



## December 2025

With the Christmas shopping period upon us we generally see more people in the town and on the roads. December marks the beginning of the Roads Policing Annual Drink / Drug Drive Campaign promoting road safety. We want everyone to be able to enjoy the festive period and will be encouraging people to ensure their homes are secure and to keep purses, wallets and handbags secure when you are out in public places particularly with large crowds. Please click on the links below for crime prevention advice.

[Protecting your home from crime | Crime prevention | Essex Police](#)

[Don't let them pocket it | Essex Police](#)

The Community Special Team are continuing the fortnightly Community Beat Surgeries, located outside The Witham Hub on a Saturday between 11am & 1pm and we are always pleased when people drop by if they have any concerns in their neighbourhood, seek advice or just say hello!

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)

## **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

My role in Witham has provided me with significant local knowledge and built trust with local businesses and it was a person reaching from one of the businesses that enabled me to process critical information for an incident. I was able to immediately pass on the information provided by the informant to the Witham Town Team and then work with other local businesses to secure CCTV, supporting a fast-paced investigation. With the CCTV obtained I was able to positively identify a suspect and provide an identity statement. Later that evening a warrant was executed and a person arrested. This is a positive example of the impact that can be achieved by reporting issues or concerns directly to Essex Police and I am pleased that we were able to obtain a quick result to keep the community safe.

## **December 4<sup>th</sup>**

I began the day with patrols in the town centre, I was on foot, and this allows me to be present around the main shopping areas and the high street remaining visible and providing reassurance. It was cold and damp throughout the day, so I used this time to engage with shop staff to see if there had been any unreported incidents and visited the library to update a member of staff on a recent incident and provide some reassuring news. I am not normally able to volunteer in the weekdays, so this did give me an opportunity to speak with a lot of people that had not seen an officer walking about the town, and all were very pleased to see me.





Over the course of my 6 hours there were no reported incidents in the town, and I headed back to the train station to take the train back to Braintree Police Station. Greater Anglia staff are always happy to see me, and I provided a visible presence both at the station and on the train.

In the evening, I returned to Witham to attend the Lift Maltings Student Leaders Christmas Dinner as a special guest, and it was wonderful to be recognised as part of the community. The performances by the students were amazing and the service provided by other students was equally good. I feel privileged to be included in events like this which continues to build stronger relationships between Essex Police and the younger members of the community.

#### December 6<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday 6th December, Witham CSC Penrose was joined by Halstead Community SC Mihalyfi to conduct foot and mobile patrols in Witham, following earlier mobile patrols in Halstead.

During their approach to Witham, both officers were deployed to a road traffic accident on the B1018 near Cressing Temple. The incident involved a single vehicle that had been reported as overturned in a ditch. CSC Penrose and CSC Mihalyfi attended the scene and remained with the occupant while awaiting the arrival of the ambulance service. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.



Following the incident, the officers resumed patrols in several known areas of interest based on recent intelligence regarding potential drug related activity which included Allectus Way, Malting Lane, Haygreen Road before moving across towards Constance Close and Market Lane. During these patrols, a vehicle displaying incorrect lights was stopped, and the driver was given suitable words of advice.

Later in the shift they conducted high-visibility patrols on Newland Street and in the Grove Centre due to reports of anti-social behaviour, before joining an area search for a suspect vehicle following a report of a suspected drink driver. With further mobile patrols around the Templars estate, they then moved on to Forest Road, visiting Evans Way and the surrounding houses and several of the adjacent roads including Yew Close.

At the conclusion of the shift, both officers returned to the earlier RTA location to assist with vehicle recovery by implementing a road closure



December 13<sup>th</sup>

I was joined by Witham Police Community Support Officer Williams today and we began with foot patrol in the town centre engaging with the market stall holders in the Newlands Precinct before heading through Kings Chase and on to the Witham Town Park. It was very chilly but we had a brief respite, visiting a Santa's Grotto outside The Witham Hub and we both checked if we had been on the nice list, before conducting the Community Beat Surgery. The Grove Centre events team provided an alternative distraction with a visit from the Grinch who caused mayhem with all the children in the centre and so we had to give him a stern warning. We visited most of the shops receiving a warm welcome and called in at the library to check to see if there had been any recent issues but pleased to hear no concerns.



We remained in the town centre for much of the day and received many positive comments on our visible and reassuring presence and there were no reported concerns during our time there. In the later afternoon we extended our patrols visiting the RedRow estate, Maltings Lane estate and carried out foot patrol on the Hatfield Road estate. While we conducted mobile patrols around the Flora Road estates, we were called to an incident near to the skate park on Spa Road and we were able to attend within minutes of the call. This enabled us to be with the victim quickly and organise another unit travelling from Braintree to search for the suspects who were located shortly after. Fortunately, in this instance there was no further action to be taken, and we then headed up to the Spring Lodge to provide visibility and reassurance following reports of potential drug use in the surrounding area. With a planned sleepover in the Scout Hut, we popped in to say hello and speak with the mixture of Cubs & Beavers which they all seemed to enjoy.



