



March 2022 Patrols

Although we are still waiting for the weather to improve following a couple of severe storms, we are starting to see an increase in young children and teenagers in groups around town at night and on some of the estates. These groups are immediately associated with anti-social behaviour, but I am pleased to say that this is not typically the case and they are just meeting up with friends. We also wanted to focus on speed awareness with several vehicles reported online or in person at one of our previous Beat Surgeries for both anti-social driving (revving, wheel spins, etc) and speeding on Collingwood Road, Maldon Road & Newland Street which presents a danger & disruption to other people in town.

March 1st

The first patrol of the month began in the company of Special Constable Mihalfyi and we were in Witham to conduct high visibility & reassurance patrols. We had received a couple of recent reports of increased anti-social behaviour at the end of Cypress Road around residential properties and we were keen to stop this by raising our visibility to provide a deterrent. We arrived at the location to find two mountain bikes propped against a nearby wall and suddenly two males ran from us and disappeared into the darkness. As we approached the stairwell, they had run from we found a prepared cannabis joint sitting on the wall and we were now left with two bikes which were dropped in the doorway of one of the residential properties. While we were trying to load both bikes into the back of our vehicle for safekeeping back at Braintree Police Station one of the males returned. Without admitting who the cannabis joint belonged to, it was agreed that they could have their bike back but that they were told not to return to this location to commit anti-social behaviour and that if caught in possession of drugs that more serious consequences awaited them. Unfortunately, the other person did not wish to collect their bike, so this was taken back to the Police Station for safekeeping. A social media post has been circulated to try and identify the owner. With this positive disruption complete there were no further issues over the course of our patrol. We conducted several mobile patrols targeting well known locations around the town centre and neighbouring estates, but we were pleased to see no further concerns.



