



September 2026

The Summer holidays passed and I am pleased to report that this year we saw a big drop in reports of anti-social behaviour in and around the town centre. There had been a few new reports around the unfinished play areas but otherwise a significant improvement confirmed by local businesses and the library. We have been concentrating patrols and engagement with groups of children over the previous month, and it seemed to make a difference. We also saw a significant reduction in issues around the weir with focused patrols and now the weather has started to change this is expected to continue to improve. The use of E-Scooters and illegal Electric Bikes is still plaguing the streets and the River Walk and we will look to seize these if we can. September also brings the Witham Street Festival, and we will be providing a visible policing presence throughout the event.

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 in if they have any concerns in their neighbourhood, seek advice or just say hello!

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)

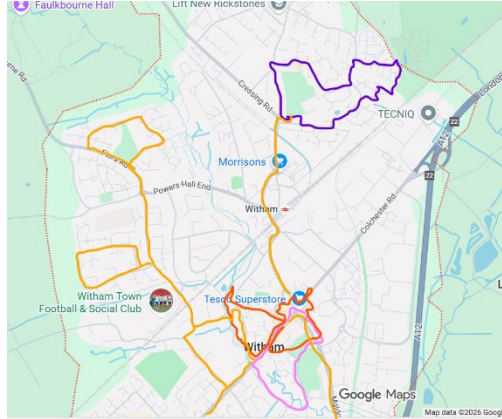
September 2nd

I began my shift in Witham with a visit to return property to two people following the successful completion of an investigation and to complete documentation for a community resolution. I had also identified a young person that had been seen riding an E-Scooter in the town centre and I called at their home address to discuss the behaviour with supportive parents.

The remainder of my shift was spent on high visibility patrols in Braintree following a serious incident that had happened in the centre of the town.

September 8th

I took a day off from my normal place of work to spend some of the day in the company of the Streetwarden and we conducted the first of our patrols visiting the Witham Town Park before heading through the Grove Centre and onto Newland Street towards the Library. This summer they have not had to report any anti-social behaviour which has been a real positive improvement. We continued our patrol to Lockram Lane and into the Newlands Precinct before heading down towards Lidl to join up with the River Walk, we checked the areas around the Duck Pond and the weir following recent graffiti defacing the artwork on the gauging station but pleased to see no further issues. Our patrol took us along Mill Lane before returning up towards the Town Hall – oh did I forget to mention...it never stopped raining!



With the benefit of marked police car, we next headed up to Manor Road to conduct the next foot patrol, and we headed onto Cypress Road before walking along Forest Road and cutting through to Walnut Drive. We picked up the footpath behind the Rivenhall estate and reappeared at Babbs Court before returning along Fleming Way and calling in at the shops to provide some visibility and see if there were any ongoing concerns. We pushed on through the rain, now walking up Laburnum Way and around to Dorothy Sayers Drive where we called in at the Nisa shop on Cross Road to check everything was ok at this store as well. Finally, we walked down Rickstones Road and returned to the vehicle.



We arrived back in the town centre where we visited several stores talking with staff to provide reassurance and then after a short break for lunch, we continued our patrol on foot along the River Walk towards Pattison Close, crossing the river at Helen Court, we continued up to the park before once again returning through the Grove Centre on to Newland Street. Just about 18,500 steps completed but more importantly we had been visible around different neighbourhoods.

For the remainder of the afternoon, we parted ways and I carried out mobile patrols around the Humber Road estate and visited Honeysuckle Way & Bramble Road before I dropped in to visit the Park View Care Home to support their Emergency Services event. I met with lots of residents and presented information about my role in the community and we talked through my current uniform and equipment before the residents started to reveal stories from their childhoods, many involving a close brush with the law! It was great to spend time and listen to their memories and compare how today's policing role had changed but the providing visibility and reassurance was still at the core...and the traditional custodian helmet of course!



