



## **September 2021 Patrols**

Social distancing restrictions had eased during August and we were starting to see some signs of normality returning to the town. Many businesses were now operating fully, and it was nice to see that the shopping areas and the restaurants bustling with people. With the conclusion of the school holidays it was also time for the children to return to school and in review of the Summer holiday period there were fewer instances of anti-social behaviour reported. Hopefully this was reduced due to our increased visible patrols and positive engagement.

### **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Due to social distancing guidelines in place at the end of the Summer school term, the Leavers Event at Maltings Academy for the students of 2021 was postponed until today. I attended along with PC Smith of the Community Policing Team who has been the liaison officer for the school and students over the past year. While the students attended a special assembly, we were able to catch up with some of the staff at the Academy and speak to some of the new students who were enrolling on their first day. When the students were released into the car park they were let loose on a number of amusements and with music playing and food stalls they signed their shirts and even roped some of the teachers into the activities. Part of our role on this day was to show the community side of police work and this was demonstrated when I entered the Dodgem arena. For a few minutes I tried desperately to keep some order, however, there were many traffic violations and several times I did feel that the students and some of the staff were chasing me around! It was good fun for all, and we were thanked for our attendance & positive engagement.





## September 6<sup>th</sup>

A late afternoon patrol in Witham with Special Constable Eaketts started with foot patrol from Kings Chase, through Witham Town Park, on to Maldon Road and through to Barleyfields and Greenfields. From here we headed down the footpath towards Blackwater Lane, exiting on to Maldon Road before heading up past Helen Court and returning to the park. After returning to our vehicle we headed through town and up to Humber Road where we conducted foot patrols through the estate including, Colne Chase, Brent Close, Helford Court, Ness Walk, Teign Drive, Medway Avenue, Douglas Grove, Cam Way and Crouch Drive. Foot patrol allows us to check the alleyways and cut throughs not accessible or visible from a vehicle and provides residents access to speak to officers close to their homes. We then headed down to the green area between Humber Road estate and the Football Club and over to the Spa Road park. The Circus was in full swing and we moved over to the skate park. After witnessing some impressive stunts from a couple of children at the park we came across a vehicle parked nearby. There we found an older person sitting in the car preparing to smoke a joint containing cannabis, a class B controlled drug. I was then handed a further amount of cannabis before both the person and the vehicle were searched. With nothing further found the person was dealt with at the scene with a Community Resolution, which has replaced a cannabis warning and is used as a low level intervention to prevent repeat offences. The impact of using drugs in front of younger children at the skate park was clearly communicated and will not be accepted. A Police information report has been submitted which will prompt further checks on this person and the skate park in the future. We returned to our vehicle where we carried out mobile patrols on the Gershwin Boulevard estate before we were redirected to Hatfield Peverel for a suspicious circumstances incident.





## September 8<sup>th</sup>

I was joined by Special Constable Eaketts for foot patrols on the Templars estate following anti-social behaviour captured on CCTV. After speaking with the informant, we entered the park area in the centre of the Courts and although unable to identify the children involved, we did have some positive engagement with others. The children involved in the incident were quite young and therefore please be aware where your children are and what activities they may be involved in. From the Templars estate we moved on to mobile patrols on Forest Road, where we checked on previous anti-social behaviour locations before heading over to foot patrol on the Hatfield Road estate. As we walked around the area our presence appeared to disrupt potential drug related activity and we recorded this and other information for follow up patrols. We were then called out of area to Hatfield Peverel for a disturbance and after dealing with this and a mobile patrol in Terling, we returned to Witham. We headed for the Witham Town Park where we were pleased to see there were no concerns before stopping a vehicle for anti-social driving on Newland Street.



## September 9<sup>th</sup>

For the patrol today I was joined by one of the new Officers who join Essex Police as a Regular through the Police Now scheme that provides them with a degree qualification as they train. With this being his first shift, we decided to conduct visible patrols and commenced these from Newlands Drive, through Newlands Shopping Precinct, where we dropped into The Witham Hub and then on to The Grove Centre. As we walked through, we were acknowledged by many people and had some great interactions. One gentleman shared some intelligence on a local issue, and this was recorded. We continued through to the Witham Town Park and back through Kings Chase up Newland Street and back to our vehicle. We then proceeded to carry out enquiries in the town and out on the estates before aiding a person who had fallen from their mobility scooter on Hatfield Road. Fortunately, a van driver had stopped to provide initial assistance and helped the person out of the road, we then provided additional first aid and remained present until the person was happy to continue their journey. During our foot patrol on Humber Road we were approached by a resident who had found a young child's bicycle abandoned outside his property and photos were taken for a media appeal for the owner. We continued our visibility with mobile patrols on the Flora Road estates, Chipping Hill, Forest Road and the Templars estate.



