



## **May 2022 Patrols**

With the bank holidays beginning the month of May we continued to carry out patrols and our Community Beat Surgeries. We were able to welcome Special Constable Eaketts officially to the Witham Community Special Constable Scheme after passing an assessed patrol. This will enable SC Eaketts to conduct patrols, investigate incidents and provide additional visibility and reassurance without supervision. Each one of our Specials brings something different to Policing from their other lives and SC Eaketts has great knowledge of Banking Protocol and Bank Fraud. May also marks the month for National Knife Amnesty Week and this involved information pop-up events, searches in public spaces and working with a local establishment in town with a knife arch. This is used to demonstrate the capability and equipment to deter the carrying of weapons and increase the safety of the public.

### **May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Crewed with Witham Special Constable Eaketts & Witham Town Team PC Goring we carried out high visibility patrols in Witham. We carried out foot patrols on the Templars estate before we were alerted to a road rage incident in Witham. We were able to coordinate with one of the drivers involved and safely escort them back home. After speaking to both drivers, we were able to give them some strong words of advice after it was found that both parties had contributed to the incident. We interrupted potential drug related activity on Allectus Way and created an intel report. After returning to the Forest Road area, we conducted mobile patrols on Cut-Throat Lane and Motts Lane before being called to a report of criminal damage near to Cullen Mill. On arrival we carried out an area search for suspects and then a search of a vehicle involved due to the smell of drugs coming from it. After providing reassurance to the neighbourhood, we were able to conclude our patrols in Witham before heading to Braintree to carry out an area search and with the assistance of NPAS helicopter (National Police Air Service) we located a high-risk missing person.



### **May 8<sup>th</sup>**

I was crewed with PC Southgate for high visibility patrols in Witham. Our first foot patrol was in the Town Centre to make enquiries at Boots before we moved down to Maldon Road to complete CCTV enquiries for a recent incident. We headed back to our vehicle and carried out mobile patrols around Forest Road & Cypress Road. After some visible foot patrols, we drove over to Blackwater Lane and went into the Whetmead Nature Reserve where we met with members of the Wild About Witham group. After pointing out some of the wildlife to us, we circled the reserve and returned to our vehicle. Continuing our patrols, we moved over to the Hatfield Road estate and once again got out on foot to provide a visible presence. When we returned to our vehicle, we assisted with a car that had rolled across the road after the handbrake failed and organised for the owner to recover it. With further checks on Forest



Road, Cypress Road, Motts Lane & Fleming Way we headed into the Templars estate to continue CCTV enquiries for an outstanding incident.



### May 13<sup>th</sup>

Witham Special Constable Eaketts was crewed with PCSO Milton for patrols in Witham and they attended an incident at Douglas Grove, where a local resident with the assistance of the local community using social media had found a stolen car. After securing the vehicle and completing the necessary paperwork they waited for a forensic recovery. While waiting at the scene they completed a police intelligence report after a person was seen nearby to the vehicle.



### May 14<sup>th</sup>

I attended the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub with Special Constable Symonds where we increased our engagement after moving outside the Hub due to the good weather. This allowed more people to approach us and discuss local concerns and we received several comments of thanks for the reassurance that we were providing with our visibility. We were able to offer advice on cyber-crime and received information regarding anti-social behaviour on one of the estates in the Town. Following the meeting we headed over to Conrad Road for house-to-house CCTV enquiries in connection to a recent incident. Later that afternoon we visited the Temple At War show at



Crossing Temple to provide reassurance to the many visitors, re-enactors and stall holders. With a fly past by a Spitfire and music provided throughout the afternoon we were thanked by the organisers for stopping by.



### May 17<sup>th</sup>

Witham Community Special Inspector & Special Constable Eaketts attended the Town Hall for the Tuesday Community Beat Surgery. Normally this is attended by our Regular colleagues, but it coincided with their volunteering availability and allowed the Regular colleagues to attend the Witham Hub for a pop-up event supporting #OPSceptre and the National Knife Amnesty Week. With both events running simultaneously, we had an increased visible presence in the Town. Special Constable Eaketts was able to provide advice and reassurance to a local resident who came in with a concern.



