

Warden Monthly Report

Southwater Parish Report March 2024



If you witness acts of violence, verbal abuse, drug taking, irresponsible alcohol use or damage to property please report it to Sussex Police via the methods above or anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit their website: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Patrol hours TOTAL:	101.75	ASB incidents reported to us TOTAL:	8.00
Foot (high visibility)	46.50	Noise	0
Vehicle	55.25	Neighbours	1
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	4.00	Driving/vehicles	3
Verbal Warning	1	Bicycles	0
Parking Alert	3	Alcohol/Drugs	0
Yellow card warning (ASB)	0	Other	4
Fixed Penalty Notice	0		
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	13.00
Police reports TOTAL:	38.00	Fly tipping / flyposting	1/0
In person	20	Graffiti	1
Phone (including 101 and 999)	15	Dog fouling	4
Email	3	Litter	4
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	1
Intelligence report	0	Hazards	2
Media reports TOTAL:	3.00	Community events attended	4
Press release / Community magazines	1	School contact	4
Social Media Posts	2	Youth engagement	49
Vulnerable People Welfare Checks	6	Reports to DVLA	1
Signposting	8	Reports to Operation Crackdown	0
Safeguarding referral	0	Admin	35

Anti-Social Behaviour

Through our partnership working, in particular with Sussex Police and Neighbourhood Watch Association, plus routine monitoring of crime reporting websites for information about suspicious activity, people and vehicles we are able to understand and respond to emerging trends. This month we have spent a considerable amount of time with our local PCSO Damian Cecil, his colleagues and some Response Officers from Sussex Police addressing local issues, undertaking joint patrols, business visits and working collaboratively to secure positive outcomes for our residents.

Thefts by Children

We are aware of two unrelated incidents of theft by under 16s where CCTV footage was obtained. Through additional enquiries, their identities have now been confirmed. We are looking to support retailers to issue banning letters against these four children and would respectfully request the support of parents if you receive one about your child. As your Wardens, we want to work collaboratively with you and your child to minimise the risks associated with any criminal behaviours as this can lead to exploitation and long-term damage to their future prospects of employment and even foreign travel. Feel free to contact us at any time to talk through any concerns you may have.

01/03-06/03 Theft

We received a number of reports of adult shoplifters committing offences in our retail shops. We undertook reassurance visits, spoke to staff and facilitated the reporting of incidents to the Police. We liaised with our local PCSO in order to link a number of repeat offenders with these crimes. On 06/03 we were alerted to the activities of a particular prolific shoplifter who we have been tracking, stealing from one of our shops. We liaised with the informant and, as we were on a mobile patrol, were able to get into the area quickly. Having searched nearby, we found the suspect making off on a bicycle. Due to our proactive interventions, we were able to provide live updates to Sussex Police, identify the house he entered and secure the perimeter until the police arrived to arrest the suspect.

02/03 Suspicious Activity

We were alerted to an allegation on Social Media regarding the interaction of a male presenting adult with two school children in our village. The children reported being alarmed by the approach of this person who tried to engage them in conversation about their day at school. This person was not known to them and as a consequence, the matter was reported. We were provided with a photograph of the individual and liaised with our local PCSO undertaking joint, high visibility, reassurance patrols in key areas at the appropriate times to prevent any further incidents. Subsequently, whilst on patrol, we saw the male and, having consulted with the police, we stopped him and engaged him in conversation in order to secure his personal details. This information was then passed to the police who undertook further investigations. We hope that you are reassured by the police outcomes in that the individual is not known to the police for any previous offences and it would appear that it was a cultural difference of attitude towards children that underpinned the misunderstanding. The male has been advised that such interactions unfortunately cause concern and he should not engage with children that are not known to him personally or are not in the company of an appropriate adult. This is another example of how we work closely with the police to support investigations and provide reassurance for our residents.

19/03 Theft

Whilst on foot patrol in the village, we saw a known female presenting, adult, shoplifter with a small child in a buggy and engaged her in conversation whilst attempting to get a Police response unit to attend. Unfortunately, on this occasion, no officers were available so we secured as much evidence as we could which was passed to our local PCSO. As a direct result of our intervention, she has now been identified and we hope that appropriate action will be taken to address her offending and/or provide her with the support she needs.

26/03 Suspicious Item

Due to a report received from an observant resident, we were able to locate and recover a damaged cash counting and storage device which was partially hidden in undergrowth in the Country Park. We conducted enquiries with the manufacturer who in turn have been able to identify the owner. Investigations are continuing.

All incidents of this type should be reported to the Police to ensure that all evidence is captured, suspects can be identified and their offences investigated.

Parking/vehicles

08/03 – A concerned resident alerted us to the fact that they had found a key fob in the street for a vehicle parked nearby. We were able to contact our local PCSO who was able to identify the owner and alert them to the issue and reunite them with their property.

