

# Warden Monthly Report

August 2020 Southwater Parish

<b>Patrol hours TOTAL:</b>	<b>101.75</b>	<b>ASB incidents TOTAL:</b>	<b>18</b>
Foot (high visibility)	39.00	Noise	3
Vehicle	62.75	Neighbours	2
<b>Notices/warnings TOTAL:</b>	<b>3</b>	Driving/vehicles	5
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes	5
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	2
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Public order	2
Parking alert	3	<b>Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Police reports TOTAL:</b>	<b>16</b>	Fly tipping / flyposting	7 / 3
Phone (including 101 and 999)	2	Graffiti	1
Email	9	Dog fouling	8
Intelligence report	0	Litter	60
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	52
Verbal	5	Hazards	3
<b>Admin</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Community events attended</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>School contact/engagement</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Signposting</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Safeguarding referral</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	<b>0</b>

## ASB/crime/criminal damage

We routinely monitor crime reporting websites for information about suspicious activity, people and vehicles enabling us to understand and respond to emerging trends. Please report all 'crimes' to Sussex Police as follows: Emergency - 999, Non-Emergency - 101 or via their website - <https://www.sussex.police.uk/reportcrime>  
We appreciate that resources across all sectors are under pressure particularly at this time but failure to report crimes does negatively impact on future resource allocation and the delivery of a coordinated response.

### ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout August, we have continued to be made aware of complaints of ASB particularly in relation to the Country Park, Dinosaur Island, the Quarry Lake, the old Skate Park and Church Lane. The reports were diverse in nature and included accounts of groups of young people using offensive language in children's playgrounds, leaving litter and/or breaking glass, low level criminal damage to community infrastructure (breaking, gates, fences, signs & bins) escalating to threats of and the actual use of physical violence particularly when their behaviour was challenged by residents.

We have spent a considerable amount of time supporting our colleagues from the Country Park who have been subjected to periods of sustained verbal abuse, threats to infect with Covid by touching or by coughing at staff, stones and other missiles being thrown and theft of tools/equipment. Staff were even forced to endure an incident where a small number of youths wiped intimate body parts on tools and the steering wheel of work vehicles.

The following is HDC Country Park specific incident data and is in addition to the SPC incident data listed above:

Trespassing x 15	Quarry Lake and Country Park Lake
Theft x5	Wallet/Goggles/Life Ring/ Fire Extinguisher/Tools
Criminal Damage x4	CCTV/Fencing/Signage/Tools/Equipment
Drugs x2	Fishing Lake & Dinosaur Island
Litter x6	Smashed empty alcohol bottles in various locations including playgrounds
ASB x7	Verbal abuse/obstructing works access/climbing into vehicles

Dispersal Orders and Banning Notices have been arranged by Senior Management Teams in conjunction with the Police and additional enforcement action is being taken when evidence supported that approach. We would urge all residents who witness incidents of this nature, to report information directly to the police at the time using 999 if people are at risk of harm.

Is it safe for you to film the incident? Can you identify any of the people involved? Could you use your phone to record descriptions of individuals involved and what they did? Try to include:

- 1) ethnicity, gender, age, height, build
- 2) hair, facial hair, glasses, tattoos, piercings, scars
- 3) clothing – particularly footwear as this is the hardest to change quickly

We and all key partner agencies, including all SPC & HDC departments, utterly condemn this behaviour and each incident has been reported to the Police.

#### \*Noise

We have received a number of complaints from residents about noise which ranged from a one off or intermittent to constant issues which has the capacity to cause undue stress and anxiety. We should all be conscious of the impact our lifestyle or actions may have on others. If this situation affects you, please consider the following:

Bearing in mind that a certain level of noise is to be expected particularly during the daytime, the first step is that you try talking to the person you believe is causing the noise in order to let them know how it is affecting people living close by as they may not be fully aware and would willingly adjust the volume, duration or location of the activity.

If you do not feel this is an option and if they are private or public sector tenants, the landlord or housing association could be informed and would be able to contact them about it.

