



February 2021 Patrols

With the new month came a change in the weather with a drop in temperatures that brought snowfall and icy conditions for our patrols. While we did see an increase in residents out and about enjoying the snow it was good to see that in most cases people were still adhering to the social distancing guidelines and having some safe outdoor fun. In the evenings possibly due to the low temperatures there were fewer people out walking around town or the parks and estates which enabled us to work on developing intelligence in certain areas.

February 2nd

The first part of my shift was spent carrying out speed checks on Cypress Road, this was a follow up action to a check I carried out in January which had highlighted a speeding concern. Unfortunately, in the hour that I was present on the road I stopped 8 drivers for excess speed. In the 8 stops, two were issued with tickets with the possibility of speed awareness courses which are designed to educate drivers in the hazards of speed. If they are eligible and complete the course this does not result in endorsements on their licence. Nearly all the drivers stopped were residents, local to the Forest Road area. One driver however was measured accelerating up to 50mph! On checking details, I discovered that the driver had previous points on their licence for speeding and has now been reported for the offence again.



I then moved on to mobile patrols up on the Flora Road estate, visiting the park area on Rosebay Close, Speedwell Close, Foxglove Close & Calamint Road before heading down Honeysuckle Way and Bramble Road. I carried on up Spa Road to Powers Hall Academy, Humber Road estate, Spinks Lane, Blunts Hall Road and the Witham Leisure Centre. I spent time on the Hatfield Road estate before moving in towards the Town Centre. A short foot patrol around the Witham Town Park confirmed no concerns and the Grove Centre and Newlands Precinct were also checked with no issues. While heading along Braintree Road I pulled over a cyclist who had continued through a red traffic signal and after a reprimand the cyclist was also provided with a replacement front light for their bike. I have been provided with several light kits from the Safer Essex Roads Partnership and this enables me to assist with road safety in the Town by ensuring that cyclists have the correct lighting to be seen.

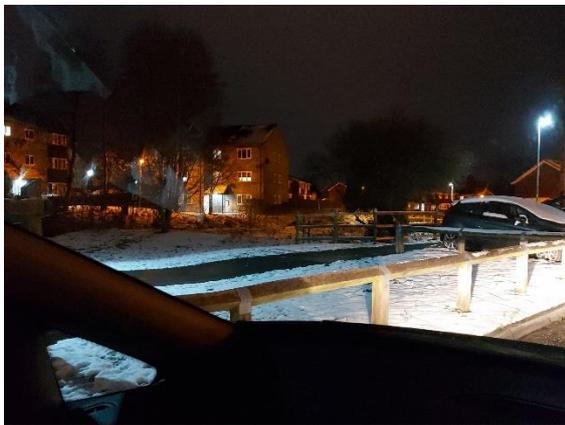


February 9th

The ice and snow were still present and as I came in to Witham from Faulkbourne there was a large number of people on the playing field area on Flora Road, unfortunately one large group of young teenagers were huddled together for a selfie and fled in several directions on seeing my marked police vehicle. Fortunately, one person from the group did come over and engage with me and I was able to provide the rationale behind the need to adhere to the social distancing guidelines under the current lockdown. It was a positive engagement and I hope that this person will pass on my comments and help to protect themselves and their families. To support an upcoming operation, I had tasked myself to visit a few areas where large groups of teenagers had been found gathering recently and therefore, I visited the Humber Road estate, including Douglas Grove Surgery, Ness Walk and Yare Avenue. During my foot patrol near to Ness Walk I visited a nearby place where a person had been known to be sleeping rough in a tent, but this was empty and there was no sign of recent activity. This tent has previously been identified and recorded for attention by Streetlink which helps to find alternative accommodation, especially in this very cold weather.