After leaving Park View, I visited the Iceland Store in the Newlands Precinct, over the past two weeks, they had been visited by the same shoplifter, and I wanted to be in the store around the times that the previous offences occurred. Unfortunately, in this instance the person did not show but I hope it provided some reassurance to the staff that I was making effort to try and stop this criminal behaviour.

My final task of the day saw me return to my vehicle and head on to Maldon Road to direct traffic to assist in the recovery of a broken-down vehicle. Fortunately, the recovery service arrived shortly after myself and we were able to clear the road and I completed my shift for the day!

September 12th

I was on my own for the day and arrived in Witham to conduct foot patrols in advance of my Community Beat Surgery outside the Witham Hub. The 2-hour session every other Saturday provides an opportunity for residents or visitors to come and see me and discuss any issues that may be affecting them in their neighbourhood. It was a very busy 2 period where I spoke to over 20 people and the time seemed to pass very quickly. I checked on the nearby stores and then headed to a new location at the entrance to the Newlands Precinct where my presence was appreciated, having a direct positive effect on the driving on Newland Street and Maldon Road. I was also able to speak with stall holders before I returned to my vehicle to carry out mobile patrols.

There had been several recent thefts of motor vehicle and sometimes these are left nearby to determine if there has been a tracker fitted. Previously I have located 2 stolen vehicles in this manner. I conducted my mobile patrols up on the Humber Road estate, Calamint Road, Rosebay Avenue, before heading out to Terling and Hatfield Peverel returning to Witham, unfortunately, this time, there were no vehicles located.

I next visited the RiverWalk via Armond road where I had been made aware of a potential encampment and I wanted to check to see if there was anybody staying in the constructed shelter. When I located it, set back from the footpath, it appeared to be a “den” made with basic materials and there was no evidence that anyone had been staying there. I did reappear from the bushes where a member of public complimented me on my actions as they had been totally unaware of the shelter and felt safe knowing that I was aware and checking here were no concerns or risks to the public.



During my patrol I was alerted to an incident on the Rivenhall estate where my colleagues were trying to negotiate with a person who had armed themselves with a knife and threatening to harm themselves further. When I arrived, I was able to offer support and eventually took over the negotiation, which finally saw the male drop the knife and come to the front door, with no further harm and we were then able to get the person the support they needed. I was unaware at the time of the backup units that had been organised due to the nature of the incident, which included Specialist Police, Ambulance, Fire and a negotiator, but it was great to know they were all there if the situation had not been resolved.

September 14th

Foot patrol began in the town centre with visibility in the Grove Centre, Newlands Shopping Precinct and along Newland Street but with the streets mostly deserted I drove across the town to conduct further patrols on Bramble Road, Honeysuckle Way, Rosebay Close and visited the COOP on Spa Road to follow up on a recent enquiry.



I moved down the road to the park area where I engaged with lots of children at the skate park before walking across to the construction area which was being overseen by a security guard. Over the recent few weeks, the park had appeared to be nearing completion with the installation of the new play equipment but required new safety flooring. To prevent injury, fencing had been erected around the site but this was regularly being knocked over, allowing children to access the equipment. With the risk of injury and damage to the fencing the guard had been brought in to provide a visual deterrent. After a quick discussion I stated that I would revisit the site over the evening to assist with deterring any further children accessing the area



and causing a nuisance. Staying in the vicinity I visited the ASDA store to talk with staff and then walked on to the RiverWalk and Duck Pond before returning towards Highfields Road. Apparently, this was enough time for a large group of children to enter the play park site, and I approached to speak with them. On seeing me the group fled off along the field along the bottom of the rugby club and disappeared. With the security guard we checked the play area for damage but pleased to see that there were no issues and I returned to my vehicle. I expected that the children would return, so I made a short visit to the town centre before returning to the Humber Road estate, parking up and walking back towards the play area. This time, they were all inside the fence and I was able to stop them and identify the group. I explained to them the risks of accessing the park and using the equipment while it was unfinished, before they dispersed in to the near darkness. The new play equipment is a fantastic upgrade to the park and this has proven a great attraction to the children who have not had access to any play equipment over the school holiday period – this unfortunately has created a desire for them to enter the site and play on the new attractions.

