



June 2022 Patrols

June began with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations with a long bank holiday weekend. It was expected that there would be a number of different events and parties throughout the four days and one of the key events was organised by Witham Town Council on the River Walk. With the anticipated improvement in the weather as we approach the summer months, we are starting to see more people out and about in the evenings. We continue to staff the Community Beat Surgeries and these are still seeing an increase in public engagement.

June 1st

A very short entry just to highlight that I was able to represent the Witham Community Special Constable Team at the Essex Police Headquarters for the Queens' Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting Ceremony. The event was attended by the Lord-Lieutenant and Her Majesty's representative Jennifer Tolhurst, Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner Jane Gardner and High Sheriff Nick Alston DL CBE.



June 2nd

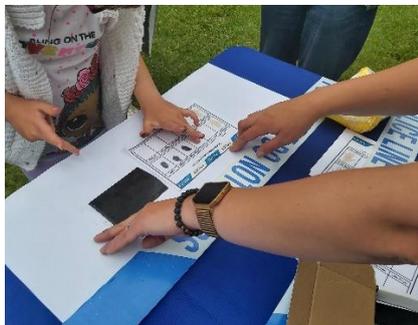
It was the Witham Town Council's Jubilee Celebration event on the River Walk near to Powers Hall End and we wanted to ensure that everyone who attended, felt reassured by our presence. To support this I had arranged 5 Special Constables to provide a high visibility presence. Splitting into two teams we carried out foot patrols between Chipping Hill & Armond Road where we had fantastic engagement with lots of families and children. We also had the opportunity to take part in some of the amusements and enjoy the local music, dancing & food stalls before the official beacon lighting at the end of the event.





June 5th

On the Sunday afternoon Special Constable Eaketts, PSCO Mcmillan & I attended the Templars Community Association Fun Day for the Jubilee which was situated on the park area in front of the shops on Shaw Road. There were inflatables, rides and a DJ and we brought along our marked police carrier, providing colouring, and fingerprinting as well as some items of police uniform to try on. We had some fantastic engagement with young children, with over 50 children given their fingerprint sheets as a memento. I was surprised with the fascination of the “cage” in the back of the van with several children wishing to be locked in. Fortunately, the weather held off and at the close of the event we made sure we had let everybody out before leaving the area with lights and sirens!