## September 12<sup>th</sup>

The weather had improved and therefore we once again started our patrols on foot. Parking our vehicle in a visible location on Maldon Road we set off towards the River Walk, as we walked along from Maldon Road towards Pattison Close, we met several dog walkers who were very pleased with our presence. We continued down towards Bridge Street, crossing over and then on to the Duck Pond. A quick check on signs of anti-social behaviour and a few moments watching the ducks, we then headed up to the viaduct on Armond Road before passing Moat Farm Chase and then to Chipping Hill. We called in on the Spring Lodge Community Centre and then followed the path round to Bramble Road, crossing the bridge and up towards Ebenezer Close. We met several people along the route and most commented on how nice to see officers out on patrol. We took the footbridge over the railway track and walked past The Cherry Tree and on to the Templars estate.



We continued through the estate and on to Rickstones Road where we paused for 15 minutes at the junction with Cross Road. Our visibility had a very positive impact on speeding vehicles with many abruptly cutting their speed. This was recognised by several members of the public and we were praised for our action.

This will be another area where speed checks will be carried out in the future. We then moved in to the Recreation Ground and through to Cut Throat Lane towards the train station.

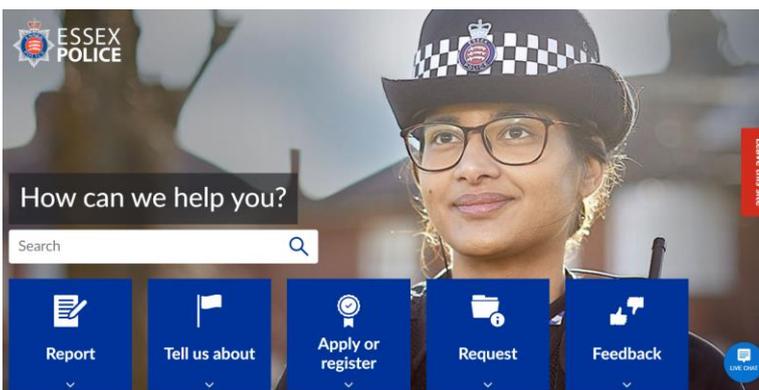
To continue our patrol we then headed towards the Town Centre and in to the Witham Town Park. After some positive engagement with different groups of people in the park we returned to our vehicle on Maldon Road, it was here we witnessed a person on an E-scooter that took avoiding action away from us. Fortunately I had anticipated the likely direction of travel and we intercepted this person in the Witham Town Park and the scooter was seized.



[E-Scooters: What you need to know | Essex Police](#)

### September 14<sup>th</sup>

Acting Sergeant Mabey joined me for our Witham CSC patrol, however, for the first part we met up with Eastlight Estate Manager Mark Garnham, ASB Coordinator Gemma Engall & Templars Community Association Coordinator Steven Marshall to walk around the Templars estate and establish any concerns that require increased Police activity. Fortunately in most areas there were only minor concerns, although speeding on Conrad Road was highlighted by a number of vehicles travelling well in excess of the speed limit. We also had some valuable input around a couple of areas which are frequented for anti-social behaviour. These have been noted for future patrols in the area. We encourage you to report instances of this type or any other criminal activities, this can be through the Essex Polcie website via Live Chat, Report-It-Online or if you would prefer anonymously via CrimeStoppers.



[Report antisocial behaviour | Essex Police](#)



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We had several positive engagements on the estate and have noticed a significant improvement in the community areas.



For the remainder of our duty we carried out mobile patrols on Forest Road, Cypress Road, Church Street, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Bramble Road, Honeysuckle Way and across to Rosebay Avenue. We headed along Spa Road to the Humber Road estate and the skate park before travelling up Hatfield Road and on to Allectus Way. As we entered the Maltings estate we carried out checks on a suspicious vehicle before stopping another vehicle on Chalks Road due to the manner of driving, following advice in regards to the condition of the vehicle the driver was allowed to continue the short distance home.