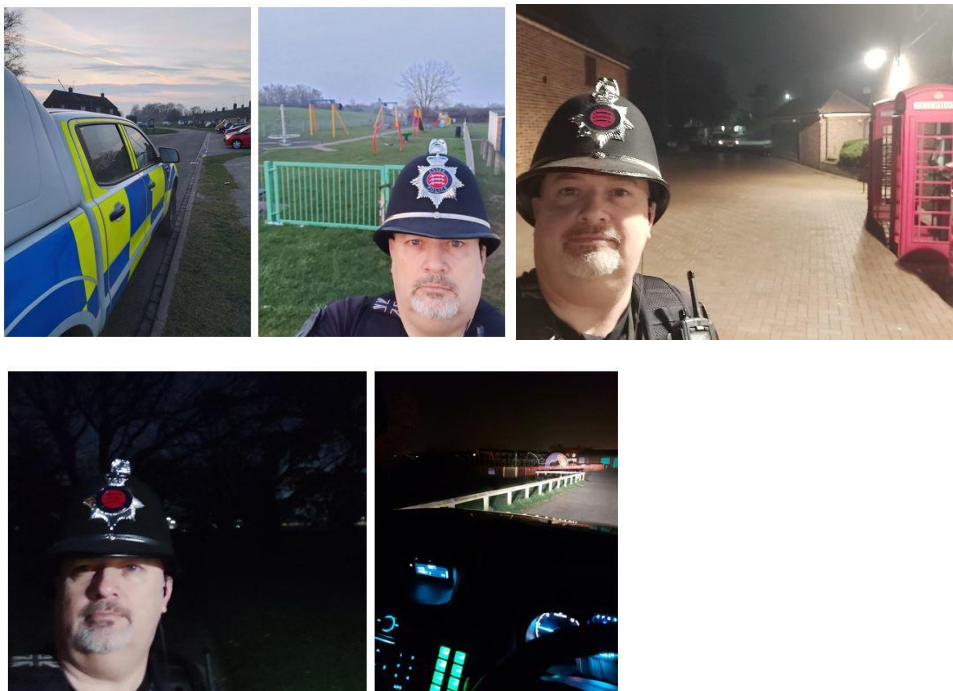


March 3rd

I was able to start my duty a little earlier and I took advantage with some high visibility foot patrols in Witham, I initially began at Pattison Close where I disrupted drug related activity involving 2 teenagers on mountain bikes that were seen on the River Walk before riding up to Pitt Green and then returning to the River Walk. Fortunately I had the support of a Braintree Local Policing Team (LPT) unit and they were able to locate them once again on Spa Road by the Skate Park before they disappeared into the Humber Road estate. Although an area search was carried out we were unable to locate them but had disrupted their activity. I then moved up to the Hatfield Road estate for more foot patrol around the various roads on the estate and the play area adjacent to Alan Road. As the sun went down I turned my attention to the town centre and walked around The Grove Centre, Newlands Shopping Precinct and Witham Town Park. In The Grove Centre I was able to speak to a group of teenagers that had been causing a concern for staff at the Iceland store and I was able to explain to them why their behaviour was not acceptable and to steer clear from the store. I then changed locations and moved up towards Cypress Road and Forest Road checking various locations including Laburnum Way before parking up on Shaw Road to conduct foot patrol on the Templars estate. As I walked through the Courts I was drawn to the unmistakable smell of cannabis and ended up giving chase to an male who ran off on seeing me approach. I receive very few reports of this kind of activity which is not only anti-social but also involves the purchase and use of illegal drugs. It is therefore important to report this to Police so we can make a difference in your community. A police information report has been recorded for both drug related incidents during this shift which helps us to build a picture of activity in the town, your reports make a huge difference in completing this picture.

[Report antisocial behaviour | Essex Police](#) you can also report this anonymously through the link below

[Give information | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#)





I then moved my patrols up to the industrial areas following an ANPR activation coming into Witham and I searched for the vehicle on the Freebournes, Eastways & Crittal Road areas.

My final incident involved a concern for safety following a local person reporting that they had not seen or heard from their close friend in a couple of days. Unfortunately, due to this information we had to force entry to the property and found that the person had died unexpectedly. With support of an East of England Ambulance Paramedic we were able to ensure that the person was dealt with in a dignified and respectful manner and provide support to the informant.

March 5th

I was crewed with Witham Community Special Constable Eaketts for our Community Beat Surgery. Before we started, we headed out on foot patrol through the Newlands Shopping Precinct and into The Grove Centre and cutting through the Witham Town Park and back up Newland Street to The Hub. This provides an opportunity for the residents of Witham to come and see us face to face between 11am & 1pm every other Saturday or the following Tuesday at the Town Hall between 10am & 12pm. We were joined for a short period by Witham Town Team Officers, PC Davies, PC Southgate, PC Goring and Braintree officer PC Edwards, PCSO Stranger & PCSO Williams who popped in as this was the last meeting in the Newlands Shopping Precinct location before The Hub moves to its new home in The Grove Centre. We are looking forward to seeing you there in the future. With the session ending we headed out to conduct speed checks on Maldon Road. We initially set up near to Damans where we recorded the speeds of 100 vehicles approaching the town centre. I was very pleased with the general speeds with only 1 driver stopped for some cautionary words for 36mph, however, it was obvious that drivers leaving the town centre were flashing oncoming drivers to warn them about our presence. This is an offence and please be aware that while you may stop the offending driver from speeding this time, they may not get the warning or the appropriate action that we can provide to change their driving behaviour. This could result in them being involved in a speed related accident in the future, especially with the pedestrian crossing on this stretch of road. During this check we were provided with a hot cup of tea by a neighbour who was thankful for our presence which was very much appreciated in the cold conditions. To balance the measurement of the traffic on Maldon Road we then switched locations to Blackman Way where we then measured a further 100 vehicles coming from the town centre. I am pleased to report that there were no drivers stopped and only two drivers indicated to slow down. We appreciate that at different times of the day or night and on different days that the speeds of some drivers are excessive, but our speed measuring device works very well in most conditions and we will be back.



