



March 2025

Spring arrived with the appearance of the sun, and we started to see lots more people out around the town, on the RiverWalk and in the parks. In the evenings the town fills up with people visiting the local restaurants and pubs and we continued to try and maintain a presence across these locations. Unfortunately, the anti-social behaviour continued, and we are still seeing incidents reported in the local Community Facebook groups rather than to Essex Police. While some of the behaviour is considered by many as “high jinks” a persistent aggravating behaviour is not acceptable, and we need to receive these reports regularly. Elsewhere in our Policing role we have been carrying out more speed checks on roads in Witham with some new locations and we welcome any further feedback on where we can carry out checks to improve road safety in your neighbourhood.

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.

March 1st

The Witham Community Special team of Special Sergeant Simon Jesse & Special Constable Claire Eaketts began with foot patrols around the town centre. We interacted with market traders and local businesses in the Newlands Precinct and visited the library to provide reassurance before catching up with the landlady at the Red Lion on our way to The Witham Hub. It was a beautiful day and there were a lot more people out in the town and we had very good engagement with residents and visitors, collecting 3 pieces of information that will be recorded as intelligence reports for future police action. We followed up 2 ongoing investigations before returning to our vehicle to travel to the south of the town and visit the Lodge Farm (Redrow) estate and the Hatfield Road estate to provide visibility. Our next stop was on Maldon Road to carry out a speed 100 check. We carry out a speed survey to determine the average speeds over a period of 100 vehicles. If there is a large percentage of drivers exceeding the 30mph limit, then we will look to put safety enforcement into place. During the 45 minutes we are pleased to report that there were no vehicles requiring action to be taken but we will return at alternative times for a more general picture. If you have identified a specific problem with speeding in your area, then you can raise this with your local Witham Town councillors who will bring this to our attention – or pop along to one of the Community Beat Surgeries at the Town Hall or The Witham Hub and tell us about it in person. Safety is our priority! To finish our patrols, we headed over to Ebenezer Close due to reports of the use of motorbikes on the pathway but pleased to see no concerns.



March 3rd

When tackling ongoing concerns we will always look to patrol at different times and on different days so we can provide visibility and reassurance and also as a deterrent, especially if there is no specific pattern to the initial reported incident. I therefore began my shift with a foot patrol from Ebenezer Close down to Bramble Road and also the footpath track that leads onto Chipping Hill. During this time I did see a number of people using the pathway but there were no E-Scooters or Electric Motorbikes being used. I moved from this location up on to Spa Road visiting the COOP and patrolling the immediate area on foot.



I parked up in the town centre to carry out foot patrol in the main shopping areas, I visited the Newlands Precinct, the Grove Centre and Newland Street and the Witham Town Park where I spent time engaging with families and people out walking their dogs.



I continued to maintain a presence over the next couple of hours due to this being the key time that anti-social behaviour has been reported but there were no issues while I was present, visiting the library, Poundland, Tesco's and Savers. I returned to my vehicle as darkness fell and visited James Cooke Wood but pleased to report no concerns.

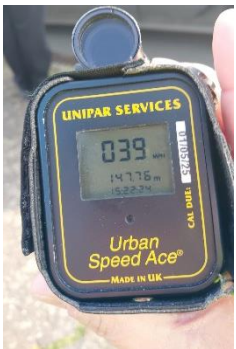


March 8th

I began my duty with PC Elliott who was on a Community Policing Team attachment as part of his development in his role to become a Detective Constable. It was the day of the Community Beat Surgery and it would provide some great public interaction opportunities for his development portfolio. We arrived in Witham a little early so began with a speed check on Rickstones Road and we stopped the very first car heading towards our position with a measured speed of 40mph in the 30mph limit. The driver was issued with a traffic offence report and reported for the offence of speeding. We continued for a further 40 minutes but pleased to say that there were no other vehicles exceeding the limit. We headed into the town centre before assisting a nearby unit asking for assistance with a vehicle that had been stopped on Howbridge Road. When we attended I carried out a vehicle search while the driver was also searched. In this instance the vehicle had failed to stop for the officer and there were several intelligence reports that the vehicle was involved in the supply of drugs. During the stop it was established that the new owner of the vehicle was unaware of its past history and with all relevant checks completed they continued on their way. We arrived outside The Witham Hub and began the Community Beat Surgery and over the following 2 hours we spoke to residents and visitors to the town, engaging with families and recording information about concerns in their neighbourhoods.



