



November 2023

November typically brings the start of the colder weather and there is a significant reduction in the number of people out in the evenings after dark, however, we continue to patrol even though you may not always see us. With Guy Fawkes night at the beginning of the month there is a risk of anti-social behaviour involving fireworks being let off in dangerous locations, but it is also the annual Witham Town Rugby Club Firework display, which is always very well attended, and a great community event and we attend to provide a visible and reassuring presence. We are still receiving reports of anti-social behaviour around the ASDA store, and we will continue to provide reassurance and a deterrent in the area.

To report to Essex Police then please use the information at the bottom of this report. Thank you.

November 1st

I was out on patrol with Witham Town Team officer PC Southgate & PC Davies, and we were providing a prominent visible presence due to the anti-social incidents that occurred the previous evening which saw a large group of teenagers letting off fireworks in the street and not only endangering members of the public, but these were also fired into the road and at a passing train. This completely irresponsible behaviour required many Police units, taking officers away from other potential emergencies to descend on the town and resulted in an arrest and several teenage boys taken home to parents. To prevent further occurrences, a dispersal order was put in place, which prevents any person who is committing an act of anti-social behaviour or appears to be about to be involved in anti-social behaviour from entering a defined zone for a set period. In this case to stop further issues the zone included the whole of the town and for the rest of the evening and into the night there were no further reported issues. Fortunately, due to the positive action taken on this night we did not encounter any concerns during our patrol. We carried out further patrols targeting hotspots identified for drug related offences and carried out foot patrol on the Templars estate.





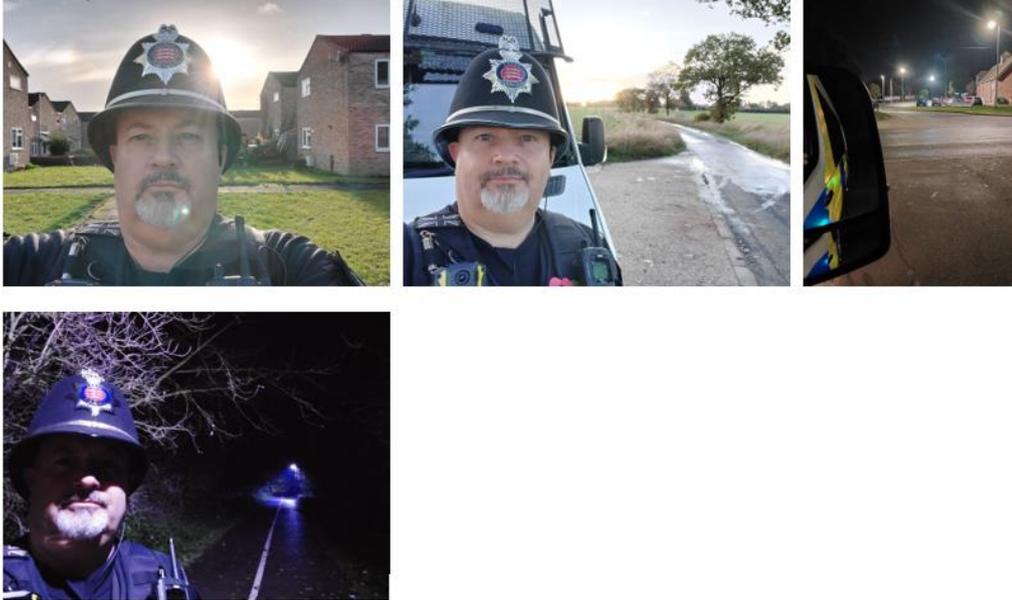
November 3rd

The annual Witham Rugby Club Firework Display is a significant calendar event in the community with thousands of people attending the well organised display. Storm Ciaran had threatened the event over the week with poor weather but fortunately on the night it remained dry and clear. I was in company with Witham CSC Officer Claire Eaketts and Braintree Special Constable O'Connor-Mitchell and we entered the Rugby club to provide visibility and reassurance. Following the anti-social behaviour on Halloween a second dispersal order was put in place which covered the Spa Road Park area, the RiverWalk and the Town Centre and there were additional Police units outside the event grounds. We had lots of positive engagement with the crowds, especially young children who were looking forward to the fireworks and they were not disappointed with a fantastic display. The event concluded without incident, and we were thanked by the organisers for our presence before we headed out on foot patrol along the RiverWalk and back through the Humber Road estate. On the return to our vehicle we encountered a vulnerable person who had locked themselves out of their property and we were able to return them safely home and gain access for them.



