



# **Aylesbury Community Board – Street Wardens Update.**

For Information Only

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## Contents

Aylesbury Community Board – Street Wardens Update. ....	1
1. Background .....	3
2. Current Structure .....	3
3. Street Warden roles and responsibilities .....	4
4. Achievements and Highlights .....	4
5. PSPO enforcement and Multi-agency activity .....	6
6. Summary .....	6
Appendix A .....	8

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. The Street Wardens team were introduced to Aylesbury in October 2021. Funding was provided by the Aylesbury Community Board for two Wardens for a period of 12 months, with the aim of deterring crime, Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) and to provide a reassuring presence to the Community, local businesses, and visitors.
- 1.2. The team works with a range of internal and external partner agencies, including the Police, Shop watch, homeless services, youth services and substance misuse services.

## **2. Current Structure**

- 2.1. The Street Wardens are part of the wider Community Safety team. The team is managed by a Street Warden manager, with three positions based in High Wycombe and two in Aylesbury.
- 2.2. Following numerous recruitment and retention challenges due to the short-term nature of the contracts, one of permanent wardens from High Wycombe was transferred to Aylesbury to provide cover whilst the additional staff could be recruited.
- 2.3. Two previous recruits employed since October 2021 have left the team, placing pressure on resources and service delivery.
- 2.4. Since July 2022, a new warden has been employed for a period of 12 months. It is hoped the current staff will remain in post for the remainder of the year.
- 2.5. Therefore, wardens have been operating in Aylesbury since October 2021 and with the current contracts will be employed up until July 2023, a total period of 20 months. The Aylesbury Community Board funding is limited to 12 months. However, due to the difficulty in recruiting, the Community Safety Team have funded the scheme for the initial eight months.
- 2.6. The team provide cover for seven days a week, depending on operational need. They mainly work during the day and will cover early evenings to support partnership work and to target ASB hotspots.
- 2.7. Patrols at present are undertaken in and around Aylesbury Town Centre, carparks and surrounding public parks. If there are specific in other areas such as Buckingham Park or Coldharbour, the wardens will alongside the relevant Police team or ASB officer.

### 3. Street Warden roles and responsibilities

- 3.1. The Street Wardens complete regular high visibility patrols in Town Centre areas to deter crime and Anti-Social behaviour. They work in close partnership with Thames Valley Police, local businesses, Council departments and support agencies e.g., in the fields of Youth work, substance misuse and Homelessness charities.
- 3.2. The Wardens are trained in Safeguarding, Emergency First Aid, Conflict Management, CCTV (SIA Licence), Radio Communications, Naloxone (opiate overdose), scene management, Anti-Social behaviour, and securing evidence.
- 3.3. The Wardens undertake a variety of duties and examples of these are listed below. This is not an exhaustive list as they are a flexible team and will pick up and undertake other tasks as and when required.

**High Visibility Patrols** - to deter Crime and ASB

**Engagement** - with public, Partners and Businesses

**Begging** – using persuasion, visual presence to deter and obtain evidence in support or enforcement action

**Street Drinking** – Public Spaces Protection Order enforcement action

**Theft** – working with businesses and use of Shopwatch Radio System to deter shoplifters

**Rough Sleeping** – verification of rough sleepers, guidance and signposting, partnership meetings

**Emergency First Aid** – Fully trained. Carry Naloxone kits in case casualty has overdosed.

**Safeguarding** - supporting vulnerable people, signposting and submitting referrals to Safeguarding Hub.

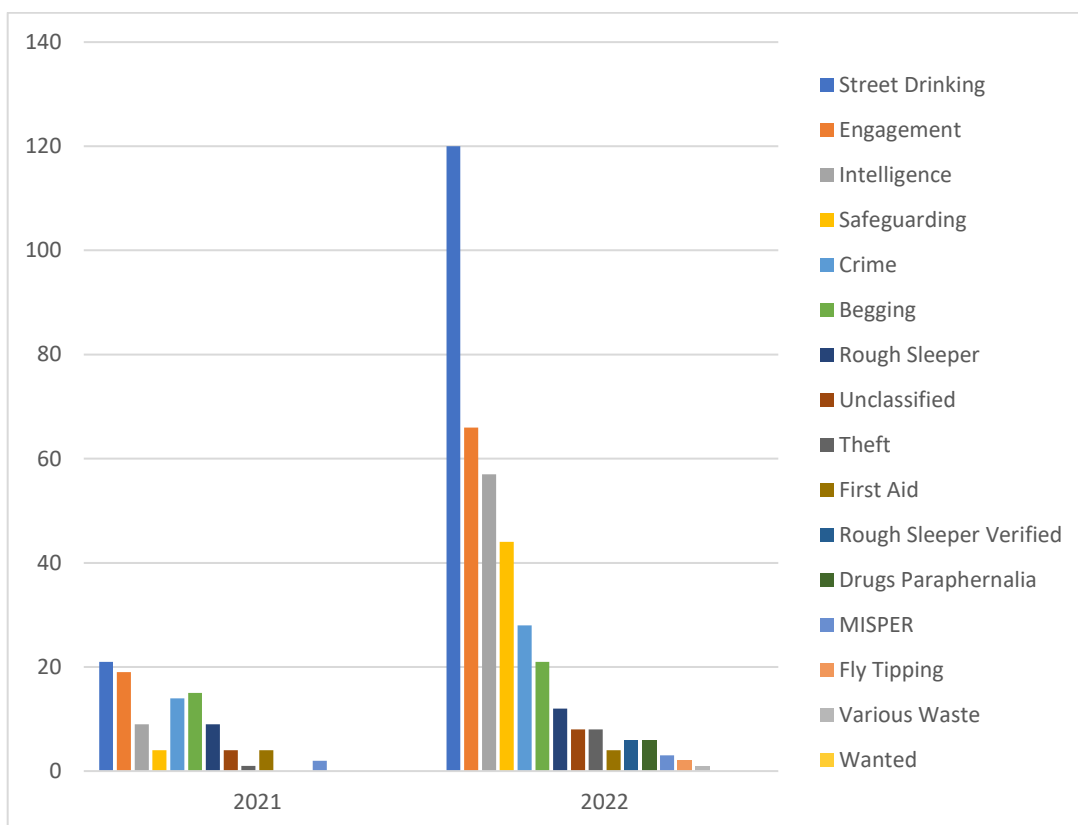
**Information Sharing** – Sharing intelligence in accordance with local information sharing agreements.