During the afternoon we carried out further speed checks on Spa Road near to the car park leading to Witham Oaks and then on to Flora Road. In this location we stopped 3 vehicles, issuing a further traffic offence report, and we reported the driver for driving otherwise in accordance with a licence and seized the vehicle for not having valid insurance.



With the vehicle recovered we finished our duty with no further issues.

March 10th

As a Special Constable for Essex Police, we can obtain the same level of training in most disciplines as our regular colleagues and I had taken the day off from my normal job to receive training on the TruCam speed camera. This enhanced level of kit enables us to record the speed of vehicles exceeding a set limit (at a pre-determined location) without the requirement to continually stop vehicles. The camera records the vehicle during the check and captures an image of the vehicle number plate which is then stored. At the end of our duty this information is then sent off for processing. This allows us to be able to set up the device easily and safely to carry out the check. The requirements are the same for our other more traditional cameras and we will be clearly visible while carrying out these safety checks.

With the training complete I then headed over to Witham to carry out foot patrols, initially visiting the Town Centre and park before taking a walk down the RiverWalk passing Helen Court, Pattison Close, crossing Bridge Street and Guithavon Road before reappearing on Guithavon Valley on my way back into the town centre. I remained in the town on foot until many of the shops had closed before concluding my visible patrols.



March 11th

I had arranged with the Community Policing Team to visit a Cub Scout group in Silver End during the evening but before this we followed up on two intelligence reports about suspicious behaviour at a given location in the village. When we carried out our patrol in the location, we discovered a vehicle that appeared out of place. With the intelligence reports we carried out a search under section 23 Misuse of Drugs act, removing a small amount of cannabis, drug related paraphernalia and recording the vehicle details and driver details for further investigation. This proactive stop was due to information directly received from concerned members of the public who had approached me during a Community Beat Surgery and my mobile patrols.

During the evening, we headed over to the Silver End Scout hut, to visit the 1st Silver End Cubs to talk about our role in the Community. PC Roper, PC Hammond joined Myself and Special Deputy Chief Officer Hopkins. We had the Police Carrier (van) on site, with shields, safety equipment and of course the 'cage' which most of the Cubs found fascinating. Inside the hut we had lots of kit to try on and we talked and demonstrated each piece of equipment we carry. We had great interaction with lots of interesting questions before passing around the handcuffs & batons. Hopefully the Cubs enjoyed our visit, they all seemed to be very engaged and possibly some budding Police Officers of the future.





March 15th

I had decided to carry out speed checks during my duty, but I wanted to vary my locations based on observations in my recent patrols. The first location was on Collingwood Road where I had perceived to see speeds exceeding the 30mph limit. I began my check at just after 9am and I measured the speed of 100 vehicles travelling towards me in both directions. Fortunately, during my checks, I only had to visually warn 2 drivers. While I was carrying out the checks, I had several residents approach me and not only thank me for my presence which was already having a positive effect on the vehicles using the road, but they also made me aware of other times and days when they have seen excessive speeding. With the check complete I moved on to foot patrols in the town centre and was alerted to anti-social behaviour in the Witham Town Park with a group of adults consuming alcohol. I did approach the group and disperse them and made them aware of the rules in the park area and they left without issue. I headed back to my vehicle and arrived at my next speed check location on Gershwin Boulevard. In this location the speed transitions from 40mph into a 30mph zone as it enters the residential area and due to the pedestrian crossing points, it is very important that vehicles adjust their speed. Over 45 minutes, 100 vehicles were measured with 10% exceeding the speed limit, the highest at 39mph. The results of these checks are submitted for assessment for a TruCam location, this speed check device captures the vehicle and registration number and speed without the need for us to stop the vehicle. These checks are driven by road safety so please slow down and adhere to the posted limits.