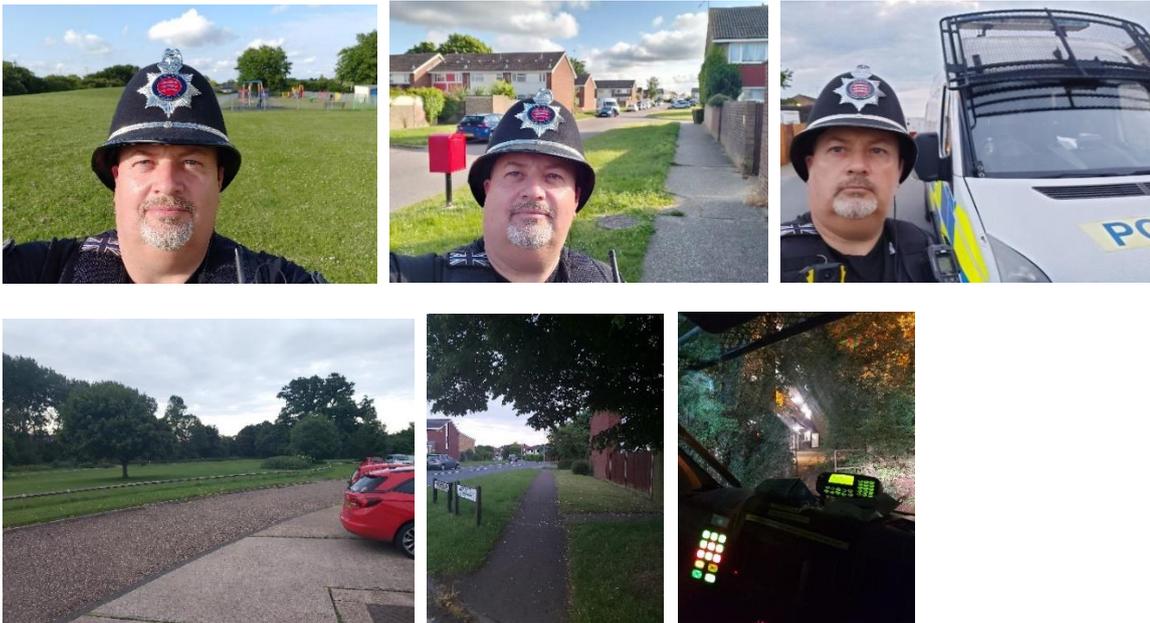


June 7th

Back to normal patrols and I started in Witham with a visit to the Templars estate play area following reports that children had been seen entering the fenced off area and been climbing on the digger. Parts of the park play equipment are being repaired or replaced but until the work is finished there are safety risks and I was able to speak with several children that admitted they had been inside the fence. Once I had explained the concerns, they all accepted my instruction and this will be monitored until the work has been completed. The area is covered by CCTV which can be used to help identify any ongoing concerns. I then moved over to Humber Road where I followed up on a social media report for a potentially stolen bicycle, it had not yet been claimed and therefore I offered to check on the National Bike Register & recirculate the details on the Essex Police Facebook pages. On my way to Hatfield Road, I called in at the Adult Community Learning on Spinks Lane, following a report of anti-social behaviour on the football pitches. Fortunately, I was able to resolve this and I then headed up to Allectus Way where I carried out foot patrols on the estate recording further information in relation to suspicious activity. I spoke to several children in the Alan Road play area and others on the estate. I left Witham for a short patrol in Hatfield Peverel and then returned to Gershwin Boulevard, Haygreen Road, Holst Avenue and Baker Way. I drove over to Maltings Court following previous



reports of drug use but pleased to see no issues. Continuing my visibility patrols, I stopped in Pattison Close where I found an insecure vehicle and waited for the owner to return. The driver's door had been left open accidentally and this could have left the contents vulnerable to crime. The owner was very thankful and I headed over to Constance Close and back in towards the Town Centre before finishing with further checks on Forest Road & Cypress Road.



June 11th

Saturday saw Special Constable Symonds accompany me to the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub between 11:00am & 1:00pm. The meetings are starting to see an increase in residents and visitors coming to see us which is very encouraging. We spoke to people regarding drug related activity, which not only allows us to record the information but to target patrols in their area to deter this criminal activity. Other topics included advice about inconsiderate or dangerous parking on Maldon Road, information regarding the disposal of unwanted knives and an abandoned vehicle which had been left insecure. Following the Saturday Surgery there is another opportunity to speak with Police Officers at the Town Hall between 10:00am & 12:00pm on Tuesdays.





June 12th

I was crewed with PC Southgate and we began our patrols in Silver End before arriving in Witham. I had planned to join the WalkandTalk4Men who were meeting at the Town Hall to go for a stroll together, providing an opportunity to discuss anything that may help to raise awareness of mental health issues. Traditionally this has always been difficult for men to talk about their own mental health but with initiatives like this across the country there are positive changes in people's perceptions. PC Southgate headed back to Silver End for ongoing enquiries and I joined the group. We headed along the River Walk from Bridge Street, past the Duck Pond to Armond Road and up Moat Farm Chase before returning down to Chipping Hill (over the wobbly bridge) and back onto the River Walk back towards the town. These walks are advertised on the Witham pages and supported by a member of Witham Town Council. You can find out more information at [WAT4M \(walkandtalk4men.com\)](http://WAT4M (walkandtalk4men.com)) The next event is on Sunday 10th July 2022, meeting at the Town Hall for 11:00am.



I re-joined PC Southgate and we headed for a brief stop in Terling to assist with a bike/tool marking event with PC Draper. This is an initiative to help prevent bike/tool theft but also to help victims recover their items as many people do not mark their valuable property. When we had finished, we headed to Witham to check on the status of an abandoned car which had been left in Ashby Road, which was insecure. After checking the details and finding that the car was insured and legal, I contacted the insurance company to follow up with the owner to arrange recovery or collection.



