



## **January 2026**

The Witham Community Special team would like to wish you a very happy and safe 2026. The New Year's celebrations passed without any significant incidents in the town centre, and I hope that our presence contributed to everyone having a great time as we now face January together! The weather has impacted the number of people out and about at the weekends and the darkness descending early in the evening means that you may not see us but we are continuing our patrols throughout Witham.

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

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)

## **January 1<sup>st</sup>**

CSC Penrose utilised foot and mobile patrols in Witham for his duty, which included Newland Street, the Grove Centre and the Witham Town Park. He spoke to people in the town on his patrol and gained information to help him focus on speeding concerns in specific areas.



CSC Penrose also visited several stores and was alerted by staff at a store on Newland Street that a known shoplifter was on the premises and had been seen hiding several products. Upon seeing CSC Penrose, the items were quickly returned, and the suspect left the shop immediately. An incident was created, and a Police Information Report has been submitted. No further action was requested by the store due to recovering all the items.

After leaving the store and continuing his patrols, he was made aware of another shoplifting incident at a store in the Grove Centre, which had been reported online by the staff. CCTV will be made available by the store, and this will support the police investigation.

With concerns raised about speeding on Hatfield Road, enforcement checks were carried out, using the SL700 hand held speed device. CSC Penrose issued 26 verbal warnings and 6 TORs (Traffic Offence Reports) for speeding offences. The highest speed recorded was 46mph in the 30mph zone, additionally, one vehicle failed to stop when requested and they will be receiving a notice in the post.



### January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Both CSC Connor Penrose and I had intended to spend our shifts in Witham but due to a serious road related incident in the Braintree area I was unable to carry out my normal duties and spent the day on scene assisting with the investigation. CSC Penrose did manage to get into Witham for the morning where he carried out foot patrols which included the Grove Centre, Maldon Road and the Witham Town Park.



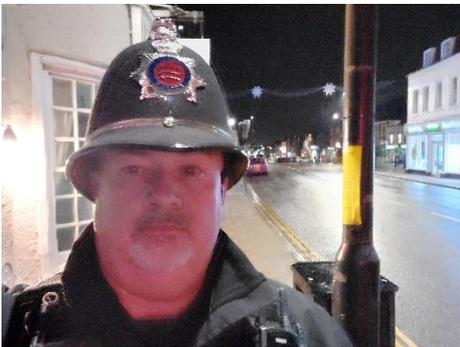
CSC Penrose visited the Hatfield Road estate utilising both foot and mobile patrols to cover the area before he conducted speed checks with several drivers exceeding the 30mph limit. He had to cut these checks short when he was directed to a fly-tipping incident on Maldon Road. For the remainder of his shift CSC Penrose was seconded to cover incidents in Sible Hedingham & Halstead due to the earlier serious road incident which involved many of the normal 999 response officers.





## January 6<sup>th</sup>

I was on duty in the evening to provide a presence in the town centre but on arriving in Witham I attended a road incident on Blunts Hall Road where a vehicle which had slid in the icy conditions off the road and into a ditch. Fortunately, the driver was unharmed, and a passerby had already helped to pull the vehicle back on to the road. A traffic unit was in attendance to ensure the road was safe for the recovery of the car and I collected the very cold driver and returned them to their home. I began with foot patrols in the town centre visiting the Grove Centre, Newlands Shopping Centre and Newland Street. It was a bitterly cold, but I want to reassure the residents and visitors to Witham that we are still conducting duties even if you do not always see us in the dark evenings to provide reassurance and a deterrent. I returned to my vehicle to patrol around the estates including Maltings, Humber Road, Flora Road estates and Forest Road before concluding my shift.



## January 8<sup>th</sup>

I started in Witham with foot patrol on the Templars estate following an earlier incident to search for evidence of the offence and to provide a visible presence. I called in at the nearby shop on Shaw Road to go through recent CCTV and searched the incident area for other CCTV opportunities and the investigation is ongoing. The weather was appalling due to Storm Goretti which was passing through Witham with driving freezing rain and wind and there were very few people out around the Courts.



I returned to my vehicle and headed in to the town centre for short foot patrols at the Grove Centre and Lockram Lane following recent fly-tipping which also raised concerns over rough sleepers which may be in the area. Fortunately, there was no evidence of this and I returned to my vehicle for the remainder of my patrols due to the persistent rain.



I conducted patrols at Haygreen Road where several vehicles were parked adjacent to the field before one vehicle arrived and then suspiciously quickly departing on seeing my marked vehicle. After catching up to and speaking to this driver I returned to Haygreen road to find that all the other vehicles had also disappeared. If you see any suspicious activity, please report this to Essex Police by going online, calling 101 or visiting one of the Community Beat Surgery's where you can discuss concerns in person with an officer.

