

Warden Monthly Report

July 2020 Southwater Parish

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| Patrol hours TOTAL: | 94.75 | ASB incidents TOTAL: | 23 |
| Foot (high visibility) | 25.25 | Noise | 2 |
| Vehicle | 69.50 | Neighbours | 1 |
| Notices/warnings TOTAL: | 8 | Driving/vehicles | 4 |
| Fixed Penalty Notice | 0 | Bikes | 14 |
| Yellow card warning | 0 | Alcohol/drugs | 2 |
| Community Protection Warning/Notice | 0 | Public order | 0 |
| Parking alert | 8 | Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL: | 113 |
| Police reports TOTAL: | 7 | Fly tipping / flyposting | 6/0 |
| Phone (including 101 and 999) | 0 | Graffiti | 4 |
| Email | 3 | Dog fouling | 13 |
| Intelligence report | 0 | Litter | 43 |
| E-CINS (multi-agency reporting) | 1 | Drug litter | 46 |
| Verbal | 3 | Hazards | 1 |
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| Admin | 50 | Community events attended | 0 |
| Visits to vulnerable people (all ages) | 0 | School contact/engagement | 0 |
| Signposting | 4 | 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:

We have been made aware of a number of complaints of ASB particularly in relation to fair weather locations including the Country Park, Dinosaur Island, the Quarry pond and Stakers Lane. The reports include descriptions of groups of young people playing loud music and sometimes using offensive language particularly when challenged about their behaviour by residents. Empty bottles of alcohol together with drug litter is routinely cleared from these areas by us, colleagues & volunteers.

With the major attraction of the Country Park moving back towards unfettered access, a socially distanced meeting with partner agencies including Sussex Police and colleagues from the Community Safety Team, Parking Services and Parks & Countryside was convened to identify key issues, clarify objectives and to firm up areas of responsibility. We heard accounts of colleagues being subjected to verbal abuse from a small minority of predominantly young people, issues around trespassing on to secluded areas with very deep water and submerged hazards plus the potential impact on local residents of anti-social parking by visitors to the park. With more good weather anticipated following on from the recent lockdown, the expectation is that the park will be very well attended and plans are in place in order to address these issues.

*Noise

We have received a complaint from a resident in relation to noise caused by the use of a purpose built sports facility in the village. If the noise generated from this activity is directly caused by the appropriate use of the equipment which is being operated in the approved manner or is due to the sporting enjoyment linked to that use, it would not generally be deemed anti-social as long as it is not persistently occurring between the hours of 11pm and 7am.

*Vehicle noise

It has been brought to our attention that some residents have experienced noise nuisance caused by mopeds particularly on occasional evenings. Motor vehicles in good condition with appropriate documentation supporting their legal use that create traffic noise, are not deemed anti-social. If however the manner of the driving is specifically anti-social in nature (e.g. skids/doughnuts/excessive revving/drifts), Section 59 (Police Reform Act) warnings can be issued by Sussex Police. Please report these incidents to <https://www.sussex.police.uk/reportcrime> or <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

CRIMES:

*Assault

It has been brought to our attention that recently, during evening hours of darkness near to the Country Park, an adult male challenged the behaviour of a small group of young adults. Subsequently, one of group then assaulted him by punching him in the face causing injury. This matter was reported to Sussex Police and has been filed with No Further Action as there are no active lines of enquiry.

*Assault

Whilst on duty we were alerted to an incident during which a young male had been shot by an older youth (in a group of two females and two males) with a BB gun. We attended and searched the area and following our advice the parent of the victim reported this assault to Sussex Police. Enquiries are ongoing.

*Criminal Damage

We identified and reported three separate incidents of criminal damage caused to the MUGA and fencing at The Ghyll plus panelling on one of the ramps at the Stakers Lane Skate Park. Parish staff have reported to Sussex Police for crime recording purposes a further two incidents of criminal damage to signage and electric cabling at The Ghyll. All cases have been filed due to the lack of evidence or active lines of enquiry.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- During a routine patrol to the West of the parish, our attention was drawn to a panel van parked in a rural location. We subsequently returned to the spot and, noting that the vehicle was still there and partially insecure, we contacted Sussex Police. Due to our intervention and following follow up enquiries, the matter was escalated to a Missing Person investigation which remains ongoing.
- Whilst on patrol in the East of the parish, we noted two males loitering outside a property which had recently been burgled. Having challenged the men, established their reason for being there and completed follow-up enquiries with the premises owner, we were able to confirm that they were genuine and the explanation provided was legitimate.
- Wardens assisted a female jogger who had collapsed whilst out running. We ensured that she was safe and waited with her for her partner to come and collect her.
- 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 and 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. It is 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 orders 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

Sadly, this month we can report that a further 6 incidents of fly tipping were located by your Wardens. The type of material illegal dumped across our parish included an entire indoor exercise bike, sections of a car engine, small mounds of concrete/rubble, various black bags of household waste and piles of green waste.

