



November 2021 Patrols

The beginning of November starts with the traditional bonfires & fireworks, unfortunately for some they can bring an increase in anti-social behaviour and disruption for pets and young children, and we anticipate this with an increase in visible patrols to prevent harm or damage caused by fireworks being let off in the streets. It can also be positive and a great opportunity for community engagement. We attended the organised Witham Rugby Club Fireworks & Bonfire event, and this is included in the report. We also started to see the first signs of Christmas celebrations with the putting up of lights with residents wishing to brighten up the evenings and nights.

November 1st

I attended the Witham Town Council Community Meeting to discuss with the Councillors my recent reports and to answer any questions raised. If you have any policing issues you wish to raise to Essex Police, or the Witham Community Special Constables then please feel free to contact your local councillor who can direct these to us on your behalf.

November 2nd

I was crewed with Special Constable O'Connor-Mitchell for our high visibility patrols in Witham. Our patrols began on foot in the Templars estate where we disrupted some drug related activity and provided some reassurance on the estate. After returning to our vehicle, we then moved over to Forest Road and Cypress Road where we checked on areas for anti-social behaviour and then travelled into the Town Centre. In the car park at Lockram Lane we found an unusual vehicle which had been left with a door open, interior light on but no sign of an owner. We conducted checks, but the owner could still not be traced so the vehicle was secured, and a police information report created. We then headed up to the Hatfield Road estate and after checking each of the side roads off Allectus Way we headed to the Witham Skate Park on Spa Road following an earlier incident. As we turned into the entrance road leading to the park, we encountered an E-Scooter and promptly stopped the rider. Following a brief discussion and words to the rider we found out that it belonged to his friend. The scooter was brand new, and we explained that it can only be used on private land at present. Due to the probability that the E-Scooter may have been used again that night it was taken back to a home address where we had the support of the parent. The owner details have been recorded and any subsequent use of the E-Scooter in a public place could see the owner prosecuted for driving offences and the scooter seized.

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





November 4th

I was invited to the Essex Police College to a parade to receive the prestigious Queens Award for Voluntary Service which this year had been awarded to Essex Special Constabulary. I have been using my volunteer time to provide a community-based service in Witham and it was a great honour to be able to share in this award which is the equivalent of an MBE!



If you would like to find out more about being a Community Special Constable in your area, then please follow the link below.

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)

November 5th

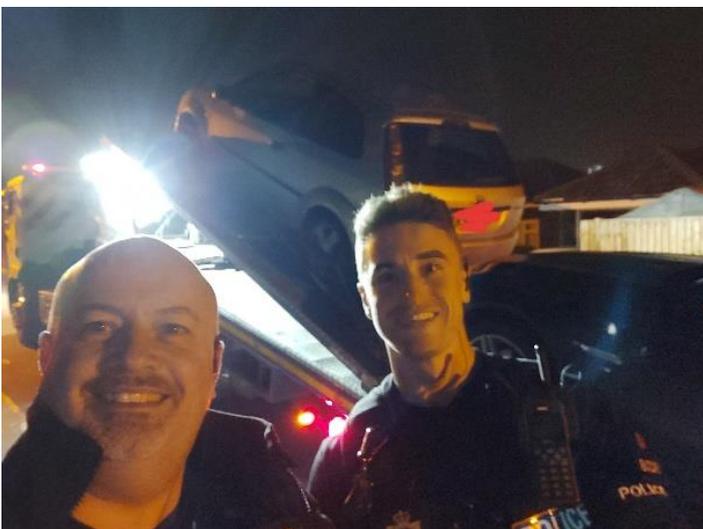
I was crewed with Special Constable Ballantyne for our duty in Witham and this was also the first of our expected firework nights. As soon as the darkness fell, however, we were required on the A12 between Coleman's Bridge and Hatfield Peverel following a broken-down vehicle which was partially obstructing one lane of the carriageway. This proved to be very important with both driver and passenger still sat in their vehicle. It is imperative that if you break down – you must exit your vehicle and move away from it to a place of safety, either behind the barrier or a good



distance on the grass verge. In this instance there was no ideal safe location and we set out cones, lights and positioned our vehicle as a visual barrier. Unfortunately, there were very many drivers of both cars & lorries that were not making the lane change until the last minute and this made us feel very vulnerable, even though we were well lit and wearing our high visibility clothing. Fortunately, we were joined by an additional Roads Policing Unit who were then able to tow the broken-down vehicle to safety and we were able to get off the A12 without further incident.