**Waste** – removing abandoned items, drugs paraphernalia and reports to Waste Team.

### 4. Achievements and Highlights

- 4.1. The Wardens have been working in the Aylesbury Town Centre since October 2021. They have attended numerous incidents, supported several campaigns, and arranged several multi-agency enforcement campaigns to address ASB and breaches of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

4.2. The chart below highlights the type and numbers of incidents attended by the wardens since Oct 2021 in Aylesbury. A full breakdown for data on a monthly basis is presented in Appendix A.



4.3. In summary, to date the wardens have dealt with the following numbers of incidents in Aylesbury.

Activity	Count
Street Drinking	142
Engagement	86
Intelligence	67
Safeguarding	48
Crime	42
Begging	36
Rough Sleeper	21
Theft	9
First Aid	8
Rough Sleeper Verified	6
Drugs Paraphernalia	6
Missing Persons	5
Fly Tipping	2

## 5. PSPO enforcement and Multi-agency activity

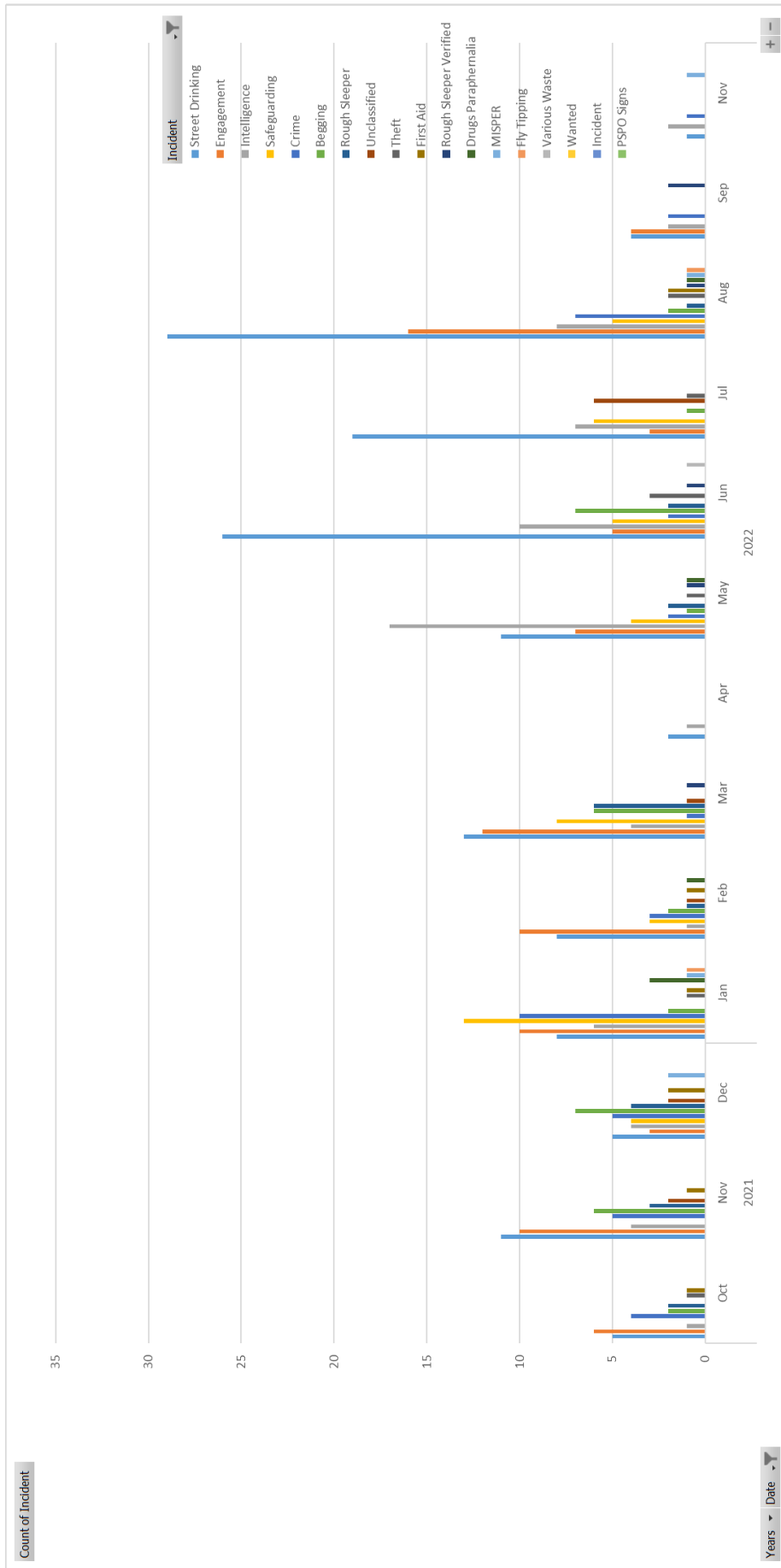
- 5.1. The team have recently held three multi-agency enforcement days in Aylesbury on 16 June, 25 July and 19 August, supported by the Police, One Recovery Bucks, youth engagement officers and the ASB team. The aim of these days has been to visit the ASB and crime hotspot areas, engage with young people and any individuals at risk of being victims or perpetrators and offer them support or where offers of support are refused and the behaviour is persistent, warning letters, or fines in breach of the PSPO have been issued.
- 5.2. The outcomes achieved on these dates are below;
- 14 warning letters for breaching the PSPO were issued.
  - 7 persons required to surrender alcohol.
  - 42 young people engaged with and signposted to services.
- 5.3. Further to this, two fines have been issued to two separate individuals, who were in breach of the alcohol restrictions of the PSPO, who after warnings failed to comply with the prohibitions.
- 5.4. The Council has been successful in its application to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police for additional enforcement powers for the street wardens, under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). The team are currently awaiting formal confirmation of this, after which they will have additional enforcement powers.
- 5.5. Feedback from the Police, other partner agencies and businesses in the town centre of Aylesbury highlight how the activity of the Street wardens has made an impact in reducing crime and Anti-social behaviour and how they are valued.