We are frequently asked about what can be done about vehicles being driven with no Road Tax or a valid MOT. These can be reported using the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-no-mot>

<https://www.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle>

For anti-social driving and abandoned vehicles, please report to Operation Crackdown at:

<https://reports.operationcrackdown.org/asdprs/default.aspx>

Fly tipping, littering & graffiti

- **Fly Tipping**

21/03 – We reported a dumped, commercial fridge-freezer for collection and disposal by HDC

- **Fly Posting**

Nothing to Report

- **Litter**

In support of the excellent work done by the two Parish Litter Pickers, we undertook a number of litter patrols ensuring that together we keep Southwater clean and tidy.

If you would like to collect litter in your local area at a time which suits you, Horsham District Council will support you with appropriate equipment through the **Adopt a Street** Scheme:

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

- **Graffiti**

20/03 – We reported offensive graffiti on Cedar Drive to WSCC Highways for removal

- **Drugs Litter**

If you know about someone you care about being involved in drugs, please check out

<https://www.talktofrank.com/> where you will find useful information about different types of drugs, their effects and associated risks.

Community engagement/events/meetings

01/03 – We joined the 'Local Policing for Local People' roadshow held at Beeson House. This event was created and delivered by Sussex Police and designed as an opportunity for residents to meet with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector and his colleagues to discuss concerns. Many conversations were had between partners agencies with representatives from Cyber Crime Team, Road Safety, HDC Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinators, Neighbourhood Watch and the HDC Neighbourhood Warden Scheme. This was the first such meeting with further events being held around the district in the coming months.

02/03 – We were invited to a well-attended SPC run meeting to discuss Southwater's approach to the Climate Emergency. It was a positive meeting with many great ideas and approaches discussed which will all help to build new and constructive relationships with residents, community groups and councils to tackle this crucial issue.

16/03 – We held one of our regular Drop-In sessions outside Beeson House. These events, which are advertised on social media and the SPC website, are there to offer all residents the opportunity to come and speak to us about any concerns you may have, to pick up information leaflets about local community groups or support services or share ideas on how to further improve life for everyone in our village.

Patrols

- We continue patrols of local businesses designed to disrupt shoplifting, ASB and improve engagement.
- We continue to provide high visibility patrols both on foot and in a liveried vehicle throughout the Parish.

Older, Vulnerable People and Youth

We routinely conduct high visibility patrols at times and in areas often used by older residents to offer a reassuring presence plus cover areas previously connected with ASB in order to act as a deterrent. Throughout the month, we regularly visited the Southwater Youth Project and engaged with many young people.

We were made aware of a resident feeling isolated and unable to attend events by themselves. We are currently working with this person to enable them to take part in activities and to create a safe home environment.

08/03 – We were very pleased to be asked to provide a Work Experience placement for a local, young person as part of their Diploma for entry to the Uniform Services college course. It was a great opportunity to showcase Southwater, support their progression and promote positive community engagement with young people.

19/03 – We received a number of reports concerning the welfare of a local resident who had not been seen for a number of days. We attended their home address which was found to be in a state of disrepair and neglect. We could not get a response at the front door so we alerted the housing provider and our local PCSO for follow-up checks to be undertaken as a priority. We will continue to monitor the situation and liaise with partner agencies.

19/03 – We received a report that a vulnerable resident had missed an important medical appointment and could not be contacted by phone. We attended their home address, undertook a safe and well check and asked them to contact their medical practitioner to provide an update on their condition.

Have you heard about <https://www.pathfinderwestsussex.org.uk/> at all? This service provides advice, information and support for people affected by mental health problems, as well as carers, friends and professionals. Pathfinder gives you a single point of contact in your local area. Their staff are trained to provide on to one advice and support. For the Horsham area please contact pathfinder.horsham@richmondfellowship.org.uk or call them on 01403 241866

Dog related issues

If you find a dog roaming free and not being supervised, you may wish to consider reporting it to Environmental Health by email publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk. As with any other incident involving an immediate threat to human or animal life, please call 999.

Cycling

Nothing to Report

Parish specific/other

Public Enquiries

This month we responded to 23 enquiries from residents by phone, email or in person and where necessary, signposted them to the most appropriate support services. These enquires included shoplifting, lost property, suspicious activity, motorbikes on the Downs Link, appropriate disposal method for old shotgun ammunition and issues with vehicles.

Hazards

02/03 – Reported damaged traffic bollard at pinch point in Christs Hospital

07/03 – Cleared broken glass bottles from Lintot Square

16/03 – Reported non-operational streetlights in College Road/Ivy Close to the relevant authority for repair

Meetings

06/03 – We joined the Older Persons Forum to discuss cases of vulnerability requiring additional input
07/03 – We had a visit from Andrew Smith the recently appointed Head of Housing & Communities at HDC
15/03 – We had a meeting with Councillor Steven Lewis SPC to discuss current environmental projects
16/03 – We had a meeting with our PCSO Damian Cecil to discuss local matters and actions to be taken
20/03 – We had a meeting with Councillor Lewis SPC to discuss recent shopliftings and police response
21/03 – We joined WSFRS for our regular meeting highlighting trends and risks in the district

