



November 2024

November is typically marked with firework incidents; however, the Dispersal Order from Halloween was still in operation, and this did seem to make a difference in the number of subsequent reports throughout the first week. We also started to issue Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's), for the persons who had been directly involved in persistent anti-social behaviour in the community. We have a number of names of people that are believed to be involved in ASB, especially targeting shops and stores and we will be visiting their addresses. On a more positive subject the end of the month is marked for the switch on of the Witham Christmas Lights with a street event which we support annually. If you are interested in finding out about becoming a Community Special Constable and providing reassurance, a visible presence, and a deterrent against crime in your local neighbourhood and town, then please see the link below.

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)

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

November 1st

Each year we are welcomed to attend the Witham Rugby Club Annual Firework display and I was joined by Special Constable Penrose & Witham Special Constable Claire Eaketts. We parked our car away from the event so we could carry out some high visibility foot patrol around the event area before entering the grounds. The dispersal order was still in place, and we were on the lookout for any groups planning anti-social behaviour but very pleased to see that after the previous evening's incidents, there were no other concerns. Inside the event I was approached almost immediately due to an issue raised by a person with a restraining order that they had seen the other party enter the grounds. Fortunately, in this instance and with details of the conditions in the order, our visible presence allowed the person and their friends to enjoy the event knowing that we were on hand if a situation was to arise. The fireworks were spectacular, and it was a very well attended event with the weather perfect for everyone to gather on the field and enjoy the bonfire, fireworks, and the attractions. With the conclusion of the fireworks, the crowd dissipated, and we carried out a foot patrol around the Highfields Road area (which had been one of the flashpoints the previous evening) and we spent time engaging with families gathered near to the end of the RiverWalk before heading back to our car.





November 2nd

I was out on my own for the day and I began with mobile patrols around the Humber Road estate, Highfields Road and Armond Road before heading in to the town centre for foot patrols. I parked my marked Police vehicle in Newlands Drive and headed into the Newlands Precinct on foot. During the Halloween incidents a video had been circulated on one of the local social media groups, involving a large group with fireworks being let off in Newland Street and the Newlands Precinct and I called to check with business staff and update them on the actions we had taken and future actions for some of the group. With the previous Saturday dedicated to the Halloween Trail on the RiverWalk I decided to stop by The Witham Hub and run an impromptu Beat Surgery to allow residents to come and see me if they had any concerns. I had only just arrived when I was approached by a staff member of a nearby store who had just had a shoplifter leave the store with items. After gathering a few details of the items and suspect I quickly scoured the town on foot looking for the suspect before returning to the store to record the crime and obtain further details. In this instance the person had been identified for other shoplifting offences by stores that were all linked into the WhatsApp Business group that had been set up with the help of the StreetWarden and this provided me with an image to help with the identification. While this WhatsApp group is helpful it is still very important that crimes are reported directly to Police because we are unable to utilise WhatsApp within our Police network. This crime would not have been reported, due to the low value of items if I had not been visible in the Grove Centre and this shows the benefit of visible foot patrols. I will be working in partnership with the Grove Centre Management team for the CCTV in the area to help provide further evidence. I returned to my Beat Surgery and did answer several enquiries concerning the fireworks incidents and information about an off-road motorbike that was being ridden in a dangerous manner.

Unfortunately, the weather did deteriorate in the afternoon, and this stopped my plans for speed checks and so I returned to further mobile patrols around the different areas in Witham before heading back along Highfields Road for visibility and reassurance at ASDA & Dominos.





November 9th

I was joined by Special Constable Penrose who has expressed an interest in joining the Witham Community team when he has completed his training portfolio. SC Penrose would be the youngest member of our team but has a great background in customer service and communicates very well which would make him a great addition to the team. We parked in Mayland Road before heading round to the Grove Centre where we carried out an initial foot patrol into the Newlands Precinct. We spoke to staff in several of the shops to let them know that we would be available in town if they needed us quickly and we spoke with stall holders on the market. When we returned to The Witham Hub for our Beat Surgery, we set up the flag and recruitment stand to try and encourage volunteers to join the Witham Specials team. Although we did not have any direct enquiries, we were extremely busy over the 2-hour session, speaking with over 20 people with concerns and recording a crime involving a person who had nearly knocked down a pedestrian on Newland Street while riding an E-Scooter. We are approaching Christmas and once again we need to highlight that privately owned E-Scooters are illegal to use in public places, which includes, the roads, footpaths, parks and the shopping centres and owners could face having these seized and destroyed. For further information then please click on the link below.