As we returned into Witham, we received our first call of the night regarding anti-social and dangerous behaviour with fireworks in the Cypress Road area. We attended the incident location and as we approached a firework was let off in our direction. We were then joined by several other units and carried out an area search for the reported teenagers responsible. With no immediate sighting we returned to our vehicles but following another report close to Morrison's we were able to detain several people for searches and to send a strong message about the offences if caught letting off fireworks in a manner to endanger life or property. An increased police presence was maintained for a short while which appeared to have prevented any further instances. We continued our general patrols but within an hour we were then called again to fireworks concerns on the Templars estate. On our arrival in Shaw Road, two males fled from a parked vehicle into the estate and although we pursued on foot they did escape. When we returned to the car, we found that it was displaying incorrect number plates and contained drugs, drug paraphernalia and the correct number plates. The vehicle was then seized, and the evidence inside secured for further investigation. While we waited for the recovery of the vehicle, we had another firework set off behind us and we will be reviewing the available CCTV in the area to try and identify the individuals responsible.





November 6th

We organised an increased presence with 6 officers in Witham to support the Witham Rugby Club Firework & Bonfire Display. This is an event we have always been welcomed at by the Club and provides us with a chance to be a visible but reassuring presence at the event. With 3000+ tickets sold we had lots of very positive engagement with parents and children as well as ensuring that everyone was enjoying the fairground, the bonfire and fireworks. As the last firework faded into the night sky we then headed out in Witham for foot and mobile patrols. Almost immediately we were alerted to suspicious circumstances in the Skate Park where CSC officers Mabey & Eaketts carried out further enquiries, heading off to one of the estates in Witham. As part of our Community Policing, we assist with rough sleepers or homeless people who may be out on the streets at this time of year. With temperatures dropping and the weather becoming more inclement it is important that we try to help people with external agencies. We had reports that two homeless people had been seen in town on Newland Street, so in company with SC O'Connor-Mitchell, we searched the area but without success. We then patrolled through the Newlands Precinct, Lockram Lane car park and Charlie's Bar before walking up Newland Street to the Avenue and back towards the train station. Special Inspector Campbell and SC Keys had headed off into the Humber Road estate and onto Powers Hall End for foot patrol before also heading up Chipping Hill towards the train station where we boarded the train.



November 7th

I had intended a shorter shift in order to follow up on the clone vehicle from the previous Friday's shift but then ended up staying on in order to carry out some anti-social behaviour patrols after a recent spike around Halloween & the letting off fireworks on the housing estates. After providing reassurance to the owners of the vehicle that had been cloned, I then assisted a Braintree Local Policing Unit who had stopped a vehicle on Conrad Road for not having insurance. The vehicle was seized and recovered until the correct insurance can be obtained, offences relating to the driving of the vehicle without insurance are currently in progress. I then travelled across Witham to the Hatfield Road estate to follow up on information relating to anti-social behaviour near to the play area on Alan Road. On arrival I found a small fire had been lit in the play area, but I was able to extinguish this myself. Please ensure you report any suspicious circumstances, criminal damage or anti-social behaviour to ensure that we can respond before

there are any significant issues. Damage to the play area will have a detrimental effect on the children in the vicinity and could make it dangerous for them to play. After mobile patrols on the estate, I then headed over to the Humber Road estate where I located a vehicle of interest near to Douglas Grove Surgery, after recording the details I moved on to Powers Hall End following reports of drug dealing behind the parade of shops but pleased to see no activity at the time. I was called out of area for a short time due to an incident in Maldon but returned to Witham to complete my patrols in the Town Centre.