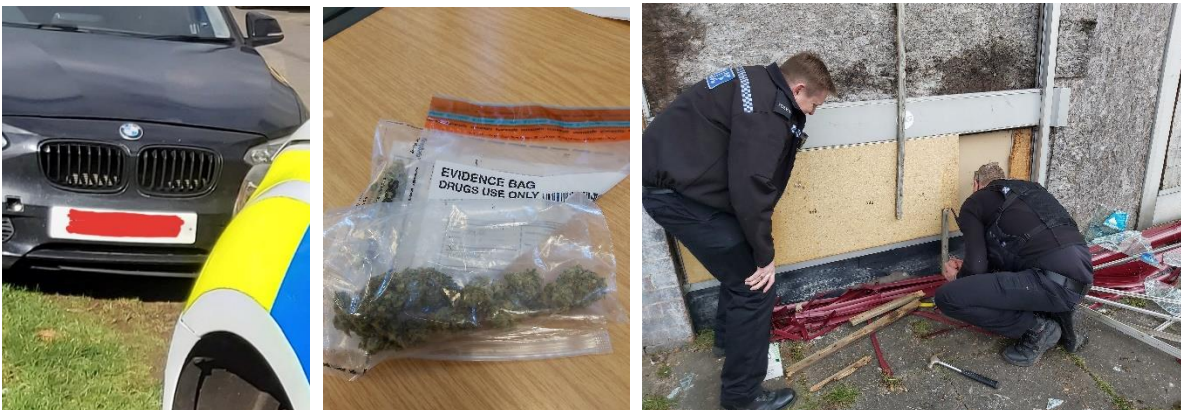
Following the conclusion of these checks we then reacted to an ANPR hit after a vehicle was reported coming into the Witham area, before being redirected to help an arrest attempt on the Hatfield Road estate which was successful. We then attended an incident involving a report of a suspicious person seen on Sneezum Walk on the

Maltings estate. Although we were quickly on scene and carried out an extensive area search there was no trace of the person.



March 6th

I had intended to start my patrol with speed checks on Rickstones Road, however, before I could set up I was alerted to a member of public who was reporting that a vehicle they were following into Witham was seen driving erratically and there was smoke and a strong smell of cannabis coming from the car. With the registration identified and last seen location, I carried out a search and found the vehicle parked up with a person sitting in the passenger seat. Unfortunately the driver was nowhere to be seen and the passenger was unwilling to provide this information. The passenger was searched in connection with the report of drugs and with the vehicle also searched a small quantity of cannabis was located in the passengers belongings. With our checks complete and full admission of the offence from the person we were able to deal with this at the location with an interview and issue of a Community Resolution. This warning is recorded onto our database and applies conditions to the person to deter this behaviour in the future. If the person contravenes one or all of the conditions then this can result in an arrest. I was then asked to attend an incident that had been reported of a potential break-in to premises at Laburnum Way. On arrival the boardings had been removed and a messy search of the contents of the disused computer store had been made. I did manage to find a contact for the property who was able to come to the scene. The business has been closed for 15 years with most of the remaining stock very old and damaged. To secure the premises again PC Davies & PC Edwards assisted in replacing the boards and a crime of burglary has been recorded for further investigation.





March 8th

In company with two other Special Constables who were in covert clothing we set off for targeted patrols in Witham. In each area I provided a highly visible presence while the other officers blended in with foot patrols looking to identify anti-social behaviour or drug related offences. With patrols covering each of the main housing estates in Witham as well as the town centre we collected information on the movements of several people and in the town centre the officers conducted a successful stop search using the power of Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The location of this search demonstrated no regard for any other members of the public and a Father & young daughter were in proximity. Drug use involving cannabis should not be accepted as normal behaviour and some thoughts that this is a low-level issue does not make it acceptable. It is illegal to possess, deal or use cannabis and therefore we will continue to tackle this in Witham. If you wish to report this drug use or any other, then please use the links mentioned in this report. During our patrol a specific target was identified, and we were able to positively disrupt drug dealing near to the Humber Road estate. We concluded our combined patrols in the Templars Road estate visiting each of the Courts, the shops & park area with no issues.



