



June 2023

June is a significant month for the Witham Community Special Constable scheme where we mark another year providing a visible and reassuring presence through our volunteer role as Police Officers. This June is particularly special as we mark 5 years since the first patrol. To commemorate this, we had a small event at the Witham Town Hall.

Following the event, we have been listening to residents about ongoing issues and these centre on the use of electric motorbikes around the town and estates, where riders are using pavements, roads, and the shopping areas. We also have seen an increase in the use of a mini motorbike on the RiverWalk adjacent to Ebenezer Close. This use is illegal, and we will be working to apprehend the individuals and seize the bikes.

In this report I have included QR Codes which can be scanned directly using most smartphone cameras or you can download an app on iTunes or the Google Play store which should assist in following some of the links posted.

June 2nd

I was joined by Witham CSC Officers, Acting Chief Inspector Campbell & Special Constable Eaketts at the Witham Town Hall for a small celebration event to mark 5 years of the joint volunteer scheme between Essex Police, Witham Town Council and the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. The scheme was launched in Witham and was the first in the County to identify an opportunity for Special Constables to dedicate their volunteer time in a specific town or village to improve visibility, provide reassurance and address local crime and concerns in the community.



We were joined by Assistant Chief Constable Andy Mariner, Chief Inspector Martin Richards, Special Superintendent Howard Rayner, Police & Fire Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst, Special Constable Coordinator Les Hawkins and thanks was also given to Witham Town Council to Mayor Susan Ager, Town Councillors and staff who have supported us in our role throughout the last 5 years. If you would like to find out more about the Community Special Constable scheme in your area then please follow the link below

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)

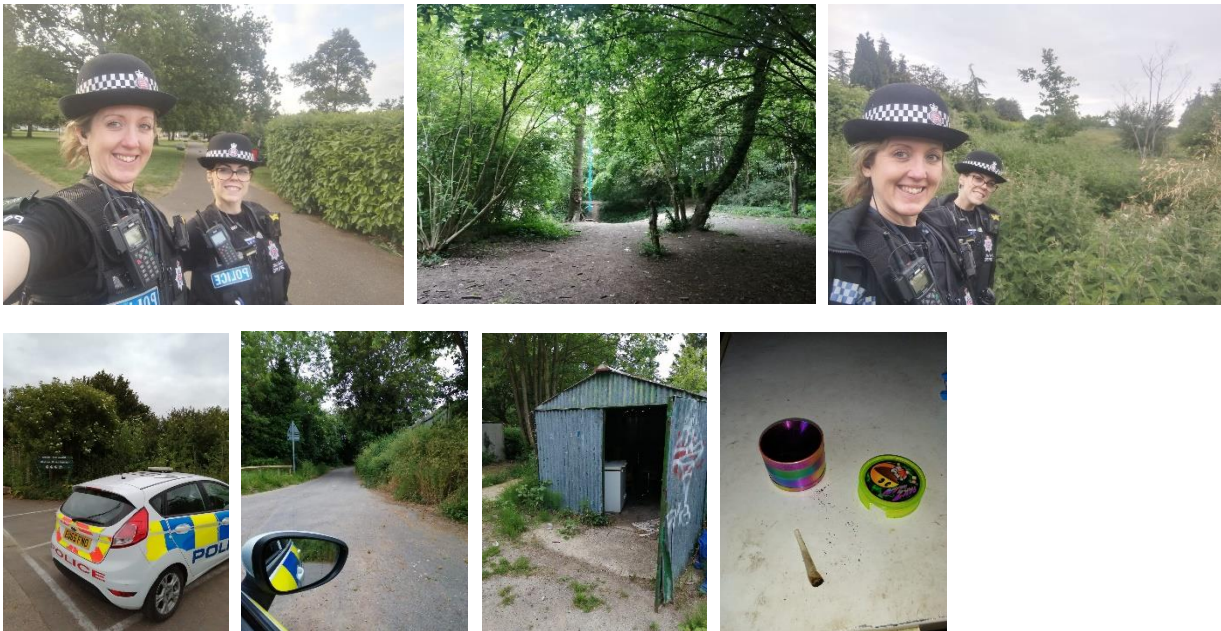




During the afternoon I carried out CCTV enquiries for Braintree CID concerning a burglary which had been reported earlier in May in the Witham area.

