



October 2022 Patrols

A Safer Streets initiative has been launched in Witham and we will be carrying out different events and working with partners to provide an increased visible presence and deterrent to crime in the area. The first of these initiatives is to provide a more visible presence in and around the town to deter a recent rise in reported anti-social behaviour. Please continue to report any concerns so that we can address these directly. There will also be a greater use of the knife arch, which is temporarily installed in locations to raise awareness and serve as a deterrent to any person thinking of carrying a knife on the streets of Witham. To date there have been very few incidents where this has been reported and it is an important part of the initiative to maintain this. We also included another property marking event in the town centre and will look to identify different locations for this as well.

October 1st

In the morning I attended the Community Beat Surgery with Special Constable Symonds at the Witham Hub. We spoke to residents with concerns about drug related activity in their local areas and about anti-social driving that is causing noise disturbances across Witham. During our time outside the Hub we stopped and confiscated an E-Scooter that was being ridden through the Grove Centre. E-Scooters are illegal to use in a public place and recently some statistics have been released by the [Essex Roads Policing \(@EPRoadsPolicing\) / Twitter](#),

110 people have been injured following a road traffic collision involving an E-Scooter, this includes;

29 serious and,

1 loss of life.

If you know someone with an E-Scooter in Witham, then please advise them to check the law on where they can be used. With Christmas approaching please consider the law before buying one as a present because currently these can be seized and destroyed for not having a valid MOT & Insurance.

[E-scooter trials: guidance for users - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



In the evening I was joined by Witham CSC Officer Eaketts, Witham Town Team Officers PC Southgate & PC Davies, PCSO's Stranger & Milton and A/Sgt Russell in setting up our knife Arch outside Charlie's Bar as part of the Safer Streets campaign. The arch is set up with the owners consent and is managed by the staff members to promote a safer experience for patrons. We answered a number of questions from visitors about the arch and there were no



issues over the course of the night. With the increased numbers of Police we were able to patrol the town centre and during the evening officers were also on scene within minutes at an attempted business burglary at one of the industrial areas.



October 3rd

I was crewed with Special Constable Wintin for our patrols this evening and we began with a potential highway disruption in Hatfield Peverel with a report of an injured deer in the road. Although we carried out an extensive search with an additional roads policing unit we were unable to locate the deer but did confirm that the road was clear. We then returned to Witham to conduct a speed survey on Gershwin Boulevard where the speed limit on this section of the road is 40mph, however, residents have been raising concerns that there are many drivers dangerously exceeding this limit. During our time at the location we recorded 100 vehicles with the majority adhering to the limit, however, we did measure 4 drivers at 45mph, 3 drivers at 48mph & 2 drivers at 50mph. After concluding the checks we headed into the Town Centre to follow up with the informant for a person who had been observed earlier that day begging in the Grove Centre. After securing additional details we then carried out foot patrols in the town centre, disrupting anti-social behaviour before heading into Lime Tree Place for tenants reassurance. We continued along Collingwood Road and Armond Road where we checked out Moat Farm Chase. We then walked up Armond Road to Highfields Road, down onto the River Walk through to Mill Lane and back to the town to our vehicle. From here we drove over to Allectus Way and then on to Haygreen Road, Dengie Close, Pattison Close before finishing our patrols visiting the Humber Road estate & crossing the town to Cypress Road & Forest Road.





October 5th

I arrived in Witham to conduct visibility and reassurance patrols, however, almost immediately I was directed to attend a concern for safety for a child who was left home alone. When I attended I was pleased to find that the child was being well looked after and the report appeared to be malicious. When investigating the incident, there were further offences disclosed relating to ongoing issues around parental care and I recorded these onto our system for further investigation. The incident took several hours to resolve which took priority over my normal patrols, however, before the end of my shift I did manage to get across to Haygreen Road & check at Morrisons for anti-social driving. Fortunately there were no vehicles to report and no further incidents in Witham during my duty.

