

Warden Monthly Report

June 2020 Southwater Parish

Patrol hours TOTAL:	103.50	ASB incidents TOTAL:	37
Foot (high visibility)	30.75	Noise	0
Vehicle	70.75	Neighbours	0
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	9	Driving/vehicles	8
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes	29
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	0
Community Protection Warning/Notice	1	Public order	0
Parking alert	8	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	140
Police reports TOTAL:	4	Fly tipping / flyposting	7
Phone (including 101 and 999)	3	Graffiti	1
Email	1	Dog fouling	16
Intelligence report	0	Litter	73
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	42
Verbal	0	Hazards	1
Admin	50	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	0

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 either via the Emergency 999, Non-Emergency 101 or via <https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> We appreciate that resources across all sectors are under pressure particularly at this time but failure to report crimes will negatively impact on future resource allocation.

This month we have received reports of a number of ASB/Crime incidents within the village:

Over the last month, four separate incidents of arson have either been brought to our attention or reported directly to us. The first in this series of dangerous events was with the apparent ignition of an aerosol canister in woodland to the east of the village which caused a sufficiently loud explosion that a number of residents reported hearing it. Around the same time, additional reports were submitted from the opposite side of the village relating to fire damage caused to grass in our open spaces and on one occasion a witness saw a number of young people running away from a lit fire in the same area. The most recent incident on 13th June was deemed sufficiently dangerous by a passing resident to require the attendance of fire officers from WSFR who very efficiently brought the small fire under control in the grass area next to the shelter in over flow car park. All intelligence, together with the names of several potential suspects have been passed to the Police. The investigation is ongoing.

Naturally, we ask all parents/carers of young people to be alert to the smell of fire smoke on their clothing or signs of a sudden and unhealthy interest in fires, to engage with that young person highlighting the huge risks to not only their own personal safety but potentially that of other people and innocent animals not to mention the devastation to dwellings and wildlife habitats if a fire gets out of control.

If you are in any doubt about how serious this is, just search "What is the punishment for ARSON in the UK?" using your preferred search engine.

Miscellaneous:

As your Wardens we also attended the scene of road traffic collision involving three young people, waited with them and supported them until their parents arrived before advising that a front seat passenger who had declined an ambulance actually needed to be examined by a medical professional.

We responded to a request from a burglary victim following the filing of the matter by the police with no further action and provided reassurance, guidance and emotional support.

We attended a local car park as, due to a misunderstanding, it had been locked with a car in it leaving a young family from out of town stranded. With the support and cooperation of our friends and Parish colleagues, we were able to organise the release of the vehicle.

We identified numerous insecure cars and in particular a top of the range Audi S6 parked in the Station Road car park with the rear passenger door left wide open. In all cases, we phoned the company of liveried commercial vehicles, waited for owners to return or were forced to do our best to secure it and leave our leaflet with a message.

We responded to a call from a concerned resident regarding the escape of a Ewe and two lambs from a field onto a footpath. We liaised with the Rural Lead PCSO who was able to inform a local farmer of the incident so that the animals could be returned.

Country Park - Dinosaur Island

With the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions came an apparent confusion as evidenced by recent patrols of the Dinosaur Island where quantities of recently deposited litter was found including broken glass bottles which previously contained alcohol. During 'normal times' litter picking is everyone's responsibility but with access to these areas prohibited to the public, we were expecting to see a marked decrease in the amount of waste we collected. Clearly, groups of people are entering this restricted area in order to socialise which is not allowed under the current Corona virus measures. Again, we have added this area to an increasing number of Lockdown Hotspots requiring additional attention and patrols.

- With the relaxing of lockdown regulations combined with a dwindling compliance with it by some, we have seen an increase in complaints about groups of young people gathering in public spaces. Regardless of Covid19, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is very much a community issue and if your peaceful enjoyment is being compromised by other peoples' behaviours, stress can be caused. If you identify an imminent threat of harm to anyone, please alert the Police otherwise use one of the many communication channels to either contact us or HDC directly.
- As more residents work from home there has been less risk of burglaries to domestic properties, but an increase of cyber-scamming and neighbouring parishes have again suffered from a number of burglaries from dwellings, offices, sheds and outbuildings. Southwater has, in the main, avoided this which is in no small part due to the community spirit in our village and neighbourly concern. We have worked hard this month to maintain high visibility patrols whenever possible strengthening soft targets and being a local deterrent to opportunist criminals coming in to or moving through our area.
- We continued to raise residents' awareness of potential risks whilst attempting to still deliver a positive crime prevention message but there has still been a need for us to alert residents to vehicles which they have left insecure with personal possessions inside, garage doors left open often providing access to the house via internal doors and ground floor windows wide open when not at home.
- 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

- Where appropriate, advice leaflets or parking notices have been issued to raise awareness of anti-social parking 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.