March 19th

I began with a visit to the Cubs in Kelvedon, and I joined Inspector Emery & Special Inspector Hible to meet the group and show off our vehicles, equipment, and some of our uniform. They were very impressed with the Ford Ranger that we use for accessing tracks and fields during our role and we talked about Stranger Danger.

With the visit complete I headed into Witham and was immediately alerted to an incident involving a small group of young people who were causing a disturbance at the Tesco Store in the Grove Centre. Initially the group appeared to have left before I arrived, but they returned while I was collecting details from the Security Guard and staff members. I stopped them outside the store and started to record their details, in the process, they decided to run off and although I caught up with one of them, the remaining ones quickly disappeared. Fortunately, within my role of 7 years I knew several of the group and with outside agency assistance we have now identified them all. The one person that was detained was taken back to Braintree Police Station with a parent (due to their age) and interviewed in connection with the reported offence. During the same evening another disturbance involving criminal damage at the ASDA store was recorded and the investigation is ongoing.

March 20th

I had taken a day off from my normal job to help with a school visit in Earls Colne, where we took along some of our vehicles and uniform and met with approximately 90 children. We had some amazing interactions with the children who were all very keen to learn about our role in the community and a particular highlight was the flashing lights and sirens!

In the afternoon I crewed up with PC Willet and we arrived in Witham to carry out visible foot patrols. While on patrol we met up with the Witham Streetwarden Paul Wiseman who alerted us to an incident at the library and we headed back through the Grove Centre and onto Newland Street before attending the library. Unfortunately, I had to record a common assault where the security guard was confronted by a group of young people. While continuing our foot patrol I was able to identify one of a group that had caused a disturbance at the Tesco store the previous evening and stopped them to gather details for our ongoing investigation. This helps to highlight the benefits of foot patrols and my role as a presence in the town as a Community Special Sergeant. The final task for the day required my colleague to take a statement from the security guard at the Tesco store for the incident the previous evening and once this had been recorded, we finished our duty.





March 22nd

I arrived in Witham to follow up on an incident of criminal damage at the Witham Cricket Club, it had been reported via the Streetwarden that graffiti had been sprayed on to the score shack building and that a number of items had been taken and thrown on to the roof of the neighbouring Saul's Bridge Pavilion. While I was at the location, I recorded several images of the damage and spoke to members of the club in relation to obtaining CCTV. With my initial enquiries complete I headed on to foot patrol around the town centre, visiting the Witham Town Park, Newlands Precinct, Newland Street and then the Grove Centre where I held the fortnightly Community Beat Surgery outside The Witham Hub. It was a busy Surgery with many people stopping to talk to me about concerns in their neighbourhood and I was also able to provide reassurance to a local resident to help with their enquiry.



With the Beat Surgery completed I headed back to my vehicle where I attended an incident on Valentine Road concerning potential poaching. When I arrived, I located two children fishing in the large pond and after some searching, I did locate a No Fishing sign and therefore had to move them on. Both children had valid rod licences and were catching and releasing the fish. I will follow up with the local authority and see if there is an alternative location for them to continue their fishing. In this instance there were no concerns over poaching.



Due to my proximity, I was the first Police unit to attend a road traffic collision at the junction of Oak Road and Henry Dixon Road in Rivenhall where two vehicles had collided. The airbags had deployed in one of the vehicles and when I arrived the driver was being attended by a paramedic from the Ambulance at the scene. The Fire Service were also in attendance due to one of the vehicles being an electrically powered car to ensure that there was no damage to the

battery. Following our checks on the people involved and an account from a witness we carried out traffic control to minimise the disruption to other road users until recovery could be arranged.



I returned to my patrols and headed over to Blunts Hall Road following up on information received that drug related activity had been occurring on a piece of waste land between the road and the Humber Road estate. I investigated the area and did indeed find evidence for the use of Nitrous Oxide and will be patrolling the area in the future. I was also able to find evidence of a person that had been sleeping rough and a disused tent and will be making the local authority aware.