October 8th

I was accompanied by Special Constable Storey and we arranged with a victim of domestic violence to visit them and check their welfare, provide safeguarding advice, record a statement and secure evidence for the investigation. When we attended my colleague began to take the statement while I evidenced photos of the injuries sustained and assessed the security measures that could be put in place to prevent further incidents. The victim provided a significant statement and support for our investigation against the suspect. The incident had occurred in front of young children and we also submitted a referral to social care with the victim's consent. The victim thanked us for listening and helping to put the children at ease. In order to ensure that the investigation was updated in the most expedient manner we returned to Braintree Police Station to upload all of the documents. We did not get to stay at the station long though as we were directed back to Witham following reports of a disturbance at a house on Rosebay Close. On arrival we could not hear any noise and on further investigation at the address we found out that two of the children had been playing with eggs in the house! With all persons checked and everything explained we were able to leave them to clearing up the mess and started to make our way back to the station to complete our previous paperwork.

As we arrived back in Braintree, a call from our control room, alerted us to a male outside a Braintree address who was laying on the floor bleeding. We were the first unit on scene and quickly discovered the male who had GBH (Grievous Bodily Harm) level injuries. I immediately applied first aid to stem any further bleeding and ambulance were called. Due to the nature of the injury which had involved a blade, additional units arrived quickly to join us and a scene was put on the area to preserve evidence. A male at the address was arrested in connection with this incident and has been remanded. The victim was taken to hospital for treatment and was released in the early hours of the morning.

While we returned to the station to write our witness statements to record what we had seen at the above incident, I was able to utilise the Witham CCTV system to assist another unit who had been dispatched to a hoax call where a large fight had been reported in the centre of the town. Fortunately the unit was able to arrive safely and confirm there had been no fight.



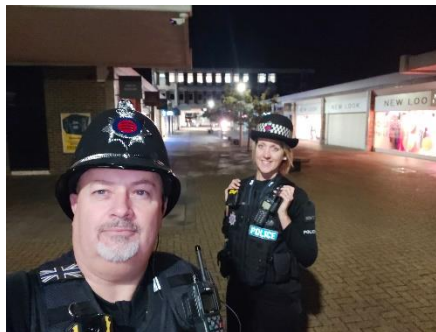
October 10th

We had been receiving recent reports of drug related activity in Dengie Close and wanted to let local residents know that we were listening and taking action. In company with Witham CSC Officer Eaketts we posted letters warning that the use of controlled drugs is illegal and that any activity related to supply or possession can be reported to Essex Police via online reporting, ringing 101 or if it is in currently in progress dial 999.

[Report a crime](#) | [Essex Police](#)

We carried out visible foot patrols in the surrounding area but pleased to see that there were no concerns. We moved our vehicle across to Pattison Close and set off for a longer foot patrol briefly joining the River Walk before heading up to the Witham Town Park via Helen Court. We cut through from the park across Maldon Road and checked around the Parkside Centre before entering the Grove Centre near to Tesco's. We continued through the town and over to the Newlands Precinct where we moved on 2 men who were sleeping rough behind the Iceland store. One of the males declared himself homeless so a Streetlink referral was submitted. Any person who sees someone sleeping rough, especially with the colder weather approaching can submit a referral from this link [Streetlink](#) and it literally takes a few minutes to help someone in need.

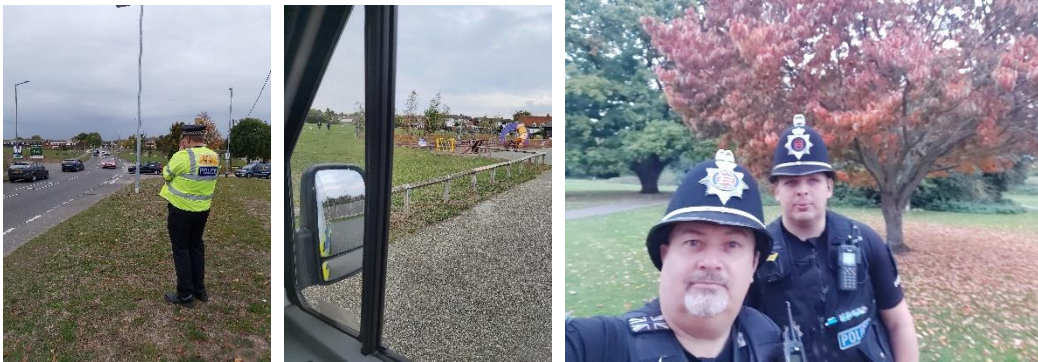
We continued on foot down Newland Street before re-joining the River Walk at Bridge Street to return to our vehicle at Pattison Close. From here we the headed up to the Hatfield Road estate, Haygreen Road and the REDROW estate before heading back into the town centre. We did follow and stop one vehicle that had accelerated harshly up Newland Street and the driver was given a warning concerning the anti-social manner of their driving. We concluded our patrols on Forest Road, Cypress Road and Manor Road.





