

# Billingshurst Wardens Monthly Report

## February 2024

<b>Patrol hours TOTAL:</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>ASB incidents TOTAL:</b>	
Foot (high visibility)	79	Noise	0
Vehicle	14	Neighbours	0
<b>Notices/warnings TOTAL:</b>	<b>4</b>	Driving/Vehicles/Bikes	8
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Alcohol	0
Yellow card warning	0		
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0		
Parking alert	4	<b>Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Police reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>6</b>	Fly tipping / flyposting	0
Phone (including 101 and 999)	1	Graffiti	3
Email	1	Dog fouling	0
Intelligence report	2	Litter	1
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	11
Verbal	2	Hazards	0
<b>Media reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Community events attended</b>	<b>6</b>
Press release / Community magazines	0	<b>School Contact</b>	<b>5</b>
Social Media	7	<b>Youth engagement</b>	<b>65+</b>
<b>Admin</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Vulnerable people welfare checks</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Signposting</b>	<b>7</b>		

### 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

We were given information regarding a group of about 5 young males carrying a slingshot/catapult in the area of Birch Drive/Broomfield Avenue. The informant saw one of them appear to aim at a bedroom window of a house in that area. This happened on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at around 3pm. The police were contacted by the informant with descriptions of the young males. If anyone has any more information, please let the police know as this type of incident is happening not only here but Pulborough and Storrington as well.

A further incident of males carrying a slingshot/catapult was reported. Again, they were firing the catapult at birds/windows. The police are aware and will be investigating due to more information coming to light thanks to vigilant members of the Billingshurst community.

Another pane has been broken in one of the bus stops close to Hilland Roundabout. The glass has a hole in it, which looks like a ball bearing has hit it.



We received a report of young people fighting behind houses in Coombe Hill. During the course of the fight a garden fence/gate was damaged. This has been reported to the police by the aggrieved and we will patrol the area, as will the police, to deter further incidents. This area has been reported to us as an ASB area, with a garage being broken into and used for smoking cannabis, breaking bottles, loud shouting, etc. The garage has been reported to the social landlords on a few occasions now by us and residents, asking them to come along and secure the garage to prevent further issues.

The Dauxwood Pre-School had a window broken - probably by a catapult and ball bearing or BB gun. This is the second time that they have been targeted. We believe we know the date on which this occurred as young males were seen walking along with catapults in their hands by other residents on that day. This incident has been reported to the police.

A container in Jubilee Fields was set alight during the February half-term holidays and this has been reported to police. If you were in the area at the time and saw anything at all, please inform the police.



## Parking/Vehicles

We have given advice to two members of the public in reference to a local parking issue in their road.

There have been 6 vehicles reported to Operation Crackdown for parking illegally in the village.

One vehicle has been reported to DVLA for having no tax.

## Fly Tipping/Littering/Graffiti

There have been three separate incidents of graffiti reported to HDC, Network Rail and to WSCC Traffic Signal Faults. Some of which has been cleaned off but we will follow up those reports that haven't.

The graffiti on Natts Lane bridge was reported and removed within 24 hours by Network Rail, which we are sure many of the community of Billingshurst will be pleased about.

HDC are always very quick at removing graffiti, especially if its abusive etc. There is now an app that you can use to report issues, such as graffiti, fly tipping, overflowing bins, dog bins and so on. It's a very helpful app so take a look and see what you think.

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/mobileapp>

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/fly-tipping/fly-tipping>

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, Julie one of the Billingshurst Wardens assisted in a litter pick with some of the members of Billigreen. We went along the bypass road, into the meadow by Cherry Tree Close play area, the wood behind Holders Close and to Jubilee Fields car park. Each of us ended up with a large black of rubbish, tin cans, bottles and dog poo that had been put into nice bags then dropped on the floor or hung from bushes/trees. We didn't manage to get any pictures this time round. However, thank you to all those that volunteered their spare time in help clearing up the litter left behind by others. We are hoping to continue this every month now to keep the foot path to the bypass clear of rubbish.

## Community Engagement/Events/Meetings

We were invited along to The Wednesday Club at the St Mary's Room. We spoke about our role and answered questions from the attendees. Also talking were Horsham Matters Food Bank, and Billingshurst's very own Community Larder. It was a very informative morning and we both enjoyed it and the chance to meet other residents of Billingshurst.

We were very lucky to have Ben Applin who is a Rural Engagement Officer from West Sussex Fire Service. He came along to talk to attendees of the Friday Coffee Morning about safety in the home with regards to preventing fires and what to do in the case of a fire at home/work, etc. He will be doing several safe and well visits to some of the group. This is a pre-arranged visit to the home giving advice on how to make it safer and, in some cases, the fitting of smoke alarms/carbon monoxide detectors free of charge.



## Patrols (foot/visible and car)

We go out on foot patrols daily so that 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 make sure that there are no problems they need to discuss with us.

We conduct car patrols for the purposes of fly tipping and to cover the outer areas of Billingshurst such as Adversane and Five Oaks.

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 the Amblehurst Green Estate (both of which have previously had issues). If there any areas that you feel may need patrols, please let us know.

We have patrolled the parks and green spaces including the allotments, talking with residents and young people and answering any questions they may have.

At least once a week we go into The Weald School for a lunchtime patrol. It's always lovely to engage with the students and hear how their day is going. It also means we are getting to know them and they us, so when we are out and about, they often stop and say hello or wave at us when we pass in the car.

We have been patrolling Jubilee Fields and talking to dog owners. Whilst there we saw the container that had been set alight. Thankfully as it has been wet there was no other damage to other structures or trees etc.

## Older, Vulnerable People and Youth

We 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, especially with the cold weather and the cost-of-living crisis. Anyone that we do meet that requires further help is always referred 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.

## Dog Related Issues

## Cycling

## Parish Specific/Other/Railway, Social Media/Press

There was some very emotive graffiti painted onto the Natts Lane bridge which was reported to Network Rail and very quickly removed. Many thanks to Network Rail for doing this so quickly. We did send a thanks to the company for their amazing customer service.

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at approx. 8.30pm, residents close to Daux Road saw a male walking up to doors and walking around to different properties. He was seen to leave a basket and left with something in his arms. The basket, containing a pack of 6 apples, was taken back to Tesco's and a report made to police by residents.

A resident made us aware of a male that was seen trying car doors in the Billingshurst Surgery car park. He was then later seen in the rear of The Billingshurst Centre. We conducted a wide area search for the male; however unfortunately we didn't find him. It appears the young man was found and needed medical attention, so an ambulance was called, and he was taken to hospital.

**"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"**