I was also able to follow up on a welfare check for a witness to a recent car accident in Witham, this had been very distressing at the time for the witness and this had been playing on my mind as well. Fortunately, I was able to arrange with the family to speak with the witness and I could see that with the family support that they were doing ok.

Our final check of the day was on the Templars estate for an ongoing investigation and we were able to obtain some evidence and speak with the victim.



June 14th

My initial patrol started with a visit to the Templars estate where the play area is being refurbished. There had been subsequent reports that children had been inside the fenced off area and there was a concern for their safety. During my foot patrol there were no children in the fenced off areas. I then headed over to Holst Avenue to carry out house to house enquiries following an incident of criminal damage. While I spoke to neighbours, I was able to provide reassurance and visibility in the area. I continued my mobile patrols on Pattison Close before heading to the Witham Town Park and finished with a reassurance visit at the train station following an earlier incident on the main line. Over the course of the patrols, I recorded 3 information reports for future action.



June 16th

I was crewed with fellow Witham Community Special Constable Eaketts and we began our patrol on Dengie Close following reports of suspicious behaviour by a group of young males. We carried out foot patrol around the area, checking the alleyways and the Community Centre. Although there was no sign of the individuals, we were able to obtain some information from residents and this will help us in future patrols. We were thanked for our attendance which provided them with reassurance. Following on from my previous patrols we revisited Holst Avenue and Randall Close to provide visibility and a deterrent and investigated potential drug use on Maltings Court. We also stopped by the Witham Train Station, where after discussing with staff, we identified several children that had been causing a nuisance around ASDA and had used the train that evening.





June 18th

With Special Constable Symonds & Special Constable Penrose we attended the #Bounce4Bonnie charity event at the Witham Rugby Club. We took along the marked police carrier which provided entertainment for many children wishing to be locked away in “the cage” I am pleased to say that everyone was released. We also let the children record their fingerprints, try out a roadside breath test and try on some of our kit. Fortunately, the weather held out and we were able to have some very positive engagement with all that attended. I was able to meet some other local attendees with the Witham retained Fire Fighters and wildlife enthusiast Connor who brought along a selection of Giant Land Snails.

The highlight for us, however, was to have our picture taken with Bonnie and wish her and her family the very best for the future.



June 21st

I was crewed with Witham CSC officer Eaketts for our patrols in Witham and we began with an incident to Prevent a Breach of Peace on the Hatfield Road estate. In these incidents we are asked if we can attend by one or both involved parties to ensure that any confrontation is minimised to prevent offences. In this instance the visit was completed successfully with both parties satisfied with the result. We then targeted areas identified in recent reports at our Community Beat Surgery for suspicious activity believed to be linked to drug dealing or possession. Our first locations were Bure Drive, Dengie Close, Snowdrop Close & Holly Bank. Each of these locations was visited several times over the course of our patrols. Fortunately, in these visits there was no evidence of the reported activity but please keep reporting this to Essex Police or coming and seeing us at the Community Beat Surgeries, which occur every other Saturday and the following Tuesday. The final element of our patrol involved a foot patrol in



the Witham Town Park and we 'surprised' a person at the top end of the park, initially we heard a muffled curse before discovering several drug related items (the clear plastic bag had contained cannabis) which had been abandoned on the bench. Hopefully our visible patrols provide a deterrent for this anti-social and illegal behaviour.



June 23rd

I was crewed with Braintree Special Constable Watts and we headed into the Templars estate for our initial foot patrol. We were able to meet up with members of Eastlight Community Homes to discuss ongoing issues in the area before we were called away to Laburnum Way after reports that children had been seen entering a derelict building. Due to our presence in Witham for our patrols we were only a minute away and we arrived on scene to remove three teenagers from the building. A stop and search was carried out on one of the teenagers after a very small amount of cannabis was found in their possession and no further items were found. Words of advice were provided on the safety risks of entering the building and we attempted to board the front of the building back up. I contacted the property company to make them aware that the building needs to be secured properly to prevent future incidents. We then moved over to Spa Road to carry out a speed check and over the short time we were there we were very pleased to see drivers adhering to the speed limit. We only stopped one driver for some words of advice but did not need to issue any tickets.