If an informal chat with them does not resolve the issue and they are not tenants, the next step would be through the process of mediation via Mediation Service, Park House, North Street, Horsham, RH12 1RN – 03002000025

If informal communication or mediation does not help to resolve the issue then the final step would be to contact: Environmental Health & Licensing, Horsham District Council, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham RH12 1RL - 01403215200

#### \*Vehicle noise

Any motor vehicles in good condition with appropriate documentation supporting their legal use that create traffic noise, are not deemed anti-social. If, however, the manner of the driving is specifically anti-social in nature (e.g. skids/doughnuts/excessive revving/drifts), Section 59 Warnings (Police Reform Act) can be issued by Sussex Police. Please report these incidents to <https://www.sussex.police.uk/reportcrime> or <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

#### \*Trespassing

We routinely patrol all areas of the parish but recently in particular we have concentrated on open spaces and sites containing water. The hot weather has been a catalyst for young people and families to find less obvious places to bathe which has included areas clearly marked as dangerous. We have repeatedly publicised the risks associated with open water swimming and have tried to educate those trespassers we moved on about the real dangers of combining naivety, inexperience, alcohol and bravado with secluded, deep water obstacles. The majority of young people have accepted our instruction to leave albeit some more grudgingly than others but the worst abuse we have suffered has been from adults. Trespass is an offence and the areas are fenced with clear signage identifying the danger. Although we will move you, the most important message is that it is dangerous to be in these areas and we do not want anyone to be injured.

#### *Quarry Lake*

We responded to a number of reports of families and groups of young people who trespassed in order to swim. To all residents and visitors please remember that this land/lake is not accessible for public use. In addition to the risk of cold water shock there are a number of other dangers and underwater hazards:

- The water is extremely deep - the middle of the lake depth is over 20m.
- There is a ring of barbed wire underwater, around the perimeter of the whole lake, approximately 3.5m down.
- An abandoned digger is submerged in the water and pipes which can create unpredictable vacuums.

Although it may look tempting to have a dip on a hot day, any of these factors could result in fatality, so please do not enter the area or swim here.

### CRIMES:

#### \*Assault

It has been alleged that on two separate occasions this month, as yet unidentified members of a group of young people have physically assaulted two residents. One attack appears to have been unprovoked and the other was in response to a request from the victim for the group to stop breaking glass bottles all over the place. Both victims have been actively encouraged to at least report the incidents to the Police in order to access appropriate support.

#### \*Assault

In addition, Co-Op staff and customers were verbally and physically abused by a group of small children who entered the store without supervision. The group repeatedly moved through the store stealing items and breaking stock, leaving but returning to repeat their behaviour. When they were challenged by staff, the suspects sprayed cleaning fluids (containing bleach) in the faces of two staff members.

#### \*Public Order

Following the forced closure of the Co-Op store due to over 10 incidents of theft perpetrated by the same group of primary school aged children, a warden remained outside the front door to inform local residents of the temporary closure and to support customers to leave without being assaulted by the group which remained outside and continued to use force in an attempt to get back in the shop. It is understood that their supervising adults were seated in the public house beer garden but they did not intervene at any time. The police arrived an hour later when the premises was secure, staff welfare was being managed and all the suspects had left.

#### \*Arson

In the early hours of 13/08/2020, a fire occurred in the area of the Old Skate Park, Stakers Lane, Southwater and as a consequence one entire ramp was completely destroyed. Naturally, officers from West Sussex Fire & Rescue attended and a report of their investigation will have been submitted to Sussex Police for consideration. Whether the cause was intentional, reckless or accidental is almost immaterial as the outcome remains that the famous wooden ramps which brought pleasure to a variety of age groups from all over the South of England is now unsafe and has been closed by the Parish Council.



#### \*Criminal Damage

Although not reported to us directly, we understand that there have been a small number of incidents where vehicles have sustained damage which appears to have been done deliberately. On one occasion a wing mirror was kicked off a parked car and on a separate occasion, a circular puncture was found in a door panel which may have been caused by some type of projectile (e.g. catapult/air weapon). We would again urge you to report these matters to the Police.

