



October 2023

October really starts to see a change in the evenings with it becoming much darker and temperatures starting to drop, however, we continued to patrol on foot and in vehicles around Witham. You may not always see us but rest assured that we will continue our focus to reduce anti-social behaviour around the parks and local hotspots, tackle speeding on the roads and attend any incidents across the town. We also have Halloween at the end of the month, and we will be carrying our high visibility presence to reduce anti-social behaviour so that everyone can enjoy themselves. 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.

October 2nd

I was crewed with Braintree Officer PC Sahin for general visibility patrols, and we arrived in Witham to follow up on a report on social media where an item had been alleged to be modified with razor blades in order to cause injury. Fortunately, during our extensive search of the area, we were unable to find any such items but please report anything suspicious of this nature to Police directly rather than reporting on Facebook which is generally not monitored by Essex Police. This enables us to investigate properly, identify any offences or risk to the public and take appropriate action if required. Due to commitments in another part of the district we were unable to return to Witham during the remaining duty.





October 5th

I arrived in Witham to carry out an area search following the report of a large group young teenagers attacking a single teenager within the Maltings estate. This was reported by a concerned resident and although I carried out an extensive area search, I was unable to locate either the group or the victim. Sometimes it is possible that incidents are captured on CCTV or Ring style doorbell cameras and please feel free to share this with us to help victims and take action against suspects. Your footage may make the difference and really help the victim. As I concluded my search, I was then directed to an ongoing incident on the pathway leading between Spinks Lane and the Hatfield Road estate. Fortunately, I was relatively close and was able to attend within a minute of the call which is a major benefit of our role as Community Special Constables. I arrived on scene to find a group of school children, the suspect, teaching staff and members of the public who all wanted to inform me what had happened. After speaking with the victim of the alleged offence I attempted to diffuse the situation by taking the suspect to my vehicle but unfortunately the situation quickly escalated, and I had to request assistance from other officers to manage the other people at the scene. I would please encourage people that unless you are a direct witness or directly involved in the incident that you can help us by moving away, by the time other officers arrived there were approximately 20 other people involved when the original incident was between 3 or 4 people! With the situation defused a man was arrested for Public Order offences and taken to custody. Before I needed to return to Braintree Police Station to submit my evidence for processing of the suspect, I was able to attend an intruder alarm on the Eastways Industrial estate and when I arrived, I did locate a person inside one of the units where the alarm was sounding. In this instance it was a member of staff who had been working alone in one part of the building when the rest of their colleagues had left by another exit and set the alarms and secured the building. While we waited for a keyholder I guided the person to a fire exit and ensured the building remained secure until they arrived.



I then returned to Braintree to complete my paperwork for the previous incident which concluded my patrols.

October 7th

I joined the Town Team for a licensing check at The Cherry Tree Pub in Witham, before continuing my reassurance and visibility patrols around the town. I called several times over the evening at the ASDA store on Highfield Road due to a recent increase in reported anti-social behaviour and although I spoke to a small group of children near to the store, there were no concerns. I conducted vehicle patrols on the Hatfield Road estate and a foot patrol around the Alan Road Park area, where I engaged with a number of teenagers before moving across to the Maltings estate and then into the town centre for foot patrol. I called in at several of the town pubs and bars and always get a very welcome reception from staff and customers and in turn I hope my presence provides reassurance. Due to reports from residents on previous shifts I carried out targeted foot patrol around Dengie Close and Howbridge Road but again I am pleased to report that there were no issues found at that time.



With my patrols in the town concluded, I started driving back towards the train station but received a call to attend an attempted burglary with potential suspects still in the vicinity. I was the first to arrive at the scene and after an area search I was able to determine that the suspects appeared to have left the area. I was able to call for additional units to carry out searches while I spoke to the victims. Fortunately the suspects had not been able to enter the property due to being disturbed in the back garden by the homeowners switching on lights and with their excellent CCTV system I was able to quickly download suspect images and circulate these to the officers who were out searching. I waited with the victims until the premises had been secured and I then recorded the attempted burglary which initiates an investigation. With pictures of the damage captured and the CCTV downloaded, I carried out a final reassurance sweep of the area and I was able to leave the victims feeling reassured and headed back to the station.

October 14th

It was the day of the next Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub but before this was due to start I carried out a speed check on The Avenue. With my location at the entrance of The Paddocks I was focusing on vehicles travelling towards my position from Collingwood Road to measure their speed in the 30mph limit. Over an hour period I stopped several cars and issued a traffic offence report for one driver recorded at 43mph. I was also approached by several residents who live along The Avenue who thanked me for my presence but also provided further information including times and days where the speeds are perceived as excessive. This really helps in targeting road safety concerns and will be used for future checks.