November 4th

I began my patrol on foot on the Templars estate with a visible presence around the different Courts before engaging with some of the teenagers involved in the fireworks incident the previous week. I informed them that the dispersal order was still in place and warned them that if they entered this area they would be directed to leave immediately. Fortunately, the small group understood the reason for the order and told me that they had not planned to meet up later in the day. I returned to my vehicle and headed off to the Recreation Ground via Dorothy Sayers Drive where I checked on the derelict buildings. With no concerns seen I continued around Forest Road and onto Cypress Road before heading back towards Chipping Hill and Powers Hall End. I patrolled Bramble Road and Honeysuckle Way before heading into Calamint Road and then back along Flora Road to the car park near the shops on Spa Road. My patrol then took me to Blunts Hall Road and to the concrete area where there had been reports of drug related activity. Although I got out on foot and searched several locations, I did not find any evidence of drug use. If you do see any suspicious activity then please continue to bring this to our attention by contacting Essex Police online, by telephone 101 or by speaking to us at the Community Beat Surgeries in the Town Hall or The Witham Hub. As the afternoon passed the light began to fail and it quickly turned dark, and I began to focus my patrol areas around the dispersal zones. Fortunately, during the next few hours combining foot patrol and mobile patrols I did not come across any concerns or reported incidents.



November 11th

I had been asked by Braintree CID if I would carry out some reassurance patrols around a location in Witham where a resident had been the victim of a burglary and I headed over from the station in Braintree. I arrived on the Hatfield Road estate and after several mobile patrols around the roads I parked up and headed out on foot patrol. This allowed me to not only search for any items or evidence that may have been dropped by the suspects the previous night but also to ensure that I could be seen by several of the residents with the intention of providing some reassurance. Following the patrol, I attended The Witham Hub where I observed the 2 minutes silence for Remembrance Day, and then carried out the Beat Surgery where I was able to talk to a lot of people walking through the shopping area, record information from a concerned resident and submit an intelligence report following the sighting of several people connected with drug related activity. I also received a lovely drawing from a young girl who had initially been afraid to approach me, but over a number of my visits to The Hub had become more confident and presented me with the picture which has pride of place at the station! One other report that was shared with me was for a dangerous piece of fencing that was sticking out into the pathway on Cut Throat Lane and could potentially cause a hazard to cyclists, pedestrians or mobility scooters and I promised to go and try and fix this.

With the Beat Surgery finished and the community service completed I headed out to find and clear the obstruction in the lane and I was able to remove this safely. You can also report any hazards or obstructions to the local council who have an excellent outdoor areas team who can address many issues around Witham, or you can contact Braintree District Council or the Highways teams. I continued my mobile patrols around Witham and after revisiting the Hatfield Road estate for further reassurance patrols, I headed back over towards Honeysuckle Way. I entered Bramble Road, and it was here that I noticed an adult and child standing beside a scrambler style motorbike on the field. As I approached, I could see the adult male jump astride the bike and pull the child on to the rear. I put on my blue emergency lighting and sirens to indicate for them to stop but they then began to ride off, unfortunately the child fell from the motorbike (although not injured) and I was then able to continue on foot to stop the motorbike rider who had now stopped. This kind of motorbike is not allowed to be used in public spaces and cannot be insured for this purpose. The motorbike was seized to prevent further use and subsequent risk to other members of the public on the field and the anti-social disruption caused by the noise.



November 12th

I was honoured to be invited to represent Essex Police and Essex Special Constabulary, along with my colleagues, Special Constable Eaketts & Acting Chief Inspector Campbell, from the Witham Community Special Constable Team to march in this years Remembrance Parade. The parade began to assemble on The Avenue at a little after 2pm and set off along Collingwood Road turning left onto Newland Street and up to the memorial garden for the service. It was fantastic to see so many residents, business owners and customers out on the street to commemorate this event and with additional Essex Police Officers patrolling the area the march and service went without incident. During the service I was able to lay a wreath on behalf of Essex Police in remembrance of all those who have fallen in the Great Wars and in conflicts ever since. Lest We Forget.





November 15th

I was out on patrol and had been invited to an estate walk around with the Templars Association, Town Councillors, District Councillors and members of the Eastlight Community Housing team. The main purpose of the walk is to identify hazards or items that need to be collected and removed to improve the overall appearance of the estate. We set out around the Blake Road area before I was alerted to the report of an attempted break in on the other side of the town. I quickly left the team and headed back to my vehicle and drove to the location. Fortunately, due to my presence in Witham I was able to be at the location within 5 minutes of the call and I arrived at the address to discover that it was the homeowners that had tried and succeeded to access their front door which had become jammed. The report would have looked very genuine as they used a metal bar and pieces of wood to try and get in the house and would have appeared suspicious, however, in this instance following checks, there were no concerns and I followed up with a call to the informant to put their mind at ease. I then headed back over to the Templars Estate and re-joined the team as they continued their walk, I was able to engage with a number of local residents and the nearby shop keeper and disrupted some anti-social behaviour in the park area.