June 4th

Witham CSC Officer Eaketts was out on patrol with Special Constable Wintin and carried out foot patrols on Newland Street, Witham Town Park and Whetmead Nature Reserve. During their patrols they met with dog walkers and residents and had positive feedback for their visibility. Following recent social media reports of a stranger seen in Bluebell Woods they carried out a search of the area they did not find anything suspicious. Please ensure that incidents like this are reported to the Police so that we can investigate these as quickly as possible. They then carried out mobile patrols on the Hatfield Road estate, RedRow estate, Eastways and Freebournes Road industrial areas and then headed to Cut Throat Lane where there had been reports of drug related activity. With this area checked with no concerns they crossed the town to Church Street to follow up on reports of anti-social riding of motorbikes around Ebenezer Close and the River Walk. During their foot patrol in the area they located 2 young teenagers who were using one of the derelict garages to smoke cannabis. The drugs were confiscated and an appropriate warning was issued.



June 7th

I was out on patrol in Witham with a planned engagement event at the new location for The Witham Hangout, however, I arrived a little earlier so I could conduct some visibility and reassurance patrols on Church Street and Ebenezer Close. There is an ongoing concern in the area for nuisance motorbikes and we have been deliberately targeting this location. While I was in Ebenezer Close I noticed a young girl sitting on her porch in her school uniform and after making some preliminary enquiries with her I found out that she had been sitting there for nearly 2 hours waiting for her parent to return home. Fortunately the weather was good but the girl had no method to contact her parent and I therefore stayed with her until they arrived home. In this instance it was a case of a forgotten front door key but please be aware of people who may need assistance in your neighbourhood. While I waited I did



manage to capture on my Body Worn Camera a rider of a pit bike (small off road motorbike which is not legal to use on roads or the pavements) coming into Ebenezer Close from Church Street and disappearing onto the River Walk. I am hopeful that this can now be used to evidence the illegal use of the motorbike which can be seized.



I resumed my patrol and headed up to the Witham Rugby Club where I parked the marked police carrier on the field and provided police kit, including riot shields, hats and helmets and gave some educational input on drug awareness. It was great to see so many of the group interacting and there were some great questions and maybe budding police officers of the future. Following a successful engagement event I then continued on to Maltings Lane and the town centre before returning to Spa Road to conclude my shift.



June 10th

It was the day of the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub and we had our new recruitment flag to promote our role as a Community Special Constable. If you would be interested in giving a few hours a month to provide a visible reassuring presence in your town then please follow the link at the beginning of this article. You can always approach us on the street and ask about the scheme or attend the next Community Beat Surgery to find out more. During the session we provided information about recent developments that Essex Police have taken to tackle anti social behaviour and drug related activity and we received reports about nuisance electric motorbikes and quad bikes on the grass area behind Pryor Close and Greenfield. Your reports help us to target our patrols to tackle and eliminate this activity. Please consider helping us with evidence (this may be times, dates, descriptions) but could also include CCTV or photographs. This can really help to identify the correct people involved and your data is treated with the strictest confidence. You can also include these in online reports or request an officer to come and



see you if you would like to discuss these incidents and share information in a safe environment. If you would prefer to share the information anonymously then you can report this to Crimestoppers

[Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)

CrimeStoppers.

Speak up. Stay safe.



The remainder of the Beat Surgery consisted of some very positive community engagement with residents, visitors and families who were passing through the Grove Centre. For the remainder of our shift we conducted visible foot patrols across Witham including the town centre, Pattison Close and a complete loop of the area from Ebenezer Close onto the River Walk to Chipping Hill and back along Church Street. Over the course of our shift we also recovered a knife which had been seen by a young lad in a hedge and reported to his Dad, this has been disposed in the knife amnesty bin at Braintree Police Station and we would like to thank the vigilance of the boy and his Father for helping us to get this off the streets. We were not quite done, however, and after some very kindly residents had provided some much needed water to a person seeking shade near to their property we were able to return the person safely back home.