I attended the Beat Surgery and I was very surprised when I discovered that I was to receive an award for my contribution to the community from the High Sheriff of Essex Charles Bishop. With Trustees from The Witham Hub, and Witham Town Clerk Nikki Smith and volunteers and patrons of the Hub I was honoured to receive an award for a role that I really enjoy in Witham as a volunteer Community Special Constable.



I have now been an Essex Special Constable for nearly 6 years and the last 5 of these has been specifically in Witham to help provide a consistent presence in the town. There are many other parishes around the district for a similar volunteer role, however, we are always looking for more officers to join the Witham team. If you are able to find a minimum of 16 hours (per month) then you could apply to the Essex Special Constabulary.

[Special Constabulary | Essex Police](#)





Following the award, I continued with the Beat Surgery, and I was able to provide advice to a person who was unsure if they were a victim of crime. This has since resulted in the launch of an investigation and additional visibility patrols will provide a deterrent as well as reassurance. Following the conclusion of the Beat Surgery I carried out foot patrol around the town centre, engaging with shoppers and stall holders and popping into several businesses before walking through the town park.



After returning to my vehicle, I called up to assist with a broken-down vehicle on the A12 between Witham and Hatfield Peverel where I provided a coned off zone for traffic to avoid the obstruction until it was recovered. I continued to Hatfield Peverel where I carried out another speed check for 100 vehicles on Maldon Road near to the Village Hall. I stopped several drivers and gave them words of advice concerning their speeds before a motorcyclist was recorded at 39mph. In this instance he failed to stop when directed and this is being investigated further. On a more positive note, there were many families and dog walkers enjoying the recreation ground and I carried out foot patrol around the perimeter with lots of positive engagement.



October 16th

I began my patrols in Witham once again investigating an incident involving school children and this time a young boy had allegedly been attacked by older children. I initially went to the area to provide visibility and reassurance but within minutes of my arrival I was approached by the family of the victim, and it was evident after seeing the young boy that there were visible injuries. After providing some advice to the parent concerning potential injuries and aftereffects, I recorded a first account from the victim and then submitted an investigation whereby the suspect was named by the victim. With photographs of the injuries and reassurance provided I then resumed my patrols in the town centre. I attended several pubs and bars in town and conducted foot patrol in the shopping areas and town



park. When I returned to my vehicle, I headed over to Spa Road and checked at ASDA due to previous reports of anti-social behaviour but again pleased to see no issues. I then carried on down Chipping Hill before turning up Rickstones Road and onto Forest Road where I carried out enquiries due to the appearance of a vehicle in a dangerous position. Fortunately, I was able to find the owner and the vehicle will be parked safely in the future. I continued to the Rivenhall estate and I carried out mobile patrols up to the golf course and then onto Flemming Way and several of the side roads before reappearing on Forest Road. I followed the road around onto Cypress Road and into Manor Road where I checked over the recreation ground. As the darkness fell, I headed back towards town and then patrolled along Church Street where I visited the abandoned garages at the end of Ebenezer Close. There had been previous drug related activity in one of the garages but again I was pleased to see no issues.



October 21st

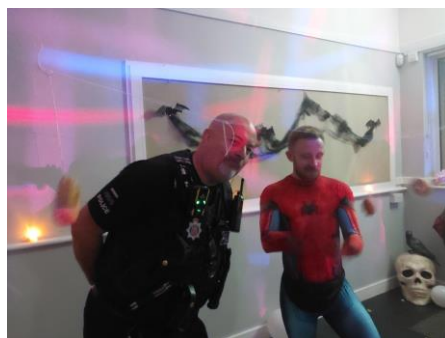
I was joined on patrol by Special Constable Penrose, and we arrived in Witham in the rain. The first location on my plan was to visit the ASDA store on Highfields Road where there had been repeated cases of anti-social behaviour involving children gathering at the front of the store and then going inside and causing disruption up and down the aisles. Fortunately, during our time there we didn't see any issues, but we will keep returning to the area. We next moved on to the Humber Road estate and located a vehicle of interest and an intelligence report has been submitted. From my many previous patrols, I was able to determine that the vehicle had not been seen in the area before and I ran checks using the Police National Computer database which highlighted other intelligence reports for involvement in drug related activity. We continued our patrols around the housing estates before we were called to a report that a vulnerable person had fallen into a ditch along the B1018 road between Braintree & Witham. With no exact location we headed out slowly towards Braintree and luckily, we located them cold & very wet just outside Cressing. I positioned the police vehicle in a safe location, and we were able to help the person up and into the warmth and safety of our car. The person was extremely grateful and in tears due to our kindness, but we explained that it was part of our role to ensure the safety and wellbeing of people and had we not be able to find the person it could have resulted in a very serious incident due to their limited mobility and the poor weather. After returning them back to their home in Witham we headed into the town centre to carry out foot patrols. We parked up in Lockram Lane carpark and began with a visit to Charlie's Bar, speaking with the landlady before walking around the corner to The George and crossing the road to The Red Lion. Our visits provide visibility and reassurance to the pubs and the customers that we are present in the town, and this also potentially helps to deter any drinking related incidents. We also visited the Royal British Legion who were hosting their annual Poppy Appeal concert.