During my patrol I stopped a vehicle which had travelled from a different part of the Country and this has resulted in new intelligence being obtained for a person of interest. I also carried out foot patrol in the estate and engaged with a number of people out walking. As darkness fell I travelled along Maltings Lane, visiting Maltings Court and then on to Dengie Close. Following this I headed in to the Town and as I turned in to Kings Chase two teenagers made off from me back in to the Witham Town Park. Due to my local knowledge I was able to disrupt these same teenagers from the field adjacent to the cricket ground and Pattison Close before they headed to the River Walk. Unfortunately I was not able to engage with them and do not know why they continually ran & cycled off. We will continue patrols in the area over the next few weeks.

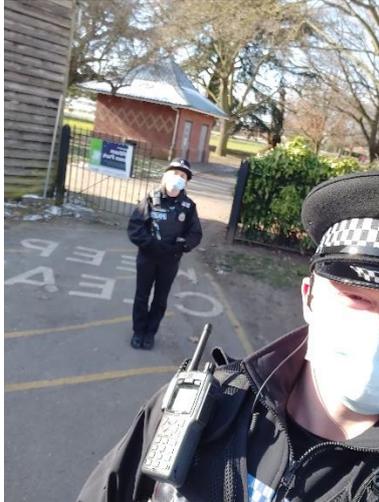


February 13th

CSC Officer Keyse was out on patrol with a Special Constable to provide visibility, reassurance and a deterrent across Witham on another very cold day. They began their foot patrol in the Newlands Precinct where they engaged with residents who were pleased to see them out and about, before heading down Newland Street through Witham Town Park, along the River Walk to ADSA and Highfields Road. After a brief walk around the park area they headed off in the direction of Guithavon Road before returning to the vehicle. While driving along Hatfield Road, a young male was stopped and spoken to about his lack of bike riding skills, explaining road safety and respect for



other people on the roads and pavements. Following this they then conducted mobile and foot patrols on to the Hatfield Road estate, Humber Road estate including Douglas Grove, Rosebay Close, Honeysuckle Way & Bramble Road. After providing visibility in these areas they moved over to Greenfields and the Freebournes Industrial site where they submitted a Police Intelligence Report for a drug related concern.



February 16th

Following a report of an assault involving a young girl on the River Walk on the previous afternoon we provided high visibility patrols for reassurance and to assist in the investigation. In the early morning Special Inspector Campbell conducted mobile patrols in the vicinity of the Flora Road estate, including Honeysuckle Way, Bramble Road, Rosebay Close before moving over to the Hatfield Road estate, Maltings Lane, Gershwin Boulevard and along Maldon Road before heading in to the town centre for a foot patrol. The foot patrol covered the two main shopping areas and the Witham Town Park.



In the afternoon I was joined by Witham Town Team Officers PC Wilshire & PC Thorndyke as we carried out foot patrol and house to house enquiries close to the location of the incident as we assisted CID with the ongoing investigation. Fortunately, we were able to speak to several nearby residents who either had CCTV footage available or had seen something that may have been connected. This is extremely helpful, and we thank the residents for their assistance.

Following our reassurance and visible foot patrols which included sections of the River Walk we carried out mobile patrols on Spa Road, Flora Road, Humber Road estate, Highfields Road, Armond Road before we headed over to the Forest Road area. After completing our patrol here, we moved over to the Hatfield Road estate and into the town centre.





February 19th

In the morning Special Inspector Campbell of the Witham CSC team took the train from Braintree and headed to Witham for a foot patrol. Following recent social media reports of silver nitrous oxide canisters dumped near to the cemetery he commenced his patrol along Cypress Road, across the recreation ground and on to Rickstones Road. After being visible on the Templars estate he moved over to the railway bridge near to the Cherry Tree Public House before heading through Ebenezer Close and on to the River Walk. During his patrol he dealt with an incident whereby a person had fallen victim to a fraud requiring a call on for reassurance and guidance, which was well received. During the patrol along the River Walk to Maldon Road he engaged with several residents who were pleased to see him out on foot patrol. From Maldon Road Special Inspector Campbell then headed into the Town Centre where he patrolled through The Grove Centre & Newlands Precinct before heading up Collingwood Road back to the train station.