[Warning over illegal use of E-scooters ahead of Christmas | Essex Police](#)



With the conclusion of the Surgery, we returned to the Town Hall for CCTV enquiries relating to the E-Scooter offence to try and identify the suspect and with the network of cameras throughout the town he was captured in company with 2 others also on E-Scooters. I was able to identify the suspect, and this will allow the investigating officer to be able to provide an update for the victim and speak with the suspect. With enquiries complete we left the Town Hall and almost immediately spotted two young children riding E-Scooters up Newland Street. When they arrived close to the shopping area, they did both get off and walk the E-Scooters, but this enabled us to catch up to them in the precinct. We promptly confiscated the E-Scooters and both children were taken home where we could explain what action we had taken to their parents who were very supportive.

November 10th

Every year the Witham Community Special team support Remembrance Sunday, taking part in the parade and laying a wreath in memory of the sacrifice made by so many. It is always a great honour for me, wearing my ceremonial uniform to represent Essex Police and our role in the Witham Community. With the parade forming on The Avenue and continuing down Collingwood Road before turning onto Newland Street and up to the War Memorial it provides



a great opportunity for residents and visitors to come out and show their support and it was lovely to see so many lining the route. The service was held by Reverend Pritchard, and everyone observed the 2-minute silence. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them"



November 11th

I intended to spend the day with the Witham Street Warden, Paul Wiseman and concentrate on high visibility in the town centre to deter shoplifting due to recent messages he had received. Starting early, I was able to collect Paul and we headed up to Witham Oak & Acorn Academy schools following reports of several incidents involving parking issues and confrontations between parents dropping off their children. We parked in a prominent location and conducted foot patrol which seemed to have a positive effect and we drew quite a crowd of children eager to engage with us. I did have a word with a few parents concerning their "off road" parking before we headed back towards the town centre. We conducted foot patrols in the Newlands Precinct, speaking with store staff before continuing through to the Grove Centre, Maldon Road Park and then up to the War Memorial for the Remembrance Service. In the early part of the afternoon, I visited the ASDA store to conduct CCTV enquiries for previous criminal damage and I was in store at the right time when a person left the store without paying for items, a short foot chase ensued and I escorted the person back to the store where I recorded a shoplifting theft. This person was identified by store staff having committed several recent thefts from the store and we are now building a case for all the offences. I returned to the town hall and once again Paul and I headed back to Witham Oaks school. When most of the children had been collected, we spoke with nearby residents that thanked us for our presence and the positive impact our presence had over the day. We returned to the town for further foot patrols as it became filled with children from school, to provide a deterrent to the anti-social behaviour that had been seen in Morrison's Daily & Greggs.

I left Paul to continue my duty and was called to attend Roslyn House following reports of several people seen entering the derelict premises. Due to the size of the building, I was supported by a nearby unit, and we searched through the maze of rooms and corridors but pleased to report that there were no persons present. Almost immediately I was called to assist with an incident at the Train station where there had been a public order incident



and three of the people involved were on the platform waiting for the train. I arrived just in time as they boarded, and staff held the train until I could escort them all off where I took details and recorded the offence.

My shift continued into the evening as I attended the Community Committee meeting at the Town Hall with Inspector Jackson from the Braintree Community Policing Team, where we provided an update on the recent Halloween incident and the focus on the anti-social behaviour by a group of children around the town. Unfortunately, during the meeting there were a further three incidents of ASB at Morrison's Daily, ASDA and Favorite Chicken. I left the meeting to visit ASDA to review CCTV images of those involved and I was able to identify the suspects and update the investigation.



November 16th

I crewed up with Active Citizen Cathy Pengilly for the shift and we began with a speed 100 check on Highfields Road. An Active Citizen is a volunteer who can work alongside the Police or Fire Service, they are vetted and can therefore help to support some of the tasks we carry out in the community, and this is extremely helpful. We measured 100 vehicles during a 45-minute deployment at this location where I have been trying to discourage excess speed due to the children crossing the road from the skate park. Fortunately, with the presence of the marked vehicle and our high visibility clothing we were pleased with the results with only a few drivers visually warned to slow down.



We concluded the check and headed into the town centre for foot patrol through the shopping areas and engaged with store staff and visited The Witham Hub where I spoke to a vulnerable female. I was able to submit a referral to help her current situation before we moved on through the Grove Centre and I updated a store which had been a recent victim of shoplifting. We walked through the Tesco car park and across Maldon Road and into the Witham

Town Park where we spoke with a person openly consuming alcohol and moved them out of the park before continuing to Kings Chase and back onto Newland Street. We stopped at Morrison's Daily to provide reassurance and update them on the recent anti-social behaviour incident before returning to our vehicle.