October 12th

I was crewed with Special Constable Mihalfyi and we decided to start our patrol in Witham with a speed check on Spa Road. I have been conducting a few more of these recently to survey speeds and most of the checks have been quite positive. We found a suitable location on the green area near to Dominos Pizza and this enables us to measure vehicles travelling in either direction. We measured 100 vehicles over a half hour period and only provided visual and verbal warnings to 4 drivers. There were a large number of young children that were present near the park and they rarely use the crossing so it is important that drivers are aware of the sudden risk of children crossing by foot or on bicycles, especially close to the entrance to the football ground. With the check complete we moved back to mobile patrols and headed off to Cypress Road, Manor Road, Forest Road and Laburnum Way. At this location we checked on the derelict flats ensuring that the recent boarding up was secure. If you are aware of these buildings being accessed please ensure that you call us to prevent crime or injury. We travelled across town to Dengie Close for reassurance patrols and disrupted drug related activity on Laurence Avenue.



We took a short trip out to Hatfield Peverel to check on anti-social behaviour hotspot near to Hatfielda Square and disappointed to see drug paraphernalia and litter at the rear of the library. Further patrols will be carried out following the sharing of this information to the Community Policing Team.



We travelled back to Witham due to anti-social behaviour being reported at Domino's Pizza whereby a large group of young people had purchased eggs in the nearby ASDA store and then thrown these at the windows of Dominos. A description was provided of the young people who had headed along the River Walk towards the town centre. Although, this time, no criminal damage had been caused this behaviour is not acceptable and before we left for the town I approached the ASDA store manager to discuss the restriction for the sale of eggs to young people. We then received another call for anti-social behaviour in the Newlands Precinct for children climbing the scaffolding and gaining access to the rooftops of the stores. Not only was this extremely dangerous but risks causing criminal

damage and is trespassing. Fortunately when we arrived they were no longer on the roof of the shops and we caught up with all of them in the precinct. The group was quickly identified as being responsible for the egg throwing at Dominos and combined with their behaviour in town all of their names and addresses were recorded. If the behaviour is repeated, letters will be sent to their parents highlighting the poor behaviour and the potential risks for restricting their children from certain areas or potential arrest if crimes are committed.

After giving them some strong words of advice they were sent on their way and we continued with our mobile patrols. Our final task of the evening required us to find and secure the safety of a driver and passenger who had crashed following a deer running across the road on Spring Lane. Unfortunately the vehicle had struck a telegraph pole causing significant damage to the car and the pole. The driver and passenger were lucky, with only minor injuries after front airbags were deployed. We provided a safety barrier with our vehicle until a traffic unit arrived to assess the scene and move the vehicle out of the road.



October 14th

I was able to support several event locations in Witham that were being visited by MP Priti Patel to provide a visible presence and I began with foot patrols in the town centre. I collected CCTV footage on behalf of another officer from the Town Hall before heading through the Grove Centre & Newlands Precinct. I then moved on to Shaw Road and conducted foot patrol on the Templars Estate. Eastlight Community Homes were present to promote their initiative to tackle social isolation and more details about this can be found in the article on their website. [MP meets Eastlight entrepreneurs tackling social isolation | Eastlight Community Homes \(eastlighthomes.co.uk\)](#)

I then headed back into the town centre for mobile patrols and visited Dengie Close, Pattison Close and Laurence Avenue before heading back towards Templars Academy.