March 10th

I began my patrols on foot in the Town Centre visiting the Newlands Precinct before heading through to The Grove Centre and continued past Tesco to the Park Side Youth Centre. After crossing Maldon Road, I headed into the Witham Town Park through Kings Chase and back up Newland Street towards my vehicle with no concerns. There were a several people out in town and I was able to provide reassurance and visibility. I then took my vehicle on mobile patrol up to Laurence Avenue where there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour concerning potential drug supply. Increasing our visible presence in these areas for a short period of time is an effective deterrent and there was no linked activity found. I moved up to the Hatfield Road estate for some foot patrol and then over to the Humber Road estate where I stopped for a young girl who waved enthusiastically at me as I passed. After turning around, I met with her Father and demonstrated the lights and showed off some of the other features in the vehicle. This only takes a few minutes out of any patrol, but it has a very positive impact on children and helps to build confidence in the Police. There had been reports of anti-social behaviour on Cut-Throat Lane and so I drove to the



other side of the Town where I conducted foot patrol along the lane and up on to the railway bridge leading to Eastways Industrial area before finishing my shift.



March 11th

I joined PC Davies from the Witham Town Team to attend the opening of The Witham Hub which had relocated to The Grove Centre. The Hub provides a number of services, including the community fridge, sign posting for support services, school uniform support and a safe place for people to rest and socialise. It also provides Essex Police with a base for our fortnightly Community Beat Surgery. Staffed by dedicated volunteers led by Tina Townsend the Hub was officially opened by Witham MP Priti Patel with the High Sheriff Simon Brice. It was a great event and with the new position in the heart of The Grove Centre it will continue to grow in supporting the Witham community.

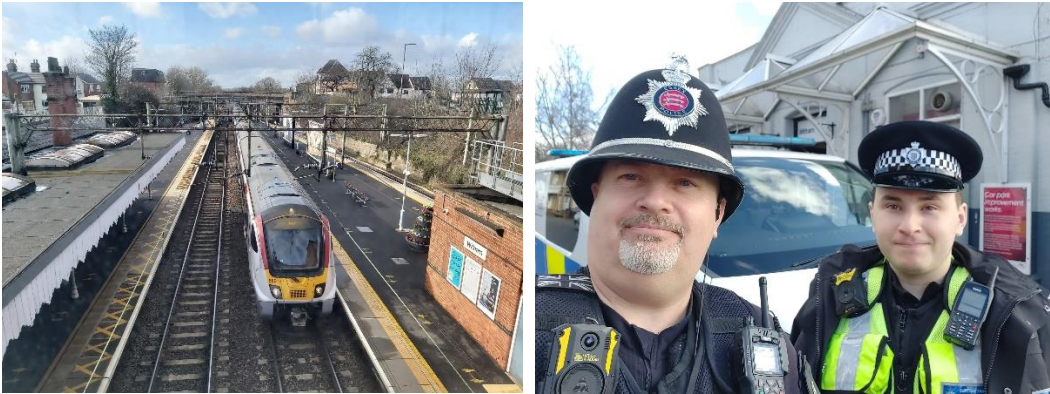


March 12th

I started my patrol with a speed check on Cypress Road, these checks are carried out at different times of the day and week to provide a visual deterrent to speeding motorists. It is the aim of these checks for people to slow down and therefore creating a safer environment for other road users and pedestrians in the area. I am pleased to report that in this location, at this time, there were no concerns. I then moved around to Witham Train Station to meet up with British Transport Police (BTP) Special Constable McGough who had contacted me to discuss our teams working together to tackle crime in and around the station. Although we always support BTP at Witham Station at various incidents, it is BTP who are responsible for criminal activity on the station grounds. By working more closely together we can combine our resources to tackle County Lines and other criminal activity that use the station as a transport hub bringing crime into Witham. Through links with the station staff and BTP we plan to operate more closely together in identifying any concerns, taking positive action to provide extra visibility, increasing passenger safety,



and bringing criminal activity to justice. It was a very productive meeting and we also conducted some foot patrol and mobile patrols around the town to share knowledge of known individuals and routes to and from the station.