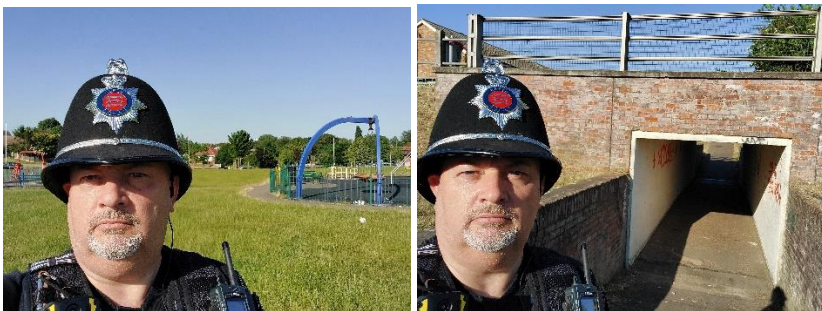


June 14th

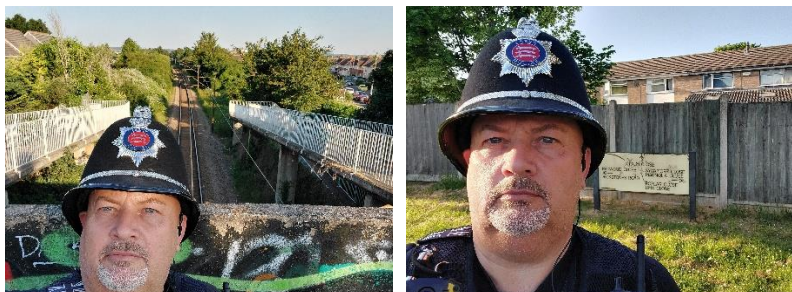
I travelled via the train from Braintree to Witham arriving in the early evening and set off towards Armond Road and onto the River Walk approaching the Duckpond.



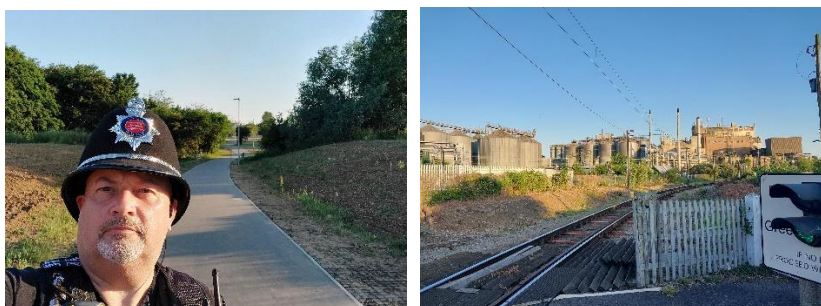
I met up with a group of children at the weir before continuing my patrol through towards ASDA and the Spa Road park. There had been a report the previous day of 2 strangers in the park and I wanted to provide visibility and reassurance in the area. Apart from a few people in the skate park it was otherwise deserted and so I walked along the ditch line until I reached Teign Drive and then cut up through the Humber Road estate via Douglas Grove and into Bure Drive. During the walk I engaged with a number of children who were out playing on the estate. My route took me on to the COOP shop and the area near to the underpass where there had been reports of suspected drug activity, I stayed at the location for some time to be visible and I spoke with several residents and visitors to the shop about their concerns before moving off toward Bramble Road.