October 15th

For the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub we had arranged for PC Draper to bring along the property marking equipment. This had been very successful at a previous meeting and had been requested again to allow local people to bring along their bicycles to be security marked. We were able to run this alongside the normal Beat Surgery and we managed enquiries while opening up our marked police vehicle for inquisitive children. With many of the families taking pictures of their children in the cage at the back, we answered questions about our role and the



potential for others to join Essex Specials to provide reassurance in their neighbourhoods. For more information please follow the link below

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)



October 17th

I was out today with a focus on visible patrols and therefore parked my vehicle on Guithavon Street and headed off along the River Walk, my first stop was the area of scrub land near to the rear of Maltings Academy following reports of suspicious activity the previous day. After ensuring there were no concerns I then walked off towards the Duck Pond where I was immediately alerted to loud screaming. Fortunately this was a small number of children playing and I was able to reassure several people out walking and have a friendly word with the children about the screaming! I continued past the weir and up to the viaduct over Armond Road. I paused for a short while at the road and monitored the traffic for signs of speeding which had been mentioned on social media following the closure of Chipping Hill. I continued on towards Moat Farm Chase before walking back towards the Duck Pond and round to Highfields Road. I crossed Spa Road to the park where I engaged with a number of children and spoke to people at the skate park to remind them about the consultation process for the planned improvement scheme. My patrol continued along Highfields Road to Spinks Lane before turning down Bridge Street and to the River Walk back to my vehicle. I then visited the Hatfield Road estate, where I recorded information relating to a suspicious vehicle before heading to Witham Lodge, Lodge Farm Estate, Haygreen Road, Holst Avenue, Baker Way, Elgar drive, Purcell Road, Dengie Close and Pattision Close before concluding my shift for the night.





October 18th

For the first hour of my duty I travelled to neighbouring Hatfield Peverel to listen to the library staff who have been experiencing an increase in anti-social behaviour. I had been over a few days earlier and detected drug use and littering and combined with reports on social media there was a significant increase in the use of nitrous oxide with cannisters left all over the green space behind the library. We were able to discuss security measures and also the disposal of the discarded canisters. I was also able to carry out foot patrols in the immediate area and also visit a number of the previous ASB hotspots in the village but pleased to report there were no concerns.



I headed back into Witham, parking in Newlands Drive before commencing foot patrol. I initially checked the Newlands Shopping precinct before walking down Newland Street towards the Lidl store, crossing the road I then called briefly at The Swan PH before cutting through Kings Chase and into the Witham Town Park. With the nights now drawing in, it was pitch black and there were no other people about so I continued through to Maldon Road and across the road through to Parkside. I did meet two staff members from the Parkside group and we discussed bringing a marked police vehicle down to the centre for an interactive youth group session. I continued my patrol through The Grove Centre and back to my vehicle with no concerns or incidents.

Returning back into the vehicle I then carried out mobile patrols on Allectus Way, Dengie Close and Pattison Close before driving across the town to Spa Road and on towards Terling to investigate a vehicle involved in a crash in Fairstead.



October 19th

Witham CSC Officer Eaketts was crewed with Special Constable Wintin for patrols in Witham tonight and they started on Forest Road before driving across town to an anti-social behaviour hotspot on Haygreen Road. With no vehicles detected they went to Colne Chase to follow up on reports of suspected drug dealing activity and spoke with residents providing reassurance and with a plan to increase visible patrols in the area. Continuing their patrols around Humber Road they were then redirected to a major incident at Stansted Airport and remained at the airport for the rest of their shift.



October 21st

I was out on duty with a plan to spend time in the town centre with visible foot patrols and to visit each of the pubs and bars throughout the evening, unfortunately as soon as I left the Police Station I was attached to an incident in Witham whereby a young male had been assaulted on Honeysuckle Way by a group of up to 15 other young people. With other Specials from Braintree meeting with the victim I carried out an area search and due to my local knowledge I located part of the group on the other side of town. With the information shared with the other attending officers I moved on to Dengie Close where I parked up my marked police vehicle and headed out on foot patrol. The area has seen a number of vehicles arriving which have then been met by people on foot or bicycles and exchanges have been taking place which are believed by residents to be drug related. While I was on my patrol which extended to the River Walk by Pattison Close I attempted to stop an male who was riding an E-Scooter along the path and then narrowly missed two young children. The male did not look back and continued all the way through towards Bridge Street and although I have a good description I was unable to locate this male during the shift where the E-Scooter would have been seized for a number of driving offences. With an incoming incident at the Witham Train Station I returned to my vehicle to be first on scene where two males had been escorted from the train by enforcement officers for travelling without a valid ticket. The young men had then been verbally abusive to the staff members and an off duty Metropolitan Police Officer had stepped in to assist. With my arrival both men