### May 20<sup>th</sup>

We carried out foot patrol in Witham with our initial patrol on the Templars estate where we had positive engagement with children at the play area and made enquiries regarding a recent incident at the shops. We then headed around to Laburnum Way before moving along Forest Road to Mulberry Gardens following increased intelligence reports regarding suspected drug dealing involving different vehicles and suspects. After driving down Motts Lane & Cut-Throat Lane to provide a visible presence we then travelled to the train station. We have been



providing an increased presence at the station to support British Transport Police and Greater Anglia staff and now have a closer relationship to tackle anti-social behaviour & drug related activity. After speaking with the station Manager regarding some recent issues with youths using the rail network, we were called away to aid an emergency response incident in Cressing. When additional units and ambulance attended, we were able to return to Witham to resume our patrols. After heading in towards town for visible patrols we travelled up Hatfield Road to conduct foot patrols on Allectus Way. With Special Constable Eaketts & Special Constable Mabey walking along King Edward Way I was able to follow Allectus Way to the top and we worked through the roads and alleyways until we met. There were no issues found or anything that required attention and we returned towards our vehicles. It was at this point that we could hear a potentially nuisance motorbike on Epping Way and we hopped through the fence near to Osbert Road. Unfortunately, when we appeared on Epping Way the motorbike had disappeared, however, as we searched the area a white van attempted to wheel spin away before coming to a stop when seeing Special Constable Mabey approaching. After speaking to the driver about the manner of their driving it became apparent that the driver may have been under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and they were arrested under Section 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. We were cleared for Clacton Custody, where following an evidential breath test, a positive test of 73 micrograms was recorded which is over twice the prescribed limit of 35 micrograms. The driver will be charged and appear in court.



## May 21<sup>st</sup>

In the morning I was joined by Sergeant Mugridge, PC Marsay-Harris, PC Joseph & Active Citizen John Firman at The Witham Hub for a pop-up event to promote National Knife Amnesty Week under the #OPSceptre tag. The event was supported by the Hub and we were able to demonstrate the knife arch and provide some literature and advice to many visitors to the stand. We were also joined by Home Secretary Rt Honourable Priti Patel who came to support the scheme. It was a great opportunity to show the importance of the National scheme to tackle knife crime and violence.



With this part of the #OPSceptre awareness completed we then moved the equipment to The George Public House on Newland Street where in working in partnership with the Landlady & Landlord we set up the knife arch at the front entrance. The knife arch is a portable metal detector designed to indicate where on a person passing through that there may be concealed items. A positive result would then prompt a search of the person to determine if the item was dangerous and appropriate action would then be taken. It also acts as a visual deterrent, and this will deter anyone considering bringing a dangerous item into the establishment. We had additional officers from the Witham Town Team on duty to carry out visible patrols in the area.



## May 22<sup>nd</sup>

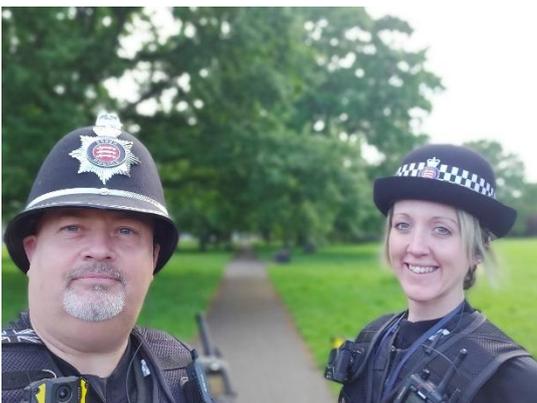
#OPSceptre continued Sunday morning for a 'knife sweep' along the River Walk. The search of hedgerows, trees, riverbanks & bushes is to locate any hidden or concealed weapons. We were joined by the Witham Town Mayor Jack Bayford and he was furnished with a metal detector. I was joined by Special Constable O'Keefe, PC Sahin & PC Scott and we checked the pathways from ASDA on Highfields Road to the footbridge over the river towards Helen Court. The area was checked extensively with officers and the Mayor disappearing into the undergrowth and considerable time was spent in key areas like the Duck Pond and we are very pleased to report that nothing was found. Along the route we had lots of positive engagement with dog walkers and families out enjoying the fabulous sunshine.

