



January 2024

With the start of the New Year the weather remained very wet & windy and over the month temperatures plummeted which kept most people inside. We continued with our Community Beat Surgeries and targeted patrols to support specific local taskings. To improve our visibility (and to keep warm!) we were out and about on foot with in high visibility uniform and hopefully these patrols provide reassurance and a deterrent to crime.

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

January 6th

We wanted to start the year with a recruitment stand and we decided to combine this with an impromptu Community Beat Surgery in the Grove Centre close to The Witham Hub. I was in company with fellow Witham Community Special, Acting Chief Inspector Campbell and we had lots of positive engagement throughout the hours we were in attendance. We also answered questions from residents concerning dangerous dog breeds, property marking, home security and reported dangerous parking. We will be continuing recruitment events for the role of Community Special Constable in Witham throughout the year, but you can also follow the link or QR code below to find out more.



[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)





January 12th

I was invited to join a walk through the town to demonstrate the benefits of the Safer Streets funding that had been utilised in Witham. With District Commander Chief Superintendent Richards, I joined Dame Priti Patel in her role as MP for Witham, the Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst, Mayor Susan Ager and members of Witham Town Council & Braintree District Council. We were also joined by Witham's Street Warden Paul Wiseman, whose position came about as part of the funding to provide visibility, reassurance and to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town. We set off from the Town Hall and followed a route which took us along down towards Guithavon Valley and onto the River Walk towards Spa Road, during the walk we were able to point out the new CCTV cameras that have been erected along the River Walk to provide additional reassurance and a crime deterrent. There are now an increased number of CCTV cameras across the town, including the Witham Town Park, Maldon Road & Cut Throat Lane in response to residents' perception of feeling vulnerable.

Following the walk, I continued my foot patrols around the town centre with the Street Warden before heading on my own back along Collingwood Road towards the train station. I did stop at the location near Ramsden Mills where a tent had been set up, showing evidence that someone had been staying there but there was no person present at the time. I will continue to check on the location to see if there is some help that can be provided. I completed my duty with a journey back to the station at Braintree which also provided additional visibility on the train.



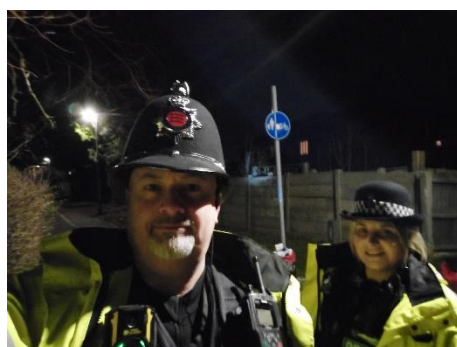
January 13th

We had been contacted by British Transport Police (BTP) who had received an intelligence report that there may be anti-social behaviour planned in Witham around the train station. This involved groups of teenagers who were meeting up in connection with a previous incident where there had been an assault and therefore, we wanted to team up with the BTP officers to provide a significant presence in and around the station area to prevent any disturbances. Fortunately, the intended time of the "gathering" came and went without incident and I hope that our visibility did make an impact. Special Constable Eaketts and I returned to our Community Special Constable roles and carried out foot patrols in the town centre, visiting each of the shopping areas, the high street and included the Witham Town Park. We returned to our vehicle and carried out targeted patrols in areas recently affected by attempted burglaries and drug related activity before conducting reassurance patrols on the REDROW estate & at the ASDA store which had been a subject of ongoing anti-social behaviour with children outside the store entrance.



January 17th

Unfortunately, we had seen an increase in burglaries & attempted burglaries, with suspects targeting cash & jewellery or car keys which then resulted in the vehicle being stolen and we had been asked to support increased visibility in and around certain areas of Witham to provide both reassurance and a deterrent to further crime. It was a bitterly cold evening, and I was joined on my patrol by Special Constable O'Connor-Mitchell. We spent the first part of the evening driving across the town and visiting the areas most affected by the recent crimes, and we carried out foot patrol in some of the key areas to improve our visibility. This did seem to have a positive impact with several residents pleased with our presence. During the evening we attended an emergency in the Forest Road area and after this was dealt with successfully, we returned to our targeted patrols, once again returning on foot, and walking through the alleyways and cut throughs around Rosebay Close, Calamint Road, Speedwell Close & Foxglove Close. During this time, we did not see or discover any suspicious activity.



