



February 2024

We continued our patrols to deter anti-social behaviour in the town in and around local hotspots, identifying a number of children that were involved which enabled us to take positive action. We also conducted targeted patrols around neighbourhoods affected by recent burglaries or attempted burglaries. With the weather still proving challenging with heavy rain causing flooding and dangerous road conditions we attended several related incidents. We held our Community Beat Surgeries at The Witham Hub and these have been very useful to help us communicate with residents on ways that they can help to protect their homes.

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



February 5th

I was on my way to Witham in the late afternoon when I received a call over the radio asking for assistance at the ASDA store on Highfields Road. The report stated that a large group of children had run from the store after causing issues in the aisles and damaging stock. I was first to arrive on scene, although a further unit was also despatched. It was clear upon my arrival that the children had gone off down the River Walk but I was able to review CCTV footage and obtain their descriptions. This type of crime may not appear serious in nature but when it is a persistent problem then it can have a big impact on the community and the staff. I recorded the crime and the theft from the store and then headed into the town centre to see if I could find the group. With my local knowledge I was able to locate them & after collecting all their names, detailing the offences, and giving them appropriate warnings for their behaviour I left and returned to my duties. I went on to record an assault on a child and assisted another unit with a search for a missing child. Fortunately, I was able to locate them on foot patrol and wait with them until the other unit arrived to deal with the initial incident. I carried out high visibility and reassurance patrols on the Southfields and Templars estate and engaged with a number of teenagers outside the shops on Shaw Road on the Templars estate.



February 7th

I was joined by Braintree Special Inspector Wintin for my patrol and our initial task was to collect a bicycle that had been found on a footpath near to the Spa Road CO OP store. The bicycle has been booked into the Braintree Police Station property system so hopefully the owner can come forward and collect it. Once again due to previous anti-social behaviour we targeted visibility patrols on the Southfields estate, but I am pleased to say that after our initial interaction with the children responsible at the end of the previous month we have not seen a repeat of the issues. We also carried out foot patrol on the Templars estate around the park and shops area with no concerns. During our mobile patrols around the Humber Road estate, we were called to attend an incident on Greenfield whereby a suspect had been seen using a catapult to fire projectiles at neighbouring houses. Previously this had caused damage to windows at several properties. Fortunately, we were able to speak to the informant and with the evidence we went and spoke with the suspect. In this incident no damage had been caused but I informed the person of the damage that had been reported previously and the risk to local people due to the use of the high-powered catapult. The investigation for the criminal damage is ongoing and the suspect accepted responsibility. As we left the Greenfield area, we were called to assist with a car accident that had been reported blocking Blunts Hall Road and we headed straight to the location. What we saw was quite shocking with a car that had collided with a tree at the side of the road. The front damage to the car was catastrophic and both airbags had been activated but amazingly the driver and passenger had managed to escape with minor injuries, however, both were in a state of shock and were treated as a precautionary measure by the ambulance crew that arrived quickly on scene. The driver reported that they had been driving at approximately 50mph along the country road before hitting standing water which caused the car to aquaplane, and this took it in to the tree. There were no other factors involved and they were very fortunate in this instance. With both passenger and driver safe and medically checked over we were able to arrange recovery, clear up the road and then return them home.



February 10th

I was joined by Witham Community Special Constable Claire Eaketts and Braintree Special Constable O'Connor-Mitchell, and we began with visibility patrols on the REDROW estate following the recent theft of a motorcycle and an incident relating to the attempted break into an empty flat. We headed back to the town centre where we set up for the Community Beat Surgery outside the Witham Hub in the Grove Centre. We have been trying to speak with residents and visitors concerning burglaries and providing advice on how to protect your home. You can follow the link below for further information or scan the QR code using a smart phone.





We were also displaying our recruitment flag for the role of Community Special Constable in Witham and if you can spare just 16 hours per month you could join us to provide an increased Police presence in your neighbourhood. We are specifically dedicated to Witham and therefore provide a recognisable and hopefully a reassuring presence but we are always looking for more people to join us to improve on this service to the community. We did have 2 positive enquiries about the role and hopefully these will progress towards joining us one day in the future. To find out more about this role then please follow the link below



[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)

Following the Beat Surgery, we left Witham briefly to provide some additional visibility & reassurance in Hatfield Peverel and visited the village hall and recreation ground. Unfortunately, we could not stay due to an emergency call to assist with a person suspected to be in cardiac arrest in the Witham Town Park. We headed straight to the location arriving in just a few minutes and fortunately simultaneously with an ambulance. We quickly located the person in the park and found at this time they were conscious and breathing. With the paramedics on scene, we were able to manage the person into the ambulance and provide support until they were taken to hospital for follow up checks. Our final task of the day was to collect some knives from an elderly person who was unable to get to the nearest Police station and we disposed of these in the knife amnesty bin located outside the front entrance of Braintree Police Station.



A special mention must go to Reece who provided me with this excellent picture of my marked police carrier (riot van) that I regularly drive while I am out on patrol. With other children in the area where he lives in Witham, I have often stopped to let them have a look at the vehicle, show off the lights and equipment and I even played some football with them in the nearby park. This picture is now proudly displayed at the Police station! Thank you, Reece.