## December 15<sup>th</sup>

I was out on patrol in the evening and first visited the town centre to provide visibility and reassurance, there had been several reports that children had been a nuisance in the underground carpark at the Aegon building but when I patrolled the area there were no issues. I did engage with the security on site to ensure they report any further issues. Generally, the town centre appeared deserted and there was no activity in the town park or surrounding area. I moved up to the Hatfield Road estate where I conducted foot patrol collecting information for future action. With no incidents reported I concluded my patrols for the evening.



## December 20<sup>th</sup>

I began with foot patrol in the town centre interacting with market stall holders and local businesses before heading off to make enquiries for a burglary investigation. I was able to scope the area for CCTV opportunities and establish that I would need to widen the area and contacted another source and reviewed CCTV from the Witham Town Council system. With the investigation log updated I returned to my visible patrols before collecting my colleague Witham Special Constable Connor Penrose. During recent patrols we had noticed increased vehicle speeds around the town, and we carried out the first of our speed checks on Maldon Road near to the junction with The Retreat. 100 vehicles were recorded with several verbal warnings about speed, however, we did need to stop one driver and issue a traffic offence report for 39mph in the 30mph limit. With many families and children crossing Maldon Road to and from the town park it is essential that drivers consider the potential hazards and adhere to the speed limit which is in place for everyone's safety.



With the speed check complete we returned to foot patrol in the town, visiting the Grove Centre, Library, Newlands Precinct and Morrisons Daily following several recent reports of shoplifting attempts at the store.



We returned to our vehicle and headed to Rickstones Road to carry out another speed check on 100 vehicles and very pleased to report that we did not have to stop any drivers, and we will continue to carry out these checks to keep people safe on our roads, particularly around pedestrian crossing areas. #VisionZero

To continue the Witham coverage for the day I returned to the station and Witham CSC Penrose was joined by SC Judd and they headed straight back to Witham. On their way, they stopped two drivers for not having correct insurance and these drivers were reported for the offence. Mobile high-visibility patrols were completed on Newland Street and the Grove Centre, alongside visiting shops and the local pubs and restaurants. They also visited the ASDA store in Highfields Road and conducted foot patrols down the River Walk following complaints of anti-social behaviour.

Intelligence reports were identified concerning drug-related activity, and mobile patrols were conducted at Guithavon Road, Maltings Lane, Holst Avenue, Constance Close and Market Lane.



**December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

I was on foot patrol for the day in Witham and began with a visit to the Spa Road shops, engaging with staff at the COOP before heading down to Guithavon Valley to park up and patrol along the #RiverWalk. There were quite a few people in the area, and I had some positive comments on my presence.



I moved up to Newlands Drive and continued on foot through the Newlands Precinct calling in at several of the stores and then on to Newland Street to visit the Morrisons Daily store where there had been recent reports of shoplifting to provide visibility and reassurance. Over the course of the morning, I remained on foot in the shopping areas with many people positively commenting on seeing me out on the beat, which really shows the reassurance people felt as they carried out their Christmas shopping. With a short trip out to the A12 for a broken-down vehicle on the slip road I returned to the town centre just in time to deter a person known for shoplifting. Following my persistence the person left the town empty handed and I was then alerted to a group of children that were becoming a nuisance in the Grove Centre. I arrived to find the group and recorded the interaction following previous information about a group of children potentially causing criminal damage to Mr B's Kiosk. I am currently working with the Grove Centre CCTV to identify the suspects from the reported incident and suspect that the group may also be involved with the anti-social behaviour occurring around Mayland Road and the Aegon building.



#### December 24<sup>th</sup>

I deployed straight from the Police Station following a report that a person had been found in the River Brain near to Mill Lane. I joined officers at the location and with the assistance of the Fire Service and the Ambulance Rescue teams we were able to recover the person. Unfortunately, a man was declared deceased at the scene, and we began the investigation. It is vital that we conduct these preliminary investigations to try and establish what has led to this tragedy and we maintained the scene until a forensic examination had been completed.

The remainder of my shift I utilised my local knowledge and access to the CCTV systems to help establish the last known movements of the person to support the ongoing coroner's inquest.

#### December 29<sup>th</sup>

I was joined on my patrols by PC Townley and on our way to Witham we visited Silver End to follow up on recent reports of quad bikes being ridden dangerously around the roads. Although we covered most of the village, we did not come across any issues and continued to Witham.

We parked in Newlands Drive and carried out a foot patrol around the town, beginning in the Newlands Precinct before heading through the Grove Centre and on to the Witham Town Park. We returned to Newland Street via Kings Chase engaging with people as we walked. After providing reassurance and advice to several stores in the town centre we returned to our vehicle and began mobile patrols. Our first location took us down Guithavon Valley and on to Armond Road then up Spa Road towards Flora Road. We stopped for a short while in the Spa Road car park where we gathered intelligence concerning a vehicle of interest and associated people before heading up to the Witham Skate Park. While at the location a person on an electric bike made off from us across the field towards Humber Road and escaped via the footpath towards Blunts Hall Road.