January 20th

I was joined by fellow Witham CSC Officer Eaketts and following a briefing we learned that another vehicle had been stolen from Witham and so we set off for a search of the local and extended area. On occasion cars have been stolen but then parked up in the area close to the original theft, which is believed to be a method used by the criminals to determine if the car is being tracked. Over the past 5 years we have found several vehicles during local searches immediately following the theft. Due to the location of the incident, we checked all of the roads off Rosebay Close & Honeysuckle Way, Bramble Road and the Humber Road estate, Brain Road and the car parks on Spa Road including ASDA & the Football Club. We continued the search along Terling Road and searched through the village before returning to Witham via Blunts Hall Road but unfortunately there was no sign of this particular vehicle. The car had been stolen "keyless" where electronic equipment had been used to boost the owners key signal to unlock and be



able to drive away the car as if the key was present. There are some useful tools that you can use to try and prevent this type of theft;

A Faraday pouch – a box or bag that is lined to block the signal that is communicated between the key and the car. This prevents any scanning equipment from being able to intercept and use this signal. It is important that both the main key and spare key(s) are kept in the Faraday pouch.

It is also a good idea to fit a visible deterrent to your car and this could be a steering wheel lock (many different designs available) or a wheel clamp device or there are now a number of residents that have a metal post installed on their driveway that is locked in the upright position to prevent the vehicle from being moved. While it is understood that each of these devices can cause an inconvenience to the owner, these are positive deterrents to theft.

We returned to Witham and set up the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub in the Grove Centre, we were available for 2 hours to answer questions and we also provided an information leaflet about crime prevention, particularly focused on burglary. Further information can be found at the link below.

[Seven facts about residential burglary | Crime Prevention | Essex Police](#)

It is very important that you contact Essex Police via 101 if you have any information relating to suspicious behaviour in your neighbourhood or 999 in an emergency if you suspect a crime in progress.

Towards the end of the Beat Surgery, we were alerted to an elderly lady who had fallen near to the Newlands Precinct, and we were quickly on scene to assist. It was fantastic to see that several other members of the public and a nearby stall holder had also stepped in to assist. Fortunately, the person's injuries appeared minor and after giving some initial first aid we arranged for her partner to come and collect her and provided further advice to ensure that they were aware of the effects of shock and who to contact if further medical assistance was required.

To continue our patrol, we checked on specific areas connected with drug related activity and took notes for several suspicious vehicles. We completed our patrol with a visit to the ASDA store and then a high visibility foot patrol around the Rosebay Close area.





January 22nd

I was joined on my community patrols by Special Inspector Wintin, and we continued to focus on the high visibility on the housing estates where there had been recent burglaries and attempted burglaries. We visited the Flora Road estate including Rosebay Close and all the linked roads, Honeysuckle Way and all the associated roads and we also called in at Bramble Court to speak with members of staff. As we left Bramble Road, we called up to assist with an incident that had just been reported to Police involving a group of children who were causing a disturbance on the new Southfields housing estate close to Conrad Road. Fortunately, due to being dedicated to Witham we were on scene in just a few minutes and stopped the group of children just as they were exiting the estate. While we took names and addresses, another unit who had been dispatched from Braintree arrived and spoke to the informant to ascertain details of the incident. In this case the group had kicked doors, knocked aggressively on windows, thrown stones at the houses, and used building materials to cause an obstruction to a front door. This behaviour can be terrifying to the victim, especially if they are vulnerable and this was explained to each of the children. The group were sent on their way with advice to return home and we watched them walk off away from the scene in to the Templars Estate.

As we returned to our marked vehicle, I was approached by a driver who had got lost in Witham due to several local road closures. Without the assistance of satellite navigation in the car and not being familiar with their mobile phone we decided to provide a guide back in towards Silver End where they were able to complete their journey safely.

As we returned to Witham, we called up to assist with an incident where a victim had been harassed by a person attending their property. Unfortunately, the last confirmed sighting was some time prior, and following an area search we and other units were unable to locate the person. In this instance due to the circumstances the person was subsequently listed as wanted by Police and there will now be a focus on arresting the suspect to prevent further offences and to protect the victim.