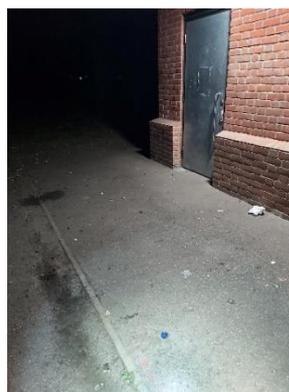


## September 16<sup>th</sup>

A shift of two halves! In the late afternoon I was able to close off a positive community story whereby a young person's bike had been taken in and looked after by residents on the Humber Road estate. The resident had approached me during a foot patrol and I had arranged for a social media post to be placed on the Essex Police – Braintree Facebook page [Essex Police - Braintree District | Facebook](#) which also serves Witham. A few days later and the owner had been found and so I collected the bicycle and with a couple of additional gifts from Essex Police I returned it to the very grateful owner.



As I mentioned above, the shift changed completely with my first incident, a concern for the welfare of a man seen laying in a bus stop on Hatfield Road, I was able to identify him and complete my welfare checks and suggest for him to move to a safer location. I then drove up to the Hatfield Road estate for foot patrols around Allectus Way, King Edward Way and each of the side roads due to reports of suspected drug related activity. During this walk around I recorded a number of intelligence reports for suspicious activity and vehicles. I continued my patrol until I came across an incident involving a person near to the Premier Shop and recorded a first account and submitted a crime report. Unfortunately the suspect then appeared with another person and both became loud and disruptive. I continued to try and manage this before I finally needed to call for assistance, however, upon the arrival of more officers they appeared to leave the scene. I maintained my presence in the area which was fortunate because just a few minutes after the other officers left there was a further disturbance in the street involving the same people. After informing them of their impending arrest for Breach of the Peace I did manage to guide them out of the estate and there were no further incidents reported. The investigation will continue in regards to the offences declared by the victim. After leaving the Hatfield Road estate I continued my mobile patrols including Humber Road estate, Powers Hall End and the Witham Town Park. Unfortunately there were signs of drug use and anti-social behaviour in the location close to the toilet block in the Town Park and this will also be added for future visibility patrols.





## September 18<sup>th</sup>

I joined the Town Mayor Angela Kilmartin and the Greater Anglia Rail Community Team with a walking tour of Witham which commenced at the Witham Train Station and then headed down The Avenue to The Grove, along Newland Street past the War Memorial, the previous residence of Dorothy Sayers and down to Kings Chase into the Witham Town Park. We then continued down towards Helen Court and then onto the River Walk before crossing Bridge Street and heading to the Duck Pond. After a brief pause at the memorial paintings at the weir we walked up to the viaduct on Armond Road before returning to the train station. With a set of prompt cards and some great local knowledge the Mayor recounted some very interesting history. It is well worth looking back at the history of the town sometime and see how Witham has changed and developed over the years. The Town Hall & the Library will have resources to help.



In the afternoon I carried out foot patrols in the town centre where I had lots of positive engagement before calling in at The George to catch up with the landlord & landlady, I also met a young family whose young son had a fascination with Police vehicles so I parked up outside for a few minutes for him. From there I was alerted to a person who had collapsed on Guithavon Street and within 1 minute I was on location and in combination with a paramedic we were able to safely return the person home.





## September 21<sup>st</sup>

To support a community pop up stand in The Grove centre Special Inspector Campbell attended to provide a presence on behalf of the Witham Community Special Constable scheme and Essex Police. He was able to provide advice and support to visitors to the stand and also carried out patrols around the town centre.



In the evening I was joined by Special Constable Eaketts and we carried out speed checks on Rickstones Road & Conrad Road. This action was in direct response to requests from local residents who had seen us on foot patrol and also from reports on social media. We set up initially on Rickstones Road at the junction with Cross Road where we conducted a survey of 100 vehicles travelling in both directions. The results were very encouraging with nearly all motorists adhering to the 30mph limit. We had the absolute pleasure of being joined by a budding future police officer when we were approached by a Mum with her young son. After answering a number of questions we were able to let him try out the speed camera and received some thumbs up from drivers!