November 9th

I began my patrol on foot on the Templars estate, visiting a few the Courts following a recent increase in residents concerns around anti-social behaviour. Fortunately, there was no evidence of this, and I made my way back to my vehicle and headed over to Forest Road and onto Cypress Road. With no concerns on these areas, I drove into the Town Centre before I volunteered to assist with a mental health related incident on the A12. With another unit also arriving we were able to find the correct help for the person and they were conveyed to hospital by Ambulance. After a brief talk with a lorry parked dangerously in the layby just after the on slip at the south of Witham, I was then called to an emergency out of area. I did return to Witham for further mobile patrols but with very little activity on the streets I completed my shift without further incidents.





November 11th

I had planned to carry out speed checks in Witham but almost immediately as I arrived in town to start my shift, I volunteered to attend a road traffic collision (RTC) on Newland Street. I was the first on scene and quickly relayed details of the accident to our control room. There was an elderly driver who had been injured and was being tended by members of staff from Cabello, who had even provided a chair for the person. Additionally, some 'blankets' were provided by a nearby restaurant and a Doctor & Nurse from Fern House Surgery also came out to help comfort and provide some preliminary checks before the Ambulance arrived on scene. This really showed a great community spirit and I very much appreciated the help. Traffic unfortunately was a little chaotic due to the position of the vehicles involved in the RTC and the road had to be closed for a short time to record evidence and then safely move the vehicles, once again I thank you for your patience. After the driver was taken on board the Ambulance, I then took the other involved party back home before returning to the scene to assist with the recovery of the cars.



I carried out foot patrol in the Town Centre, through the Newlands Precinct and down Newland Street where the Town Hall clock was being removed for restoration. As I entered the Witham Town Park, I disrupted drug related anti-social behaviour and recovered a bicycle left by one of the fleeing suspects. This was taken back to the Police Station for safekeeping until the owner comes forward. As I continued my foot patrol, another road traffic accident, involving a car leaving the road and smashing through a fence, was reported on Maldon Road and I immediately headed back to my car and attended the scene. With the information gathered, another unit was dispatched to look for the driver who had left before I arrived, unfortunately the driver was not located. I then recorded details of the owner of the property that had been damaged and organised recovery of the vehicle. Due to the position of the vehicle the road had to be closed for a short time and I appreciate the patience of drivers affected.





November 12th

I was crewed up with a Braintree Special Constable and we headed out to Witham to conduct high visibility patrols, we had an engagement in Hatfield Peverel but before we could attend, we had a member of the public approach us to report that there had been an accident on Spa Road, and someone had been knocked down by a car. We were on scene in under a minute and were able to quickly assess that there were two casualties who had been riding an E-Scooter on the road leading from the skate park. A car had swerved to avoid them, but their scooter had struck the car and this had thrown them onto the road. We assessed their injuries and fortunately although not life-threatening or life changing both needed to go to A&E for assessment. The driver of the car was shaken by the ordeal but otherwise ok. This was the first accident involving an E-Scooter that I had attended and demonstrated the vulnerability of the rider(s). I seized the E-Scooter at scene due to having been used illegally in a public place. I followed up with a call to both casualties later in the evening and confirmed that they were not seriously injured. A social media post has been issued highlighting this incident and the current laws regarding the use of E-Scooters.

[Watch](#) | [Facebook](#)

Following this incident, we arrived in Hatfield Peverel to conduct an anti-social behaviour assessment with the Eastlight ASB Coordinator following reports from residents and agreed some additional visible patrols. This has been communicated back to Braintree Community Policing Teams for resourcing. We returned to Witham to carry out further mobile patrols and attended several previous locations for reported anti-social behaviour but pleased to see that there were no issues at the time. We visited the Hatfield Road estate, Humber Road estate, Forest Road, Church Street, Cypress Road, Maldon Road, Greenfields and Chelmer Road. We spent some time in the town and checked the Grove Centre, Newlands Precinct and the Witham Town Park before completing our patrols.



November 14th

Today marked Remembrance Sunday but before we attended the parade and service in Witham, I was able to return the mountain bike that had been left in the Witham Town Park a few days previous after the owner had come forward following our social media appeal. With the original documentation matching the frame number on the bike we were able to ensure that it got back to the rightful owner.