With the walk completed I returned to general patrols in Witham and headed back across the town to the Redrow estate and provided some extra visibility around the newly built areas following recent reports of drug activity. With my radio indicating that there was an ongoing disturbance near to Holst Avenue I drove to the location and was able to attend within 2 minutes and located a couple who were arguing loudly in the street. Fortunately my presence did make a difference with one of the parties returning to their address and the other person sent away from the area and I was able to restore quiet to the area before concluding my patrol.



November 18th

I arrived in Witham with other officers to assist with the execution of a warrant for the arrest of a burglary suspect and with the conclusion of this I returned to my Community Special Constable duties. I conducted reassurance patrols in the vicinity of Honeysuckle Way and met with several residents following the seizure of the motorbike the previous week. Unfortunately, the pouring rain meant I had to get my large fluorescent jacket out but hopefully this also made me a lot more visible!

I arrived in the Town Centre and carried out a preliminary foot patrol, visiting the market in the Newlands Precinct and I patrolled up and down Newland Street. I began an impromptu Beat Surgery at the Hub to supervise the young person who was carrying out a session of community service following his association with graffiti vandalism in The Grove Centre. The purpose was to demonstrate the impact of the cost of repair for the damage on local businesses and where the money could have been redistributed to help people in need. Outside the Hub I met with several residents and visitors that were pleased to see my presence. The gathering of intelligence and information from residents and visitors has increased significantly since we began the Beat Surgeries and increased our visible presence on foot. Later in the afternoon I carried out mobile patrols around the town and visited several of the park areas but with the inclement weather there were very few people out and about. After completing an interview with a person located during the earlier warrant, I returned to Braintree to book in seized drugs for destruction.





November 25th

I was joined by fellow Witham Special Constable Claire Eaketts for our scheduled Community Beat Surgery, and we arrived in Witham to conduct some mobile patrols around the housing estates and parks. We attended The Witham Hub where we set up our recruitment sign which contains a QR code leading to an Essex Police website where you can find out about becoming a Community Special Constable.

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)



During the 2 hours that we were present at the Hub we had several people come and personally thank us for our presence and our volunteering in the community of Witham – Could you?



During the afternoon we carried out foot patrol in the town centre, visiting the market in the Newlands Precinct before calling in at the library to provide reassurance. We returned to our vehicle before responding to a call to police that a person had been seen riding an electric scooter on the A12. This was extremely dangerous for the rider with the fast-moving traffic and fortunately there was another nearby unit that were able to intercept the person before they had made their way too far along the Witham bypass. On our return down the A12 we exited at the Colemans Bridge junction and came across a vehicle that had collided with a lamp post at the roundabout of Colchester Road and Freebournes Road. On closer inspection there were three occupants who were beginning to get cold as the temperature was dropping outside and we provided safe cover for them until the arrival of the Highways team (to inspect any damage to the lighting) and the recovery company. Special Constable Eaketts conducted traffic control and I positioned my marked police vehicle to try and create a safe working environment for the recovery, but we still had two cars that could have caused an issue as they became impatient. We will only close the road if it is necessary for safety, and we will try and minimise the duration of the closure – so please be patient. If you do not follow the instructions of a constable and cause a concern for safety, you will be reported.



November 27th

I had been invited to meet with members of Witham Industrial Watch (WIW) which was established to provide security and services for the businesses in the industrial areas in Witham. This has included the implementation of many CCTV & ANPR cameras which can assist Essex Police investigating criminal activity on the industrial sites. Within our role as Community Special Constables, we support the Witham Town Team who provide a liaison officer for WIW and we often include visits to the estates to provide visibility. Before I attended however, I visited the car park on Spa Road adjacent to the schools where there had been recent reports of inconsiderate and dangerous parking around the school collection times. During my patrol I did not see any specific issues but possibly the sight of my marked police vehicle had a positive impact. Following my meeting with WIW I stopped in the town centre for foot patrol and visited Poundland, Savers & Iceland who have all been victims of shoplifting.

Although this was a shorter shift I also included a visit to ASDA where there had been many previous reports of anti-social behaviour involving children causing concerns to staff inside the store and shoplifting. Fortunately, during my visit there were no children present and I finished my patrol.

This concludes the monthly report for November 2023.



You can find Witham Community Special Constable patrol updates on Twitter by searching and following [Essex Police Witham \(@EPWitham\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/EPWitham)



Contact Essex Police

Emergency call 📞 999

Non-Emergency 📞 101 or 🖥️ Report it Online

<https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

