



September 2023

September begins with the summer term concluding and children who have been out and about in Witham over the school holidays return to school. In general, there have been few reports of anti-social behaviour attributed to children and in most cases, these have been limited to a specific area which has helped us to take positive action to reduce the effect of this on the community. The highlight for community events this month is the Witham Festival taking part on the 16th with the streets filled with entertainers and performers. This is another fantastic free to attend event organised by Witham Town Council and we are happy to support the day in our role as Community Special Constables dedicated to helping everyone enjoy their day with visibility and reassurance. We are always looking to expand our numbers in Witham and therefore please ask about the volunteer role from an officer or alternatively follow the link or QR Code below.

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)



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

September 2nd

It was the day of the regular Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub and I was joined by fellow CSC Officer Claire Eaketts, however, before we headed into the town, we wanted to check out several locations across town which were identified for drug related activity. This is a blight on the streets of Witham and with your help in reporting suspicious activity or directly identifying drug related activity we will continue to patrol to disrupt this behaviour. During our patrols we visited Bramble Road, Rosebay Close, Humber Road, Allectus Way and Wendon Avenue before heading around Gershwin Boulevard to visit Baker Way and Holst Avenue. Although we did not encounter any activity directly, we hope that our patrols were visible providing reassurance to most and a deterrent to a few.



We arrived at the Hub and into the sunshine as we took up our position outside in the Grove Centre. Over the 2 hours we were inundated with people coming and speaking with us, some with concerns for us to follow up or provide advice but most thanking us for our presence and engaging positively with families and children. If you have any concerns and would like to speak to officers about non-urgent issues in your community then please come along



to the next event or please stop us if you see us out and about around Witham. Following the Surgery, we then carried out foot patrol in the town centre and visited the green area and disused rail line near Greenfield.



We were next called to a tree which had fallen across the road on Blue Mills Hill, there was already another unit in attendance from Maldon, however, we took over and let them return to their patrol area while I removed the tree and Officer Eaketts safely directed traffic to allow me to work. Fortunately, we were able to clear it completely and reopen the road within a half hour.



The final part of our patrol (after a short recovery break!) was to attend ASDA on Highfields Road where we recorded a criminal damage caused by children the previous evening and to revisit the derelict garages near to Ebenezer Close.





September 4th

I began my patrol with visible patrols around the Templars Estate before heading along Braintree Road and into Chalks Road and then on to Ebenezer Close. I have been focusing patrols on the disused garages where there have been previous encounters with teenagers involved in drug use, but I was pleased to find the garages empty and no further evidence. I have been in contact with the Town Council and Eastlight who own the garages and I have been informed that these are due to be demolished which will address any anti-social behaviour surrounding their current access and use. From here I headed round to Bramble Road where I dropped into Bramble Court and spoke to staff members to provide reassurance and visibility following recent reports of their residents causing anti-social issues. I continued my patrols around Honeysuckle Way and over into Rosebay Close where I visited Calamint Road, Speedwell Close & Foxglove Close. With no issues detected I next visited the Humber Road estate and then on to the ASDA store. Fortunately, there were no issues outside the store, and I continued along Blunts Hall Road towards Terling to follow up on reports that children had been seen previously playing in the road. While I was on this country road I stopped and spoke with 5 different cyclists who were barely visible in the failing light, and I was able to provide them each with a set of bicycle lights courtesy of the Safer Essex Roads Partnership.

With the evening now turning into night I headed over to the other side of town where I patrolled on Constance Close, Blackman Way and Greenfield. During these patrols I disrupted suspicious activity which I believed to be around drug distribution, and I have submitted a police information report. To increase my visibility in the town centre I parked up in Mill Lane car park and headed out on foot calling in at The Swan, Battesford Court, The George, The Red Lion and The White Hart before finally concluding my patrol.