Special Inspector Campbell, Special Constable Eaketts and I then attended the Witham Remembrance Day parade in Witham, we were supported by Special Constable Mabey also of the Witham CSC team who attended in an operational capacity. Also in attendance were a few officers from the Community Policing Team with high visibility patrols around the town centre and parade route. With the parade formed up on The Avenue we proudly headed off on to Collingwood Road, up to Newland Street and back up towards the War Memorial where the service was to be held. It was fantastic to see residents of Witham lining the streets as we walked past supporting all the attendees and showed a real community spirit for this act of remembrance.





November 17th

A short patrol due to other policing commitments, however, we arrived in Witham to an ongoing incident that had been reported with two children starting fires with lighter fluid in the Grove Centre. We parked up and headed on foot into the Grove Centre but there were no people matching the descriptions. We continued our walk through and up to the Newlands Precinct before turning down the side of the White Hart and down Maldon Road. We checked the Witham Town Park before heading back towards TESCO passing the PARKSIDE centre. There were still no children seen, however, we were then given information that a group of approximately 5 children had been setting light to lengths of blue paper that had been taken from the sanitiser station at TESCO. We quickly headed up towards Poundland and although we saw burnt lengths of paper there were still no children. We decided that they may have headed into the Newland Precinct and therefore we headed down Newland Street to enter Newlands Drive from Guithavon Street. This worked perfectly as we found four out of the five walking towards the car park, blue roll of paper in hand. The fifth member joined us as we stopped the four and we then carried out the appropriate searches looking for items that were linked to the report of starting fires. Not only did we confiscate lighters and the paper but also tobacco pouches from two of the children. The oldest child was 14! Following the searches, a parent arrived on scene and took over with some appropriate words supporting our action. While this was ongoing another 6 or 7 children of similar ages were gathering nearby, and we also suggested that due to the incident that they should head home and avoid getting involved in any anti-social behaviour. While this may seem very minor to many or high jinks, setting fires is extremely dangerous and could result in serious injury or death, it is therefore important that you know where your children are and what they are doing. With suitable words and names recorded they dispersed, and we took the confiscated items for destruction.

November 18th

I was joined on patrol by Witham CSC officer Mabey & Special Constable Watts, and we headed over to Witham to conduct high visibility and reassurance patrols. Unfortunately, before we even got to Witham, we came across a road traffic collision near to Cressing Temple Barns and due to the dangerous position, we put in some traffic control while the drivers were checked for injuries. Fortunately, although shaken both drivers were ok, and we then managed to move the vehicles off the road for recovery and get the main road re-opened. We would like to thank drivers for their patience. We then entered Witham and conducted foot patrols on the Templars estate but with no issues or concerns we walked through the different Courts admiring some of the Christmas lights. From here we returned to our vehicle and headed through Dorothy Sayers Drive and onto Forest Road. As we turned into the car park near to the flats on Cypress Road, we found a vehicle parked up and carried out several checks before moving it on. Switching to the other side of the town we answered an emergency response call for a teenager who had been reported injured, on arrival we were then updated that a further call had put the teenager in a different part of the County and the response was then transferred to local units. We then followed an E-Scooter that had used the cycle/footpaths through the Maltings estate heading in the direction of the Hatfield Road estate. Although I was unable to directly follow the rider my knowledge helped us to locate the rider at the back of Allectus way on the field. The rider had hidden their E-Scooter out of sight from us and even though denied riding it we clearly identified him from his clothing, therefore suitable words of advice were given and if seen again it would be seized. The male then met with another person related to drug activity in the area and this has been recorded on a Police Information Report (PIR). We headed back into the Town Centre to carry out some visible patrolling due to the previous evenings report of anti-social behaviour, we covered the Grove Centre, Newlands Precinct, Witham Town Park before walking from the town up to the Train Station. As we walked through from the Albert Road entrance to the rear car park on Easton Road, we noticed a couple of people walking away from us as we approached. Due to their behaviour a stop



