



April 2025

With a few local events to mark Easter and the school half term we were out on visible patrols in the town centre and the surrounding areas. We are still trying to cover all the previous anti-social behaviour hotspots and with some recent direct actions with the young people involved we hope that this will lead to a reduction of reported incidents. Speeding is an ongoing issue across the town, and we now have an additional location for our TruCam setup and will be looking to deploy this in the coming weeks. Please remember speed checks are designed to improve road safety and make our town a safe place to enjoy. The Witham Town Council held the first of their free events with the Easter Trail on The RiverWalk and we were in attendance to promote our community engagement.

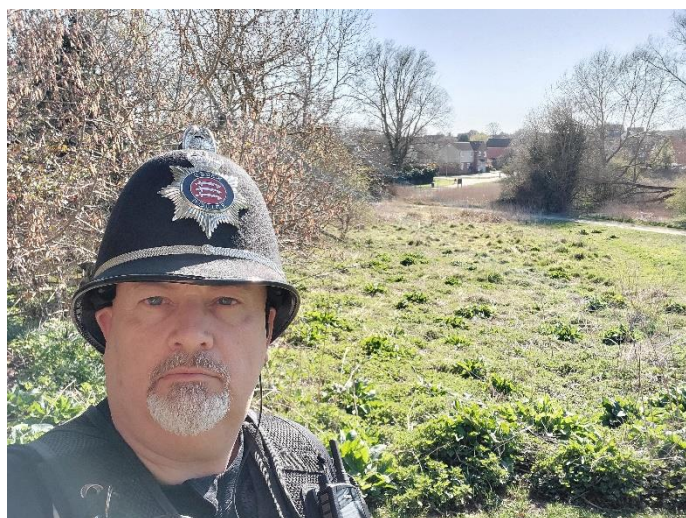
The Community Special Team are continuing the fortnightly Community Beat Surgeries, located outside The Witham Hub on a Saturday between 11am & 1pm and we are always pleased when people drop by if they have any concerns in their neighbourhood, seek advice or just say hello!

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)

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

April 3rd

I began my duty in the late afternoon with a visible foot patrol around the RiverWalk between Bramble Road and Ebenezer Close following a fresh report that there had been suspicious activity seen in the area. The pathway is a well-travelled route to and from schools and we want to ensure that this remains a safe area. We will also be combining our visible patrols with covert (plain clothes) patrols. It is very important if you see or hear about anything suspicious, that this is reported as soon as possible to Police. If you experience anything directly while on the RiverWalk then please call 999 immediately so that we have the best opportunity to react. If your children or anyone else reports anything that concerns you then please report this via 101 or online through the Essex Police website, where your information will be routed through to the investigating department.





I spent approximately 40 minutes in the area and spoke to several people out walking before returning to my vehicle to head into the town centre. We have previously received reports of young person's causing a nuisance at different stores and the library around closing time and I once again stayed in the area without any incidents or concerns. After patrolling through the town park and up Newland Street I returned to my vehicle and carried out mobile patrols around Allectus Way and the Redrow estate before driving over to the Humber Road estate. Parking up in Teign Drive I carried out foot patrol to check out the scrubland, a recent site of an arson but pleased to see no further issues.