calmed down significantly and I was joined very shortly after by other Special Constables from Braintree. While we waited with the men for the British Transport Officers to arrive on scene we were made aware that one of the men had potentially stashed a knife at the station and this was located following a search. With the arrival of the BTP officers I left the station to head over to Wickham Road to investigate a report of an insecure premises. As I arrived on scene I was able to secure evidence, with photographs and witness details to detain a person at the scene. After checking on the property and the welfare of the owner I arrested the suspect. I was assisted by a Braintree Special Constable in conveying the detained person to Chelmsford Custody. Due to the booking in procedure and necessity to write a statement and preserving the evidence this took the remainder of my shift which finished in the early hours of the following morning.



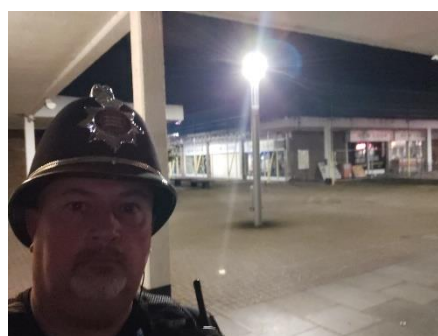
October 24th

Out for my next patrol and I started with a speed check on Forest Road. There have been reports from residents at the Community Beat Surgeries of this road being a “race track” and I wanted to show a visible presence and a deterrent to drivers exceeding the 30mph limit. After assessing the road layout I chose a location near to the entrance to Flemming Way and measured every vehicle coming around the corner from the direction of Rickstones Road towards my position. Over the course of 45 minutes I only had to stop 2 vehicles for words of advice on their speed and provide a visual warning to 3 other drivers but generally the vehicle speeds were within or on the required limit. I appreciate that there may be other times of the day or evening that speeding occurs and it is likely that there will be a persistent offender who may be driving well in excess of the limit but it will require us visiting at different times to deal with this. If you have any information regarding a specific vehicle, times or registration number then please come along to one of the Community Beat Surgeries and share this information or speak to officers who are out on patrol in the area.





I continued my patrols around Laburnum Way before driving into town and parking up outside the Town Hall. From here I had a short meeting with the Town Clerk before heading out on foot patrol. My first stop was the Witham Town Park and then The Grove Centre, up through the Red Lion car park and past The George back to the Newlands Precinct. I had recently assisted a rough sleeper who had been found behind the Iceland Store and I can confirm that through Streetlink they have been contacted and are now working to secure accomodation. With my foot patrol complete I headed back to the Town Hall and continued my mobile patrols on Allectus Way, Dengie Close, Greenfields and then the Humber Road estate, during these patrols I submitted 2 information reports to assist future investigations.



October 28th

I was crewed with fellow Witham officer Special Constable Eaketts for our patrols in Witham and we started with a speed check on Armond Road. After the recent checks on Forest Road there had been a request by residents for a check here due to the current closure of Chipping Hill and this had resulted in an increase in traffic as many used it as a diversion. With a suitable position near to Barnardiston Road we were able to monitor the speeds of vehicles in both directions and several drivers were requested to slow down with visual prompts. One driver, however, was measured at 39mph in the 30mph limit and was stopped and issued with a traffic offence report (TOR). This is sent off electronically to be processed and will determine if the driver is eligible for a speed awareness course or whether a more significant punishment is required. The speed awareness course is designed to provide additional education on the impact of excess speeds on the road network but if completed successfully will not result in points and a fine for the driver or rider.





The remainder of our shift was taken up responding to an incident on Shaw Road following reports of a person who had been assaulted. With our presence in Witham for our patrols we were able to be on scene quickly and went to talk with the victim. Unfortunately the victim was suffering a medical episode due to excess alcohol and in the process of trying to assist their removal from an address, 2 officers were assaulted. The victim in this instance was then arrested for assault on emergency workers and taken to custody. I continued my enquiries in the area speaking with several witnesses in the play area at Shaw Road before finding a person directly connected with the incident and recording a crime for further investigation. Both officers were later assessed to be ok and did not require hospital treatment.

