by WSCC.



# Useful links for reporting litter, fly tipping or graffiti:

You can report litter issues to HDC at the following link:

https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/litter

You can report a damaged or overflowing litter bin here:

https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/report-a-damaged-or-overflowing-litter-bin

If you witness fly tipping in action, please call Sussex Police and if possible, provide them with the registration of the offending vehicle and subsequently any relevant dash cam footage you may have. You can also report it direct to HDC at: <a href="https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/fly-tipping">https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/fly-tipping</a>

Abandoned shopping trolleys can be reported on the "Trolleywise" website at: <a href="https://www.wanzl.com/en">https://www.wanzl.com/en</a> GB/360-degree-service/TrolleyWise

You can report incidents of graffiti direct to Horsham District Council via their website: https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning

#### **Dog Related Issues**

Dog fouling can be reported via the HDC website:

https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/dog-fouling

Any attacks by dogs need to be reported immediately to Sussex Police. Their advice is that if there is an immediate threat to human or animal life to call 999. Otherwise report to the police on 101 or via the Sussex Police website reporting form.

https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

#### **Dogs Roaming Free**

If you find a dog roaming free and not being supervised, you may wish to consider reporting it to Horsham District Council's approved contractor on 07512 089777 and they will come and collect. *This is a 24/7 service, but the dog does need to be contained for them to collect.* 

\*\*\* Please note Horsham District Council does not have dog wardens \*\*\*

# **Rough Sleepers and Homeless Persons**

https://thestreetlink.org.uk/ connecting people sleeping rough to local services.

#### **Social Media**

Please do follow us at:

https://www.facebook.com/HDWardens

https://twitter.com/HorshamWardens





# YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Billingshurst Parish





**Maria Colenso** 07795 051516

If you wish to speak to us in confidence, please give us a call or email billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk















# THE WORK WE DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Based within the community, your Neighbourhood Wardens work alongside partner agencies to improve the quality of life for everyone and promote community cohesion and resilience. The Wardens undertake a number of activities, ranging from enforcement to community development.

Neighbourhood Wardens can help the community in the following ways:

- Meet the needs of the community and improve the quality of life for the residents, through engagement, promotion and support.
- Develop projects that benefit the local residents, to tackle community safety issues and promote inclusivity.
- Promote community cohesion, resilience and solidarity to encourage and empower communities to resolve issues.

- Support vulnerable members of the community with activities, advice, welfare checks and signposting.
- Engage with residents daily to get to know their local community and become a trusted friend to offer advice and guidance.
- Offer education and advice when required, before taking enforcement action.
- Contribute to the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership plan by working with other agencies.
- Provide a highly visible and reassuring uniformed patrolling presence.
- Provide an effective eyes and ears service aimed at reducing the fear of crime and improving quality of life.
- Work alongside the Police and submit reports regarding drug use, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

1.05 (1909)

#### In an emergency always dial 999