Our next location was the Hatfield Road estate, and we went to talk to staff at the Premier shop on Wulvesford who had reported ongoing shoplifting. From the images provided I was able to identify the suspects, and this will be updated on the investigation to enable officers to progress their investigations. With mobile patrols of the estate, we then drove across to Maltings Lane, Howbridge Road and Pattison Close. I had planned to carry out a speed check on Maldon Road and we parked in Blackman Way to be able to measure vehicles in both directions. Unfortunately, in the time we spent at this location I did have to issue many visual warnings to drivers, stop two drivers for words of advice and issue a ticket for speeding.



To finish our shift, we headed back in to the town to conduct further foot patrols, where we visited the library which had been once again seen anti-social behaviour where tomato sauce covered one of their fire exits and we removed another E-Scooter from the town centre.

November 18th

I was able to crew up with PC Sahin for my patrol with the intention of heading to Witham to tackle the ongoing anti-social behaviour and we began with high visibility mobile patrols; however, the weather was poor with persistent



rain and there were very few people about. Our time in Witham was cut short by a request to help with an injured deer causing an obstruction on a main road in Sible Hedingham and so we drove to the location. Unfortunately, on our arrival the deer had not survived, and we set up a temporary closure to clear it from the road. While we were in the Halstead area, we carried out some patrols in the town, visiting several locations previously associated with drug supply but this was also short-lived due to another request on the radio for a road traffic collision on the Witham Road near to White Notley. We arrived on scene to find everyone out of their vehicles standing in the road with three vehicles involved. Fortunately, there were no injuries, so we quickly established a safe working area and started to deal with the drivers. A requirement during the examination of the road traffic collision is a roadside breath test for each of the drivers involved and one of the drivers provided a sample of 88, which far exceeded the 35microgram limit. The driver was arrested at the scene and then conveyed to hospital for a check over before being taken to Harlow Custody where the evidential breath test was performed. The result of this test was still 2 ½ times the limit, and this will be used to prosecute the driver for drinking and driving which is likely to have contributed to the accident. It was very fortunate that nobody was seriously injured or killed.

This recent news article, *below*, highlights the work that Essex Police are carrying out to combat this serious road crime.

[Ahead of the weekend, we're urging drivers to be responsible and don't drink and drive | Essex Police](#)

With the driver now placed in a cell for the night ahead of the interview in the morning we concluded our 13-hour shift by completing the remaining paperwork at Braintree Police Station.

November 23rd

It was the next Community Beat Surgery, and I was crewed with fellow Witham Community Special Constable Claire Eaketts. With the plan to be on foot patrol for the shift we arrived in Witham on the train from Braintree. Our presence on the train is always welcomed by Greater Anglia and British Transport Police due to the visible presence, reassurance, and crime deterrent it provides.



We alighted at Witham station and headed out of the Albert Road entrance to continue round to Collingwood Road and into the Newlands Precinct. Unfortunately, the weather was not very good with persistent light rain which reduced the number of people and the market stalls in the precinct, but we engaged with those we saw before heading over to the Grove Centre to The Witham Hub where we held the Beat Surgery. Over the 2 hours using the



Hub for occasional shelter we did manage to speak with a few passers by and handed out some of our Dispatch leaflets. If you would like to find out more about significant news from Essex Police, then please follow the link below to sign up.



Stay up to date with the latest policing news by signing up to our weekly e-newsletter www.essex.police.uk/dispatch



At the Beat Surgery I did receive information concerning suspected drug supply and a report has been submitted to our system for officers' awareness.

Following the Beat Surgery the rain continued but fell heavier which left the town deserted so we visited a victim of recent anti-social behaviour on Guithavon Street. After speaking directly to the victim, the person stated that they felt reassured by our visit, and we also planned to revisit the location on subsequent patrols and follow up on CCTV which had captured the incidents. We headed back to the train station to complete our very wet day on foot patrol!



November 28th

I had taken a couple of days off from my main workplace to be able to volunteer in my role as Witham Community Sergeant and to provide some Police company to Paul Wiseman the Streetwarden. For this day I arrived at the Town Hall where I met Paul, and we headed out on foot to the shopping areas. We visited several of the stores that have been targeted recently for shoplifting and anti-social behaviour to reiterate the importance of reporting any incidents. Many of the stores operate their own security system but this does not then always get reported to Essex Police and this does not enable us to be able to target persistent offenders. The business WhatsApp Group has helped to improve communications between stores but not everything shared between businesses is then passed on. We visited Boots on Newland Street following a shoplifting incident the previous day where the suspect had been captured on CCTV. I spoke with the manager and recorded the attempted theft which had been interrupted by a 93-year-old shopper who would not let the suspect leave with armfuls of products. Fortunately, in this case the suspect left empty handed. With the details recorded and a request for the CCTV submitted we can now look at positive action. We continued across to the Grove Centre and spoke to staff in Poundland and Superdrug before coming across a distraught child who had lost their brand new cuddly toy. While we had no direct incidents to attend, we followed their path back to the bus stop on Collingwood Road where a very kind person had picked it up and placed it carefully on a nearby wall. A few minutes later and we were able to reunite "Christmas Mouse" with its owner, much to the disbelief of mum, which stopped the tears, and I got a very lovely thank you from the young girl.



