

Warden Monthly Report

March 2020 Southwater Parish

Patrol hours TOTAL:	48.75	ASB incidents TOTAL:	8
Foot (high visibility)	19.25	Noise	1
Vehicle	29.50	Neighbours	0
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	5	Driving/vehicles	5
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes	0
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	1
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Public order	1
Parking alert	5	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	74
Police reports TOTAL:	5	Fly tipping / flyposting	1/12
Phone (including 101 and 999)	0	Graffiti	0
Email	0	Dog fouling	13
Intelligence report	0	Litter	15
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	31
Verbal	5	Hazards	2
Admin	68	Community events attended	0
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	0	School contact/engagement	4
Signposting	24	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:

A report was made about a small group of young people climbing up scaffolding and on to the roof of Beeson House where they apparently filmed themselves and posted the content on social media platforms. As trespass is a civil matter, we added this risk area to our evening patrols and as soon as they were alerted, the Parish Council took immediate steps, in consultation with building contractors, to remove the risk.

A number of reports were made regarding the nesting swans, their eggs and ASB type behaviours potentially causing the birds distress. Again we took advice from the Rangers and screening was erected as a deterrent.

A small group of young people refused to accept they are banned from a retail outlet due to previous poor behaviour and decided to verbally abuse staff. Captured on CCTV, the owners were actively encouraged to report these Public Order offences to Sussex Police.

A report was made of a group of young people setting light to a large waste bin and a porta loo in Southwater Country Park and posting footage on social media. The Park Rangers have made a report of Arson/Criminal Damage to Sussex Police and are working to address the issue moving forwards.

A report was received that whilst a contractor's vehicle was parked on the Downs Link under the bridge, one of a group of four teenage males threw a large stone off the bridge hitting the van causing substantial. Fortunately, no one was physically injured and again the report of Criminal Damage was made to Sussex Police.

Two residents reported that person(s) unknown/unseen had stolen lead from their roofs. Neither resident wanted to 'bother the Police' but had incurred substantial financial losses in having to make good the damage caused and were actively encouraged to report it.

- 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

- We continued to support staff and parents at Southwater schools by promoting conscientious parking, the turning off of idle engines and the safe transportation of pupils. Occasionally, our requests are met with a negative response and even verbal abuse so in consultation with both Parish and HDC representatives we have initiated a feasibility study of alternatives to the current arrangements. Naturally we will consult with school staff and partner agencies, including but not limited to Sussex Police, WSCC Highways and HDC Parking Services.
- 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 particularly outside our schools.

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
We located an old door on Stakers Lane and organised for its removal and a local resident found a substantial amount of dumped waste in the parish which was reported directly to HDC. This is a crime and if you see anyone engaged in this activity and it is safe to do so, please secure film footage, the description of the driver and ideally the registration of the vehicle prior to reporting the matter to the police.
- Litter Bins
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.
- Fly Posting
This month saw 12 new offences by two main companies. Once noted, photographic evidence of offending material is secured by us and contact made with the company responsible offering them the opportunity of removing 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 even attending court.
- Graffiti
We are pleased that there have been no reports of new graffiti this month.

Community engagement/events/meetings

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.

- Southwater Youth Project Support

We supported Angie Choat and Southwater Youth Project with two boxing sessions. Jacquie supported one of three sessions run by Zareena Linney from Youthbox. The workshops involve non-contact fitness games, pad work and skipping, followed by resilience workshops exploring emotions, identity, goals, safety and self-esteem. The sessions were well attended by both boys and girls and they focused well and engaged enthusiastically with the activities. After the completion of the three sessions, Dom provided an impromptu practical session in which the group members could put their newly acquired skills into practice and again the group responded well with energy and enthusiasm.

Licensing

Nothing to report

Dog related issues

Nothing to report

Cycling

Nothing to report

Parish specific/other

- Parish Environment

We were approached by a local resident about the installation of a number of wooden bollards on grass verges at the junction of Foxfield Cottages and Andrews Road. Principally, they wanted to know what authority was required and could anyone have them installed. We consulted with the Parish Council, HDC and finally WSCC establishing that consent had not been sought so WSCC are now taking the lead in an attempt to find a resolution.

- Public Enquiries

This month we responded to 9 enquiries from residents by phone, email or in person. These enquiries ranged from accessing support services, securing anti-scam advice (Fraudulent fund raising in Lintot Square, phone calls about loft insulation and a new scam about Sky offering refunds to loyal customers), reporting ASB or asking for support to report incidents to the police. Increasingly, we have been receiving complaints from residents about people failing to abide by the Government guidance in relation to COVID19 by congregating in public spaces and play areas.

- Meetings

We met with a Horsham PCSO to discuss current issues in Southwater and worked to identify potential solutions, held a number of ad-hoc meetings with SWYP's Angie Choat and Southwater Country Park Rangers and held regular, informal meetings with Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk and her staff.

- Training

We attended a refresher Dementia Friendly Awareness training session in order to strengthen our support to older and vulnerable members of the community.

- 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.

Prior to the lockdown restrictions, we continued to carry out foot and mobile patrols in the village and to be a reassuring presence and point of contact for residents.

Since the introduction of lockdown and increased physical distancing measures across the UK, establishment of a support system for vulnerable and older people has been of prime importance for local communities.

Consequently the nature of our work has shifted to more essential administration tasks. As essential key-workers we have worked in partnership with the Community Link/Community Hub teams in phoning vulnerable residents to ascertain details of their existing support networks and needs regarding food, supplies, medication and mental health support.