February 14th

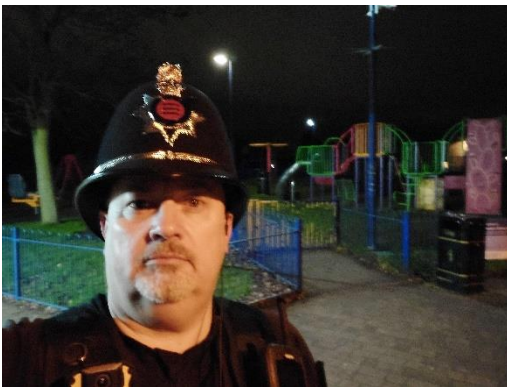
I initially began my mobile patrols on Spa Road where I visited the ASDA store but at the time there were no concerns, and I continued my patrols up to the Maltings estate before heading through the town via Newland Street and along Collingwood Road towards the Templars estate. I conducted a short foot patrol at the shops on Shaw Road following information that large groups of teenagers were gathering in this vicinity. Fortunately, when I arrived there were only three people present and I was able to speak with one of the shop keepers who confirmed that there had been no issues so far. I left the estate and continued around Forest Road and onto Cypress Road before heading back down Chipping Hill towards the Spa Road area once more. I parked up ready for a foot patrol in ASDA car park but almost immediately I witnessed an E-Scooter with 2 children riding down the River Walk towards ASDA and they disappeared out of sight in the trolley bay area. It was a surprise for them when I rounded the corner and confiscated the E-Scooter! Unfortunately, these are still being purchased by parents for children and the privately owned E-Scooters are still illegal to use in public places which includes the footpaths, cycle paths & roads around Witham. In this instance I had not seen the owner on this E-Scooter before and I felt that it was appropriate to return it to the parent with strong words of advice and the likelihood that it will be seized if the owner is seen on it again. Unfortunately, the children on the E-Scooter were the advance party for a bigger group of children who then descended on me at ASDA. This group are well known to me, and I was able to engage with them directly, however, I can also see how their behaviour and language can appear intimidating and I moved them on from the location. I returned to my vehicle with the E-Scooter and headed off to the parent's address to hand it over before meeting up with PC Sahin a Witham Community Policing Team Officer. We parked up outside the Town Hall to provide visibility



and to carry out local enquiries. While in the location we noticed a vehicle of interest and using the CCTV system we were able to identify 2 separate pieces of intelligence that will help with future investigations.



Our next stop took us to the Hatfield Road estate and onto Allectus Way, here we came across a group of people near to a car and as we stopped, one of them ran off. With our suspicions raised we conducted a stop and search on the remaining people and the vehicle under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act. An intelligence report has been submitted for this action. We returned to the Templars estate to check back on the area near to the shops and while on foot patrol we heard and observed a vehicle travelling along Rickstones Road at high speed and recorded the registration number for a follow up call on the driver.



We returned to our vehicles and as we headed back towards Braintree, we were called to a personal attack alarm at the CO OP in Silver End and arrived within minutes of an aggravated burglary where a person had threatened staff and had stolen money and the cash box from the till before leaving on foot towards Silver Street. We checked on the welfare of the staff, collected CCTV images and carried out a foot patrol to search the local area while other mobile units patrolled a wider area. The investigation is still ongoing.



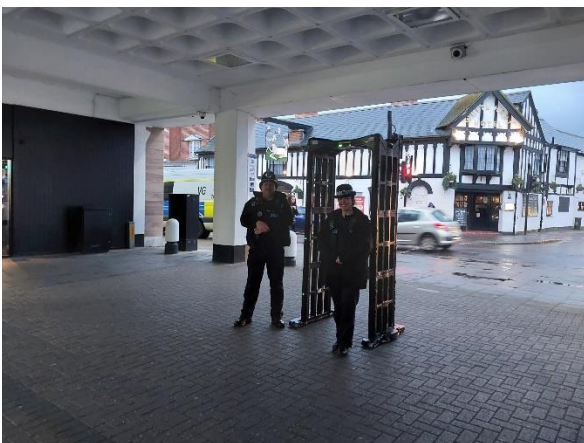
February 17th

I was joined by fellow Witham Community Special Constable Claire Eaketts, and we visited the new Southfields development on Conrad Road where there had been previous reports of anti-social behaviour. I am pleased to report that after we spoke to the children responsible at the first incident there have been no further issues. We continued around to the Templars estate and I was able to speak with the driver of the car about the manner of driving that was witnessed during the previous shift, this was accompanied by a stern warning that the vehicle and driver could be subjected to a Section 59 Warning which would place a marker on both to ensure that the behaviour did not occur again and if it did then the vehicle could be seized. We took our visible patrols over to the Humber Road estate and the Redrow estate before briefly leaving Witham to provide a visible presence in Hatfield Peverel.