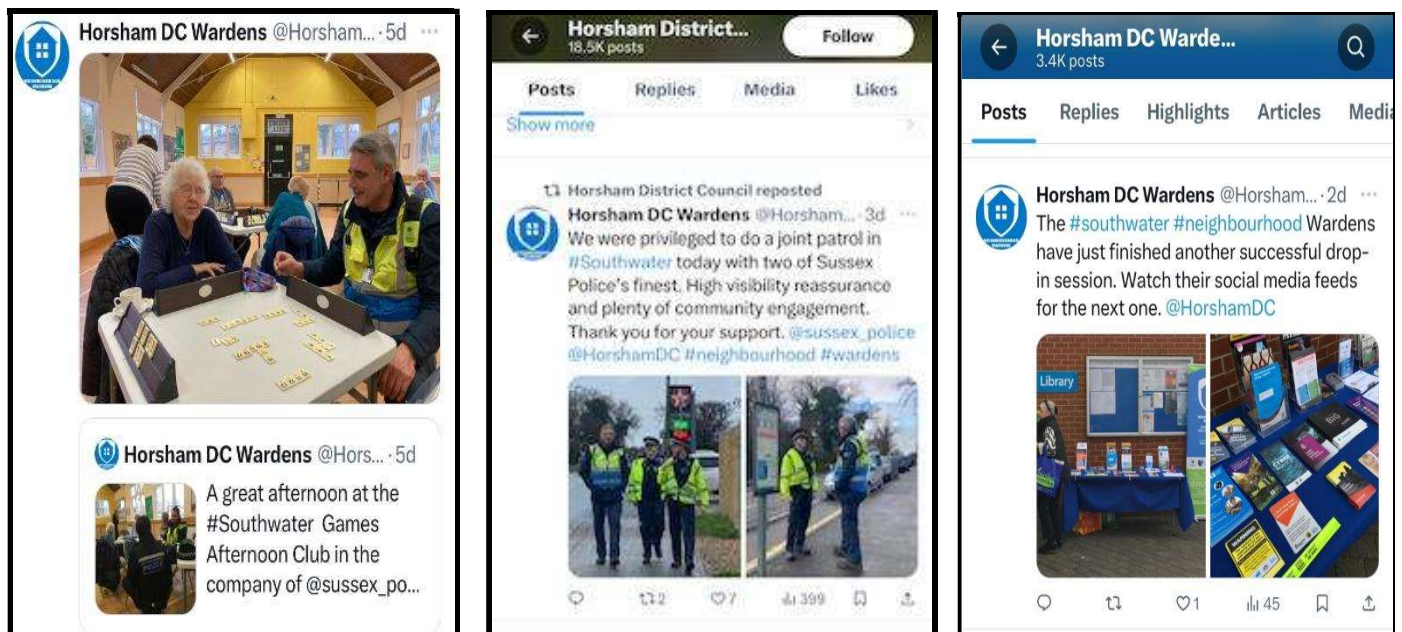
Training

05/03 – We received updated training on Scams

Social Media/Press

We regularly post items on the Horsham District Neighbourhood Wardens' Twitter and Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/HDWardens> and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HorshamWardens>



Our monthly reports are available on the Southwater Parish Council website:

<https://www.southwater-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-wardens>

If you know of someone who would be interested in reading our monthly report, but they do not have access to the internet, please contact us and we will be happy to deliver a printed copy to them:

Bettina Long – 07789943156 Dominic Woodhead – 07789943193

Southwater.Wardens@horsham.gov.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD
WARDENS



Your Neighbourhood Wardens

- We meet the needs of the community to improve the quality of life for the residents through engagement, promotion and support.
- We develop projects that benefit the local residents to tackle community safety issues and promote inclusivity.
- We promote community cohesion, resilience and solidarity to encourage and empower communities to resolve issues.
- We support vulnerable members of the community with activities, advice, welfare checks and signposting.
- We engage with residents daily to get to know our community to become a trusted friend to offer advice, guidance and educate.
- We offer education and advice when required before taking enforcement action (Fixed Penalty Notices for Public Space Protection order and Environmental Crime offences)
- We contribute to the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership by working with other agencies to provide a highly visible and reassuring uniform patrolling presence.
- We provide an effective eyes and ears service aimed at reducing the fear of crime and improving quality of life.
- We submit reports to the police to reduce incidents of drug use, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour (101 in non-emergencies and 999 in emergencies) and work alongside them to tackle anti-social behaviour.



Bettina Long
07789 943156



Dominic Woodhead
07789 943193

**IN AN
EMERGENCY
ALWAYS DIAL 999**

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

 @HorshamWardens
 @HDWardens



Horsham District
Community Safety
Partnership



Horsham
District
Council

KEY:

ASB: Anti-social behaviour.

HDC: Horsham District Council

Operation Crackdown: Joint initiative with Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Sussex Police to report abandoned vehicles or anti-social driving.

PCSO: Police Community Support Officer

PSPO: Public Spaces Protection Order – Intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life.

SPC: Southwater Parish Council

WSCC: West Sussex County Council

WSFR: West Sussex Fire and Rescue