

Warden Monthly Report

May 2020 Southwater Parish

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| Patrol hours TOTAL: | 90.00 | ASB incidents TOTAL: | 26 |
| Foot (high visibility) | 27.50 | Noise | 0 |
| Vehicle | 62.50 | Neighbours | 0 |
| Notices/warnings TOTAL: | 13 | Driving/vehicles | 13 |
| Fixed Penalty Notice | 0 | Bikes | 11 |
| Yellow card warning | 0 | Alcohol/drugs | 1 |
| Community Protection Warning/Notice | 0 | Public order | 1 |
| Parking alert | 13 | Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL: | 87 |
| Police reports TOTAL: | 8 | Fly tipping / flyposting | 10 |
| Phone (including 101 and 999) | 0 | Graffiti | 2 |
| Email | 1 | Dog fouling | 8 |
| Intelligence report | 1 | Litter | 40 |
| E-CINS (multi-agency reporting) | 6 | Drug litter | 27 |
| Verbal | 0 | Hazards | 0 |
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| Admin | 50 | Community events attended | 0 |
| Visits to vulnerable people (all ages) | 0 | School contact/engagement | 0 |
| Signposting | 5 | 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 either via the Emergency 999, Non-Emergency 101 or via <https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> Residents have told us that they have not reported thefts, drug use or verbal abuse because 'everyone is so busy'. We all appreciate that resources are under pressure but if crimes go unreported, there will be no record and therefore no future resources allocated to deal with it.

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

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at the rear of The Ghyll (Leisure Centre):

Initially, this facility was locked shut in accordance with Government guidance in order to adhere to the lockdown restrictions on outdoor play areas. It became apparent that some people felt compelled to circumvent the regulations and congregate there for the purposes of socialising. Due to concerns around the risks being taken by young people climbing over the fences and also breaking padlocks, the MUGA was temporarily left unlocked with clear signage reminding attendees of their obligations around social distancing. If their behaviour was deemed contrary to that, SPC would have no choice but to lock it again with more robust locks to prevent a repeat of the previous vandalism. Complaints were received from residents stating that young people, who they believed were not from the same household, presented a risk to others due to their failure to comply with the existing COVID19 guidelines. On the basis of the perceived risk to an increased number of people and not directly involved in any violation, the decision was taken to utilise a locksmith to secure the pitch again. Even with increased patrols by us in conjunction with PCSOs, further Criminal Damage was perpetrated. In total, 5 locks have been cut, sections of the outer wire damaged and part of a gate broken which together with offensive graffiti on the playing surface and alcohol/fast-food containers liberally strewn everywhere has created an unpleasant and unsafe environment.

All criminal offences have been reported to Sussex Police and a multi-agency, virtual meeting involving all relevant partners convened. To re-emphasise SPC's published view: It is everyone's own responsibility to stay safe and adhere to the guidelines. Crowds are being policed and we are patrolling, ready to advise on any unsafe gatherings.

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 'Stay at Home' guidance 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
As the WSCC waste and recycling centre at Hop Oast was closed for a period of time we were aware that this may result in an increase of fly-tipping and have maintained our vigilance in patrolling all areas of the parish to deter and to identify incidents and report for quick and safe disposal. We have reported 10 incidents of fly tipping this month (2 of which we were alerted to by residents).

- 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.

Throughout April and May some litter bins located in public recreation areas were sealed off and residents have had to take more personal responsibility for their litter, keeping it with them, disposing of it appropriately or taking it home for disposal. Since Covid-19, we have unfortunately seen a new type of littering of PPE; latex gloves, wipes, masks etc within the village and in some rural laybys. We would request that all residents are mindful of both the health and environmental implications and dispose of all PPE safely.

We have found some incidents of lockdown clear out waste being deposited in or by public litter bins; putting extra pressure on refuse collectors who have been risking their health and safety to protect ours. As the recycling and waste facilities are only accepting general household and garden waste at the time of writing, we would advise all residents to consider how they dispose of their waste and if necessary to keep hold of it at their property until it can be disposed of appropriately.

Whilst on patrol in the village it has been encouraging to see community-minded and eco-conscious residents putting unwanted items out on the lawn for people to take for free and we would encourage all residents to consider how they could (safely) upcycle, re-cycle or pass on their unwanted goods to other people to avoid sending to landfill.

- Graffiti

We have recorded and removed two incidents of graffiti. See MUGA report above.

Community engagement/events/meetings

- We continue to engage with residents in an informal way when out on patrol (whilst observing 2m 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 younger residents of Southwater are behaving responsibly in these challenging times and a number have offered up their time and energy to help with volunteering for the Community Hub.

Licensing

- Nothing to report

Dog related issues

This month we have had an increased number of reports of dog owners committing offences.

We have previously reported on our efforts to encourage dog owners to take their responsibilities seriously in relation to the clearing up and appropriate disposal of dog waste with our now infamous pink (eco) spray paint campaign. Throughout this pandemic, our Parish and District Councils have been working very hard to safely deal with so many issues which previously did not present such a Health & Safety risk. As your Wardens, we have been reporting broken or overflowing dog waste bins and highlighting specific bins which fill quicker due to their location. A positive by-product of the lockdown rules has been the increase in the number of people out exercising their dogs which is not only vital for the wellbeing of your pet but can be a real boost for you too.

Sadly, when a minority of residents fail to adhere to the law, this can cause offence and even conflict. It is an offence to allow your dog to roam around anywhere other than your private land without direct supervision from a responsible person. It should not come as a surprise to anyone that if you allow your dog to defecate (and you do not clear it up) or chase livestock, run around causing anyone to feel at risk of harm, cause any injury directly or indirectly as a result of your inadequate supervision, both civil and criminal action may well be taken against you.

Looking after animals is a privilege and a lifelong duty which comes with huge responsibilities. All we ask is that you all take personal ownership of those responsibilities.

- Un-supervised dog on Broadacres development recorded by wardens and reported by resident to Environmental Enforcement.
- Two unsupervised dogs in road returned to owner by warden.

Cycling

- With more residents using bicycles for exercise at present we have requested that 11 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 for retail premises in Lintot Square and queues outside of Boots and Co-Op, please ensure cycles are walked through the square. 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 care in these areas.

Parish specific/other

- Public Enquiries
This month we responded to 17 enquiries from residents by phone, email or in person. These enquiries ranged from reporting ASB or concerns about people not social distancing/congregating in public spaces to an unsupervised dog and a lost cat.
- Training
Both wardens have updated their Safeguarding, Health and Safety and GDPR Data Protection training. Jacquie has started a *Collaborative Problem Solving for Community Safety* short course via online study with the Open University
- Leaflet Drop
We conducted a leaflet drop in King Edwards Close at Christ's Hospital, to introduce the Wardens' service to residents who have moved into the new build properties in this area.
- 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.

This has exposed some extremely vulnerable members of the community whose needs were not fully met prior to the Covid-19 outbreak. Through signposting and multi-agency coordination, they are now receiving the necessary services in addition to volunteer support.

We have supported The Hub as and when required, but it is with great credit to all of the local volunteers and Co-ordinator Angie Choat, that the system has been working so well to support the most vulnerable of Southwater's residents.