September 9th

When I began my shift, a call for assistance came over the radio, for a person in the Braintree high street suspected of having an offensive weapon. We left the station on foot and with another unit on scene a man was arrested and taken to custody. I was then ready to begin my shift in Witham and I was joined on my patrols by PCSO Milton. We headed into Witham and began with a visit to The Cherry Tree Pub where we met with several customers, and we were able to show off the marked police carrier to one very excited young lad. After giving a quick demonstration of the lights we then drove along Crossing Road and just as we approached the railway bridge near to Cypress Road a teenager on an electric motorbike came out of Homefield Drive and accelerated away from us along the road, he then cut through the forecourt of the Texaco garage and out onto Chalks Road, as I entered Chalks Road I switched on my emergency lights to indicate for the rider to stop but he then turned into St. Nicholas Road and then cut through a footpath connecting to St. Nicholas Close. The use of this electric motorbike is illegal on public roads and the way it was being ridden was dangerous to other road users and pedestrians. A police information report will be submitted to alert other officers to the bike and person to try and stop them in the future. We headed from here into Church Street to see if we could determine where the rider may have gone and then circled around to Bramble Road to see if we could see it in this location. With no further sighting we headed over to Humber Road and Spa Road where we visited ASDA and the skate park. We were then called to assist a colleague at Wendon Avenue at a domestic related incident where several items were seized. One of the main issues I wanted to address was visibility during the evenings in the town centre and we began with an early evening foot patrol in the shopping areas of Newland Street and The Grove Centre before walking through Greenfields, Blackman Way and back through the Witham Town Park.

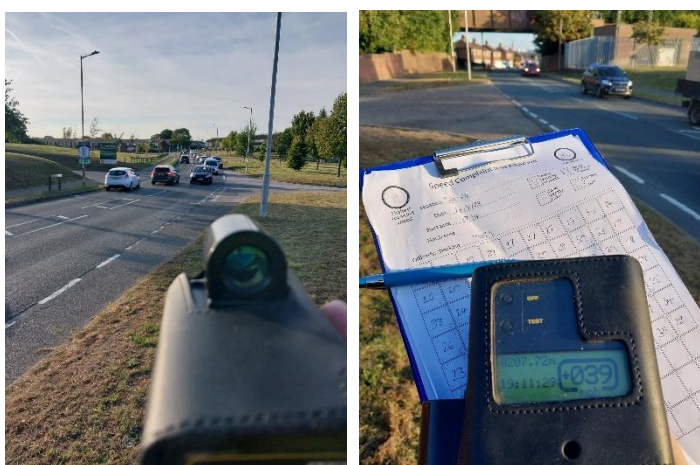


Due to the earlier incident in Braintree at the start of our shift we were required to make CCTV enquiries to secure evidence to support the interview of the suspect who was still in custody, so we headed back to Braintree for a short while. With this complete we came back into Witham and began another foot patrol where we directly engaged with the Pubs on the high street, beginning with The Swan, Battersford Court, The George, The Red Lion, and the White Hart. In all locations we were thanked for our visibility and reassurance, and we concluded our patrol with further walks around the shopping precincts before returning to our vehicle.



September 14th

I took the speed camera out with me because I had noticed while on patrol around the Spa Road area that there were several vehicles that appeared to be exceeding the speed limit. Children regularly ignore the marked crossing area and cross the road close to the junction with Highfields Road due to the straight line between the skate park and the nearby stores, this is particularly dangerous if there are speeding vehicles. I set up on the grass area near to Domino's Pizza and began my check of 100 vehicles which I measured travelling towards me from each direction. During the check I stopped 3 drivers, where 2 were given words of advice and due to excessive speed of 41mph in the 30mph limit the other was issued with a Traffic Offence Report.



In the middle of my checks, I had to break off to attend an anti-social behaviour incident where it had been reported that children had been causing a danger in the road, weaving in and out of cars on E-Scooters and bikes and kicking a football against cars. The report came in for Highfields Road (which is where I was already standing) and although I could not see anything on the road, I decided to check round the corner near to the ASDA store entrance, where I located the group matching the descriptions, with the E-Scooters and football. I was able to have strong words with the group and the parents of the children with the E-Scooters came down to the store so I could speak to them and their children about their illegal use in public. With suitable warnings given about their unacceptable behaviour I then dispersed the group and returned to complete my speed check.

