

Warden Monthly Report

September 2020 Southwater Parish

Patrol hours TOTAL:	100.00	ASB incidents TOTAL:	12
Foot (high visibility)	42.50	Noise	2
Vehicle	57.50	Neighbours	1
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	10	Driving/vehicles	1
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes	8
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	0
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Public order	0
Parking alert	10	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	108
Police reports TOTAL:	8	Fly tipping / flyposting	5/3
Phone (including 101 and 999)	3	Graffiti	2
Email	2	Dog fouling	6
Intelligence report	0	Litter	40
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	45
Verbal	3	Hazards	7
Admin	50.00	Community events attended	0
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	1	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 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:

In last month's report we described a higher than usual number of ASB incidents within our village and outlined the steps that we and partner agencies were taking to address the situation which included increased high visibility patrols, additional fencing & signage, an enforcement awareness campaign, banning notices and dispersal orders from Sussex Police. We are very pleased to report that the number of reported incidents, particularly around previous identified hot spots, has reduced this month to below previously reported seasonal levels.

Following the closure of the Stakers Lane skate park, we have seen an increased use of facilities at the Sports Club and in particular the skate ramps which due to their construction, size and location appear to be raising new considerations. Some residents have previously stated that they felt that having such a facility more central to the village, would support better behaviour due to it being in the 'public eye' whilst others felt that a place 'out of the way' for teenagers to 'let off steam' was more beneficial to the community. Currently, the former is the only option. Although this smaller venue supports younger children and beginners, it must be recognised that older or more advanced users also have a right to be there as long as appropriate standards of conduct are delivered.

We have been made aware of two reports made to the police specifically about this location. In one incident, it is alleged that a full drink's can was thrown by one youth at another, only narrowly missing a passing vehicle. When challenged by the driver, the driver was verbally abused by a group of young people. Also, one afternoon recently, a large group of teenagers arrived together and apparently became threatening towards Sports Club patrons and so were also reported to the police.

- Noise

We are pleased to see a reduction in the number of noise complaints from residents this month. Thank you to everyone who is being more conscious of their potential impact on others and are being extra considerate especially during this time when some are suffering considerable hardship and stress.

However, if noise pollution affects you, please consider the following:

1. Try talking to the person you believe is causing the noise and 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.
2. If they are private or public sector tenants, the landlord or housing association could be informed and would be able to contact them about the issue.
3. If an informal chat does not resolve the issue and they are not tenants, you could contact: Mediation Service, Park House, North Street, Horsham, RH12 1RN – 03002000025
4. If the above steps have not resolved the issue contact: Environmental Health & Licensing, HDC, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham RH12 1RL - 01403215200

CRIMES:

- An incident where the victim was assaulted and separated from their phone was reported to the Police. Due to the positive intervention of a member of the community, the phone was returned to the owner.
- An incident of Criminal Damage, reported to the Police, was captured on CCTV. Footage showed a small, mixed gender group of young people damaging community infrastructure and then smashing glass bottles causing a potential hazard for other users.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Missing children

We were contacted by colleagues from the Country Park advising us of a concern for two missing 4 year old children. Naturally, we immediately attended and together with colleagues, café staff, members of the public and subsequently the police began to search the entire park. Due to an amazing effort by all concerned, a well-coordinated search and some good fortune, the two intrepid explorers who were apparently oblivious to the search for them, were safely reunited with their incredibly relieved parents.

Parking/vehicles

We continue to receive and respond to complaints regarding inconsiderate parking. As well as the regular hot spots, this month we have conducted additional patrols in Timber Mill, Station Road, Cedar Drive, Allendale and Corfe Close and issued Parking Notices or ASB Parking leaflets to encourage drivers to adjust their behaviour without formal enforcement.

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/>

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 5 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 an armchair, rolls of old carpet & lino, cardboard boxes, collections of CD/DVDs, 2x ton bags of garden waste and electrical items.

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 3 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 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>

- Lintot Square Litter - Letter Drop

We have continued to see that some residents are depositing their household waste in the public litter bins in Lintot Square. This has reduced the capacity of the bins for general litter. Domestic food waste also attracts Foxes to the bins and they then spread it around the square and this has to be picked up by a Litter Picker, Warden or members of the public. Public litter bins are for everyone to use and the placing of domestic waste in a public litter bin is an offence of fly tipping which can result in a fine of £250 or prosecution. We have conducted a letter drop to the residents of 26 flats to advise them of the responsibility to recycle as much as possible and to use the allocated bins in the bin stores behind their properties. We hope that this reminder will encourage the residents concerned to improve the cleanliness and appearance of the square for all users.

- 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 2 incidents of graffiti on one of the ramps at both the new and old skate parks. We were unable to remove this without specialist equipment so have reported 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.

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. Throughout this month, we had 50+ positive and sustained impromptu interactions with young people enabling us to promote positive expectations, signpost those wishing to engage with services and to build rapport with the most vulnerable or struggling to manage a crisis.

We have supported Angie Choat and Southwater Youth Project with one of the youth sports sessions on Cedar Drive playing field and informally when she is out in the community doing detached youth work.

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 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/>

- Elderly/Vulnerable

Due to restrictions under the current pandemic, we have not been able to conduct our regular Community Link vulnerable people visits and are awaiting updated guidelines and risk assessments so that we can complete these safely for all concerned.

- We responded to a concern from members of the community regarding an older, vulnerable resident who had not been seen for two days. After attendance at the property and not getting a response, the issue was followed up by the Vicar who was able to make contact with relatives, who confirmed that the resident was safe.

Licensing

- Nothing to report

Dog related issues

- Dog Fouling

We received a call from a resident who was concerned about a dog that was being walked on a lead, but whose owner/walker was not bagging and disposing of its waste, leaving dog fouling on footpaths and green spaces in the local area. As the owner of this dog is a housing association tenant we have liaised with the association and a Neighbourhood Officer will make contact with the tenant to remind them of the legal responsibilities of dog ownership and to warn of the consequences should they not fulfil those responsibilities.

- 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 8 cyclists dismount from their cycles, all of whom have complied.

Parish specific/other

- Public Enquiries

This month we responded to 15 enquiries from residents by phone, email or in person. These enquiries ranged from reports of an ongoing neighbour dispute, concerns for a vulnerable resident, noise nuisance from the area of The Ghyll car park, potential trip hazards, parking disputes and children climbing on a private fence.

- Meetings

We continue to have both formal and impromptu meetings with colleagues and multi-agency partners which this month have included PCSO Damian Cecil, Countryside Team Manager, Supervisor and Rangers, Angie Choat (Youth Worker – Southwater Youth Project), Rev. Kath Jones and representatives from SPC and their office staff. All larger group meetings continue to be conducted online or outside.

- 1st Sept – Youth Intervention Meeting (Southwater specific)
- 30th Sept – HDC Community Safety Team Meeting

- Training

Suicide Awareness (MIND)

Youth Mental Health Awareness (MIND)

Stop Loan Sharks (Illegal Money Lending Team)

Collaborative Working (Open University)