search was carried out with evidence of recent drug use and although both parties refused details one of them is known to me and this will also be recorded on a PIR. We then walked back into town and met with some revellers before returning to our vehicle. The night patrol was not quite over though and as we drove along Maldon Road a vehicle was spotted in an unusual location and we stopped to investigate. Following a detection of alcohol from the driver a roadside breath test was carried out. The driver provided a positive test after declaring that they had a couple of drinks. Although the level was on the legal limit and we had not seen the vehicle being driven, it was secured, and the driver and passenger dispatched in a taxi home after the driver was given some very strong advice on driving and driving. This highlights that just a couple of drinks could put you over the limit to drive safely. If you think that you will be drinking, leave the car at home, the consequences can be tragic and affect many lives. As we start to enter the festive period and people attend more Christmas social events please be aware!

[Drink-driving penalties - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)



November 19th

A day patrol for me today with the intention of carrying out speed checks in Witham. Each time we carry out checks we ask for your input as residents and these are assessed for appropriate checks. Unfortunately, not all roads are safe to conduct the speed checks where we require a suitable stretch of road to be visible and we require a safe place to pull over vehicles for checks or to issue tickets for excess speed or other offences. There is also some confusion over the use of these speed cameras in the dark, but they work very well and again the requirement is that it is a location that is safe for stopping vehicles if required. My first check was on The Avenue and although interrupted due to a nearby medical concern I was able to complete a check for 100 vehicles. My visible presence seemed to make a significant difference however as I overheard comments from nearby builders stating that "cars



are normally flying down here” I did not stop any vehicles but did provide visual warnings to 5 drivers. I headed out to Terling for a short engagement visit with the pupils at the primary school but was soon back in Witham and on to the Hatfield Road estate. I conducted short foot patrols in a specific area and provided a visible deterrent to three people of interest who have been recorded on a Police Information Report. On my way to Maldon Road for my next speed check I called in to Pattison Close where I came across a drug deal that had just happened. Following a vehicle search a small packet suspected to be a Class A illegal drug was found. The driver of the vehicle has been reported for the offence. A further PIR has been submitted for this vehicle, driver and the suspected dealer who was seen leaving the immediate vicinity as I arrived. On the seizure of the drugs the driver was instructed to leave the area and I continued to Maldon Road to set up for a further 100 vehicle check. During the time I spent at the junction of Blackman Way I warned 2 vehicles, including one that was displaying blue lighting to the front of their vehicle, but speeds were generally very good. For my final checks of the day, I set up at the end of Cypress Road, which was one of the requested areas from my previous social media posts. The long straight from Cressing Road down towards Forest Road is wider than most other roads in the town but is still within the 30mph limit. I began my checks at approximately 4pm and over the course of an hour stopped and issued a ticket to one vehicle for 39mph. The driver who had no previous stops for speeding will be recommended for a speed awareness course. The course is designed to provide education and serves as a warning for the future without a penalty of points on their licence which could affect their insurance or their employment if they drive for their occupation. There were however, two further drivers who were also measured at 39mph that turned off into Walnut Drive before I could signal them to stop and then 2 drivers that ignored my request to stop when clearly indicated to do so. Failing to stop for an officer is a separate offence and the registration numbers have been recorded for future follow up action. The results from each of the speed checks are collated and used to identify areas that require additional action to prevent accidents and shared with local authorities for speed awareness in the community.





November 26th

An early start this morning to assist in the execution of a warrant in Witham in connection with drug supply. With a rendezvous point in the town, we met with the team who would be securing entry and the dog handler who would manage the search of the address for drugs, cash and associated paraphernalia. A real team effort and we were able to not only arrest a male for drug supply but also seize a significant amount of class B drugs preventing them from being distributed on to the streets of Witham. With the property seized and the male taken to custody we then headed back into the Town Centre to continue our high visibility patrols.

We first called in at The Witham Hub which was hosting an information session regarding Restorative Justice. This is a volunteer mediation service to try and resolve issues between parties. This can help a victim, witness or the victim's family to have contact with the person responsible to find a way forward to determine a positive outcome. For further information on this service please follow the link below.

