

Warden Monthly Report

November 2020 Southwater Parish

Patrol hours TOTAL:	71.75	ASB incidents TOTAL:	16
Foot (high visibility)	32.50	Noise	1
Vehicle	41.00	Neighbours	0
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	12	Driving/vehicles	12
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes	0
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	0
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Public order	3
Parking alert	12	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	57
Police reports TOTAL:	12	Fly tipping / flyposting	2/0
Phone (including 101 and 999)	1	Graffiti	1
Email	8	Dog fouling	7
Intelligence report	1	Litter	23
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	22
Verbal	3	Hazards	2
Admin	50.00	Community events attended	0
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	3	School contact/engagement	3
Signposting	5	Reports to DVLA	1
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 as follows: Emergency - 999, Non-Emergency - 101 or via their website - <https://www.sussex.police.uk/reportcrime>

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

We are pleased to report a considerable decline in reported incidents of ASB in our village which is in line with the national picture. The majority of residents are wearing face coverings in accordance with current Covid regulations, but a very small minority still required engagement and reminders about respecting personal space and congregating in larger groups even in public open spaces.

Covid19 Regulations

A joint agency Covid operation involving Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Sussex Police has been rolled out across the district to respond specifically to business venues failing to comply with Corona virus regulations. If you have serious concerns about organisations flouting the rules then you are able to report this at: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/trading-standards-information-for-consumers/report-an-incident-or-issue-to-trading-standards/#coronavirus-covid-19-incident-reporting>

ASB vehicle use

We received a report of people behaving in an anti-social manner in their cars in and around The Ghyll potentially linked to alcohol and drug use, with one vehicle thought to have caused minor damage to fence. This information has been shared with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

ASB Youth

Reports have also been lodged with Sussex Police regarding a small group of young people seen throwing objects from the Old Worthing Road bridge causing a safety risk to members of the public and potentially damage to property. The matter is being investigated.

Caravan

We recently completed a detailed piece of research on behalf of SPC in relation to the identification of potential open spaces possibly at risk of illegal incursions which is now being examined by the parish. Alongside this work, we recently worked with Sussex Police, Highways, HDC Planning Compliance and the WSCC Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Team to manage a caravan and related vehicles parked at a number of locations in the parish over a period of several weeks. Although moved on several times, the vehicles in question remain on the parish.

Waste on lawn - HDC Planning Compliance

We had noted waste from a bathroom re-fit on a property's front lawn at the end of September. The waste was not removed and was accumulating. We attempted to engage with the occupant/s of the property, but were unsuccessful, so referred to Horsham District Council's Planning Compliance team. The occupants received a letter to request removal of the waste within the following 21 days. The waste has now been removed.

CRIME:

We are taking the lead in the creation of a virtual Personal Safety Campaign which we hope to release via HDC's YouTube channel by Christmas. This initiative is designed to include a series of short films from HDC, Sussex Police, Martial Artists, a MH practitioner and national campaign groups with the aim of providing practical information, easy to follow techniques and links to further advice designed to increase our self-confidence, safety awareness and pathways to help and support.

We were approached by a local business owner who had intelligence suggesting their premises could be at increased risk from criminals operating within the district who were targeting similar businesses. In coordination with Sussex Police, we were able to have adjustments made to CCTV coverage for a specified time to limit this risk and provide a visible deterrent. The premises and the owner's livelihood was protected as a result.

We have been made aware of a very small number of ongoing criminal investigations currently with Sussex Police. We are generally not involved unless specifically requested to provide post investigation support. Following one such report, we provided reassurance and guidance to one resident who was subjected to verbal abuse in public and were able to identify a further witness to assist in the investigation.

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/>

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.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE:

During the course of this month, damage was caused to fencing on Pond Farm Ghyll South which was subsequently reported to Sussex Police by SPC.

Parking/vehicles

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 under the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), 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/>

We continue to receive and respond to complaints regarding inconsiderate parking. This month we have paid particular attention to parking issues on Woodlands Way and College Road. These particular roads are already seeing increased demand due to homeworking which was then exacerbated this month by commercial vehicles engaging in emergency gas main repairs and essential maintenance on properties in Lintot Square. Direct liaison with the companies involved only provided limited improvements which were also unfortunately slow to be implemented. With the recent completion of these works, this has now improved.

We conducted a piece of research in relation to the attendance of an increased number of take away 'food trucks' which in the main have support from some residents but others are disproportionately affected by noise and light pollution with these vehicles operating outside the same properties every week. Working with HDC's Environmental Enforcement Team who are now involved in dialogue with operators, we are working to improve the outcomes for all concerned. Two operators have already agreed to use alternative sites within the village.