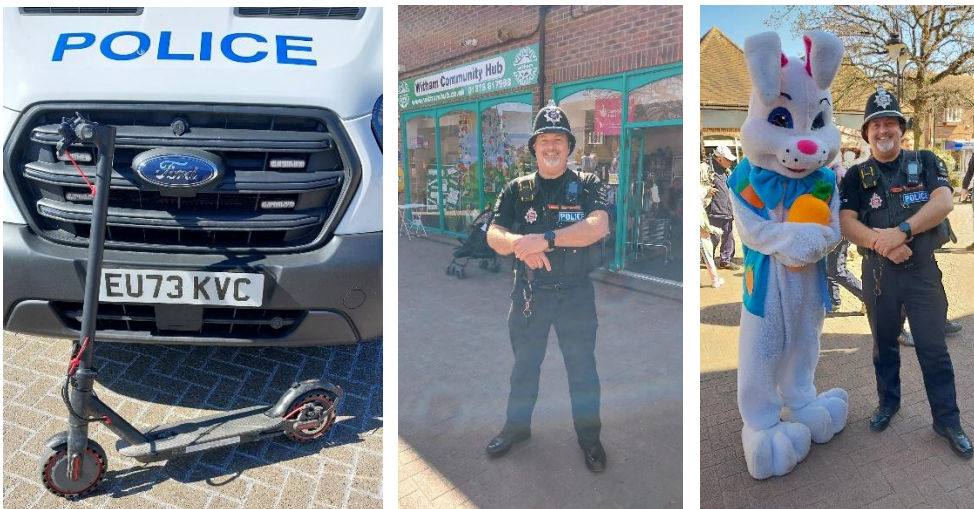


I continued along the fields at the bottom of the Rugby Club & Football Club before walking back to the car and then another mobile patrol around the remainder of the estate. Being Wednesday I was able to drop in to the Witham Hangout youth club and while I was there, I engaged with the children and the staff before leaving to attend an incident near to Alan Road on the Hatfield Road estate. There were several other units that arrived at the same time and fortunately we were able to determine that there were no issues, and I returned to my patrol. One more check on the scrubland at Blunts Hall Road as the sun finally set and I completed my shift.



April 5th

It was the day of the Beat Surgery but before I positioned myself outside the Witham Hub in the Grove Centre, I carried out foot patrol in the Newlands Precinct, engaging with stall holders and local business owners. While in the precinct there was one young person that attempted to ride an E-Scooter among the shoppers, but I intercepted, and the scooter was confiscated. The message that these E-Scooters are illegal to use in public is still being ignored and we will act to remove these from the streets. Primarily this is driven by safety concerns for the other people on the pavements or drivers on the roads but also for the rider themselves. In this instance the rider was very young and stated that they were not aware of the laws. An E-Scooter is classed as a motor vehicle and therefore you would require an MOT, Insurance, and a Driving Licence and you could also be prosecuted for these offences as well as the E-Scooter being seized. These are typically expensive pieces of equipment, some bought as presents but while they are still illegal to use, you can expect direct action to be taken by Police. I returned to the Grove Centre who were holding a promotional event in the Centre with additional stalls and a visit from the Easter Bunny to entertain the children. The Witham Hub had also organised a line dancing lesson and this helped to create a positive atmosphere for the duration of my stay. I had lots of positive engagement with several people reporting concerns in their immediate neighbourhood and we discussed the upcoming Annual Town Meeting.



April 9th

The Witham Town Council had organised the Annual Town Meeting at the Royal British Legion with an opportunity for residents and business owners to come and talk to a panel which included the Mayor, a representative from Essex Youth Services, Councillors and Essex Police represented by Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector Jackson and Myself representing the Community Special Constable team. Over the course of the meeting several residents and business representatives discussed issues concerning anti-social behaviour and shoplifting in the town and the key message agreed collectively was to continue to report any issues. To assist with the ongoing concerns a combination of the Essex Youth Service team and Essex Police will look at a mixture of diversionary opportunities to engage with the persons responsible for the anti-social behaviour and Essex Police will deal with any criminal elements. We will also increase and focus visible patrols to deter this behaviour throughout the town. With reports from the Councillors on the various committees over the year the meeting was closed.

April 12th

I arrived in Witham with the SL700 speed measuring device and began with a check on Conrad Road, recently I had been made aware at the Community Beat Surgery that residents were concerned about the perceived excessive speeds at different times of the day. The road provides a connection with Rickstones Road and can be used as a shortcut which encourages some drivers to cut through quickly, however, there are 3 schools along the road, and this makes it a particular high-risk zone for pedestrians and other road users when exceeding the 30 mph limit. Unfortunately, within minutes of setting up near to the entrance of Southfields I had to stop and speak with 2 different drivers. In both instances verbal warnings were issued and over the next 40 minutes other drivers were also visually warned. While I appreciate this was carried out on a Saturday morning, both drivers stopped lived locally so it is important that exceeding the speed limit does not become an acceptable habit. I will be back to carry out direct enforcement in the future. I put down the speed device and took a foot patrol into the Templars estate, heading into the park area before engaging with children and other people out and about in their courts.



I returned to my vehicle and headed into the town centre for visible foot patrols beginning in the Newlands Precinct and then called into a local store to follow up on an earlier report of shoplifting. I viewed CCTV and then recorded the details of the offence before continuing to the Grove Centre and onto to the town park. I walked back to the Grove Centre where I met with PCSO Stranger and we then patrolled from the Witham Town Park, along the RiverWalk to Bridge Street before returning up Newland Street and back to the Newlands Precinct. I spent a little time at the entrance to the precinct where I had quite a few people come and speak to me and tell me how lovely it was to see me out in the town. With another patrol in the Newlands Precinct, I returned to my vehicle to carry out another speed check on Rickstones Road. This time I chose a location opposite Cross Road, and I only had to visually warn one driver and one rider for their speeds.