[Home - Restorative Justice \(restorativeessex.co.uk\)](http://restorativeessex.co.uk)

From the Newlands centre we headed down Newland Street and along the River Walk towards Maldon Road. We had been provided some information regarding a potential homeless shelter and we checked this out nearby to Helen Court. A police information report has been submitted although there were no persons present, items in the vicinity did identify the people involved. We then continued our foot patrol across the field adjacent to Helen Court and past the cricket field into the Witham Town Park. We engaged with a couple of young males and disrupted potential drug activity as another male on a bicycle made a hasty exit onto Maldon Road. If you see any suspicious activity in the park, then please report this online and it helps us to make sure we can prevent this activity and keep the park safe and problem free. We then headed out of the park onto Maldon Road and back up towards Newlands Drive car park to return to our car.





In the evening Witham Special Constable Mabey conducted high visibility mobile patrols on Cypress Road, Spa Road leading on to the Humber Road estate, the Skate Park, ASDA car park, Spinks Lane and the Hatfield Road estate before being directed out of area to support an emergency response incident.

November 28th

I began my patrol attending the Mayor's birthday celebration in Witham, where I also met with several town councillors, staff members and special guests.



From here I then collected Special Constable Eaketts for our high visibility patrols in Witham. It was a good night for collecting intelligence on criminal activity and over the course of our patrols we recorded 4 distinct concerns. This information is then interpreted by the Field Intelligence Officers and this can lead to robust and positive action. The first report was in a car park off Spa Road, the second on the Humber Road estate, we then located the third on the Hatfield Road estate before a positive stop for drug related activity in ALDI car park, which led to the final report. We also checked a few other vehicles and carried out an area search for another vehicle associated with drug supply. We headed into the Town Centre for foot patrol and on arrival, we spoke with a homeless person near to McColl's ensuring that they were in touch with support services. We then made our way up to The White Hart, The Red Lion & The George. With a brisk patrol though Lockram Lane we entered the Newlands Precinct and had some positive engagement with teenagers also out in the bitter cold. We concluded our shift with mobile patrols on Laurence Avenue, Pitt Avenue, Pattison Close, Dengie Close, the Witham Skate Park and Spring Lodge Community Centre before heading up to Ebenezer Close and finishing with checks on Cypress Road, Forest Road and Laburnum Way.





November 30th

I started my patrol in Witham on Conrad Road, Rickstones Road & Forest Road before heading on towards Cypress Road. After checking the area for anti-social behaviour, I continued to Manor Road and then Chalks Road and on to Church Street. At Ebenezer Close I alighted from my vehicle to check on the River Walk and the surrounding area after reports of drug misuse. Fortunately, there were no signs of this, and I then drove up to Spa Road, visiting the Powers Hall End car park looking for an uninsured vehicle and then dropped down onto the Humber Road estate. With everything appearing to be in order I then attended Howbridge Road for an area search following reports of suspicious activity. I covered Dengie Close, Elizabeth Avenue, Pitt Avenue, Laurence Avenue & Pelly Avenue but there was no further sighting. I then left the town and arrived in Hatfield Peverel where there had been recent reports of anti-social behaviour but after checking the Recreation Ground, the Village Hall, the Duck Pond, Hadfelda Square, the Library & Swan Close I did not find any concerns. I then drove out past the train station and on to Terling where I visited several areas.

For the second half of the evening, I was joined by Special Constable Mabey of the WithamCSC team, and we spent some time focusing on the Hatfield Road estate in Witham. In recent weeks there has been a few vehicles and people involved in suspicious activities and although some have been stopped, reported or dealt with, we want to keep our visibility high in the area to try and improve the lives of the local community. We did have some good engagement in the Alan Road park with some teenagers before disrupting activity in the car park on King Edward Way. After leaving the estate we carried out patrols on the Maltings estate, Maltings Court, The Grove, Tesco car park with more positive engagement. We visited the Witham Town Park, Humber Road estate, Rosebay Avenue, Calamint Road, Honeysuckle Way & Bramble Road. To conclude our patrols, we visited the train station before parking up in Shaw Road to conduct foot patrol on the Templars estate.



This concludes the monthly report for November 2021.