Due to the Covid-19 guidance on working from home where possible, there has been a higher volume of cars than usual parked in residential areas at all times of the day. When issuing advice leaflets or parking alerts, we have taken this factor into consideration and have been encouraging residents to park as responsibly as they can in the current circumstances.

Fly tipping/littering/graffiti

You can always report a problem to Horsham District Council via their website <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/report>

- Fly Tipping

Sadly, this month we can report that a further 7 incidents of fly tipping were located by your Wardens. The type of material illegally dumped across our parish included household and garden waste, commercial building and roofing materials plus large white goods (chest freezers and a fridge) to name but some. In a layby on Shipley Road we secured good quality evidence potentially linking a named company to the offence. In situ photographs were taken by us which, together with physical exhibits taken from the scene and our evidential statements, have all been passed to HDC Environmental Enforcement for further investigation and examination as to the probability of securing a conviction if presented in court.

If you witness fly tipping please call the 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>

Although not directly related, as commercial waste dumped by unscrupulous individuals is not linked to the availability of legal disposal sites because their intention is to make a profit from everyone else's misery but from 1st June 2020 HDC's Household Waste Recycling Sites extended the range of items they could manage to include garden & general household waste, wood, cardboard, electrical items, bulky items and furniture. They are currently unable to accept soil/hardcore, plasterboard, asbestos, tyres or textiles. Vans and pickups must display the correct permit and trailers are not allowed. For up to date information:

<http://www.recycleforwestsussex.org/recycling-sites/horsham/>

Have you had a 'Lockdown Clear Out' and can't get it in the car, maybe you should consider HDC's Bulky Bag scheme: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/bulky-bag>

- 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.

We challenged a lady who drove in to Lintot Square and was observed to take a bag of household rubbish from her car and put it in a litter bin. When asked why she had not used her bin at home, she stated that it was full but she realised that it was not appropriate to bring it in to the village to dispose of and apologise.

- Graffiti

We have recorded and reported 1 incident of graffiti for removal.

- Camping – Denne Hill

We were alerted to some incidents of camping (at time of writing, not permitted under Covid-19 guidelines) on Denne Hill and litter and BBQ waste being left: endangering wildlife and spoiling this natural environment. We have attended and cleared the litter on 3 occasions. We would advise that although this area of private land is accessible to all the community, camping is not permitted at any time.

Community engagement/events/meetings

- We continue to engage with residents in an informal way when out on patrol (whilst observing social distancing). Any resident is always welcome to approach us for a chat, to give feedback on our work or give ideas and suggestions for future projects.
- We have also continued to have impromptu and informal meet ups with colleagues and multi-agency partners, whilst observing social distancing. These have included, PCSO Cecil, Countryside Manager, Supervisor and Rangers, Angie Choat (as volunteer Hub Co-Ordinator) and representatives and office staff from SPC. Larger group meetings have been 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 and youth clubs and regularly engage with them when out on patrol. On the whole, the majority of the younger residents of Southwater are behaving responsibly in these challenging times.

Licensing

- Nothing to report

Dog related issues

- During the last 6 weeks, we have received numerous complaints from local residents regarding the behaviour of dog(s) particularly around Broadacres, Southwater which included dog(s) roaming whilst unsupervised and defecating on sports pitches/private property. As a consequence of our thorough investigation, sufficient evidence was obtained to prove that at least one dog owner had failed to keep proper control of their dog or secure their address adequately in order to prevent escape. Under these circumstances and following a verbal warning from us, a Community Protection Notice Warning Letter in accordance with Section 43 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 was served with specific restrictions and timescales attached. If they fail to comply, Horsham District Council will consider serving a Community Protection Notice (CPN) a breach of which could lead to a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice or criminal prosecution.

Your dog by law 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 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

- With more residents using bicycles for exercise at present we have requested that 29 cyclists dismount from their cycles, all of whom have complied. We would remind residents 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. With social distancing measures in place and queues outside of retail premises in Lintot Square, please ensure you dismount and walk cycles through this area.
We have noticed an increase in people using the country lanes in rural areas for walking, cycling and running, so would advise residents to drive with extra care in these areas.

Parish specific/other

- Public Enquiries
This month we responded to 25 enquiries from residents by phone, email or in person. These enquiries ranged from reports of people fishing in non-designated areas, reports of camping and associated litter on Denne Hill and a suspected fly-tipping incident.
- Training
West Sussex MIND Suicide Prevention TASC training
- Covid-19
We have been working pro-actively with Southwater Parish Council and Horsham District Council during the fast-changing and unprecedented situation regarding the Coronavirus pandemic.
Since 21st April we have been working on a temporary alternate shift pattern in order to safely continue our normal duties in the parish (excluding face to face group meetings and community events).
- Covid-19 - The Community Hub
There was a fantastic response for Horsham District Council's request for volunteers to set up Southwater's Community Hub to provide a support system for vulnerable and older people in the community. Local volunteers have been collecting and delivering essential food items, prescriptions and offering friendly phone calls and wellbeing support and continue to support those in need as lockdown/shielding restrictions are lifted.