I headed back in to the town centre before visiting Laburnum Way where there is reconstruction work taking place at the previously derelict flats and there had been an increasing number of incidents whereby children were accessing the buildings. Although not causing damage, the buildings are not safe, and we are working with the builders to keep securing the site to prevent any accidents. The picture below shows a recent access point where children have been found inside the now deserted Lee Garden takeaway premises.



September 18th

A day in Court – I had previously arrested a drink driver who was 4 times over the legal drink drive limit and following a not guilty decision the matter had been sent to Southend Magistrates Court to be heard. In the nearly 9 years as a Special Constable this was the first time I had attended court and there was a definite mix of excitement and anticipation. With a witness providing evidence in the first instance, I was then called to deliver my oath and provide my evidence to the prosecutor and the defence lawyer. With the questions complete I was able to sit at the back of the court and listen to the evidence summary for the Magistrates to contemplate. It was an interesting experience, and I will certainly feel more confident if I get called to court in the future.



September 19th

It was another big day for Witham with the annual Street Festival encompassing the Grove Centre, Newlands Shopping Centre and a road closure between Maldon Road and Collingwood Road to enable a variety of acts to perform throughout the 4 hours. To provide reassurance during the event I was joined by PC Kinsey, and we conducted foot patrols around the locations prior to the event beginning.

With the first acts starting at 10:30 we headed into the Grove Centre, where we were approached by a person concerned over the behaviour of someone in the Witham Town Park. With a good description we approached a male and conducted a stop search following the admission from them to the use and possession of cannabis. Several items were then seized and the persons details recorded for a follow up action which may be a Community Resolution including a referral to a drug advisory service or a different action if the investigation highlights that the person has previous history of drug possession.

Sending the person on their way out of the park and sealing the confiscated drugs and paraphernalia into evidence bags we then returned to the Street Festival.

Fortunately, there were no other issues throughout the day, and we talked, had pictures taken and enjoyed the spectacle with residents and visitors alike in the different areas. My favourite was the huge red lobster that brought colour and enormity to the Grove Centre and was such a delight to the faces of so many. As well as enjoying the event, several residents also took the opportunity to tell us about concerns in their neighbourhood, and we will be following these up as part of my forthcoming patrols.



Following the successful conclusion of the event, I returned to my patrols, where I collected and disposed of a small number of drugs found near to the Morrisons Store on Braintree Road and I then moved up to Laburnum Way. Once again, I checked on the derelict Lee Gardens Takeaway where I found 5 children inside the building. While they all confirmed that they had not been doing anything...except playing Pokémon, I tried to make it very clear that they were not allowed into the premises. With the shutter partially open this would remain a constant temptation to the children, and I spoke with the builders on site about securing the entry point to prevent further issues.



September 21st

I began my patrol by visiting the Witham Oaks and Acorn Academy at Powers Hall End. There had been several reports from concerned parents and residents that some of the vehicles moving about during drop off times, combined with poor parking could result in a serious accident with the children on their way to school. The marked police car did seem to have a noticeable impact with many drivers taking note, and I did not witness any significant concerns during my short tour.

I met up with the Street Warden in Newlands Drive and we began the first of our protracted foot patrols to provide visibility and reassurance through the town and along the River Walk. We began with a visit to the shopping areas before picking up the River Walk near to Lidl and heading along towards Guithavon Valley.



When we reached the weir, we headed on towards Highfields Road to check on the Spa Road park and spoke to representatives from Braintree District Council on the progress before visiting the ASDA store to talk with staff. Unfortunately, they had been experiencing a recent spike in anti-social behaviour with children entering the store during the weekend and some even riding E-Scooters in store. This is not acceptable and any person identified on the CCTV can expect a visit to have the scooter seized. These are illegal and their continued use in the town will be dealt with in a much harsher manner following a crackdown to protect the public.

