



## ASHINGTON WARDENS' REPORT

February 2018

### Criminal damage

There have been several reports this month of items being stolen out of cars. Most of the incidents happened overnight. Luckily a local resident managed to capture images on their CCTV which they have passed to us. All thefts from cars were reported to the police. Some items were found the next day dotted about the village, hopefully most items have been returned to owners. The concern that has been highlighted that was several cars were not locked or secure, we have been reminding all residents to secure their cars and property. We did do a release on the Ashington Parish council Facebook to try and get the information across the village. Leaflets on vehicle security are being delivered to households in the village, just giving them a gentle reminder of what to do to make their personal belongings safe..

### Anti-social behaviour & Crime

There have been several reports of anti-social behaviour in and around the co-op we are working closely with the manager and are trying between us to nip the bad behaviour in the bud before it escalates. We have spoken to one resident regarding their unacceptable aggressive behaviour when they are visiting the co-op. If it continues they will be permanently banned from the shop.

The other issue is with the younger people of the village tampering with the shelf stickers and putting their own stickers over the top of the shop ones. This is causing disruption to staff and business. The youth worker has been in contact and we are aware that he will be dealing with the youngsters concerned and informing their parents. We suggested a meeting with the manager to apologise to him and also for them to listen to the effect it has had on the business. If it continues we will be handing all names and addresses to the ASB team based at Horsham Police Station.

We have been doing high viz foot/car patrols of this area at all different times and also popping in the shop just to make sure everything is ok.

Several incidents of older youth sitting by community centre doors, when seen we have asked them to move on from this area. All have been compliant.

### Anti-social Driving

This month has seen a lot of the young people pass their driving tests. We have just been chatting to them and educating on safe driving.

Sadly there have been three incidents where we have had to speak to some regarding their anti-social driving. Two verbal warnings given and registration details passed to the police. If any resident witnesses anti-social driving they can report to [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org) or telephone 01243642222

### Litter

While out on foot/car patrols of all areas of the village we have noticed there is a large amount of litter across the village. A report was made to HDC cleansing to see if they could litter pick the slip roads from A24 down to roundabout. They said that hopefully it would be in the next few days.

We have made several litter picks of the skate park area. Numerous reports were made to us

of glass bottles being smashed in this area. We have managed to remove most of the glass but it is very difficult to access some under the ramps. Due to the amount of litter under the ramps and adjacent to the ditch by rec we feel that it needs more manpower to completely clean up this area. This will make it easier for us to police the litter issues knowing that it was clear when we start doing our litter patrols. We will issue litter fines if witnessing anyone dropping their litter.

Lots of education work and three verbal warnings regarding litter issues.

We have requested assistance from the Ashington Rangers. We have also asked assistance from those young people that attend youth club to help.

In the future we are looking at delivering litter awareness sessions to the young people attending youth club. We are continually educating those that use the youth shelter on the effects that litter have on the environment and health.

### **Cold callers**

Numerous reports of cold callers this month, mostly workman touting for business repairing roofs etc. Double glazing salesman has been in the village. We stopped them and inspected their ID. Any resident seeing anything suspicious needs to call the police on 101 non-emergency or 999 if they feel threatened or intimidated or at risk of harm.

### **Neighbourhood disputes**

Many still ongoing most have been delegated to partner agencies to try and resolve the issues. Still offering reassurance to those residents who need it. Multi partnership agency meeting this month to try and find solutions and closure to some disputes. Ongoing work gathering intelligence and passing to relevant agencies. Working closely with ASB Team.

### **Fly-tipping**

3 reports all has been cleared. Old London Road, 10 plastic bags full of rubbish, tyres and garden waste and builder's rubble.

### **Dog fouling / issues with dogs**

Plans in progress to see if the school will take part in a poster dog foul campaign, winner having their poster used across the village highlighting the problems with dog foul. We hope to tie this in with a local to Ashington dog foul campaign. We will walk the hot spot areas highlighting the dog foul with fluorescent spray paint which will identify the issues. We are hoping to get a press release in the local media. We really do need the help and support of the community with this campaign to help identify those guilty of not picking up the dog foul. We will issue on the spot fines to those that we witness. We will be stepping up dog foul patrols across the village at various different times.

### **Elderly / vulnerable**

A big thankyou to all the volunteers for taking over the running of all clubs across the village. We have managed to free up more of our time enabling us to concentrate on other issues that are causing problems to residents and the community of Ashington. We have been visiting the clubs for a short period of time just to check on the welfare of the elderly/vulnerable residents. At vintage tea a brief session on Scams was delivered. Leaflets were handed out for all to read.

### **Young People**

We have done a lot of work this month with the younger people in the village. Signposting to different agencies and support. We have been educating on substance misuse, driving and alcohol. We have had more visits than usual from the younger people looking for someone to talk to and looking for guidance on how to tackle problems that they may be experiencing.