An incident in Braintree recalled us for a while where officers needed additional resources, but I did return to carry out a foot patrol beginning in Mayland Road. I engaged briefly with a group of children and discussed with them that we are currently investigating several incidents of anti-social behaviour involving groups of children before heading round to the Poundland premises which had been the scene of a burglary. Although the premises may be empty it is



not a play area. Please be aware of the location and actions of your children which could result in criminal convictions. A Scenes of Crime Officer was in attendance gathering evidence for the ongoing investigation and this was followed by a boarding up to secure the premises again.



#### December 30<sup>th</sup>

I started my patrol in Witham by parking outside the Town Hall and walking around the shops, I was greeted by almost every person wishing me a Happy New Year which was a great feeling. I visited the Newland Precinct where I was made aware of an alarm sounding at a nearby Dental Practice and I quickly attended the location. Fortunately, it was an accidental activation, and the staff thanked me for the check up! I returned to my patrol and visited the Grove Centre, walking down to Tesco's and then through the town park where I stopped to talk with the Braintree District Council Park cleaner who informed me of a recent graffiti incident inside the toilet facilities. In many places around Witham, we now have access to CCTV, and we can use this to combat crime. Please ensure that you report any issues to Essex Police or attend one of the Community Beat Surgery's where you can talk to an officer directly.



I returned to my patrols revisiting the Newlands Precinct and then continued up to the library before meeting up with Witham Town Team Officers PC Pryce & PC Bright who had been checking on the Public Houses in town ahead of the New Years Eve celebrations. I had been tasked with a visit to The Railway, The Woolpack, The White Horse, The Little Elms and The Cherry Tree and I headed over to Church Street & Chipping Hill to begin. The purpose of the



visits is to help us plan and ensure that we have resources in the right places so that everyone can enjoy their New Years celebrations without incidents.

While in the area I visited the train station before heading up towards the Little Elms, this proved to be very fortuitous because at almost the same time I was notified of a vehicle activating the ANPR camera coming into Witham and heading in my direction. Turning around in Cypress Road I was able to intercept the vehicle near to the Morrisons Store and following checks on the vehicle 2 people were arrested and the vehicle seized. We understand that in these situations any sudden increase in Police activity can not only create interest but may cause fear but sometimes it is necessary to bring people to justice and I would like to thank you for your understanding.



With the incident resolved and the vehicle removed I returned to my final checks at the Little Elms and The Cherry Tree before returning to the station to complete the paperwork for the arrest and ongoing investigation.

#### December 31<sup>st</sup>

I began my shift in the late afternoon to follow up on recent reports of groups of teenagers causing a nuisance in the town centre and my arrival outside the convenience store on Newland Street saw a small group run off immediately. The reason, I then found out was due to a disruption they had caused in the library with throwing items and then being abusive to staff when they were asked to leave. If you have children out in the town, especially during the school term breaks then please be aware of what they are doing and what they may be getting involved with. Recent criminal damage caused to buildings is currently being investigated and may lead to prosecution. Fortunately, this was the last time I saw the group throughout the evening, and I conducted an early foot patrol in the town centre visiting The Red Lion, The White Hart, Battlesford Court & The Swan where I had lots of positive engagement with staff and some early revellers.



I returned to my vehicle to conduct mobile patrols visiting locations including Pondholton drive, Wickham Road, Humber Road, Honeysuckle Way and over the course of the evening returned frequently to the town centre to maintain a visible presence. The aim was to provide reassurance for people walking to and from venues and to be a deterrent for speeding on Newland Street with so many pedestrians crossing the road and there were no incidents reported. I moved up to the Hatfield Road estate to conduct foot patrols but with the temperature already nearing zero there were very few people out and about.



Additional marked Police units joined me in Witham and several vehicles were stopped over the course of the night, but words of advice were suitable on each occasion. With the New Year approaching I returned once more to my location outside the Town Hall and on the stroke of midnight there were fireworks lighting up the sky signalling the start of 2026!

A few people began to leave venues in the town shortly after but were quick to head home and out of the cold. Unfortunately, there was one incident which extended my duty until just after 3am but with sufficient units attending I concluded my duty.

The Witham Community Special Team would like to thank you for all your positive engagement with us over 2025 and we wish you all a Happy New Year for 2026



This concludes the monthly report for December 2025.

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[StreetLink - Connecting people sleeping rough to local services](#)

You can find Witham Community Special Constable patrol updates on Twitter / X by searching and following

[Essex Police Witham \(@EPWitham\) / Twitter](#)



Contact Essex Police

Emergency call 999

Non-Emergency 101 or Report it Online

<https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