On our return we parked in the town and began our Community Beat Surgery outside The Witham Hub in the Grove Centre. The Beat Surgery was once again very popular with residents, and we provided advice on crime deterrent and received information concerning issues in specific local areas. The Beat Surgery ran over by a full hour, but we are always more than happy to stay if people want to come and see us. To maintain our visibility, we then conducted foot patrol through the town centre and shopping areas. Several local businesses reported anti-social behaviour in the late afternoon and early evening by children and we will be looking at appropriate action for the offenders. We finished our patrol with another visit to the ASDA store and met with a group of children who arrived shortly after us. This was the same group I had spoken to previously and they left the area after a few minutes.

February 23rd

I joined PC Sahin & Sgt Bailey in Witham to support a week-long operation focused on an increased presence in the town to deter anti-social behaviour, promote community engagement and tackle crime. For the community engagement we deployed the "knife arch", at the Newlands Shopping precinct where we demonstrated the equipment. We have no evidence to support the requirement for a knife arch (which is a smart metal detector) in Witham but it did prompt people walking past to enquire and start a conversation with us. We talked with residents about speeding and drug supply and provided advice letters to local businesses to encourage the reporting of anti-social behaviour. Most of the businesses I spoke with feel that reporting low level anti-social behaviour is not a priority for the Police to deal with, however, we wanted to assure them that if they do report it then we have several tools at our disposal to try and stop this from recurring.





Unfortunately, the weather changed for the worse, and this significantly affected the amount of people in the town, so we moved on to patrol at ASDA following a report of children once again, causing a nuisance. When we arrived at the store the group were just moving off towards Spinks Lane and after providing some reassurance to staff, we crossed the town to attend a suspicious circumstance incident near to Cypress Road. With our presence already in the town we were able to be on location within a few minutes and provide the informant with a quick response and carry out an area search putting their mind at rest.

February 24th

It was a very early start with a focused operation tackling drug supply with 3 warrants to be executed simultaneously in Witham. With the three teams supported by the Operational Support Group to provide forced entry into the different premises we arrived and covered all potential escape paths while the chainsaw was used to effect entry. Over the three warrants there were 2 arrests and drugs, phones & cash seized as Essex Police continues to disrupt this blight on the community. Investigations are ongoing but this was a demonstration of the constant intelligence gathering that led to the successful results. Each property was searched thoroughly before we all departed and regrouped to book in seized property and convey the suspects to custody.

With the operation complete I then attended the Witham Fusion Leisure Centre for their community event, where I provided the newest addition to our fleet of marked police cars for children to experience. With lights & sirens and kit to try on, I hope that we will have some new recruits in the years to come! I was also able to spend some time inside the Centre where there were a number of excellent support groups including, Little Wings of Hope, Essex Therapy Dogs, Popcorn, Healthwatch, a Disney Princess and Essex Police also provide Scam & Fraud awareness with the excellent support of Fraud Prevention Officer Tammy Blest.





While I was in Witham for the rest of my shift, I also managed to assist with a vehicle seizure following a decamp and an arrest by another unit for Possession With Intent To Supply (PWITS) Class A drugs and attended the ASDA store to provide a visible deterrent against anti-social behaviour.



February 29th

We managed to take advantage of the extra day for the leap year with an extra shift, however, we did not know how busy we would be! We left the Police Station at Braintree to immediately attend a road traffic collision where it had been reported a young boy had been hit by a motorcycle near to the train station in Witham. We were the first Police unit to arrive but were very quickly joined by a Roads Policing Unit (RPU) and a British Transport Policing unit (who had arrived to help) Fortunately the ambulance was already on scene and the young person was being looked after in the back and was no longer on the road. Fortunately, the injuries appeared to be minor and the motorbike rider who was still present at the scene and was clearly shaken, was spoken to by the RPU officer. With the road now open and traffic clearing we headed into the town centre to conduct foot patrols in the shopping areas and after only a few minutes we were alerted to a small group of children who had stolen small items from two different shops before heading off down Guithavon Street towards the River Walk.



Our intention was to try and catch up with this group straight away but almost as soon as we returned to our vehicle, we heard a report over our radio of a high-risk missing person who was potentially in the Witham area. The person was clearly in a vulnerable state, and we joined other officers across the Braintree District area looking for them and it wasn't too long before we spotted their vehicle near the recreation ground. Fortunately, when we engaged with



them, we were able to build up a rapport and we provided reassurance and safety which enabled them to make a positive decision to voluntarily to speak with a specialist team.

We next moved on to ASDA on Highfields Road and quickly learned that the group had also tried to access the store but were refused entry. This group were easily identified as the same group that are persistently causing anti-social behaviour and we are developing a method to tackle and stop this behaviour which is having a significant impact on the people of Witham. With evidence collected and the incident recorded we then continued our mobile patrols.



The weather was poor with persistent rain, and it soon became very dark, but we patrolled around Hatfield Peverel & Terling before returning along Blunts Hall Road into Witham. With another visit to ASDA to deter any further incidents we finished our mobile patrols around Rosebay Close, Calamint Road and Speedwell Close.


This concludes the monthly report for February 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/>

