



ASHINGTON WARDENS' REPORT

February 2018

Criminal damage

There have been three vehicle thefts across the village. Tools and items were taken. These thefts reported were in the early hours of the morning. We advised those residents concerned to call the incidents through to the police. We have been handing out to those residents who have requested UV pens to identify mark their property. If stolen and found this will help identify their property. We are going to be organising a Property identity marking session for those residents wishing to come along and have their property marked. Once a venue has been decided we will advertise the date and time.

Anti-social behaviour & Crime

We have had a report of stones being thrown at a property within the village. This has caused distress to the victim; we have been offering reassurance visits and calls. We have added this area to our patrols. Police were called to the incident and those concerned were given words of advice. We are working with partner agencies to come to a resolution to this issue.

Substance misuse is escalating across the village within the youth groups and older adults. We have had reports of fighting and one person has been assaulted. We believe it to be drug related. We are continuing to investigate and we will update police with intelligence. Vehicle registration details have been logged if we suspect drug dealing, all this intelligence is being submitted to the police.

We continue to patrol the hot spot areas where we believe drug dealing is taking place. We are watching a property following reports of suspicious behaviour. We are working closely with the police on this matter as we feel a vulnerable person may be involved.

Parking

Parking issues bad across the whole of the village. We have been patrolling around the roads and have been observing badly parked vehicles. Most of the vehicles although parked on pavements a pushchair or wheel chair can still pass on the pavement so it is not causing an obstruction. We have had a lot of complaints of cars parked opposite driveways although making it sometimes awkward for those trying to get vehicles out, it is not an offence as they are not blocking the drive. We know it is frustrating for those residents concerned but there are no parking restrictions in most roads in Ashington so anyone can park if their vehicle is taxed, insured and has a current mot and they are not causing a dangerous obstruction. Most are just causing an inconvenience. We have been advising residents to speak to those concerned to come up with solutions to the parking issue they may be experiencing.

We only put polite notices on vehicles that are, obstructing the pavement, obstructing the dropped kerb or that are parked too near a junction. We do not have enforcement powers to issue tickets.

Cold callers

There were several reports made to us regarding an aggressive person trying to sell items to residents at their doors. We have been patrolling the hot spot areas where they were reported. Thanks to residents calling the incident through to the police they visited and spoke with two individuals selling the items. Words of advice were given and their details taken.

Neighbourhood disputes

5 x Neighbour disputes – ongoing work with outside agencies such as the mediation service, social services, housing services, Horsham district council and Police.

Fly-tipping
2 reports all has been cleared
Dog fouling / issues with dogs
<p>We have been doing lots of dog foul patrols at various times across the village. When we have been watching all dog owners have picked up after their dog has foul. We are hoping to organise a dog foul poster competition with the school. A prize for the winner and their winning poster laminated and used in hot spot areas where the dog foul is at its worse. We continue to ask resident's if they see anyone not picking up dog foul could they please let us know and give us a brief description of dog owner/dog time and date and area. We can then direct our patrols to the reported areas of the village</p>
Elderly / vulnerable
<p>Lots of issues within the elderly/vulnerable groups this month all ages. Sadly some of our elderly residents have passed away this month they will be sadly missed. We passed information to all in the group and asked if they wanted us to help get them to the funerals Some have accepted the offer. We have got volunteers to help transport those that need it.</p> <p>A referral has been made to try and get more help for one resident who is finding it difficult to cope with everyday tasks.</p> <p>1 safeguarding referral has been made for a young vulnerable resident who at the moment has difficult personal issues to deal with. We are offering advice and signposting to partner agencies.</p> <p>Another young resident we are offering reassurance visits and supporting them through a difficult time. We have been helping some within the group to apply for benefits/blue badge as they are finding the paperwork difficult.</p> <p>Relatives of some have spoken to us to ask if we can do home visits to check them as they get lonely and would benefit from a visit. We will speak with volunteers to see if we can get them to visit on a regular basis perhaps just having a cup of tea and a chat.</p> <p>We have been very busy this month getting stuff ready to pass over all clubs/activities to volunteer groups. We just want to help get this sorted so everything to do with the clubs/activities changing over from warden led to volunteers transitions smoothly for all concerned. A big thankyou to the volunteers who have come forward to take this valuable service on and run all clubs/activities for all residents of the village to enjoy. These clubs/activities are so good for promoting inclusion and preventing loneliness across the community. We will continue to sign post residents who we feel would enjoy attending these clubs. We will continue to visit the clubs and use them as information sharing for all residents who attend. We have explained to the residents that attend clubs/activities that we will no longer be running them and that they would all remain. There was some concern that the clubs were closing. We did reassure them that this wasn't the case and that with the volunteers lots of exciting things will happen with all clubs over the coming months. We would like to thank personally the volunteers that have helped us over the years with this valuable service.</p>
Minibus
Minibus bookings are now been taken by Rita Seymour, her contact number is 01903 893965.
Litter
<p>We have received several complaints this month of litter around community centre and Skate Park. We continue to educate on the issues of litter and the effect on the environment. We continue to do joint litter picks with the youth.</p> <p>We are hoping to have a meeting with youth worker to discuss the possibilities of the youth club doing occasional litter picks in this area just to highlight the issues with the youth on the effects the litter is having on residents and others who use the area.</p> <p>There has been lots of smashed glass this month in the skate park; we are concerned that someone will hurt themselves. When we have seen the glass we have been clearing it up.</p>