I returned to the town centre following a short break visiting the Police HQ in Chelmsford and I was back out on foot patrol with the Street Warden again. This time we visited the library, Roslyn House and the Grove Centre before continuing through the Witham Town Park onto the River Walk at Pattison Close before rejoining the high street. We met numerous people along the way, and everyone praised us for our visible presence which made them feel safe. As we approached the Town Hall, I was able to take enquiry details for a victim, and these will be passed on to the officer in charge of the investigation.

During the recent Street Festival, a person managing a pedestrian crossing at school times had expressed a concern over a motorcycle that was being ridden around the footpaths close to the school finish times and in company with the Street Warden we spent time at the location, talking with waiting parents and children. In this instance the rider did not appear, but other information was also shared regarding concerns for the safety of another child.

I parted ways with the Street Warden as he completed his duties for the day but was alerted to an emergency incident concerning a vulnerable person at the train station who had made their way on to a platform. My control room were excellent, providing me with the person's history and a recent photograph to help me with vital information and I was able to get to them and get them away from the platform, just before a train thundered through the station. I was able to move them safely to my car where I was met by 2 officers from the British Transport Police who conveyed the person to hospital for help and assessment.

September 23rd

I wanted to provide some visibility at several of the schools during my volunteering this week and today I visited Elm Hall School and the New Rickstones Academy. I waited near to the gates and greeted the



children and parents, and it was lovely to see the positive reactions on their faces. Obviously, it had a slightly different impact on the older students attending NRA with many curious to my presence, but again it was all very positive as the bell rang and the students disappeared inside. I also visited the building site on Laburnum Way due to 3 separate reports the previous evening of children once again getting inside one of the derelict buildings, so I could speak with the contractors and ask them to secure the site. On arrival I could see where there had been damage caused to gain entry and I was able to arrange for this to be boarded up.



I then headed in to the town centre where I joined the Paul the Street Warden for foot patrol, and we walked through the Grove Centre and in to the Witham Town Park and proceeded down towards Pattison Close. We continued along the River Walk speaking to people along the way before arriving at Guithavon Valley and spotting a fire engine near to the church. Fortunately, this was a visit for the young children at the nursery, and they were having great fun trying out the hose. We joined for a short time before the fire appliance call alarm sounded and they had to depart for an emergency. The children had a fantastic time and as the sirens faded into the distance, we resumed our foot patrol to the Duck Pond and the weir before returning towards the town centre.

A short break for lunch and then we were back on foot patrol in the town centre engaging with residents concerned about E-Scooters and Electric Bikes which are still causing a nuisance on the roads and pavements around the town. The latest communication from Essex Police will see posters and leaflets distributed to highlight the law and their illegal use. We continued to the library and the Memorial Gardens before heading back through the Grove Centre to the Witham Town Park, Helen Court, Blackman Way and Greenfields.

Our next patrol area took us across town to Honeysuckle Way and Bramble Road where we conducted a welfare check on 2 homeless people before driving around Rosebay Close to check on the park area before returning once again back to the town.



For the remainder of the day, I left Paul and returned to the Rickstones Road area to conduct foot patrol around the Templars estate, and I positioned myself near to the park as the children left the primary school and senior school and descended into the area. A parent had raised recent concerns over potential drug related activity and the illegal use of E-Scooters and Electric Motorbikes around the younger children. Two other Police Officers were also in the vicinity, and this provided a very clear presence and there were no issues. PC Hammond was challenged to running races by a couple of the children which added to the positive interactions we had with all the children near the shop and park.



With the area clearing I went back to Laburnum Way and disappointed to find out that, yet another Police report had just come in stating that children had entered the derelict premises again. Unfortunately, a loose panel had allowed unrestricted access, and I escorted 2 children known to me, out of the building before once again asking the contractors to secure the building more comprehensively.