I then headed along Spinks Lane before parking in the Lidl Store car park and started off on foot patrol. I first called in at the RAFA club where a televised debate was organised with Dame Priti Patel and former MP Nigel Farage. With extra officers in attendance, I then continued my foot patrol along Howbridge Road and up into Blotts Rise before exiting onto Dengie Close. I spoke with a resident who asked if I would be able to patrol an area near to the garages later in the evening due to drug use and anti-social behaviour. It is unlikely that this would have been reported if I had not been walking along Dengie Close at the time which demonstrates the value of visible foot patrols. I headed back down Howbridge Road and across to Pattison Close where I picked up the RiverWalk footpath back to my vehicle. After further mobile patrols on Allectus Way, Wendon Avenue and Maltings Lane I did revisit Dengie Close later in the evening but on this occasion, there were no concerns. With the event at the RAFA Club coming to an end I provided additional support while the area was cleared and then I parked up in the Lockram Lane car park to conduct further foot patrols in the town centre.



September 16th

It was the day of the Witham Festival organised by Witham Town Council and I arrived in the town as stall holders and the entertainers were setting up. My role for the day was to provide a visible and reassuring police presence in the town centre where many hundreds of visitors were expected to come and enjoy the shows and events. Previously known as the Puppet Festival it still contained several large puppets and this year, there was a conservation theme with a Polar Bear, a Panda and Dolphins, walking trees and flowers! There were other attractions with a mini circus balancing act, a magician, Disney Princesses, characters from the next Witham Amateur Operatic Society (WAOS) show and Granny Turismo who had many children and adults laughing out loud. With donuts and ice creams and all the shops in Witham providing their own support it was great to see Witham buzzing with excitement.



In the afternoon I was joined by Witham Town Police officers PC Davies, PC Southgate and PCSO Stranger and PC Draper & PC Barford who had come to promote the #SaferStreets initiative at The Witham Hub.





It was a fantastic event and very well attended throughout the day and I am pleased to report there were no incidents requiring Police attendance which reflected very positively on the people and visitors of Witham and the organisers.

If you would like to see additional photographs from the event, then you can view these on the Witham Town Council Facebook page or the Witham Town Council webpage.

September 17th

I had volunteered for an extra shift today to assist with the RAF Cadet parade in Witham. My task was to provide a visible escort for the marching parade as it headed from Maltings Academy up Newland Street and onto Guithavon Street to the Methodist Church before returning down Newland Street to the RAFA Club. The parade marked the Battle of Britain with a commemorative service, and it was fantastic to see approximately 150 cadets form up in Maltings Academy car park before I led them through the town. With the band leading the cadets there were quite a few residents out on the streets watching as we moved slowly up the high street, and it was great to see some of the business owners coming out to wave as they passed. Although the weather had threatened with rain, we were very fortunate during the march, and I would also like to praise the other road users who were respectful and patient as the march took place.



With the cadets safely inside the RAFA Club I followed up on an abandoned vehicle which was reported to me by a Councillor the previous day and I discovered that it was a vehicle that had been reported stolen in December 2022! The car had been recently left in a layby in Witham on Lawrence Avenue and it has been recovered for forensic examination to try and determine who has been driving it recently. If you have any information which could support this, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with Essex Police. This is a good demonstration of how you, as residents can help the Police with solving crime. If you see suddenly see a vehicle that is not usually in your local area, and you are suspicious then please report this and we can quickly establish if it has been stolen or used in crime.



September 30th

Witham CSC Officer Campbell was out on patrol during the day and carried out mobile patrols in company with PC Sahin & PC Wheeler. They visited several areas in Witham to provide visibility and reassurance including Bramble Road, Wendon Avenue, Maltings Lane, and Spa Road where they engaged with children at the skate park.



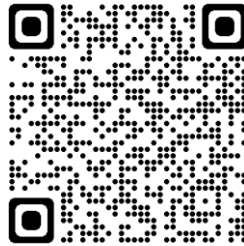
With no incidents reported over the time spent in Witham Acting Chief inspector Campbell concluded his patrol.

This concludes the monthly report for September 2023.






You can find Witham Community Special Constable patrol updates on Twitter 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/>