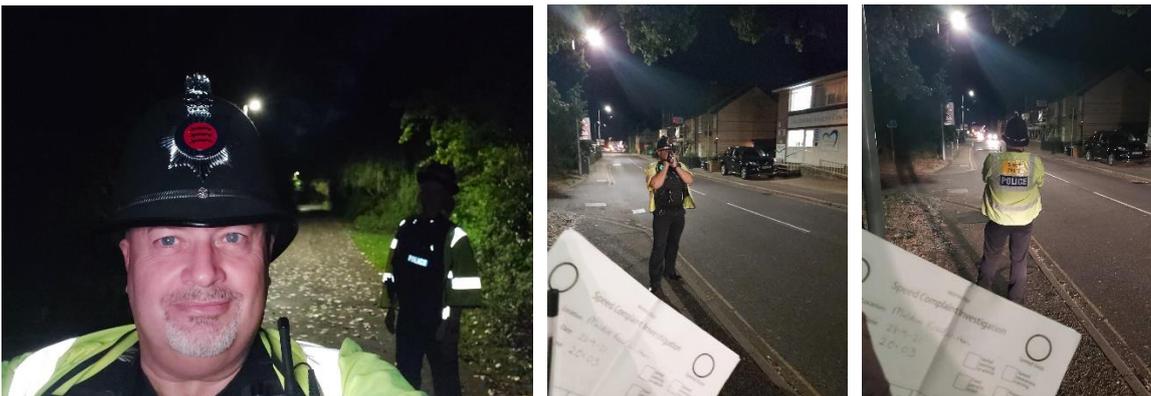
We then relocated to Conrad Road and we also carried out a survey of 100 vehicles, however, we did record faster speeds and stopped two vehicles for words of advice. We appreciate that there are other times that speeds may seem to be more excessive and we will conduct further checks at varied times and locations. The results of the speed surveys are sent to the Essex Police Casualty Reduction Section to provide a safety overview for potential future actions. As we finished our checks we were called to an incident at a location on Spa Road and fortunately we were able to attend the scene within 5 minutes. This incident involved a foot chase to ASDA before additional Police units arrived to assist, we then returned to the victim to provide security and safeguarding while we recorded any offences.

### September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Following feedback from the local social media groups we continued our focus on speed checks, however, we started out on foot patrol from the Witham Town Hall. Almost immediately we were called to investigate a vehicle striking a telegraph pole in Guithavon Road and headed straight to the scene. The driver had already left, however, we were able to obtain details of the car and the damage to the telegraph pole to follow up at a later stage. A local resident was able to provide some CCTV of the incident, which provided the circumstances of the incident. UK Power networks were on scene quickly and assessed the stability of the pole and we were then able to continue our patrol on to Spa Road for the first of our speed checks.



After completing a check on 100 vehicles (which was completed in just 25 minutes) we then moved on through the River Walk to Guithavon Street and back in to town to get to Maldon Road for our next speed check location.





On Maldon Road due to the reduced flow of traffic we carried out a check on 27 vehicles before heading over to site number 3 on Collingwood Road. A further 27 vehicles were checked over a 30 minute period but again traffic flow was light. We did stop one car, however, and the driver was issued with a traffic offence report. This report is automatically submitted to the Casualty Reduction Section from scene for assessment and the driver will receive the appropriate penalty for the offence.



For the final speed check site we headed back in to the town centre and set up outside the Town Hall. We have had a number of residents comment on excessive speeds and noise on Newland Street and we wanted to provide a visible deterrent. Over a 30 minute period 40 vehicles were checked but it was certainly noticeable that many drivers adjusted their driving on seeing us.

With nearly 200 vehicles recorded, these surveys will be sent in to be analysed for driver behaviour and assessed for ongoing safety concerns. We understand that although there was only one motorist stopped for speeding and others warned that this does not reflect the behaviour of some other drivers who exceed the speed limits at other times of the day or night. We will continue to carry out these unplanned checks in order to change this behaviour.

We finished our patrol through the Newlands Precinct before heading up Collingwood Road to the train station.