I also had a long talk with the group of children now assembled and explained that not only are their actions unsafe but risk criminal action if they are found to be damaging the building to gain access. After sending them off towards the park I returned to my patrols before volunteering to attend an incident involving a dog attack on Honeysuckle Way. With my presence in Witham, I was able to be on location within 5 minutes before a unit from Braintree joined me. My final task required a call on to an address in Pitt Avenue before I conclude my shift for the day.



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E-SCOOTERS
IN ALL PUBLIC SPACES

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A FINE OR POINTS ON
YOUR LICENCE

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WITH PERMISSION



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September 25th

Following the past few days, I rounded off my school visit with Lift Maltings and mixed with the children outside the gates, met staff and provided a presence near to the crossing which I was told had made a noticeable difference to some driver behaviour. This is obviously concerning and I encourage all drivers to be especially aware of school start and finish times due to the heavy use of all the crossings across the town. The children were all extremely polite to waiting drivers and shows appreciation for keeping them safe. I spoke with several staff members who were happy for my visit, and I was able to obtain some information which will help me with an ongoing enquiry.



With the final children entering the school gates I left for the town centre, parking in Newlands Drive before meeting up with Paul, the Street Warden and we began the first of our foot patrols. This took us up Newland Street and across to Mayland Road before heading through the Grove Centre and on to the Witham Town Park. We spoke with the Braintree District Council staff in the park who were busily cleaning and getting the park ready for the day ahead before walking through Kings Chase and back on to Newland Street. After a quick stop at the Town Hall, we then ventured off again and now the shops and businesses in town had opened and attracted quite a few more early morning shoppers.



We returned through the Grove Centre, heading around The Grove and up The Avenue before entering the train station from Easton Road. Already the building work had started for the renovation of the station, and we then appeared on Albert Road. Keen to cover a larger area we turned down Chipping Hill where a vehicle pulled alongside wishing to report a suspicious circumstance at a car park across the town. Taking the report, I created an incident and a Police unit was dispatched to investigate. The concerned member of



public had been on hold with our non-emergency line when she suddenly spotted the familiar sight of a policeman's helmet walking along the road and pulled over, again demonstrating the benefits of visible foot patrols.

Our next direction took us along the River Walk towards Armond Road and then on to the weir and the Duck Pond before returning towards the town centre. Temporarily parting ways, I returned to my vehicle to travel across the town to Laburnum Way to check on the derelict buildings and to see if the recent boardings were still secure and the park had suffered no further damage. Fortunately, on both counts I was pleased to see no issues, and I had quite a long talk with a person out walking their dog regarding the recent anti-social behaviour in the area. They thanked me for my recent visibility which had seen a reduction in the nuisance caused.



I rejoined Paul for the afternoon, and we continued our foot patrol along Newland Street, engaging with people along the route before heading along the River Walk, Luard Way and Pinkham Crescent to our destination Wickham Road. Paul was investigating a parking complaint but on arrival there were no issues observed in this instance. We cut across Howbridge Road and on to Pattison Close before returning to the Witham Town Park, from here we walked back through the Grove Centre and met up with Witham Town Team Officer PC Pryce before I concluded my patrols with Paul. Almost immediately I was contacted by a shop staff member, who had a victim of a recent assault walk in to the shop following an incident at the train station. We headed straight to the victim and after checking on their welfare, PC Pryce was able to record the victim account and details for further investigation.

Our next location took us on to the ASDA store and we waited for the school finish time and the anticipated influx of children to the store. Over the previous week the store had suffered several incidents involving shoplifting and an assault on a staff member – unfortunately none of these had yet been reported to Police and I remained with the staff until these were reported online. With excellent CCTV it should be easy to identify the suspects, and we will work with the schools to address the poor behaviour. With PC Pryce returning to the Police Station, I headed to the train station to secure the CCTV for the earlier assault before completing my shift.