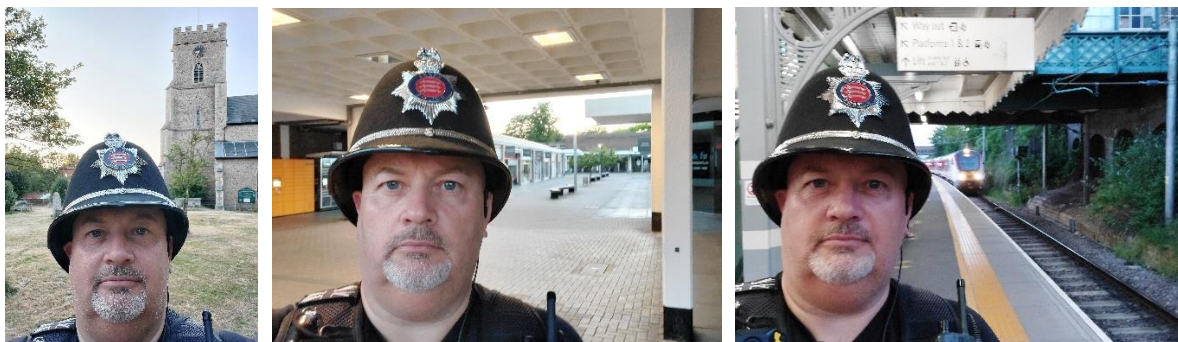
I continued along the edge of the park and down Bramble Road before crossing the river and along the River Walk towards Ebenezer Close. While I was in this area I was able to stop and obtain details of a male on an E-Scooter who had been seen acting suspiciously a few days previously near to Bure Drive. This stop provided valuable intelligence and will allow us to take positive action in the future. The main purpose for this part of the route was to look for the nuisance motorbikes that had been plaguing the area recently. Fortunately during the walk I did not discover anything and I continued across the train tracks via the footbridge and onto Cressing Road next to the Cherry Tree Pub. After a few minutes monitoring the speed of vehicles leaving Witham I crossed over and into the Templars estate where I began visibility patrols across the estate. When I reached the park area I once again engaged positively with a number of teenagers and younger children and then carried out a patrol of the top section of the estate before crossing the road and into the top of Redwood Close.



Continuing onwards I headed over to Flemming Way and onto Holly Walk before joining the new cycle/pathway towards Motts Lane. I headed up onto the blue bridge over the railway line before returning to ground level and walking down Cut Throat Lane. Unfortunately in the lane there were two teenage males, one on an electric bicycle and one on an electric motorbike that swerved around a young family before they cut along a footpath towards Walnut Drive. On speaking with the family, this is a regular occurrence and therefore I will look to add further patrols to the area to try and stop the illegal use of these motorbikes. With the incident captured on my Body worn Video camera I submitted an intelligence report to evidence the offences. Checking the family were ok I walked down Cut Throat Lane, checking on the allotments before crossing the train tracks once again and walking up to the crossing opposite Morrisons and then down Chalks Road.



My next stop was to talk with a local resident and patrons of The Woolpack, was on Church Street and we discussed the nuisance motorbikes and I received further confirmation of the likely owners of them. I will be working with the local Community Policing Team Sergeant on how to tackle this issue as this now forms an ongoing anti-social behaviour issue combined with other road traffic offences. After wishing them a good evening, I walked through St. Nicholas Church grounds to the sound of the bells ringing and onto Chipping Hill where I crossed and walked down Moat Farm Chase towards Armond Road.



I revisited the Spa Road playing area with no concerns and walked along Highfields Road before turning onto Guthavon Road, Mill Lane and up Newland Street to provide a visible presence in the town centre. With no issues



reported during my patrols and intelligence reports to write up I finally headed back to the train station to complete a 13.5km foot patrol, where I had met and engaged with over 50 people.

June 17th

I was crewed up with PC Spink from the Braintree Town Team and we headed into Witham for proactive patrols, specifically looking to target motorbikes previously associated to drug dealing. There had also been a recent report of quad bikes on the field behind Pryor Close that were causing a nuisance to people using the field and we wanted to follow up on the electric motorbike seen on Cut Throat Lane.