October 25th

I was crewed with PC Davies of the Witham Town Team, and we dropped in at The Witham Hangout. The volunteer group provide a youth club environment for teenagers in Witham at the Rugby Club and tonight was their Halloween party. Although not intending to be scary in our uniforms we attend community clubs to break down any fears and build confidence with children that we are in Witham to help them. The party was in full swing, and I was asked to judge the fancy dress competition which was very tough due to the high standards! It was great to see so many taking part, I was also on hand to try out doughnut bobbing against Witham Town Councillor Jack Coleman and of course as the cliché suggests – you cannot separate a Policeman from a doughnut, and I won comfortably...just need more foot patrol now to work it off.

During the remainder of our shift, we attempted to stop a person known to be involved in drug related activity on a bicycle on Spa Road, but they made off down the River Walk and out of sight – an intelligence report has been submitted for future action. We were also made aware that there were 2 people who appeared to be sleeping rough behind a business premises in the town, we did locate them as they were about to settle down for the evening. In this instance both were known to me and after some positive engagement we were able to move them on from the premises. One of the people was choosing to stay at the location but does have a safe place to sleep and the other person was given some guidance on the volunteer organisations at The Witham Hub and The Centre (at the United Reform Church) who can provide food, clothing and cleaning facilities and was also signposted to CHESSE to help with obtaining accommodation. Before we left Witham to assist with an ongoing incident in Braintree, we carried out foot patrols on the Templars estate and pleased to see there were no concerns.





October 28th

It was the day of the annual Witham Town Council Halloween Trail on the River Walk and it was also the Community Beat Surgery, and we had all members of the Community Special Team ready. The first part of our shift took us to Maldon Road and the junction with Blackman Way where in company with Special Constable Eaketts we carried out a speed check on 100 vehicles. 4 verbal warnings were given out to drivers who were all travelling in towards the town centre. Acting Chief Inspector Campbell was in the town centre conducting foot patrols and visited the market traders and several of the businesses in the main shopping areas. During our mobile patrols I was able to engage with the rough sleeper from the previous shift and they had plans in place to find accommodation which was assisted by the signposting we had provided. We then met with A/CI Campbell at the River Walk near to Guithavon Valley and joined the Halloween Trail where the first of the children had begun their adventure. As we walked along the route to provide visibility and reassurance (and sweets) we came across a spooky graveyard, a wicked witch, Dracula and other characters dressed up to add a surprise to the event. A magician amazed the youngsters with tricks and provided balloon animals and swords to fight off evil spirits. It was fantastic to see so many children dressed up in some great costumes and with their collection bags they filled these with treats until the end of the trail at Chipping Hill. A/CI Campbell headed off to the Community Beat Surgery and we then continued our patrols up and down the trail. During the Beat Surgery information was shared and this has been submitted as an intelligence report and advice was provided concerning several issues. As the day passed the children and families continued to arrive along the Halloween Trail and it was lovely to see parents joining in with fancy dress which really added to the atmosphere. Fortunately, the weather had remained good throughout the day, and it was another successful event utilising the beautiful River Walk. There are more pictures from the event on the Witham town Council [Facebook](#) page.





Our final role for the day saw us deal with a vehicle that had been left in a position blocking access for residents and due to the restriction, for emergency vehicle access the car was recovered. If you are going to park in residential roads, please be aware of the surroundings and ensure that good access is maintained for all types of vehicles to ensure that you are not causing an obstruction.



This concludes the monthly report for October 2023.






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

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



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/>