### \*Drugs

Whilst on patrol in one of the more rural areas of the Parish looking to disrupt criminality, we located over 20 black sacks some of which contained what is suspected to be Cannabis. The matter was reported to the Police.



### MISCELLANEOUS:

- Whilst on patrol, we were alerted to an older resident whose mobility scooter had malfunctioned in Lintot Square leaving them stuck in direct sunlight and unable to move the vehicle. Having pushed the scooter in to the shade and liaised with relatives by phone, we had a touch of good fortune and the scooter found just enough electrical power to get the owner safely home.
- A victim of a recent theft from a motor vehicle was spotted by us near the scene searching in the area hoping to find some personal items if they had been discarded. Having assisted with the search, we then made house to house enquiries at nearby addresses with CCTV and asked the residents to contact the police if they had footage of the incident.
- We continued to monitor, report on and dispose of drug litter whilst working in partnership with WSCC and Sussex Police by providing intelligence reports. We have identified a number of locations requiring regular patrols and are working with strategic partners to address any environmental factors that may positively impact on future outcomes.

### Parking/vehicles

We have been monitoring complaints regarding inconsiderate parking and as well as the regular parking issues we have added Ash Road, Allendale, Woodlands Way and Quarry Way for particular scrutiny.

Where appropriate, advice leaflets or parking notices have been issued to raise awareness of anti-social parking and we would actively encourage residents to be more aware of the impact of their parking and discourage drivers from sitting in their cars with the engines running. It is important to make the distinction between 'inconsiderate' and 'unlawful' parking. Without the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order (Double Yellow Lines/Zigzags etc) in place or a specified offence being committed, we are not able to take enforcement action against the owner/driver.

It may be that the most effective way to improve parking on your street would be to contact West Sussex County Council and make a request for a traffic regulation orders to be made or changed:

<http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-regulation-orders/about-tros/apply-for-a-tro/>

## Fly tipping/littering/graffiti

You can always report the above problems direct to Horsham District Council via their website:

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

- Fly Tipping

Sadly, this month we can report that a further 7 incidents of fly tipping were located by your Wardens and if unable to clear it ourselves, reported for swift removal. The type of material illegally dumped across our parish this month included black bags of Cannabis and growing paraphernalia, a large suitcase, black bags of animal waste, a van door and a two seater sofa.

If you witness fly tipping, 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 later report it direct to HDC at: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/fly-tipping>

- Fly Posting

This month saw multiple new offences of commercial advertising across the village by one company. Photographic evidence of offending material has been taken and passed to Horsham District Council's Littering and Street Scene team. The company will be contacted and advised to remove their advertising within a specified time frame or face the possible financial sanctions that could follow; either with the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice or in the most extreme cases attending court.

- Litter

We continued to identify overflowing dog waste and litter bins and report this to HDC for collection and disposal. We work closely with the Parish litter pickers, in conjunction with Community Groups such as 'Adopt A Street' and fabulous volunteers trying to keep litter to a minimum by picking it up and disposing of it appropriately. We would ask that you too challenge littering or, if you prefer, pick it up when you see it.

The 'Adopt A Street' scheme provides all the necessary equipment for safe litter picking – gloves/hi-vis/plastic bags and litter pickers. If you would like to join, please follow this link:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/adopt-a-street#:~:text=Adopt%20a%20Street%20volunteer%20scheme&text=Join%20our%20Adopt%20a%20Street,Litter%20pickers>

- PPE Litter

Disappointingly we continue to find discarded items of PPE; gloves and disposable masks across the parish. In addition to health and safety implications, these are a danger to wildlife and the natural environment. Please ensure you dispose of all your PPE responsibly and encourage others to do so too. Wherever possible, it is recommended to use reusable, washable masks outside of a health care setting.

- Graffiti

We identified 6 areas of graffiti on the seating of the green Gazebo in Fairbank Rd overflow car park. We were able to clean this up without needing to report it in for removal.