With Special Constable Mcgough then catching the train to London I met up with Witham CSC Officer Mabey who had also been conducting some foot patrol in the town park and we headed over to Spa Road to conduct a speed check on 100 vehicles. With the weather greatly improved there were lots of children crossing the road to and from ASDA from the Skate Park, so it is important that drivers are aware of this risk due to the children taking a direct line across the road and not utilising the crossing further up the hill. With the large, marked vehicle and both of us wearing high visibility clothing we try to provide a visible warning to drivers to slow down, however, there were 3 traffic offence reports created and multiple drivers given words of advice for their speeds. With the check completed we then relocated to Collingwood Road to carry out a similar check. There were 6 drivers given words of advice for their speeds and one driver stopped due to a recorded speed of 42mph in the 30mph limit. All vehicles stopped are checked for insurance, road worthiness and driver details. For more information on the aims of the checks carried out please follow the link below.

[Vision Zero – SERP \(saferessexroads.org\)](https://saferessexroads.org)



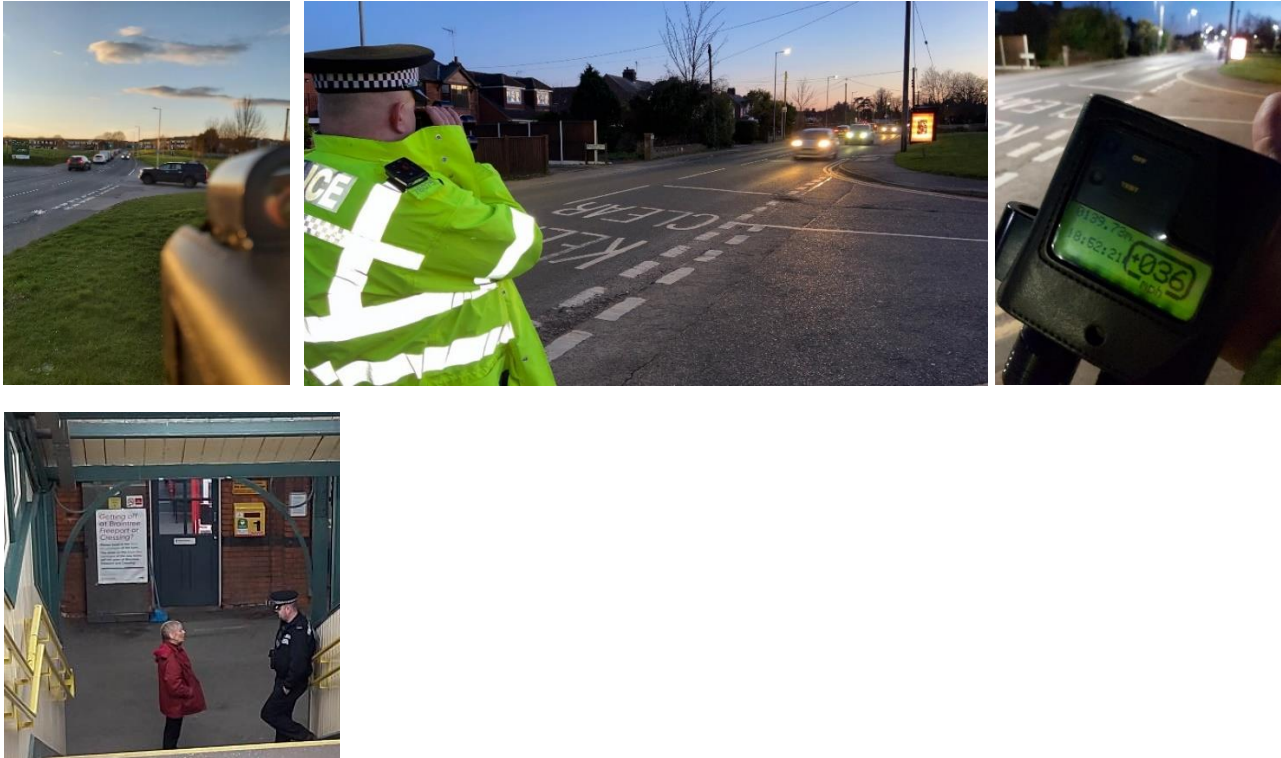


16th March

Witham CSC Officer Mabey and a Braintree Special Constable conducted patrols in Witham to provide a visible presence supporting an ongoing specialist operation targeting vehicles in Witham associated with criminal activity. Unfortunately the weather was quite poor with persistent rain and this kept most people indoors which resulted in very few cars on the roads of Witham. They did visit the train station where there were no concerns and attended an incident off Humber Road before being redirected to a critical incident in Braintree.

17th March

I started off in Witham with speed checks on Spa Road, where 5 drivers were given verbal warnings. Varying our check times and days allows us to show a presence to different drivers using the roads and to identify different driving behaviours. I then changed my location to Hatfield Road where the results were poor with a large number of drivers stopped exceeding the 30mph limit. Further checks will be carried out on this road where the pedestrian