We carried out mobile patrols on Humber Road, Bramble Road and Calamint Road before heading over to Dengie Close, the Maltings estate Hatfield Road estate where we carried out visible foot patrols before driving back towards Pattison Close. Following engagement with a recent victim of crime and updating them on the investigation, we then set off on foot patrol heading towards the Witham Town Park, passing Helen Court towards Kings Chase. We walked up Newland Street, down Maldon Road and into the Grove Centre, reappearing opposite the library and then into Lockram Lane and through the Newlands Precinct. Walking down Newland Street we passed The Swan and onto the River Walk back towards Pattison Close. We revisited several of the locations from the previous patrol to continue to increase our presence but again we found no suspicious behaviour. We set up for a short while on Maldon Road with the speed measuring device and again the general speeds of drivers were very encouraging and we only stopped one driver for words of advice. We will be back to carry out further speed checks at different locations and times and we welcome any suggestions from residents with their concerns. Our last action of the evening patrol was linked to a speeding car which had been observed travelling down Hatfield Road towards the town and appeared to be travelling more than the 30mph limit. We did manage to locate the vehicle and once again provide a stern warning to the driver who declared that they already had 3 points on their licence for the same offence. Although very apologetic the drivers' details were checked and recorded for future reference concerning driving behaviour.



June 25th

I started the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub in the company of Sgt Mugridge from the Braintree Community Policing Team before I was joined by PC Sahin who has recently been appointed as a Witham Officer. In company with another officer who is on a temporary assignment to Braintree CPT, we spoke with lots of people over the 2 hours, providing advice and listening to their concerns. Several of the reports involved suspected drug use in their area and the information that they have shared with us at this meeting helps us to target patrols. Following the Beat Surgery, I headed up to the Chipping Hill Primary School Fete where I joined fellow Witham CSC Officer Special Inspector Campbell with the marked police carrier. We had provided police uniform and hats to try on, colouring sheets, a metal detector, handcuffs and of course access to climb all over the vehicle. This provided us with some very positive engagement with children and again there seems to be a strange obsession to be 'locked up' in the back of the carrier. At the end of the event and after confirming that we had no children locked in 'the cage' we headed over to the Medieval Fayre at St. Nicholas Church on Chipping Hill. With the road closed off we were able to watch some traditional Morris Dancing before heading into the church grounds where a number of stalls had been set up for entertainment. The event was very well attended and everybody seemed to be having a good time. Inside the church the choir were in good voice and it was lovely to see and hear people enjoying the hymns. With this event ending I was challenged to try and win a coconut and I am pleased to say I managed to walk away with one!



June 27th

I was invited to the annual Maltings Academy Year 11 leavers event and accompanied by PC Sahin who has recently been appointed as part of the Community Policing Team for Witham. There were opportunities for the students to have their pictures taken wearing hats, being 'locked' in the cage and we even signed a number of school shirts following the tradition. We would like to thank Ms S Zand Head Teacher and the staff of Maltings Academy for inviting us for some positive engagement as the school leavers embark on the next stage of their lives. We would like to wish them all the very best for the future. It was also a pleasure to see a member of Witham Town Council who was also engaging with the students and encouraging them to use their voices in the future.



Following the event we then headed out for patrols around Witham to identify areas of interest for PC Sahin, where we checked several vehicles, disrupted drug related activity and submitted intel reports for future actions and visited a victim of a recent assault to record details. During our patrols on the Hatfield Road estate we collected for disposal, 3 large Nitrous Oxide cannisters that had been discarded in an open garage area. While the use of this is not currently illegal, littering is and this also increases the risk to young children who may copy use and could become very ill.



With the time approaching 3pm we carried out foot patrols on the Templars estate as both Templars Primary School & New Rickstones Academy finished. During the patrol we found an vehicle with a side window open and a handbag left on the seat within easy reach. To prevent crime the bag was secured and we were able to stay in the area for the return of the owner who was very thankful. With the improved weather, leaving windows open can increase temptation for unscrupulous people to take advantage and steal items on display.