- 5.6. Specific feedback has been received from 'Here4Youth', who have attended the PSPO multi-agency activity with the Street wardens and have found the joint patrols beneficial and state *'The wardens give Here4YOUth staff a safe space to meet hard to reach YPs out of core hours and provide vital information about YP cohorts on the streets.'* (Young people).
- 5.7. A local business, DV Fashions, has stated the Street wardens are a reassuring presence and very important for deterring Anti-Social behaviour, stating *'...they are a positive influence in the town, and they do their jobs with dedication and professionalism with a smile on their faces in difficult circumstances and their presence is greatly appreciated.'*

## 6. Summary

- 6.1. The Wardens continue to provide a valued high visibility reassuring presence for the public and businesses in and around Aylesbury.

- 6.2. They attend numerous multi-agency partnership meetings and work with stakeholders to address complex issues and ASB matters, by providing appropriate support to individuals and undertaking enforcement action, as and when necessary.
- 6.3. The Street Wardens are trained to support partner agencies, respond to incidents and to identify and address some of the more complex problems associated with the town centre, which require a coordinated multi-agency response and long-term solutions.
- 6.4. Feedback received from the Police and Parking services demonstrates strong support for the activities undertaken by Street wardens and the impact they are having on reducing crime and disorder and keeping Aylesbury town centre safe.
- 6.5. In conclusion, the Street Wardens are a valuable and useful service, especially to the community in Aylesbury. They provide a uniformed service and a reassuring presence in the town centre, at a time when other uniformed services have limited resources.
- 6.6. The scheme is due to conclude in July 2023, as there is no prospect to continue funding the Aylesbury wardens beyond this time from the existing Community Safety team budget.

# Appendix A- Monthly Aylesbury Street warden data





Incident														
Date	Street Drin	Engageme	Intelligence	Safeguardin	Crime	Begging	Rough Sle	Unclassifi	Theft	First Aid	Rough Sleeper Verified	Drugs Par	MISPER	Fly Tipping
Oct	5	6	1		4	2	2		1	1				
Nov	11	10	4		5	6	3	2		1				
Dec	5	3	4	4	5	7	4	2		2			2	
Jan	8	10	6	13	10	2			1	1		3	1	1
Feb	8	10	1	3	3	2	1	1		1		1		
Mar	13	12	4	8	1	6	6	1			1			
Apr	2		1											
May	11	7	17	4	2	1	2		1		1	1		
Jun	26	5	10	5	2	7	2		3		1			
Jul	19	3	7	6		1		6	1					
Aug	29	16	8	5	7	2	1		2	2	1	1	1	1
Sep	4	4	2		2						2			
Nov	1		2		1								1	
	<b>142</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>