## September 25<sup>th</sup>

Following a special interview for Essex Police for the National Police Memorial Day, I started my shift in Witham with a plan to visit each of the pubs that were showing the televised boxing event. I started with The Cherry Tree, meeting with the landlady before heading into the town centre. I parked outside the Town Hall and then carried out foot patrols visiting The George, The Red Lion, The Swan and called in at the White Hart and Charlie's Bar. I had some excellent engagement with the managers, staff and many of their guests and it was nice to hear some very positive comments on my visibility and approachability.

I returned to my vehicle and travelled out of Witham on Blunts Hall Road towards Terling and then returned via Powers Hall End. There has been an increase in commercial van thefts over the past few weeks and these vehicles have been seen leaving on these roads. On my return into Witham I conducted some reassurance patrols at various locations including Bramble Road before heading out to an incident in Silver End.



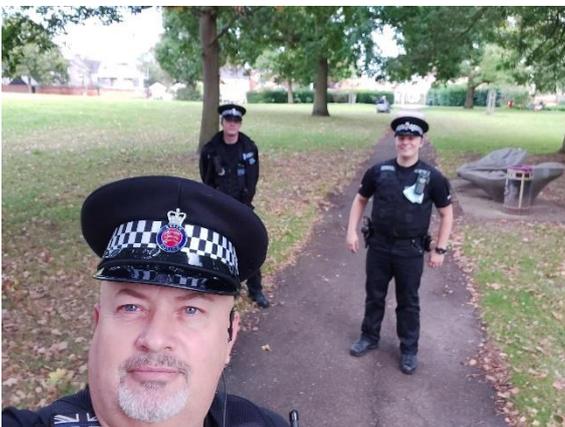
I returned back to Witham due to an incident on Newland Street and with support from other units we were able to provide safeguarding and record two crimes before ensuring that all parties had left the town. I was able to conclude the shift with further mobile patrols around the Forest Road estate.



## September 28<sup>th</sup>

I was fortunate to be joined by two Braintree Special Constables and we arrived in Witham in the marked Police Carrier for our patrols. We parked in Newlands Drive and then headed in to the Newlands Shopping Centre to begin our foot patrol. The benefit of being on foot was highlighted immediately when a staff member from one of the shops asked if they could speak with us in regards to a recent series of events. After capturing the details we then set off with additional purpose to look for a person who may be connected with the report. We had positive engagement with several members of the public in the town and we continued down Newland Street calling in at Battersford Court. With no recent sightings we returned up Newland Street and headed into The Grove Shopping Centre, walking through and out onto Maldon Road. To complete a loop of the area we entered the Witham Town Park where we spoke to a number of visitors and then exited via the Kings Chase gate. Unfortunately we did not locate the person and returned to our vehicle to widen our search area. Following visible mobile patrols around Laurence Avenue, Maldon Road, The Grove and Newland Street we made our way over to Highfields Road to set up for a speed survey. With the marked vehicle in a prominent position I then carried out a speed check of 100 vehicles. Due to excess speed 2 drivers were stopped and issued with traffic offence reports and 3 further drivers received verbal warnings. The road condition was wet and due to the overcast sky the visibility of children and teenagers crossing the road was reduced, especially as they all seemed to be wearing dark coloured clothing. This is one of the reasons that we will continue to focus on reducing excess speed in these locations.

After completing our 100 check we then moved on to mobile patrols on Humber Road and found an elderly lady wandering away from her home. Fortunately I knew the lady and where she lived, so I was able to take her home and make sure she was safe and comfortable. We patrolled the remainder of the estate visiting a location that had been identified for anti-social behaviour before leaving to drive up towards the Hatfield Road estate. As we made our way around Allectus Way and King Edward Way we noticed suspicious activity by a person who we had seen earlier in another part of the town and a police information report has been generated. After concluding the patrol on the estate we headed down to Pattision Close, Constance Close and back through town towards Cypress Road. With no activity at the recreation ground we continued our checks on previous anti-social behaviour hotspots and pleased to report that there were no concerns. After heading along Rickstones Road towards Crossing Road we arrived at the train station to carry out further foot patrol around the immediate area including, Cullen Mill and the station car park on Cut Throat Lane. With our patrol almost at an end we located a vehicle of interest and followed this back to an address off Bramble Road before securing details of the driver and valid insurance documents. This concluded our high visibility patrols in Witham.





This concludes the monthly report for September 2021.