Some residents reported that a local bus service was interrupted on College Road as, due to inconsiderate parking, the bus could not get through and people were concerned about access for emergency vehicles. In response, we are in communication with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service who could potentially undertake a site visit to assess the current level of obstructions and integrate solutions in to their future response planning.

We have had many, often heated, conversations with some residents who have repeatedly ignored our requests to either reposition or relocate their vehicles. If polite engagement and encouragement are ineffective we, along with colleagues from HDC Parking Services, may need to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for offenders who breach the Public Spaces Protection Order <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/public-spaces-protection-order-pspo>

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 2 incidents of fly tipping but being unable to clear it ourselves, we reported it for removal by HDC. The type of material illegally dumped across our parish this month included 30+ black bags of commercial waste, including rubble, spread over approximately 3 square miles around Christs Hospital Road and a double mattress.

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

Nothing to report

- Litter

We continue to support the SPC litter picker, regular volunteers and other community spirited individuals by regularly collecting or reporting litter and overflowing bins to HDC whilst on our routine patrols.

- Graffiti

This month we noted one incident of graffiti in the Country Park which was reported to the Park Supervisor for removal.

Community engagement/events/meetings

- Southwater News publication

We have written an annual roundup highlighting some of the work we have completed over the past 12 months. This can be viewed on the Southwater News website <https://www.southwaternews.co.uk/articles> and will be published in the Dec/Jan edition of the magazine delivered to homes in Southwater.

- Leaflet Drop – Christ Hospital

We continue to raise awareness of Neighbourhood Warden Scheme to all residents across the parish and delivered 40 information leaflets to the sales and marketing suite of the new College Grove housing development in Christs Hospital. These will be included in new resident information packs.

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. During the current lockdown we have been offering advice and guidance on Covid restrictions. We liaise regularly with Horsham District Council's Anti -Social Behaviour team and PCSOs in partnership working to support young people in Southwater.

Due to current Covid restrictions Angie Choat of Southwater Youth Project is working with young people via detached working and outreach in the community. We have been able to support her and young people during late evening sessions in Lintot Square and also provide response for any specific issues.

- Older People/Vulnerable

Due to restrictions under the current pandemic, we have not been able to conduct our regular Community Link vulnerable people visits face to face. We have now received updated Community Link client information for the parish and have started to make welfare check telephone calls, to see if any further support is needed and to remind people to test their pendant/smoke alarms.

Having received a referral from a concerned neighbour via the Southwater Neighbour Network regarding the welfare of an older resident, we completed a home visit welfare check (wearing masks and remaining outside of the property). As this resident was experiencing confidence issues when walking/using public transport, we referred them to the Community Link team who have arranged to offer guidance on pendant alarms and other aids/technology.

We met with a stroke survivor who was struggling to make his point verbally to the Police via the yellow phone outside Beeson House. We supported him to express himself through a patient and empathetic approach resulting in us contacting a local agency on his behalf to follow up with him ensuring his safety going forwards and meeting some of his additional needs.

Licensing

- Nothing to report

Dog related issues

- Nothing to report

If you find a dog roaming free and not being supervised, you may wish to consider reporting it to Environmental Health by email publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk . As with any other incident involving an immediate threat to human or animal life, please call 999.

Cycling

- A resident reported a near miss incident on the footpath between The Ghyll and the car park at the rear of Beeson House. We would remind cyclists as per the numerous signs at the bridge and in Lintot Square that cycling is not permitted for exactly that reason. Please be considerate and dismount in these areas.

Parish specific/other

- Public Enquiries

This month we responded to 21 enquiries from residents by phone, email or in person. These enquiries ranged from reports of objects being thrown from Old Worthing Road bridge, the existence of an insecure well, breaches of Covid19 regulations, potential drug dealing, concerns for older resident and found property.

- Meetings

We have had a number of impromptu meetings with both Angie Choat (SYP) youth worker and PCSO Damian Cecil to discuss current issues, children of concern and develop future events or projects. We also undertook a number of virtual meetings with colleagues including project meetings for Road Safety week and the Personal Safety initiative.

- Miscellaneous

Found bus pass – We contacted Tanbridge House School to report that we had found a pupil's bus pass and were able to successfully return it, thus saving parents the hassle of the renewal process and fee.

Road Safety Action Week

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were unable to organise any community events but contributed to the social media awareness campaign on Twitter. We visited locations across the parish with a No Need to Speed sign, reinforcing messages on the importance of respecting speed limits:

<https://twitter.com/HorshamWardens/status/1329823404300578816>

Insecure and Uncovered Well

We were asked by SPC to investigate the existence of an insecure well. We located it in the grounds of a property which does not allow public access. We took measures to secure the opening and erected a physical barrier around it as a temporary measure to reduce the risk of serious injury until a permanent solution can be arranged by the land owner.