



February 2025

February hailed the start of an increased presence in Witham to tackle reports of anti-social behaviour. 7 E-Scooters have been seized as part of the patrols and individuals have been identified for future actions. We have been targeting our foot patrols at the key times especially in the Town Centre and mobile patrols including the RiverWalk and Highfields Road.

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](#)

To report crime to Essex Police then please use the information at the bottom of this report. Thank you.

February 1st

I began my shift supporting my colleagues in the Community Policing Team for an arrest attempt in Braintree for a serious assault. As the Police Carrier driver, we were able to arrest 2 suspects and convey them to Chelmsford Custody before resuming patrols in Witham. For the afternoon I was in company with PC Trower, and we conducted foot patrol in the town centre before visiting the library, Grove Centre, and the Witham Town Park. During our patrols in the Newland Precinct, we stopped to talk with a small group of children and illegal vapes were seized for destruction. UK law currently states that it is illegal for any person under the age of 18 to purchase a vape and consequences of a child vaping would be the confiscation of the vape and possibly an educational course on the risks of vaping and nicotine. Later this year there will be a UK wide ban on the sale of disposable vapes to strengthen the current law.





February 4th

There has been a recent pattern, that during the late afternoon and early evening that the anti-social behaviour increases and therefore we are targetting our visible patrols around these times with increased foot patrols in the areas affected. We still need to receive reports of any behaviour so that we can tailor our patrols to address any specific problems. For my patrol I was once again crewed with PC Trower of the Witham Town Team and we walked around the key areas, including the library, the Grove Centre and the Newlands Precinct. We have seen numerous reports on social media but these are not monitored by Essex Police so as part of our patrols we visited several of the affected businesses to ensure that they either report to us in person, attend one of our Community Beat Surgeries or contact us on 999 or 101. You can also report online which can be accessed from the Essex Police website (the link is also at the bottom of this report)



During the evening we had to leave Witham briefly to assist with a road traffic collision at Crossing Temple and it was very fortunate, that upon seeing the damage to both vehicles that there were no injuries. With the road partially blocked we organised a clean up of the road and were able to manipulate the vehicles into safe locations for recovery. Typically in these incidents we may have to close the road temporarily to create a safe environment and while we understand the inconvenience please respect the closure, which we will reopen as soon as we possibly can.

We returned back to our patrols in Witham with mobile patrols on Newland Street before visiting the Skate Park, ASDA store, Humber Road and Flora Road estates before concluding our shift.

February 5th

I had not reached the Police Station to start my shift before I was able to assist in the first instance at a crash. A collision between two cars had resulted in one of the cars then deflecting into a shop front. After declaring to the bystanders that I was a Special Constable I was able to speak with both drivers and a passenger to determine any injuries before making the scene safe. The emergency services had been notified but I was able to gather information from witnesses and drivers for the Roads Policing Unit and the Ambulance who arrived within 10 minutes. Fortunately with my Police Mobile device I was able to place myself on duty and upload details to the incident record.



When I arrived in Witham I wanted to provide a visible presence in the main shopping areas and Newland Street following continued reports of anti-social behaviour by groups of young people. I visited each of the affected stores and spoke to staff to obtain descriptions and take notes on their behaviour which is being added to an ongoing investigation. The results of the investigation will be studied with partner agencies to determine what appropriate actions need to be taken to prevent further occurrences. I visited the library which had been a particular location experiencing issues but pleased to see that there were no concerns before I returned to the the Newland Precinct where I seized another E-Scooter. Over the past weeks 7 E-Scooters have been seized due to their illegal use. I remained on foot patrol until darkness fell and the town centre became deserted and then returned to mobile patrols in my marked Police vehicle. I visited the Hatfield Road estate, Humber Road, Bramble Road & Honeysuckle Way before stopping on Lawrence Avenue and speaking to staff at the shop. With no other concerns or incidents I concluded my shift.