During our patrols around Ebenezer Close, Chipping Hill, Flora Road and Bramble Road we were fortunate to see aircraft for the King's birthday celebration that passed over Witham on their flight path to London. We followed this with a check on a piece of heavy plant equipment that had suddenly appeared on Bramble Road. These very expensive pieces of equipment may be stolen and so if you come across something that is not normally seen locally it is worth reporting. Fortunately in this instance I was able to check with the operations company who confirmed its intended location. With no sign of motorbikes we continued on to the Forest Road area and called in briefly at the football presentation event on the Recreation Ground and then carried out a foot patrol through the Templars estate where I was able to check CCTV to support a recent incident. With my colleague returning to Braintree I continued on foot from Spa Road into the town centre, assisting with a shopper who had lost their purse in town, before taking the train back to finish my patrol.





June 24th

I began in Witham with foot patrol in the town centre and visited the market stalls and a number of local businesses to understand any local concerns and provide them with a visible presence. I had lots of positive comments and thanks from various sources for being in the town centre and I explained I was on my way to the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub if they had any further concerns. I set up at the Hub with the new information flag and this has helped to generate some questions regarding the role of the Community Special Constable. Over the course of the 2 hours I discussed several recurring topics including the dangerous use of electric motorbikes, abandoned vehicles and concerns over drug related activity. I was able to provide some positive feedback on these topics with recent actions that have been taken and provided advice and signposting for other issues. With the session coming to an end I set off once more for further foot patrol in the town and was on hand to support an incident whereby a young boy's bicycle had been taken from outside of the library. Unfortunately it was not locked up at the time but I am now looking into the town CCTV system to try and identify any suspects. I carried out an area search visiting a number of local places where the bicycle may have been taken or hidden but unfortunately there was no trace. I continued my mobile patrols with a visit to Greenfield, Blackman Way, Market Lane and Dengie Close to provide a visual deterrent to reports of drug related activity before heading over to Spa Road, Humber Road and then onto Powers Hall End and Chipping Hill. My destination was the Medieval Fayre at St.Nicholas Church and after returning to foot patrol I headed to the location. It was very well attended and there was a great atmosphere with Morris Dancers in the street and lots of stalls and attractions. I was also very fortunate to have the opportunity to ring one of the main bells at St.Nicholas Church with the tower being open for visitors. I have often heard these across Witham in the evening when I have been on patrol and it was a real privilege to be able to take part. These events provide a great engagement opportunity for us to build positive relationships with the community and in turn this can show residents and visitors that we are here to help and provide reassurance.





June 26th

I was joined on my patrol by Braintree Special Inspector Wintin and we headed into Witham to carry out targeted patrols concerning drug supply and carry out a number of speed checks across the roads. Within minutes of our arrival in the town we were redirected to an incident in Hatfield Peverel following a report of a young male with an offensive weapon. Due to our location we were the first unit in the area and carried out an extensive area search and an address check for a potential suspect. Unfortunately we were unable to locate the suspect, however, we have sufficient information to follow the incident up and provide reassurance to the informant. On our return to Witham we stopped a vehicle for checks on Ingles Drive before heading to Maldon Road to conduct the first of our speed checks. During the time spent at the corner of Blackman Way we only needed to stop one driver and offer some words of advice before we moved across the town to Spa Road. We were ready to set up near to the railway bridge but almost immediately spotted a person riding an E-Scooter and as we drew alongside they made off into the Humber Road estate. Although my colleague was out on foot and I continued to patrol in the vehicle we were unable to locate him, however a few minutes later, another person connected with drug supply was spotted leaving the estate. A Police Information Report has been submitted for the encounter. Our next location took us across town again and this time to Rickstones Road and the junction with Cross Road. I had seen reports on social media from the previous evening of cars travelling at excessive speed on Rickstones Road with the evenings warmer and lighter there are a lot of children out on bicycles and using the nearby crossing. The time was approximately 21:00 hours and traffic flow was very limited but it was certainly noticeable how drivers reacted when seeing us in our high visibility clothing with some appearing to brake heavily! This is not careful and considerate driving and one ticket was issued with a driver measured at 44mph in the 30mph limit.



Over the coming weeks there will be further speed checks carried out across Witham to encourage drivers to be aware of the limits in the built up areas, we will also be looking at nuisance vehicles and careless or dangerous driving.



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

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



This concludes the monthly report for June 2023.

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/>

