

Warden Monthly Report

October 2020 Southwater Parish

Patrol hours TOTAL:	88.00	ASB incidents TOTAL:	22
Foot (high visibility)	24.50	Noise	1
Vehicle	63.50	Neighbours	1
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	7	Driving/vehicles	6
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes	9
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	3
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Public order	2
Parking alert	7	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	64
Police reports TOTAL:	16	Fly tipping / flyposting	3/2
Phone (including 101 and 999)	1	Graffiti	1
Email	11	Dog fouling	1
Intelligence report	1	Litter	36
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	16
Verbal	3	Hazards	5
Admin	50.00	Community events attended	0
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	0	School contact/engagement	0
Signposting	2	Reports to DVLA	0
Safeguarding referral	0	Reports to Operation Crackdown	1

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>

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/>

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:

We were advised by a resident that they had called the police because a group of young people, who they believed were intoxicated, were causing noise nuisance in a children's playground and disturbing residents who were trying to sleep. The parish are considering the use of local powers to limit how late the park can be used and to restrict the age of park users in order to reduce a reoccurrence. In the meantime, we have added new ASB signage encouraging the reporting of incidents.

We interacted with a small number of repeat offenders in order to reduce the negative impact of their behaviours which included turning down loud music or raising their consciousness of inappropriate lyrics, reducing the use of bad language, encouraging compliance with Covid-19 regulations and most recently, discouraging them from riding scooters into shops and being inconsiderate towards other shoppers.

Anti-social behaviour, linked to Halloween, was linked to an increase in young people trying to purchase eggs and flour. Whilst on patrol we identified a group of young people and, together with retail staff, hampered their attempts to get more missiles but sadly not before an older person was hit by an egg thrown from the bridge opposite The Lintot. This matter was reported to the Police. Southwater retailers have agreed to suspend all sales of eggs and flour to under 18 year olds. We provided retailers with posters stating that sales of such items are temporarily suspended and patrolled regularly over the Halloween weekend.

CRIME:

Following a very serious incident where a resident was attacked, we have adjusted our patrols to provide additional reassurance and a further level of safety to residents. This matter is being actively investigated by Sussex Police. When you are out and about, be it commuting, exercising or socialising always be aware of your surroundings and report anything suspicious to the police if it is safe for you to do so.

Once again various low value thefts from local retailers have been brought to our attention. We have offered continued support through our patrols, additional guidance on electronic security measures, suggestions on the positioning of at risk stock plus encouragement to sign up to Shop Watch (See Community Engagement).

CRIMINAL DAMAGE:

We have been made aware of incidents in the area of Edinburgh Close and Nutham Lane where a number of garden lights were stolen from a premises and thrown on a drive and against a wall causing them to smash. If you have not already done so, please report these incidents to the police.

Parking/vehicles

It is also 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 order to be made or changed:

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

We continue to receive and respond to complaints regarding inconsiderate parking.

Reports have described instances of people consistently parking on pavements causing pedestrians and mobility scooter users to leave the safety of the pavement and enter the highway putting themselves at increased risk of harm which is unacceptable regardless of the issues with legal enforcement. Polite Parking notices have been left on windscreens and Anti-Social Parking awareness leaflets provided. Ultimately, we all have a responsibility to consider the impact of our behaviour on others when driving and when parked.

A small number of vehicles were reported to us which have been parked for a long time, appeared to be in a state of disrepair or did not have valid road tax. One such vehicle met the criteria for Operation Crackdown and was reported. The remaining vehicles identified will continue to be monitored and reported when appropriate.

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

This month we located 3 incidents of fly tipping and if we were unable to clear it ourselves, reported for it for swift removal by HDC. The type of material illegally dumped across our parish this month included white goods, building material, soft furnishings, large boxes and packing products.

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 we identified 2 incidents of fly posting as companies ignored district regulations pertaining to commercial advertising.

- Litter

We continued to identify overflowing dog waste and litter bins and report this to HDC for collection and disposal.

We routinely support parish colleagues and village volunteers by undertaking litter picking sessions as part of our patrolling duties.

- Graffiti

We were made aware of one incident of graffiti to village signage. We attended, secured evidential photographs, cleaned the sign returning it to how it was before defacing. It should be noted that this was almost certainly *not* committed by a young person who are often blamed for such offences.

Community engagement/events/meetings

- Horsham Shop Watch is a crime prevention scheme facilitated by Sussex Police covering all areas of Horsham District with the intention of reducing retail crime and anti-social behaviour thereby making shopping areas safer for customers and staff. In the company of PCSO Bell of Sussex Police, we engaged with Southwater retailers, explaining the scheme, its benefits and how to join. For more information please email: horsham.shopwatch@sussex.pnn.police.uk
- Halloween was a challenging evening with large numbers of residents moving around the village. Sadly, some young people did not positively engage with the festive mood with two reports of large amounts of sweets being taken and a display being damaged. We patrolled the village and engaged with many such groups encouraging improved behaviours, adherence to Covid19 regulations as well as reassurance for smaller children out with their parents. We disrupted a number of ASB activities and encouraged dispersals where ever possible whilst liaising with the police.

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 continue to develop relationships with young people outside of uniformed groups or youth clubs and regularly engage with them when we are out on patrol.

In collaboration with HDC Sports Development team, we had organised for a free, half-term basketball and dance/cheerleading session for up to 20 young Southwater residents to be run at The Ghyll. Sadly, due to a combination of inclement weather and several positive COVID cases in local schools, a large number of young people were forced to isolate and the event was cancelled. We will arrange more free sports activities as we move into spring in the new year.

- Elderly/Vulnerable

Due to restrictions under the current pandemic, we have not been able to conduct our regular Community Link vulnerable people visits face to face. We are conscious that some residents would feel uncomfortable by us making home visits even though we would stay outside. With a very fluid situation in relation to Covid regulations best practice, we monitor guidelines to inform our risk assessments and wherever possible we will interact with the most vulnerable in the safest way we can whilst trying to meet their individual needs.

Licensing

- Nothing to report

Dog related issues

- We received reports that a dog was being allowed out of a house unsupervised. The dog was then leaving waste in the front gardens of neighbouring properties and residents wanted the matter addressed.
- 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 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 9 cyclists dismount from their cycles, all of whom have complied.

Parish specific/other

- Public Enquiries

This month we responded to 11 enquiries from residents by phone, email or in person. These enquiries ranged from reports of an ongoing neighbour dispute regarding the supervision and care of a dog, people moving their cars to 'reserve' spaces on a road for a relative to use later in the day, overgrown foliage, a suspicious man looking into residential properties and questions about the area in advance of purchasing a house in the village.

- Whilst on patrol we assisted a man with a leg injury which he sustained having tripped and fallen after alighting from a bus. Luckily, the injury was not sufficient to stop him walking with support to a relative living close by, as he declined an ambulance.

- Meetings

We have had a number of impromptu meetings with both Angie Choat (SYP) youth worker and PCSOs Damian Cecil and Michael Gamble to discuss current issues, children of concern and develop future events or projects.

- Training

Gangs, Youth Violence, Knives & Criminal Exploitation. A 4 hour webinar training session; designed for frontline staff and those working with children and young people, to address gang crime and youth violence, which has been identified as a national priority.