I continued my patrols visiting the Maltings estate and Dengie Close before crossing the town to attend the ASDA store who showed me CCTV footage of anti-social behaviour that had occurred earlier in the afternoon. After viewing the store CCTV with staff, I was able to positively identify the suspect for future action.



## January 10<sup>th</sup>

My first action of the day was to provide an identification statement following the submission of CCTV for a burglary that had occurred at the empty Poundland store in the Grove Centre. Significant damage had been caused to obtain entry and although there were limited opportunities for damage to the empty store, this required boarding up to secure at a significant cost. This incident was perpetrated by a small minority, and it is not acceptable to be causing damage or anti-social behaviour in the town. It is very important that we prevent this behaviour becoming a significant criminal action that could damage the future opportunities for the people involved and their families.

I arrived in Witham to conduct a foot patrol through the market in the Newlands Precinct before heading over to The Witham Hub in the Grove Centre for the first of our Community Beat Surgeries of 2026. This pop-up 2-hour event is an opportunity for you as residents to come and speak to us about concerns in your community. We can offer advice, or record crimes, if necessary, but we are also present to provide visibility and reassurance. To support this, we will always try to engage positively with everyone passing by and although it was cold I did see many people which was very positive.





In the afternoon I followed up on a direct enquiry from the Beat Surgery with a vehicle stop on Highfields Road to establish their purpose for being seen in the area so frequently. This had caused residents to feel fearful, but I was able to gather information and my initial findings indicate that there is no concern to peoples' vehicles or properties. While I was in Highfields Road, I was in just the right place to rescue a dog which ran across the road and after a bit of detective work and help from neighbours I was directed to the correct address and returned it safely to the owner who was unaware of the escape.

I continued my patrol with a visit to an address following the incident in the ASDA store a couple of days ago and spoke with parents concerning the behaviour of the suspect in the incident. The parents will now take appropriate action to prevent this from happening again.

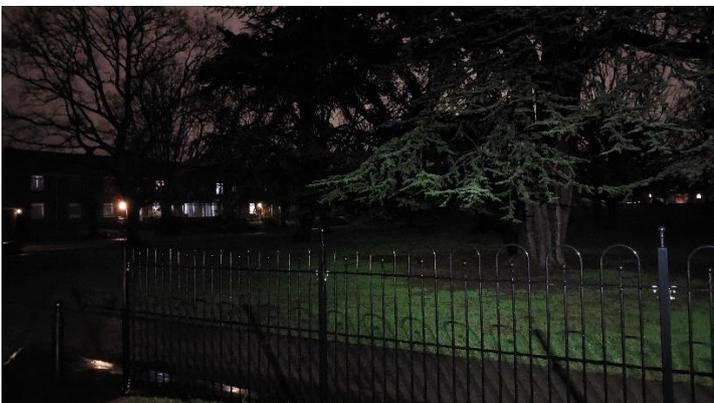
I next visited the Hatfield Road estate, Haygreen Road, Pondholton Drive and returned for further visibility in the town centre before driving up to the Templars estate. While on foot patrol I disrupted 2 teenagers who were about to ride electric motorbikes through the middle of the estate, and they ducked down an alleyway before heading down Bronte Road and onto Cressing Road. The use of these electric motorbikes (also known as a Sur-ron) is illegal and they are classified as motor vehicles. This requires the riders to have a licence, MOT & insurance and these were both being ridden recklessly on the pavements with no regard to people or their own safety. Neither rider was wearing a crash helmet and a fall or collision on one of these could be fatal. Please report any activity like this to us to prevent a tragedy and if you do not want to report directly to Police then please consider reporting via Crimestoppers which is completely anonymous. You can click on the link below of alternatively use the phone number at the bottom of this report.

[Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers](#)

I concluded my patrols with an area search for the motorbikes before completing my shift for the day.

### January 13<sup>th</sup>

I seem to be picking the worst of the weather for my patrols, and it rained persistently throughout my shift, but I still targeted areas of the RiverWalk, Witham Town Park, Pattison Close, Laurence Avenue and Howbridge Road. This patrol plan was put in place following reports that a male had exposed himself to runners at 2 locations, also on a dark & rainy evening. I carried out enquiries at the store on Laurence Avenue before circling the locations several times again. Hopefully the increased visibility was noticed and provided reassurance as well as a deterrent.



I parked up outside the Town Hall to leave the marked police vehicle visible and set off on foot visiting the Grove Centre following recent anti-social behaviour incidents and then moved on to Lockram Lane and the Newlands Precinct. From the photos you can see that there was significant rainfall and with nobody else braving the conditions I returned to my vehicle for mobile patrols.