September 26th

It was the day of the Community Beat Surgery but before I stepped in to the town I headed over to Laburnum Way to check on the derelict buildings and the play area. The building was still secure following the recent boarding up and there were no further issues in the park.



I drove in to Newlands Drive and parked up ready for my foot patrol and as I rounded the corner in to the Newlands Shopping Centre it was lovely to see so many people at the various market stall. I spoke with several stall holders where the topic of E-Scooters and Electric Bikes was discussed before I then continued to Newland Street. Before I began the Beat Surgery, I was joined by Witham Town Team Officer PC Pryce, and we took up position in the Grove Centre outside The Witham Hub. It was probably the busiest Beat Surgery for a while with both of us listening and offering advice to residents and visitors for the 2-hour session. The main topic kept coming through about E-Scooters and the potential danger these are causing across the town and along the River Walk. Essex Police are now looking at new tactics to tackle the issue, and we look forward to supporting these locally.



We left the town to conduct a concern for welfare check at a nearby address before we parted ways and after patrolling the Maltings estate and visiting the new Community Centre, I headed back in to the town centre for visibility on Newland Street before concluding my duty. The great news for Witham was that I could hand over immediately to my fellow Witham Community Special Connor Penrose and he was straight off supporting the OP Vision Zero campaign. This resulted in over 20 offences being reported for speeding and the use of mobile phones while driving. During the shift, SC Penrose also attended a domestic incident and a report of a suspected drink driver. The driver was breathalysed at the roadside and provided a reading of 0.



To conclude the shift, SC Penrose carried out a high-visibility foot patrol around Witham town centre, gently encouraging two teenagers to return a shopping trolley they had decided to run about the Newlands Centre, before carrying out mobile patrols across Witham. Areas covered during the patrols included the Hatfield Road estate, Maltings estate, Humber Road and the Flora Road estates. With these completed he then headed across the town to the Templars estate to provide a reassuring presence on the roads.

September 29th

I completed my vehicle check and arrived in Witham to initially visit the Laburnum Way buildings and check the security of the site and the nearby park which was still under regeneration. Although I was very pleased to see the buildings were secure and there appeared to be no recent interest from the children trying to break in, I was disappointed to see that most of the Heras fencing around the play park area had been pulled over and damaged.



Unfortunately, there is no CCTV in the immediate area and unless residents or members of public come forward and report this type of criminal behaviour, it is likely to go unpunished. Without suspects still in the area I returned to my vehicle and headed over to the Spa Road park. I could see the park was full of children and I parked up in the nearby ASDA store to speak with staff about recent anti-social behaviour issues before patrolling the area. Almost immediately I was swamped with young children eager to find out why I was there, what I was doing and who I was looking for...but I was able to quickly put their minds at rest and answer approximately 50 random questions about my kit and my role.



I moved over towards the skate park where I spotted 4 teenagers on E Scooters and at least 2 others on Electric Bikes but as I approached, they quickly disappeared towards the Rugby Club. I continued to the skate park before 1 of them returned almost running me down on an E Scooter, fortunately, with the assistance of my Body Worn Video, I have identified the person, and action will be taken for this reckless action.



I returned to my marked police van and carried out mobile patrols along Blunts Hall Road before heading in to the town centre to park up to conduct foot patrol. I visited the Newlands Shopping Centre and the high street before I was joined in the town centre by officers conducting an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) operation to seek out vehicles highlighted for various offences. I returned to my vehicle and drove over to Shaw Road to conduct foot patrol on the Templars estate and pleased to report it was extremely peaceful as I moved from Court to Court.

With a final sweep of the town, I joined the other officers and we descended on Spa Road and Humber Road in an attempt to deter more E Scooter riders but they quickly they disappeared into the alleyways, unfortunately these devices are highly mobile and with the darkness falling we concluded our shift for the night.

This concludes the report for September.



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