October 29th

It was the day of the Witham Town Council Halloween Trail and also the Community Beat Surgery so we were able to field four Special Constables. In company with myself for the Community Beat Surgery was Witham CSC Officer Watts attending for the first time, while Witham CSC Officer Special Inspector Campbell & Special Constable Symonds attended the Halloween Trail. The beat surgery was hosted by The Witham Hub and over the course of the 2 hours we spoke with a number of people, listening to their concerns and we were thanked for our presence and reassurance.



With the Beat Surgery complete we headed off to a report of escaped goats near to the A12 but after a quick area search we were able to confirm that there was no risk to drivers and drove through town to join the Halloween Trail. With the start on the green space at Guithavon Street we followed the River Walk, past the Duck Pond and onto Armond Road towards the finish on the green at Chipping Hill. The weather had brightened up significantly and it was lovely to see so many families and children out enjoying the trail. With the Councillors and staff dressed in costumes and a magician handing out sweets, the Wizard Of Oz theme was very evident. With reports of a Tin Man with an axe, an escaped Lion and the Wicked Witch Of the West we were kept busy throughout the afternoon. We were also able to have some fantastic engagement along the route which is helping break down barriers with younger children to show that we are here to help and not to be feared.

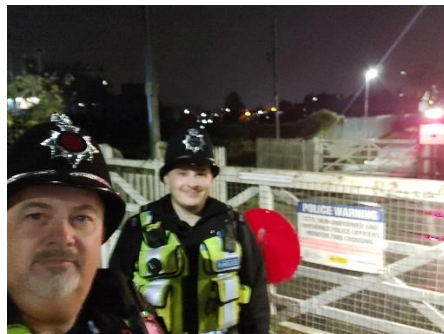


There are many more pictures which will be available on the Witham Town Council website.

[Town Council](#) | [Witham Town Council](#) | [Witham](#)

October 31st

Halloween was upon us and I set off with Special Constable Symonds for foot patrol on the Templars Estate for their annual Halloween Event. The residents on the estate really put on a show and decorate their houses for the spooky event which provides great entertainment for the younger children. We were joined by British Transport Special Constable McGough for the evening and took him for a tour of the Courts while providing visibility and reassurance for parents and young children out collecting treats. Our presence was well received and with the relationships that have been built over many patrols we were able to join in and ensure it was a fun and safe event.



With the arrival of another Witham CSC Officer Eaketts we left the estate and split up to provide visible patrols across the rest of the town. I crewed up with BTP Officer McGough and we headed off to Laburnum Way, Cypress Road and onto Cut Throat Lane, while SC Eaketts & SC Symonds started a mobile patrol on Spa Road following reports of fireworks being set off near to the road. As we approached the train station, we assisted Witham CSC Officer Watts who had arrived by train and found a male unwell on the platform. Fortunately, he recognised the person and was able to get some details of his condition. Due to his medical condition an ambulance was called and after some checks on the platform and in the ambulance, he was taken to hospital. Unfortunately, it transpired the



male was actually shown as wanted and therefore Witham CSC Officer Watts accompanied him to hospital to effect the arrest once his care had been completed.

During this time, we had been hearing over the radio network that a group of up to 20 young people running around the Spa Road & Highfields Road area letting off fireworks and throwing eggs. The possession of adult fireworks by children under the age of 18 is illegal and extremely dangerous and the reports had included that these were fired at shops and on to the roads. With our other Witham officers trying to disrupt their behaviour with a mixture of foot and mobile patrol we headed along the River Walk to provide additional visibility and deterrence. We initially had some success, clearing the areas around ASDA and Domino's and stopped and searched several of the young people in Chelmer Road. Over the course of the evening, we had managed to catch up and speak to most of the group and explain the law concerning fireworks and the risks to their safety and the safety of others and tried to encourage them to disperse and head home.

Unfortunately, this advice was not followed by a small number of young people and this resulted in a firework being deliberately set off in the direction of a large group of their friends and Police units that had arrived on scene. With the additional Police resources the large group were dispersed from the area of Spa Road.

This concludes the monthly report for October 2022.