February 8th

I was crewed with Witham Community Special Constable Claire Eaketts for our patrol, and we began with the Community Beat Surgery outside The Witham Hub in the Grove Centre. Although the weather was bitterly cold with persistent rain, we will continue to attend these sessions to allow people to come and see us with any concerns or seeking advice. We did have several people make enquiries concerning fraud and fortunately with Special Constable Eaketts experience in her main job in banking, she was able to offer constructive and helpful advice to the people. This was a great example of bringing your own personal life experience into policing to help in the community as a volunteer.



With the Beat Surgery complete we carried out a short foot patrol in the town visiting several stores before heading up to Howbridge Road to conduct a speed survey to support a recent concern raised by a nearby resident. Over the course of 45 minutes, we measured the speed of 100 vehicles, with only 1 driver warned for exceeding the speed limit. With the speed check complete we were called to a road traffic collision near the ALDI store, and we assisted the Roads Policing team with managing the scene and the recovery of the vehicles involved. Fortunately, there were no injuries, and we were able to resume our patrols until the end of our shift.



February 12th

I began in the early afternoon to be able to provide a visible presence on foot patrol in the town centre. We had received reports of disturbances in the library, and I ensured that throughout the afternoon and early evening I called in several times to provide reassurance. I visited the Town Hall where I was made aware of the reappearance of Sur-ron motorbikes on Ebenezer Close that were seen riding dangerously on the RiverWalk. These bikes are fully electric and resemble scrambler style motorbikes and are illegal to use with the same restrictions as E-Scooters. With speeds reaching more than 30mph these are especially dangerous on roads and footpaths, and we encourage you to report any sightings or knowledge of their use in the community. I headed back on to foot patrol in the Grove Centre, the Town Park, Newland Street, and the Newlands Precinct and engaged with several people around the town centre. I later returned to my vehicle conducting mobile patrols visiting Constance Close, Lawrence Avenue and Church Street before checking the derelict garages leading to the RiverWalk on Ebenezer Close.



February 15th

I began with following up on a report of criminal damage at Lime Tree Place whereby a group of young people had climbed over the outside fence and entered the communal area before forcing open an internal door to the reception area. While there is excellent CCTV available, I was able to take pictures of the damage and to review the accessibility of the location which will be added to the investigation. The building management company will be asked to provide the CCTV to help identify the suspects for follow up action. I then headed up to the library but pleased to hear that there had been no further issues since my last visit, and I continued onto Mayland Road before entering the Grove Centre to speak with staff at a store which had been the victim of a recent shoplifting incident. I was able to secure the CCTV from the store and uploaded this to the investigation. I patrolled on foot through the Grove Centre and into the Town Park before once again returning through Kings Chase and back up Newland Street towards the shopping areas. While on patrol I was stopped by a resident who was unsure on how to dispose of unwanted knives and due to them not being able to travel to Braintree, I agreed to collect these and put these into our knife amnesty bin at Braintree Police Station. I revisited Ebenezer Close again to see if there was any evidence of the motorbikes and I will continue to try and vary the times of my patrol to disrupt any issues.





For more information about the nearest knife bin in your area please click on the link below.

[Knife bins | Essex Police](#)

February 19th

We were midway through the school half term, and this had previously seen increases in anti-social behaviour, especially late afternoon and into the evening. To support this, I took some time away from my main job to volunteer as a Community Special Sergeant in Witham. For the first half of the shift, I was able to pair up with the Streetwarden Paul Wiseman and we carried out foot patrol with visits to local shops and stores, the library, and the town park. We continued these patrols all afternoon making sure that we were visible to reassure residents and business owners and to deter any poor behaviour. A little later in the afternoon I arranged with a resident to carry out a speed check on Howbridge Road following perceived speeds more than the 30mph limit. Over 40 minutes, 100 vehicles were measured, and I am pleased to report that no vehicles required words of advice or further enforcement. There will be other checks carried out in the location at different times but hopefully this helped people to adhere to the limit and drive safely. I returned to the town centre to meet up with the Streetwarden once more for further foot patrols visiting Morrison's Daily to follow up on a recent incident and then on to Greggs and the Library who had all reported recent nuisance issues around closing time. While we were in town, we were able to disrupt a shoplifting incident in progress and capture vehicle details of the suspects as they left the scene for ongoing investigations.