We continued our patrols and following a report of a potential rough sleeper around the Spa Road COOP we carried out foot patrol in the area including Bure Drive and the car park adjacent to the Powers Hall School and the garages but there were no signs of the person, we will conduct future patrols to try and engage and offer support to the person through Streetlink.

[StreetLink - Connecting people sleeping rough to local services \(thestreetlink.org.uk\)](https://thestreetlink.org.uk)



27th January

It was early evening and I wanted to follow up with the parents of the children stopped for the previous anti-social behaviour and when I arrived in Witham to start my duty I met and spoke with three of the five suspects parents. In each case they were unaware of their child's actions, and they told me that they will be addressing this straight away. Two of the parents had been victims of similar behaviour in the past so completely understood how this affects people's lives. I also carried out patrols in the affected areas again before conducting foot patrol on the Templars Estate and while outside the shops near to Shaw Road I spoke frankly with a large group of children about the anti-social behaviour on the new housing development and hopefully this will have a positive impact.

Earlier in the day two suspects had been arrested in connection with a significant number of thefts & attempted thefts of mopeds & motorcycles across Witham. With the suspects in custody, I was asked to support by obtaining a victim statement for one of the damaged motorbikes. This statement is submitted as part of the case and presented to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) who will then determine if there is sufficient evidence to authorise charges against the suspects. While I was taking a statement there was a disturbance outside in the street where a person on another motorbike had been stopped along Church Street by a group who had attempted to take his motorbike. The victim was able to escape and on seeing my marked police car sought safety and was able to report what had happened. I was able to immediately get onto my radio and call for assistance and within minutes another unit was able to carry out an area search while I continued with the statement. If you have any information that may be able to identify this group, then please contact Essex Police quoting reference number 42/15471/24.

29th January

I was in company with PC Sahin who is a Regular Community Police Officer for Witham, and we began with a visibility and reassurance patrol on the Southfields housing estate off Conrad Road. With no signs of previous anti-social behaviour, we then headed across the town to speak with the parent of another child responsible for the previous anti-social behaviour. Once again, the parent was very supportive, and we were able to address the behaviour directly with the child as well who was present. The next part of our patrol took us around the Rosebay Close area, Honeysuckle Way & Bramble Court and then onto Spa Road



and the car park adjacent to the Powers Hall School & Acorn Academy. Due to the movement of a suspicious vehicle, we conducted a stop on Chipping Hill where we were able to confirm details & a reason for their behaviour and they were allowed to resume their journey. We moved on to Humber Road & Yare Avenue before heading to the ASDA store. With no concerns seen at these locations we travelled across the town to Constance Close and Carraways before visiting Greenfield & Barley Fields. During the patrols several vehicles were checked due to their unusual locations and intelligence reports have been submitted. By conducting regular patrols I have been able to determine familiar vehicles, and this has enabled us to locate stolen vehicles or those used in crime which are appear out of the ordinary.

We next conducted mobile patrols on the industrial estates following recent reports that there may be a "car meet" where enthusiasts congregate with their vehicles. Unfortunately, this can result in anti-social behaviour and while many organised events are problem free it is the spontaneous gatherings that can cause issues. The industrial areas in Witham are very well managed through Witham Industrial Watch & DEW Security and there are multiple CCTV cameras including ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) which can provide excellent evidence if required. With some of the businesses operating 24 hours our patrols assist with maintaining safety and crime prevention and just parking up on Freebournes Road for a short while saw a significant reduction in speeding.

Later in the evening we were asked to attend a neighbour related incident on Holst Avenue and after listening and speaking with the victim and providing reassurance we then moved on to Dengie Close & Wickham Road following reports of drug related activity. Although there was nothing seen during our visit to these areas, we encourage residents to report any suspicious behaviour, details of how to do this can be found at the bottom of this report.

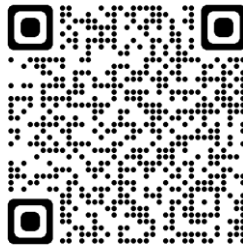




This concludes the monthly report for January 2024.

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

[Essex Police Witham \(@EPWitham\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/EPWitham)



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/>