I next drove across the town to Ebenezer Close to carry out foot patrol down towards Bramble Road, but almost immediately this was cut short due to an incoming incident back in the town centre. With my presence in Witham, I was the first officer to be able to respond to a shoplifting and assault incident which had just occurred. I was on scene within a few minutes and able to relay details of the suspect to officers on their way from Braintree for an area search. I stayed with the victims, ensuring their welfare before recording the different offences and I stayed at the store until closing time to provide reassurance. To assist with the investigation, I have requested CCTV from the store and the Grove Centre to try and identify the suspect who fled the scene. The investigation number 42/49332/25 for this incident has now been shared on the Essex Police – Braintree Facebook Page with a picture of the suspect.

April 16th

I started my patrols in Witham at the new Southfields estate, to provide visibility and reassurance. When I drove around the site, I was able to speak to several of the new residents and they were pleased to see my presence following a recent incident.



I then headed into the town centre to conduct my early evening patrols to focus on any anti-social behaviour but pleased to see that there were no concerns. Recently our increased presence and direct action against the people involved has seemed to result in less reports of poor behaviour. If you are aware of anything going on in the area then please make sure you report with any details you can to help us identify times, people and places so we can target our patrols. I did examine the rooftop of FABS which has seen several young person's climbing on their roof and then accessing the roof of the neighbouring buildings causing damage. This is not only criminal behaviour, but extremely dangerous and broken roof tiles have been found in the road below. I continued to patrol on foot throughout the evening but pleased to report that there were no issues and at times appeared very peaceful.





April 18th

I set out on my patrols on Good Friday and my first port of call was to collect CCTV following a shoplifting incident that I had attended the previous Saturday. With this safely secure I took the Police Carrier to our Boreham site for cleaning ahead of the community event the next day. On my way back to Witham I visited Hatfield Peverel and Terling before reappearing in Witham at Powers Hall End. After conducting mobile patrols around Bramble Road and Honeysuckle Way I parked up in the Newlands Drive car park and began my foot patrols.



While I walked around the town I engaged with visitors and residents and called into local businesses in the Newlands Precinct, Grove Centre and along Newland Street and all thanked me for my presence. With a patrol in the town park, I returned to my vehicle for further mobile patrols around the Gershwin / Maltings estate visiting the Haygreen Road park area before providing a short escort for a duck and ducklings that had found their way into the middle of the road on Maltings Lane. Eventually they headed up Elgar Drive and I heard later that they found their way to the large pond on Gershwin Boulevard. With no incidents or concerns in Witham I concluded my patrols.



April 19th

It was the first of the Witham Town Council's free Community events with the Easter Trail on the RiverWalk and we were invited to represent one of the stages for the children to tick off their sheets before finding their way to the trail end and an Easter Egg. A few of the local businesses in town had donated a number of eggs for the trail event and this allowed the numbers of children able to take part to 700! We hoped we would be well received and we laid on a number of games for the children, endless supplies of bubbles and a sweet treat but our main goal was to



encourage a positive impression of the Police with the children and their families. I was joined by PC Roper, PC Whitby, Special Superintendent Lorne Campbell and we remained very busy throughout the event handing out stickers and letting children and some parents try on some Police hats for photos. There will be other photos available on the Witham Town Council website and Facebook pages in the future but below are a couple from the event. We were very fortunate to have amazing weather, and everyone appeared to really enjoy this great community experience. We hope you had a Happy Easter!



April 21st

Although it was Easter Bank holiday, I began an impromptu duty to collect statements from victims for the shoplifting incident that occurred at a store in the town centre. We encourage every victim to provide their account of an incident, and this is recorded to be included as part of the ongoing investigation. Statements can help to identify suspects, any damage, loss or injuries, create a timeframe of the incident and provide the necessary evidence to bring a suspect(s) to justice. In addition to the factual statement a victim can also provide a Victim Personal Statement, this statement is about the incident has affected them personally, how it may have affected their everyday life or impacted their mental health or well-being. If you are affected by a crime, then please consider this type of statement which can provide a significant impact when the offender is brought to justice.

While I was in the town centre this did also give me an opportunity for a brief foot patrol and mobile patrol before heading back to the station.