[Selling, buying and carrying knives - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)



### May 23<sup>rd</sup>

In company with fellow Witham Special Constable Eaketts, we attended the Witham Town Council Community Meeting where we provided an update on our recent shifts and addressed issues concerning E-Scooters and the potential law changes around their use. I was also able to highlight some recent work where we had tackled drink driving and drug related behaviour in the Town which had resulted in arrests. After leaving the Town Hall we headed out for a short mobile patrol visiting a number of areas recently reported for anti-social behaviour involving drug use. Due to the sudden downpour as we left the meeting, we did not expect to find too many people out and about, however, we did find a car parked at the very end of Blackwater Lane and a stop search was carried out due to the evidence of drugs. In this instance we had interrupted this activity before it had started and after sending the car and occupants on their way (minus the very small amount of cannabis) a police information report was submitted for the vehicle and the location. This area will be included in future area patrols.



## May 28<sup>th</sup>

I was in company with Special Constable Sinott for the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub, we arrived in Witham a little early so we conducted mobile patrols on Forest Road, Church Street, Flora Road, Humber Road and the Hatfield Road estate before returning to the Town Centre for some initial foot patrol. On the way to our meeting, we did have to stop and give some strong words of advice to an impatient driver who decided to undertake us on a roundabout on The Grove, due to us being in an unmarked police vehicle they had been unaware of our presence. We commenced our meeting and it was lovely to see so many children coming to meet with us, have photos taken and ask questions. Over the course of the morning, I think the children wore our hats more than we did! On a more serious point, we did speak to a couple of residents who had some concerns in their area and these were discussed and recorded for follow up actions. We are starting to see more engagement at the event and with the improved weather we can be more accessible outside the Hub, which is attracting more attention, while also providing a visible policing presence in The Grove Centre. With the meeting time coming to an end, we were then called to an emergency incident on Spinks Lane following a report of a collision between a car and a pedestrian. With our presence in Witham, we were the first police unit on scene and began to assess and control the environment. Fortunately, a paramedic was already attending the pedestrian and as the Air Ambulance helicopter landed in the ACL Witham car park opposite Maltings Academy we were joined by an ambulance. With Special Constable Sinott obtaining details and a first account from the driver I then spoke with witnesses and recorded their accounts. Due to the serious nature of the accident, we had two police traffic units attend the scene and set up a cordon closing the road in both direction for the safety of everyone involved. The pedestrian was put into the ambulance and conveyed to hospital, a statement taken for the driver and the witness and following a series of photographs we were able to reopen the road. While we appreciate this causes a disruption, it is necessary to ensure the safety, provision of care and investigation to be carried out and I was pleased to see that other drivers and pedestrians reacted well and there were no other problems reported.



## May 29<sup>th</sup>

PC Southgate of the Witham Town Team and I were in Witham to react to a concern raised in the previous day's Community Beat Surgery and we handed out letters in a neighbourhood raising awareness of illegal drug use. These letters provide advice and different ways to report drug related concerns either to us directly or anonymously via Crimstoppers.

[Give information | Crimstoppers \(crimstoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimstoppers-uk.org)



Following this action, we carried out mobile patrols on the industrial areas of SwanVale, Crittal Road, Eastways & Freebournes Road, where a number of vehicles & premises were checked. To finish our patrol, we drove through the Town Centre to provide visibility and reassurance.



This concludes the monthly report for May 2022.