While I was driving around Gershwin Boulevard, I noticed a suspicious vehicle and followed this along Howbridge Road and Spinks Lane before it made off on Blunts Hall Road. With the road conditions hazardous with localised flooding, I continued towards Terling and Fairstead before returning towards Black Notley and back into Witham with no sign of the suspicious vehicle. With one more visit to the target patrol locations I concluded my shift for the night.

### **January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Another rain filled evening, but I carried out similar targeted patrols spending time at River View and Pattison Close. The town centre was once again deserted but I did visit Morrisons Daily and the tanning salon in the Newlands Precinct for visibility and to provide them for an opportunity to report any issues. My next location took me up to the Hatfield Road estate before moving on to Haygreen Road and in to the Maltings estate with no concerns I headed out to Forest Road and Dorothy Sayers Drive before circling the Templars estate.



During the recent Community Beat Surgery, there had been recent reports of suspicious vehicles on Highfields Road, and I headed over to the area to see if any of the reported cars were in the location but in this instance, there was nothing to see, and I continued down to the ASDA store. When I arrived and spoke to staff, they informed me of several shoplifting incidents that had occurred over the past few days, and they had reported each of these to the police. I was able to spend a little time reviewing the store CCTV and assisted with identifying a vehicle connected with one of the thefts. I was able to update the investigation, and this will provide another line of enquiry for the investigating officer. Due to an incident in Silver End, I finished my patrol in Witham and headed to the neighbouring village.

### **January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Finally, the weather had improved for me, and I began my shift, but I couldn't escape the water! I arrived in Rickstones Road to a river running down the road from a burst water main. After watching several cars gingerly driving through the flood, I called up the control centre to report the highway disruption. My next call was to the water company and following my report and incident number they dispatched a unit. While I waited for their arrival, I knocked at several homes directly affected by the flooding and spoke with nearby residents from Elm Rise, where a large pond had formed and threatened their properties.



When the water engineer arrived, he was able to isolate several mains water valves, and this dramatically stemmed the flow cutting the risk of damage to homes and drivers. With the road now easily passable and a repair crew on route I returned to my vehicle and headed in to the town centre. I parked in Newlands Drive and began my foot patrols, visiting the market stalls before engaging with several locals outside Greggs and then continuing to the Grove Centre. I visited The Witham Hub and spoke to staff in Superdrug before catching up with the security staff in the Tesco store.

I continued my foot patrol up and down Newland Street before pausing once more at the entrance to the Newlands Shopping Centre where I was approached by a victim of an assault at a nearby business. While I listened and took down the details of the incident, I noticed another 2 people waiting to be able to speak with me. Unfortunately, I did not get a chance to meet with them because I was hurriedly pulled away by a lady who had seen me in the precinct and alerted me to a non-responsive person in a nearby restaurant. I was on scene within 30 seconds and immediately relaying critical information to my control room and coordinate the paramedic response. With the arrival of the Community First Responder several early assessments were completed before the Ambulance crew arrived and the person was taken to hospital for precautionary tests.

Following the departure of the ambulance I returned to the shopping centre to complete the enquiries for the earlier assault but unfortunately, I missed the other people who had been waiting. I did take some comfort from the fact that I was there for both incidents, and I was able to respond immediately, and this would not have been possible if I had not been carrying out my Community Special Constable role on foot and visible in the town centre. If you would like to find out more about the role of a Community Special Constable you can follow the link above, visit the Witham Town Council website or you can come and talk with us at the Community Beat Surgery.

[POLICE SPECIALS | Towncouncil](#)

### **January 24<sup>th</sup>**

Witham CSC Officer Penrose conducted anti-social behaviour patrols in the town centre today and followed up with a visit to the park. He called in to local businesses to provide advice and encourage the reporting of incidents to Essex Police, particularly around shoplifting. During his foot patrols a few drivers, sat in traffic on Newland Street, were observed using their mobile phone and were given suitable words of advice. CSC Penrose then visited areas including Allectus Way and Humber Road, conducting foot patrols and visited Gershwin Boulevard following reports of anti-social behaviour. He was briefly called back to the town centre to attend the Newlands Drive car park following a report that a group of children had been throwing traffic cones around causing a nuisance for drivers and car owners. He then carried out speed checks at Rickstones Road and Spa Road. In total 40 verbal warnings were issued alongside 5 drivers who were reported for speeding, the highest recorded speed during these checks was 43 mph in a 30mph zone.



Officer Penrose returned briefly to pick up Special Constable Judd and they conducted mobile patrols in areas connected with reports of drug related activity. In one area they provided guidance on the use of e-scooters to a family, then had a vehicle fail to stop before another incident involving the concern for safety of a person.