February 20th

Initial patrol started with visibility on the Flora Road estate, Honeysuckle Way, Bramble Road, Rosebay Close and the park areas. On Calamint Road we assisted with the removal of a vehicle obstruction due to inconsiderate parking before moving down to the Humber Road estate. Here we checked on a derelict garage which had been a focal point for anti social behaviour involving groups of teenagers and potential drug use. At this time there was nothing to report but we will continue to check this and the surrounding area. We left Witham for Hatfield Peverel due to a concern for welfare and unfortunately did not return to Witham until a couple of hours later, however on our return we continued our patrols including the Town Centre, Maltings Lane, Maldon Road, Collingwood Road. We then moved over to Cypress Road, Forest Road and Laburnum Way. There were no specific concerns we needed to attend but hopefully our visibility provided some reassurance to the neighbourhood.



February 21st

A very full shift today and I was joined by a Special Constable from Braintree for patrols. On our initial arrival in Witham we were directed to an address to check on a persons welfare. The previous evening a vehicle had been involved in a crash and there were safety concerns for the owner after nobody had been found in the crashed vehicle. Before we managed to get to the location, a cyclist failed to stop for a red light ahead of us and shortly after failed to stop at another red light at a busy junction. After catching up with the cyclist and explaining the safety implications a ticket was issued. After this we travelled along Hatfield Road to resume our initial task but then we were immediately directed to a concern for welfare less than 50 metres from our location. In under 1 minute we were on scene where we were able to protect a vulnerable person until backup from Braintree arrived to assist. We did get to the concern for safety and fortunately the owner was not involved in the vehicle crash and therefore had no injuries, further enquiries are ongoing to establish the identity and welfare of the driver.

Moving on to Maldon Road we carried out a vehicle check on 100 cars travelling along towards the Town centre. I am pleased to report that we did not have to stop any drivers in this instance with



many cars measured on or just below the speed limit of 30 mph. This was a very positive result and we would like to thank the residents of Witham for respecting this limit.



At the end of our checks we moved on to support PC Davies of the Witham Town Team who was searching for a motorised quad bike that had been reported on the River Walk. During this search we located a strong smell of what was believed to be cannabis on Humber Road and from this two teenagers ran off across the field towards the Rugby Club. A police information report has been submitted and one of the teenagers has been positively identified for a follow up. In this instance we came across this as part of another purpose but please report this behaviour to police so that we can patrol these areas more frequently. After this incident we had to leave Witham to the village of Terling to attend a concern but PC Davies continued patrols in Witham.

February 22nd

For a morning patrol Special Inspector Campbell was joined by a Special Constable from Braintree. They carried out foot patrol from the train station, heading up to Cypress Road to look for further signs of anti-social activity near to the cemetery, then over to the Templars estate where they checked the park area. They included the New Rickstones Academy area before moving through the Courts as they headed down past the Cherry Tree pub and over the railway to Ebenezer Close and on to the River Walk. Following the River Walk path from Chipping Hill, through Armond Road and on to Highfields Road they engaged with a number of people who were pleased to see their presence and the opportunity to stop and speak to officers. The officers called at ASDA before moving along Spinks Lane, passing the Maltings Academy and then turned towards the town and on to Newland Street. After some further engagement in the Town centre they headed along Collingwood Road and back to the station to complete the patrol.



February 24th

With good intentions to carry out Community Special Constable duties over the evening both myself and Acting Sergeant Mabey set off with crew mates to conduct high visibility patrols. Unfortunately as soon as we arrived in Witham we were directed to attend the Maltings estate area for an incident of suspicious circumstances involving a person that had been seen in the area. Due to our presence in the town we were quickly on scene and after a brief search located a vulnerable person. After establishing the identity of the person we discovered that they were wanted and escorted them to hospital for welfare and health checks prior to them being detained. Acting Sergeant Mabey was able to continue his CSC patrols and was then directed to a missing person incident in almost the



same area of Witham. After searching a number of areas and investigating a number of reported sightings the young person was eventually located on the Templars estate and was taken home safely.