I parted company with Paul to continue my patrols into the evening and drove across town to Highfields Road to visit the Dominos store and ASDA, these were also previous sites of anti-social behaviour, but staff reported they had seen a reduction in incidents due to our increased patrols. My final stop was to the Witham Hangout youth club at Witham Rugby Club. I visit as often as possible to try and maintain a positive influence of Police with the teenagers and although it was “pizza & film night” the attraction of the Police Car was too much and most of the children were keen to try out the lights and sirens and squeeze into the back!



February 21st

I planned another shift with the Streetwarden so arrived in Witham just after midday and we began our foot patrol. We initially visited the Newlands Precinct to follow up on the previous shoplifting incident and then headed to the library and back towards the Grove Centre. The weather had improved significantly so we set off on a longer patrol route heading down Guithavon Street and across the bridge onto the #RiverWalk. We checked on the buildings at the weir to confirm the murals had not been damaged and then past the Duckpond and on towards ASDA. The recent graffiti on the walls of the viaduct and the nearby fence panels is still visible but no further markings have been made. We called in at the ASDA store before continuing along Highfields Road and then on to Spinks Lane. We carried on along Bridge Street picking up the #RiverWalk towards Pattison Close, up past Helen Court and into the Witham Town Park and all the way back to the Town Hall. During our patrol we met many people along the route with lots of positive engagements. I continued my presence in the town centre until darkness fell and the shops closed with no reported incidents or concerns. My last task of the shift was to assist a Roads Policing Unit that had stopped and seized a vehicle for no insurance on the slip road on to the A12 towards Hatfield Peverel. With my assistance we were able to get the vehicle safely back to the petrol station forecourt and I waited until the vehicle could be recovered which enabled the Traffic Sergeant to head off to the next incident.





February 22nd

I was joined by Witham Community Special Constable Claire Eaketts, and we began with foot patrol in the town centre beginning in the Newlands Precinct, engaging with market traders and members of the public. We had received a report that the previous evening there had been a large group of children outside Favorite Chicken with one young female on the floor who appeared extremely intoxicated. We are still trying to obtain CCTV footage from nearby stores to help try and identify this person to check on their welfare. We continued to the library but pleased to hear that there had been no incidents over the half term week which was a significant improvement over previous holiday period. We started the Community Beat Surgery outside the Witham Hub in the Grove Centre and in a short time we had quite a few visitors and received 3 separate pieces of information that will be recorded on the Police systems for further investigations and provided advice on neighbour disputes and suspected drug related activity.



February 26th

I was approached by the Cub Leader of 1st Witham Scouts to ask if we could arrange a visit to one of their sessions to speak to the Cubs about our role in the Community and I was joined by PC Lynsey Roper & PC Dan Hammond of the Witham Community Policing Team. We were able to secure lots of Police uniform and brought along two of our vehicles for the Cubs to try out. With the group split into two we were able to try on uniform and ask questions about the use of our kit and how we serve to keep people safe in the community of Witham, while the other group saw a demonstration of our Public Order (Riot) van and a brand-new Police Car. With all the Cubs wanting to try out cage in the back, try on handcuffs and see the different emergency lights we hope that they had a positive experience. I hope we were able to answer all their questions...of which there were many! These kind of community engagements with the younger generation really help us to build a positive relationship for the future and we look forward to coming back again one day!



Vehicles were washed and cleaned prior to our visit and pictured outside the Morrison Store before the light faded.



This concludes the monthly report for February 2025.

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www.essex.police.uk/dispatch



CrimeStoppers.
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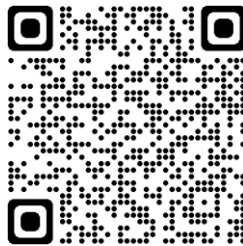
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.




[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/>