crossing has been damaged and lighting is broken, to promote better road safety and awareness. Following these checks I was joined by Special Constable Mabey and we headed to the train station for visibility patrols. SC Mabey chatted with Greater Anglia staff while I conducted physical checks of the station waiting rooms which had previously seen anti-social behaviour & drug use. Following this we then headed back towards the Town Centre and conducted foot patrols through the shopping centres, through to the Witham Town Park and down onto the River Walk passing Helen Court. We then walked up to Laurence Avenue, Howbridge Road, Dengie Close, Town End Field and across Hatfield Road onto Allectus Way. From Alan Road we then patrolled down the edge of the sports field to Stevens Road and onto Highfields Road. As we approached the railway bridge we were then called to a concern for safety on the Humber Road estate where we provided reassurance to the victim while another unit was dealing in real time with the suspect. We completed our foot patrol through the River Walk to Guithavon Valley and heading up Guithavon Street back to our vehicle.



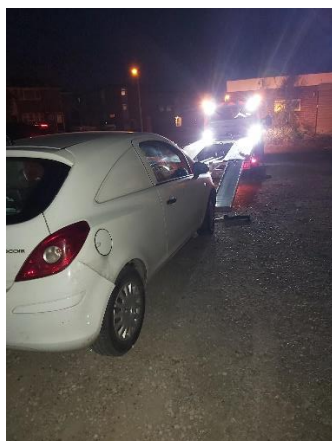
19th March

I was joined by Witham CSC Officer Special Inspector Campbell for the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub. This was the first Surgery in the new location, and we met with a few residents who came to see us. Over the 2-hour period we were able to provide reassurance, answer questions and record some information that will help us to improve the community. With the conclusion of the meeting, we carried out foot patrol in Witham, once again through the shopping areas, Maldon Road, Witham Town Park, and the River Walk. We engaged with a number of residents on the way before heading to Bridge Street and back up Newland Street. After dropping the Inspector back to Braintree, I then returned to Witham to carry out another speed check survey, this time on Maldon Road. In general speeds were good, however, I did issue a motorcycle rider with a ticket for excess speed as they approached the town centre. Due to the recorded speed and the first time the rider had been stopped for speeding this may result in a speed awareness course, which aims to provide education in the first instance.