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>

- 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 Green Gym

- Whilst on patrol the Wardens ran into volunteers from The Green Gym at the Old Skate Park, working with one of the Park Rangers to help clear overgrowth and litter, and assisted them with litter picking. They did a fantastic job of cutting back some overgrowth and clearing a lot of hard to reach accumulated litter. We really appreciate the work that they do in giving up their free time to conserve and improve areas across the local community. To read more about their work and how to join the group please take a look at their website. <https://www.horshamgreengym.org.uk/>

- Graffiti

We have recorded and reported 4 incidents of graffiti for removal which included offensive words being spray painted on private fences, a memorial bench, emergency vehicle access signs and a public footpath.

Community engagement/events/meetings

- Warden Feedback Survey

Southwater Wardens have been on parish now for over one year so we set up a short, anonymous Survey Monkey feedback survey so that the community can let us know how we are doing and what we can do to improve. We had an excellent response, the survey reached its full capacity for responses and on analysis of the results we will work to improve on highlighted issues and concerns.

- 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.
- We continue to have both formal and impromptu meetings with colleagues and multi-agency partners which have included, Inspector Starns (Sussex Police Prevention Inspector Adur, Worthing & Horsham), PCSO Cecil, Countryside Team Manager, Supervisor and Rangers, Angie Choat (Youth Worker – Southwater Youth Project) and representatives from SPC and their office staff. All group meetings continue to be 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 or youth clubs and regularly engage with them when we are out on patrol. On the whole, 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 actually 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.

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/>

- Skate Park Stakers Lane

We conducted an impromptu litter pick at the Old Skate Park on Stakers Lane and were assisted by three young male skaters who happily gave up their skating time to join in. Together we cleared 2.5 black bin bags of litter and were able to have a good chat and discuss the future of the skate park and plans to revamp and improve the area in general.

- Snack Wagon / 4TheYouth

4TheYouth's Snack Wagon visits various places across the Horsham district to provide support, advice and guidance from trained and experienced Youth Workers. Along with offering snacks, all available for free to young people. We will be supporting 4TheYouth and Southwater's Youth Worker Angie Choat with the Snack Wagon which will be at Southwater Country Park (by the Water Sports area) on Wednesday evenings between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. Covid-19 and lockdown has had a significant impact on young peoples' lives, due to the lack of formal structured education and disruption to social activities and routines, so this is a welcome resource to support Southwater's younger residents.

Licensing

- Nothing to report

Dog related issues

- Nothing to report

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 14 cyclists dismount from their cycles, all of whom have complied.
- There has been a notable increase in people attending countryside sites, using lanes and bridleways/tracks in rural areas including the Downs Link for walking, cycling and running and this has apparently caused some residents concern. As can be seen by the Think, Share, Be Aware campaign being delivered by WSCC and Countrywide Services all users should:

*Respect other visitors on the route and be courteous

*Cyclists please slow down and give way to walkers, horse riders and wheelchair users

*Dogs are welcome. Please keep them under effective control and in sight. Always clear up after them.

*Be aware that parts of the route could pass through farmland

*Please take your litter including cigarette butts home with you

Drivers are encouraged to take extra 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 reports of ASB behaviours in Dinosaur Island including a strong smell of Cannabis, a group of young adults with cars causing noise nuisance in residential area at night, two opposing groups of school girls making allegations against each other in relation to an ongoing bullying issue and increasing noise nuisance reports including swearing and verbal abuse by groups of young people sometimes hanging around The Ghyll in the early evenings, the arrival of one single caravan on one of our green, open spaces as well as the regular parking issues.

- Training

West Sussex MIND – Suicide Prevention
HM Government - Modern Slavery

- 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.