February 26th

Special Inspector Campbell set off from Braintree this morning and arrived in Witham by train where he began a record-breaking foot patrol of 19km. This time the patrol took him to some other parts of the town to ensure that as a team we include as many areas as possible and provide visibility, reassurance and access to a Police officer if needed. Leaving the train station, he travelled along Cut Throat Lane before crossing in to the Eastways industrial area, he spoke to several business owners who were pleased to see him and then he crossed over to the Freebournes industrial area. From here he patrolled along Maldon Road before heading up Maltings Lane, Howbridge Road and into the Gershwin Boulevard estate. From here it was through the estate and up to ALDI before crossing over into the REDROW estate, Augustus Way and in to Allectus Way before retuning back on to Hatfield Road and in towards town. A detour along Howbridge Road then on to the River Walk from Pattison Close and into the Town centre. The officer patrolled through The Grove Centre & Newlands Precinct before heading once again down to the River Walk and on to Chipping Hill. The final leg saw him walk along Chipping Hill and back to the train station to finish his visible foot patrol.



February 27th

The first of two patrols started with mobile patrols around the Flora Road estate with checks on Calamint Road, Speedwell Close, Foxglove Close and the park at the bottom of Rosebay Close before moving over to Honeysuckle Way. Enquiries then took me over to the Maltings estate before I turned in to the town to set up for a speed check on Collingwood Road. It was a beautiful dry day and this had encouraged more people to be out. I conducted a check on 100 vehicles from both

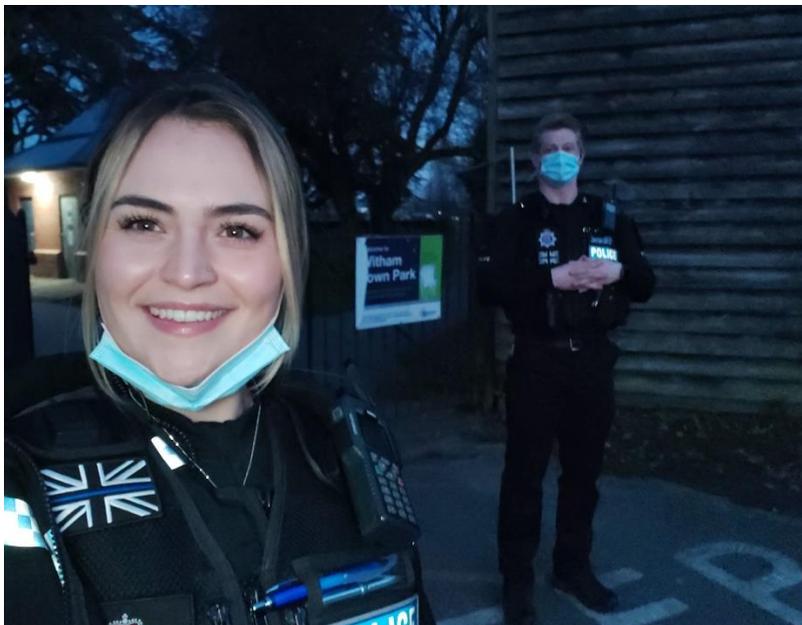
directions and in general the results were encouraging. I did have to issue a ticket to one driver however for 42mph in the 30mph limit. The Casuatly Reduction Section will determine if the driver is suitable for a speed awareness course or if there should be further action. Following completion of the check I moved through Newland Street and on to Spinks Lane before sighting some teenagers gathering to meet on Blunts Hall Road. On my arrival they scattered and ran off but not before one person on an electric scooter appeared. I followed this person as they rode along the path and then dangerously, straight across the road under the railway bridge before I was able to stop them close to the path leading to the River Walk near ASDA. On identifying that the rider had been spoken to by myself on two previous occasions about the illegal use of the e-scooter on public paths and roads, I seized the e-scooter under Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act.