## Community engagement/events/meetings

- Even as the Covid-19 restrictions change, we continue to engage with residents when we are out on patrol whilst being conscious of social distancing but also the unique set of anxieties people maybe experiencing at this time. You are always welcome to approach us for a chat and we would welcome your feedback on our work and/or ideas and suggestions for future projects.

- We continue to have both formal and impromptu meetings with colleagues and multi-agency partners which have included, Inspector Starns (Sussex Police Prevention Inspector Adur, Worthing & Horsham), PCSO Cecil, Countryside Team Manager, Supervisor and Rangers, Angie Choat (Youth Worker – Southwater Youth Project) and representatives from SPC and their office staff. All group meetings continue to be conducted online.

## Patrols (foot/visible and car)

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

## Elderly and youth

- Youth

We have continued to build up relationships with young people outside of uniformed groups or youth clubs and regularly engage with them when we are out on patrol. On the whole, the vast majority of younger Southwater residents do behave responsibly even in these challenging times but clearly there is a small minority, some of whom do not actually live in the village, whose attitude is more challenging and whose behaviour is far from acceptable. We continue to work with partner agencies including HDC's ASB coordination team, Youth/Social Workers, YOS and ultimately Sussex Police (see anti-social behaviour above).

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

- Snack Wagon / 4TheYouth

4TheYouth's Snack Wagon visits various places across the Horsham district to provide support, advice and guidance from trained and experienced Youth Workers. Along with offering snacks, all available for free to young people. We will be supporting 4TheYouth and Southwater's Youth Worker Angie Choat with the Snack Wagon which will be at Southwater Country Park (by the Water Sports area) on Wednesday evenings between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. Covid-19 and lockdown has had a significant impact on young peoples' lives, due to the lack of formal structured education and disruption to social activities and routines, so this is a welcome resource to support Southwater's younger residents.

## Licensing

- Nothing to report

## Dog related issues

- Two residents from Mulberry Fields have reported dogs roaming whilst unsupervised and defecating on private property. We have liaised with a Housing Association to ensure that a warning letter is sent out to the irresponsible owner. By law, your dog must wear a tag with your name and contact details at all times when in a public place and should also be implanted with a microchip with your current details stored on the corresponding database.

If you find a dog roaming free and it is clearly not being supervised, you may wish to consider reporting it to Environmental Health by email [publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk) in the first instance followed by alerting us and any appropriate social media platforms in an attempt to reunite the dog with their owner. As with any other incident involving an immediate threat to human or animal life, please call 999.

## Cycling

- Please remember that as per signage, cycling is not permitted in Lintot Square, the Country Park or on the bridge between the Leisure Centre (The Ghyll) and the overflow car park on Fairbank Rd, and as a result we requested that 5 cyclists dismount from their cycles, all of whom have complied.
- There has been a notable increase in people attending countryside sites, using lanes and bridleways/tracks in rural areas including the Downs Link for walking, cycling and running and this has apparently caused some residents concern.

As can be seen by the Think, Share, Be Aware campaign being delivered by WSCC and Countrywide Services all users should:

- \*Respect other visitors on the route and be courteous
- \*Cyclists please slow down and give way to walkers, horse riders and wheelchair users
- \*Dogs are welcome. Please keep them under effective control and in sight. Always clear up after them.
- \*Be aware that parts of the route could pass through farmland
- \*Please take your litter including cigarette butts home with you

Drivers are encouraged to take extra care in these areas.

## Parish specific/other

- Public Enquiries

This month we responded to 19 enquiries from residents by phone, email or in person. These enquiries ranged from reports of noise nuisance (loud music/excessive use of car horn), trespassing at the Quarry Lake, dogs out of control on Mulberry Fields development, a cow in distress on Denne Hill, incidents of people failing to comply with COVID19 regulations, including not wearing face coverings in shops and someone who lost their bank card in the village.

- Meetings

24/08 – Steering Group Meeting