March 21st

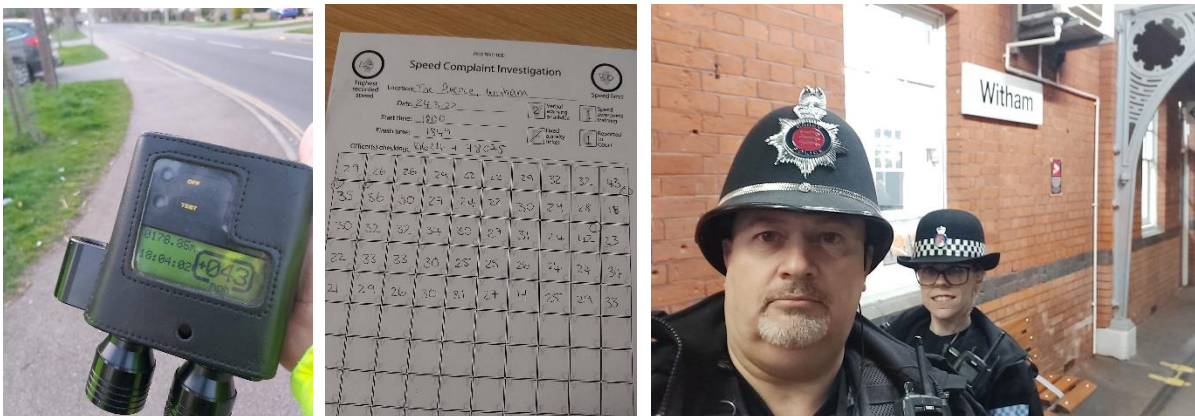
To continue the focus on speed checks I caught the train from Braintree to Witham to set up my first checks on Rickstones Road. In my location opposite the shop I carried out a check of 100 vehicles, travelling in both directions, with several vehicles stopped and issued tickets for excess speed. The highest recorded speed was 43mph in this 30mph limit but this driver failed to acknowledge my request to stop along with 4 other drivers over the course of the checks. Due to these actions the information will be passed on to the Roads Policing Unit to carry out further checks with additional resources to prevent this from happening. One driver did appear to stop for me then accelerated away down the nearby track and was pursued by a police unit that had been alerted after the vehicle had been identified passing through an ANPR camera. The driver reached the Little Elms car park before abandoning the vehicle and running off. Although other units joined for an area search the driver was not located but the vehicle was seized for no insurance and other offences. I then headed on foot towards the town centre where I carried out further speed checks on Collingwood Road. Although there were less vehicles using the road there were many vehicles driving well in excess of the speed limit. Following a number of drivers stopped for words of advice I continued foot patrol into the town before heading back to the train station to provide a visible presence before finishing my shift.



March 24th

I was joined by a Braintree Special Constable for our patrols in Witham and as soon as we arrived we were diverted to assist with a concern for safety at Hatfield Peverel Train Station. After this concern was resolved, we drove back in to Witham and after a mobile patrol through the town centre we set up on The Avenue to carry out speed checks. We started at about 6pm and measured the speeds of 50 vehicles over a 45 minute period. We had to verbally warn 2 drivers and issue traffic offence reports to 2 other drivers. Both drivers exceeded 40mph in the 30mph limit and will either receive a speed awareness course or may receive a fine and points on their licence. To highlight the importance of adhering to the speed limit we had to temporarily suspend our check when we were alerted to a vulnerable person who had wandered away from a nearby care home and was last seen walking towards the town centre. At increased speeds above the set limit the ability to react quickly decreases and braking distances increase which could result in a serious accident. After finishing the checks we moved on to the Witham Train Station for visibility patrols. We are working alongside our colleagues in the British transport Police to provide additional reassurance to travellers and a deterrent to crime. Fortunately there were no issues observed and we then headed on to the Templars estate for a foot patrol. During our walk we had some positive engagement with a couple of

teenagers at the shops and when we returned to our vehicle we were able to demonstrate the emergency lights for a young boy with his Mum and my colleague answered a number of questions for him. We left the estate and headed over to Cypress Road to conduct anti-social behaviour patrols near to the flats and Cut-Throat Lane but within minutes of starting our foot patrol we had to head back to the Templars estate for a report of an assault. With the local policing team unit coming from Braintree we were on scene and with the victim in a couple of minutes. Fortunately the victim did not need any medical attention and when the other unit arrived to deal with the suspect we were able to convey the victim to a place of safety. The final part of our shift started in Braintree as we searched for a missing person from Witham and with a number of units also out looking we were fortunate to find the young girl who was with friends. We then returned them home to worried relatives and completed the necessary paperwork.