I left Witham for a short time to support a speed check in Hatfield Peverel before returning to Witham to conduct foot patrol around the Town Centre, visiting The Grove Centre, Newlands Precinct and Witham Town Park. Due to the fantastic weather there were a lot of visitors and I spent time speaking with different families. I had some very positive comments for my presence before heading over to the Spa Road area. The park was particularly busy with the skate park full and large groups forming. As I conducted my foot patrol some of these dispersed on seeing me, running off in to the Humber Road estate but I also did manage to engage with a number of people, reminding them of the need to maintain the social distancing guidelines to help us out of the current lockdown. Unfortunately during this patrol of the field I did have to carry out a stop search after a male admitted to smoking cannabis before I arrived and although no further drugs were found he was given strong words regarding use of drugs and sent home. While I conducted this search I was subjected to a torrent of foul verbal abuse from a group of 13-16 year olds at the edge of the Humber Road estate which was unfortunately in front of a number of families with young children. The trigger for this may have been the seizure of the e-scooter earlier but this kind of behaviour and lack of respect is not acceptable and we will be clamping down on the individuals, most of who are already known to Police. I did get assistance from two Braintree PCSO's who came to help me search the area and shortly after, three of these individuals were spotted on Humber Road. After running down an alleyway leading to back gardens they then jumped through three residents gardens before I was able to detain one. Following a stop search for drug related reasons this male was taken home to parents who were supportive of this action and the words of advice given.



During the evening and in to the night SC Keyse took over the reigns with a Special Constable from Braintree as crew mate and they began with a patrol of the skate park, once again engaging but reiterating the social distancing requirements. They had some very positive engagement with the riders showing off some of their tricks and stunts. Following this they moved over to the Witham Town Park where they found a large group of teenagers sitting together and although wearing masks and sitting apart were still asked to move on due to the current guidelines. SC Keyse then answered a call for a broken down vehicle on the North Witham slip road before they were approached by a gentleman who was seeking advice on his child who had been misbehaving. After trying to engage with the child the officers have submitted a referral to the specialist youth officers at Braintree who may be able to provide a structured intervention. A quick vehicle stop due to faulty lights and obscured number plate was quickly resolved and then a detour to Silver End to support Essex Police action on an illegal party where a fine was issued to the organiser. Wherever possible we try to provide advice and a warning but to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 we do have to take positive action at times. A return to Witham saw SC Keyse attend a suspicious circumstance incident where a man was reported to be sleeping in his car – fortunately there were no concerns for his welfare and they were able to move on. As they were due to finish their patrols they came across a vehicle parked up near Purcell Road containing 3 males. One of these men had travelled by train to meet up with the other two friends and all three then received a fine for not adhering to the COVID restrictions and moved on. Other areas covered by mobile patrol included Humber Road, Rosebay Close, Forest Road, Dorothy Sayers Drive, Greenfields, Laurence Avenue, Allectus Way.



February 28th

After setting out early to drop off the e-scooter I had seized the day before, I arrived in Witham to attend a disturbance on the River Walk near to Pattison Close, fortunately I was able to help resolve this and clear the area. I conducted mobile patrols around the Hatfield Road estate before moving in towards the town where I parked in the Mill Lane car park to conduct foot patrol. I started off in the Witham Town Park before moving up through the Grove Centre and Newlands Precinct before



heading off towards the River Walk down Guithavon Street. After a visit to the Duck Pond I moved up to Highfields Road and in to the park area, which once again was very busy due to the nice weather. I then carried on along Highfields Road and into Copper Close before reappearing on to Blunts Hall Road, a short walk down Guithavon Road to Mill Lane and then back on the River Walk towards Bridge Street and back to my vehicle.



To finish off my patrol I carried out a speed check on Spinks Lane with some disappointing results. I had to stop nine drivers to give them words of advice due to their speeds that all increased as they approached the pedestrian crossing in the middle of Spinks Lane. One driver was issued with a ticket and then after requesting another driver to stop and produce their licence they ran off leaving me with their car. Following checks back at the station it became obvious why and additional actions will be taken for this driver.

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This concludes the monthly report for February 2021.