Later in the evening they stopped and checked 7 delivery drivers, talking to them about the correct vehicle insurance and 12 vehicles were pulled over due to broken or faulty lights, which can be a real hazard at night especially on the more rural roads. Three further vehicles were also stopped for not displaying a number plate and in total 20 drivers were breathalysed, supporting the #VisionZero - Fatal 4 campaign

### January 27<sup>th</sup>

Another wet January night but it did give me the opportunity to carry out some research into recent drug related activity reported during the Community Beat Surgery. Information can be recorded anonymously by Officers or alternatively though Crimestoppers but is invaluable in helping us to disrupt this kind of activity. I returned to the town centre to carry out a short foot patrol following a short break in the rain due to previous reports of anti-social behaviour in the Grove Centre and a report of children getting up on the roof of the Newland Shopping Centre. Fortunately, there were no signs of any issues, and I returned to my vehicle. I resumed mobile patrols around the train station and Chipping hill before stopping a vehicle on Spa Road for excessive exhaust noise.



I headed down to the ASDA store to provide visibility and reassurance for the evening staff and carried out a foot patrol along the RiverWalk to the Duck Pond before concluding my shift.



## January 28<sup>th</sup>

A warrant took place in Witham based on the information I had gathered from a concerned resident. This had been collated and submitted to the Neighbourhood Policing Team proactive officers. With targeted undercover work they located a property believed to be used to support the persistent drug dealing. The warrant was executed at an address near Maldon Road in Witham and the combination of drugs and money seized were estimated by experts to be approximately £250,000 pounds. In addition to the drugs and money, mobiles phones connected to supply and distribution and a person was arrested at the address. A Social Media post was shared by Essex Police with the details due to the significance of this disruption – which all began from a resident sharing information with their local Witham Community Special.

## January 31<sup>st</sup>

I began my patrols searching for a vehicle that had been spotted on Spa Road connected with drug supply, the driver was believed to be from the Witham area, and I checked several potential locations based on my local knowledge. No luck this time but I will continue searching over the next few shifts to try and trace it for future actions. I parked in the Newlands Drive car park and conducted foot patrol beginning with engagement with the market traders and shop staff in the Newlands Shopping Centre and then walked along Newland Street. My next location took me to the Grove Centre to begin the fortnightly Community Beat Surgery and I was joined at the start by fellow Witham Community Special Constable Penrose. Over the 2 hours we spoke with many different people, engaging with families, listening to concerns in residents' neighbourhoods and taking details about potential criminal activity for us to investigate. With the Beat Surgery completed we carried out further foot patrol around the town centre including the Witham Town Park before returning to our vehicle.



On the Hatfield Road estate we were out on foot patrol around the estate to provide a visible presence and we were thanked for this by several residents. We returned to the Town Hall where upon arrival we were immediately alerted to a shoplifting incident which had just taken place at a store in the Newlands Precinct. With a very brief description we sighted a potential match heading in to the Newlands Drive car park and we stopped 2 people while we established if they were connected to the incident. With further clarification sent by the store to my mobile device we were able to release the 2 people we had initially detained and headed back in to the Newland Precinct. While I headed towards the Grove Centre, CSC Penrose headed into the nearby Boots store. Almost immediately he called up over the radio to indicate that the suspects were in the store and just about to leave after seeing him. Fortunately, I was able to stop them outside the store and with CSC Penrose we took them to one side to make our enquiries. The shop staff were superb, providing information about the couple who had been captured on CCTV in stores across in Essex, Kent, Suffolk and Norfolk and they provided CCTV of them in the shop that afternoon, concealing items before setting off the alarms as they left. With another unit on scene to assist with searches we were able to gather significant



information from them, and this will now allow us to address many of the outstanding shoplifting incidents across East Anglia.

This incident really demonstrated the importance of reporting to Essex Police and the benefit of having dedicated Community Specials in Witham with a response time of under 5 minutes which ensured the suspects could be apprehended.

During the evening, I stayed on duty to support a targeted Essex Police operation in Witham to prevent Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG). This is a District wide initiative and Officers across Essex Police will be combining high visibility patrolling with undercover units to deter, prevent and directly tackle offenders. In the nearby cities of Chelmsford and Colchester there is a significant nightlife element which can increase incidents of this nature; however, this does not exclude it from happening across our towns and villages.

Over the course of the evening, I was able to support with CCTV coordination in the town and although we did not find any VAWG related issues we did have positive results on suspicious vehicles, and an arrest was made for Possession With Intent To Supply (PWITS) Class A Drugs in the town centre. You may have seen an increased presence over the evening, and we hope this provided additional reassurance.

This concludes the report for January



Stay up to date with the latest policing news by signing up to our weekly e-newsletter  
[www.essex.police.uk/dispatch](http://www.essex.police.uk/dispatch)



**CrimeStoppers.**  
Speak up. Stay safe.

**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.



[StreetLink - Connecting people sleeping rough to local services](#)

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