To follow up on the anti-social behaviour that occurred on Guithavon Street we visited PodsBrook House to meet with the Manager and review the CCTV footage of the 3 separate incidents. With suspects identified I requested the CCTV footage to be uploaded to our secure system and we will be looking at appropriate actions for those involved.

Each year we are required to ensure our first aid skills are up to date and I had a refresher session later in the day, so I finished my patrol with Paul to head on to the Essex Police College in Chelmsford.

November 29th

I was able to get into Witham and connect with the Streetwarden a little earlier which enabled us to visit several schools during the morning drop off time. I had received reports of speeding on Maltings Lane, near to the Holy Family Catholic School, which combined with poor parking was making it dangerous for the young children. We arrived in good time, so we also checked on Chipping Hill School and Howbridge School and our presence in the marked Police vehicle was very obvious to the children and the parents. We returned to Maltings Lane and parked up during the drop off time and stood outside on the road to provide a visibility. I did have to speak to one driver



who through frustration at the school traffic appeared to be driving aggressively. In this instance words of advice were suitable, and they continued safely past the school. I spoke briefly with the caretaker at the school, and he thanked us for our presence which had made a significant difference to the normal behaviour. Hopefully this presence, albeit, occasional will help parents to think about their driving and parking around these schools for the safety of the children.



Our next visit was to the ASDA store on Highfields Road to catch up on any recent incidents and find out if the issued ABC's had started to make an impact with a reduction in the anti-social behaviour. The news was positive with a definite improvement and there were no new incidents to record. We returned to the town centre to carry out foot patrols in the main shopping areas and we visited several stores to let them know we were out and about in the town. After visiting the Grove Centre, we headed up to the library where we were just in time to provide a presence where they asked a group of children to leave due to their disruption. Following a brief break we next visited the Witham Town Park and continued down past Helen Court and onto the RiverWalk.



We checked several locations of previous concern along the route but pleased to see no further issues and carried on until we arrived on Bridge Street. The Streetwarden was then alerted through the Business WhatsApp Group that a well-known person, suspected of shoplifting, had been seen in the town centre and we walked up to the Grove Centre where we located them and made sure they were aware of our presence. This visibility is a key part of my role as a Community Special Sergeant and with full policing powers it can provide a significant deterrent to crime. We maintained a presence in the town centre and there were no reported issues during the afternoon. For the final part of the shift, we visited the schools on Conrad Road, where the children were leaving school, providing more visibility. We spoke with parents collecting their children, and I had some very positive interactions with the older children leaving New Rickstones Academy. The staff at NRA have implemented their own safety system for the nearby road crossing and this was very effective, however, they thanked me for coming along to help reinforce this.



November 30th

I had arranged for fellow Witham Community Specials, Superintendent Lorne Campbell, Special Constable Claire Eaketts and Braintree Special Constable Penrose to join me to support the Witham Town Council's Christmas Event. In our pairs we aimed to provide a high visibility presence throughout the afternoon and evening with stalls, performers and events in the Grove Centre, Newland Street, and the United Reformed Church. We arrived prior to the event to carry out our initial foot patrol before joining the Carol Service outside The Witham Hub in the Grove Centre, led by Reverend Pritchard with a reading from the mayor Lucy Barlow. There were already lots of activities taking place in the centre and we split up to patrol the event, visiting several of the road closure sites to provide support for the volunteers. During the event, we were made aware of some damage caused in the park and enquiries are now ongoing with this captured on the new CCTV system. As darkness fell the stage acts were building up to the Christmas Lights switch on with fantastic displays of singing and dancing. With everyone prepared we were made aware of a suspicious person who had been seen looking into people's bags, fortunately we found them quickly and our presence made them retreat from the area. The lights looked fantastic, illuminated along Newland Street with the Christmas Tree proudly standing opposite the Town Hall.



Unfortunately, this is where the evening changed dramatically for us due to a large group that were involved in several incidents at Battersford Court and Morrison's Daily. This took several hours to resolve but fortunately did not cause disruption for the event which everyone attending appeared to enjoy.

This concludes the monthly report for November 2024.

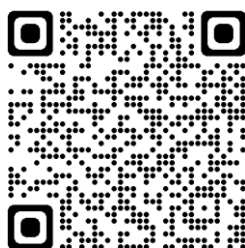


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You can find Witham Community Special Constable patrol updates on Twitter / X by searching and following

[Essex Police Witham \(@EPWitham\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/EPWitham)



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Non-Emergency ☎ 101 or 💻 Report it Online

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