[Prevent theft from a vehicle | Crime Prevention | Essex Police](#)

June 28th

Witham Community Special Inspector Campbell & Special Constable Mihalyfi attended the Town Hall to support the Community Beat Surgery. We have been seeing increased engagement at the Saturday surgeries where officers have been outside and been more accessible to residents and visitors and this was reflected when they also set up outside. As well as answering questions and providing advice they also promoted Special Constable recruitment in the town. If you would like to volunteer to provide additional policing to your community then please see the link below to find out more information.

[Special Constabulary | Essex Police](#)





June 29th

My initial patrol was to provide support for an anti-social behaviour walkaround with Eastlight Community Homes, by working with partner agencies we can intervene before it becomes criminal and hopefully improve the local neighbourhood. You can report any ASB issues in your area relating to community housing by clicking on the link

[Anti-Social Behaviour | Eastlight Community Homes \(eastlighthomes.co.uk\)](https://www.eastlighthomes.co.uk)

or alternatively you can report online to Essex Police at the following link

[Report antisocial behaviour | Essex Police](#)

Following the check, I then visited Blunt's Hall Road for visibility following reports of suspicious activity close to the footpath running alongside the rear of the Rugby Club and then I moved over to Pattison Close. Here I continued foot patrol in a loop across the footbridge and back along Maldon Road and Laurence Avenue before getting back in the car for an area search, relating to another incident. I headed to the Town Centre where again I left the car behind to walk down Newland Street, through the Witham Town Park, across Maldon Road and into Greenfields and then back to The Grove Centre and returning to my vehicle through the Newlands Precinct. The final part of my mobile patrol took me over to Forest Road and Laburnum Way where I checked on a derelict building which had recently been frequented by teenagers. Due to broken items inside and the condition of the building it was unsafe and I have been working with the property management company to securely board up the property to prevent access. Although I can now confirm that this work has been carried out, please report any damage to the buildings in the area to ensure the safety of the public and the residents in the properties above.

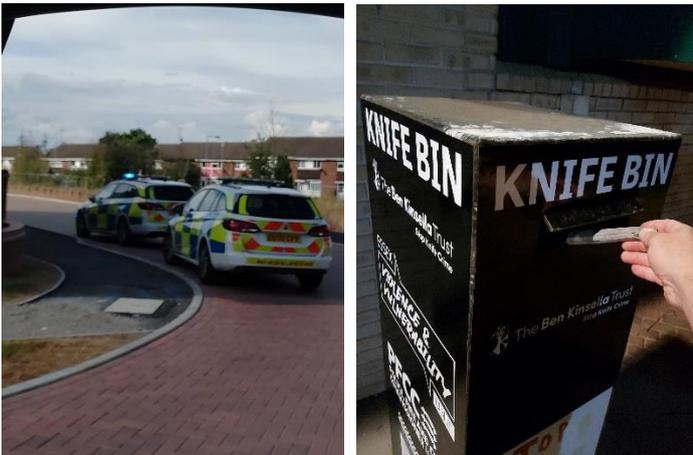


June 30th

I started my patrol in Witham with two tasks, the first to collect a knife from an elderly resident who did not know how to dispose of it and the second task, to carry out a voluntary interview in regards to a relatively minor offence. On my arrival in Witham, however, I was able to be the first officer on scene for a critical concern for welfare. I kept communicating with the person in a mental health crisis until other units arrived and they were then able to force entry into the property to provide additional assistance. From the moment the call came over the radio from our Force Control Room, I was able to be on scene in under 2 minutes, once again demonstrating the benefit of my role as a Witham Community Special. With the other units now taking over I was able to head over to the other side of Witham to conduct the interview. When this had been completed I carried out visibility patrols at Dengie Close, Pattison Close and then I headed into Greenfields. As I turned my vehicle into a parking area I confronted a vehicle that had been reported by residents in different parts of Witham for suspicious behaviour and as I pulled up to a



stop, two of the occupants ran off. Fortunately I was able to detain the remaining occupants for a stop and search and carried out a full search of the vehicle. A number of items relating to the reported behaviour were located and information recorded. The driver was given words of advice for possession of items relating to the use of Nitrous Oxide along with the remaining passenger and a police information report has been submitted for the other involved parties that fled the scene.



This concludes the monthly report for June 2022.