April 23rd

When I began my duty in Witham, I was made aware of a theft from the ASDA store on Highfields Road. The suspect had left the store and headed in the direction of the Rugby club and after capturing an image of the suspect from the store I carried out an area search around Blunts Hall Road and went on foot along the track between Humber Road and Blunts Hall Road. Unfortunately, this search was negative but with the image captured I will be looking out for the suspect during my subsequent patrols.



I returned to my vehicle and headed into the town centre to coincide my visible foot patrol as the shops were beginning to close for the day due to this being the time that we had received the most reports of anti-social behaviour. Fortunately, there were no issues, and I continued on to the Witham Town Park where I engaged with dog walkers and other residents in the park.



The second part of my shift saw me reunite with a newly attested Special Constable who told me that I had originally inspired him during my visits to the Witham Hangout. I had been visiting the Hangout Youth Club since 2018 and during each of my visits with other officers, taking along vehicles and demonstrating kit, Kian Stevens had been fostering an interest in my role as a Special Constable in the community. It was great to be able to go back to the Hangout with him as a Special Constable and share his story with the children at the club. Hopefully after he has completed his competencies you will see him out and about in Witham more frequently and maybe Kian's story can inspire more children to follow in his path. Some of the children and volunteer staff from the Hangout are pictured below.



To finish off my patrols I returned to the Town Centre and on to Southfields to carry out further mobile patrols before concluding the shift with no incidents reported.

April 26th

I was joined by fellow Witham Community Special Superintendent Lorne Campbell for our patrols in Witham and we began with foot patrols in the town centre, visiting the Newlands Precinct, Newland Street and the Witham Town Park. We next attended the Witham Hub in the Grove Centre to hold our regular Community Beat Surgery. This 2-hour period provides a visible and accessible police officer for residents, businesses and visitors to come and see and discuss any issues in their neighbourhood. It started off very well and we had numerous people coming to see us, however, we were then made aware of a road traffic collision had just happened outside the library on Newland Street. With updates that the people involved were still at the scene we made our way on foot to the location. Being the first officer on scene I was able to update our Force Control Room with the condition of the people involved and vehicle details while my colleague assisted with traffic control. Fortunately, we were joined by the Fire Service, Ambulance and even the Air Ambulance landed near to the town park to provide medical support. With the arrival of the Roads Policing Officers who specialise in dealing with these types of incidents, I was able to provide a summary and handed over to them to continue.



With our role as Community Specials, we were already in town and on scene within a couple of minutes after being made aware of the incident and this demonstrates how important it is to report any incident as soon as possible to Essex Police, we may only be round the corner! We headed back to the Beat Surgery and provided advice on fraud, drug related activity, recruitment and Police Cadets and reporting methods to a steady flow of people passing through the Grove Centre before resuming our high visibility foot patrols in the town. For the remainder of our duty, we returned to our vehicle for mobile patrols around Highfields Road, positive interaction at the Skate Park, Pattison Close and finally James Cooke Woods, checking for any signs of anti-social behaviour or criminal damage. We are very pleased to report that there were no issues found.

April 28th

I have been trying to spend more time in the town centre in the late afternoon and early evenings. This was the time of day where there had been reports of groups of children in the town on some occasions causing anti-social behaviour. During this patrol I visited each of the shopping areas, engaging with business staff and once again reiterating the need for them to report any criminal activity to the Police. There had been several reports on social media throughout the day of people shoplifting but not one of these incidents was reported to the Police. We do not actively monitor social media groups and rely on you reporting any crimes to us directly. From your report we can start to gather evidence, secure CCTV and once identified, take positive action to deter this behaviour that affects everyone. I moved on to the library which had also been a previous hotspot for disruption by groups of children but pleased to hear that there had been no recent issues. I also visited the town park where I engaged with families and other people enjoying the sunshine before leaving the town centre and heading up to Cut Throat Lane. The lane is split in the middle by the railway line to Braintree but is a very well used cut through to and from the train station and the town to the residential areas in the North of Witham. We have received reports that there have been people



using motorbikes, electric bikes & E-Scooters, irresponsibly or illegally as well as suspected drug related activity and therefore visible patrolling will hopefully help to disrupt this.

My next location took me across the other side of town and on to the Maltings estate to follow up on reports of drug related activity around Sneezum Walk, during my short foot patrol in the area I did not find anything of concern but will return on request from residents in the area. The final part of my shift took me on to Allectus Way before heading across to ASDA on Highfields Road to make CCTV enquiries and then the Humber Road estate and Bramble Road before I finished my patrols.



This concludes the monthly report for April 2025.

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

[Essex Police Witham \(@EPWitham\) / Twitter](#)



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/>