March 26th

I started my evening shift on the Hatfield Road estate following an earlier incident to provide visibility and reassurance patrols. I left my vehicle near to the shops and headed off on foot visiting each of the side roads and walking the many alleyways. At one point while I was crossing Allectus Way near to the wooden bus stop I was alerted to a car accelerating quickly towards me. I made my presence known to the driver but after coming to an abrupt halt the driver reversed, turned and sped off in the opposite direction. Fortunately I was able to see the vehicle registration and alert a nearby Roads Policing Unit who searched for the vehicle, investigations are ongoing. The significant concern I had initially was the safety of the children that were many playing between Page Close & Christina Road but the vehicle was also shown as uninsured on our Police database. Please ensure your children are road aware while we tackle this dangerous driving on the estate. I was briefly called away to another incident in Howbridge Road following reports of an assault involving a car and 3 teenagers on bicycles. The victim in the vehicle had already left the scene and although an area search was carried out for the suspects there was no trace. If you have any further information please contact us quoting incident **EP-20220326-1052**

I returned to the Hatfield Road estate supported by Witham PCSO Stranger to continue high visibility patrols with no further incidents. As the sun set I moved on to Hatfield Road near to Shortridge Court and conducted speed checks. During this time I measured the speed of traffic in both directions and I stopped several drivers for words of advice before I issued a traffic offence report to one driver for a speed of 45mph in the 30mph limit, however, this was not the fastest speed measured after a motorbike accelerated past me at 65mph. Unfortunately I was unable to stop the rider and due to the speed the number plate was unreadable but at that speed a crash into another vehicle or pedestrian on the unlit crossing could have been fatal. On concluding the checks I headed into the town for foot patrols and engagement in the local pubs and bars. My first stop was with the door staff at the Battersford Court



where I was able to obtain some information regarding drug possession before moving up Newland Street and on to Charles Bar, The George & The Red Lion. I then continued on to the White Hart where I had some very positive engagement with a number of people thanking me for my role and keeping them safe. With a number of selfies taken by revellers I then walked through The Grove Centre, past Crofters and onto the Witham Town Park with no issues of concerns.



March 29th

An evening patrol with fellow Witham Special Constable Eaketts started on foot on the Templars estate following a report of a large gathering of children near to the shops on Shaw Road. When we arrived there were a large number of children but most enjoying the park facilities and not causing any concerns. We engaged positively with each group of children giving them some and after speaking with the informant we were able to leave the area with all parties happy with our interaction. We then drove to the Hatfield Road estate attending an incident involving a concern for welfare before conducting some proactive foot patrol. While we walked through the different parts of the estate we disrupted 3 teenagers who, on seeing us, ran from the estate. We carried out a number of vehicle checks on the estate before heading out towards Laurence Avenue, Pattison Close, Constance Close, Carraways and Blackman Way. Each of these locations has recently been reported to us by people concerned with potential anti-social behaviour. By increasing our visibility with more frequent visits we hope to deter this from escalating. We then headed in to the town before driving out along Spinks Lane & Spa Road to provide reassurance on the Humber Road estate. We left Witham for a short patrol in Hatfield Peverel but on our return headed on to the Maltings estate and back towards the town centre. We parked up outside the Town Hall to monitor speeds and look out for anti-social driving on Newland Street but there were no concerns. We drove up to the train station to provide reassurance to incoming travellers and walked the platforms before once again returning to our vehicle and heading round to the industrial areas. During a visit to the Eastways estate we carried out checks on a vehicle acting suspiciously and confirmed the drivers details and intentions before finishing our patrols on Crittal Road and the Freebournes industrial area.



This concludes the monthly report for March 2022.