March 24th to March 28th I planned to patrol every evening for the final week of March so have completed these as a quick diary entry.

Monday – I was on patrol in Witham but with a slight difference. The Community Policing Team had planned an operation to significantly increase the visibility around the town centre to deter and detect any anti-social behaviour. In the past week there were several incidents of criminal damage, Public Order and it was important to try and stop this quickly. With marked police cars and officers and plain clothes officers we swept over the area consistently and pleased to report that in town centre there were no issues reported or detected. Unfortunately, we did have one incident to attend for a fire that had been set by a group of young people in the scrubland off Blunts Hall Road. The fire was small but smoke was drifting across the fields before we arrived. The group ran off as soon as they were aware of our presence and with the assistance from the Fire Service it was extinguished before it could spread any further. Within the remnants of the fire were several nitrous oxide canisters and balloons scattered around the area which indicated that this area was being used to consume this harmful substance. Please continue to report any concerns in this area and we will add this to our regular patrol plans.



Tuesday – I headed into Witham to be greeted by light rain and this was reflected in the town centre with very few people out and about. With my presence in Witham, I was able to attend and assist with enquiries for a high-risk missing person and the information we were able to gather helped to determine the current welfare of the person. With the updates on our system complete I headed back out on patrol in to the Town Centre and visited the Morrison's Daily store and Favorite Chicken for reassurance and visibility. With no issues raised or other incidents I concluded my shift for the evening.

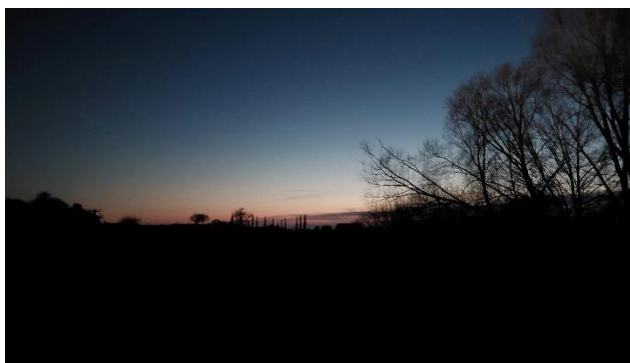




Wednesday – I was crewed with Special Constable Baker for my patrols in Witham and almost immediately on our arrival in the town centre on foot we were alerted to a disturbance that had occurred at the library. A group of young people had been in to the library and caused a nuisance, this continued out on to the street and later led to an assault. Fortunately, we were able to find the victim and after checking their welfare we recorded the details of the incident for further investigation. Over the course of the evening, we carried out foot patrols covering the main shopping areas before we attended the Witham Town Park, Blunts Hall Road, and parts of the RiverWalk with no further incidents.



Thursday – I was out on patrol and once again focused on the town centre for visible foot patrols visiting the Newlands Precinct, Grove Shopping Centre, Witham Town Park, and Newland Street. I visited stores along the way and called in at the library. Over the following few hours, I also conducted mobile patrols visiting Blunts Hall Road, ASDA, and foot patrol on the RiverWalk around the DuckPond. With my presence in Witham, I was able to attend a reported incident in under 2 minutes on the Templars Estate but with colleagues arriving a little while later we were able to resolve the concern and I returned to my patrols.



Friday – I arrived earlier in the afternoon and headed straight to the RiverWalk between Ebenezer Close and Bramble Road following a report of indecent exposure which had been seen in the area. The footpath is very well used by the community with returning school children and people walking their dogs or out for a stroll alongside the river and we want to ensure that it remains safe for everyone. If you do see anything at all that causes you concern, then please ensure that you report this immediately to Police. Over the 30 minutes I spoke with several people who were aware of the issue and were pleased to see my presence. I next headed into the town centre as the shops started to prepare to close for the day, calling in at several stores and the library. While in the town centre I met up with PC Roper & PC Hobson on foot patrol on Newland Street before I pulled over a vehicle driving anti-socially and verbally warned the driver who had only passed their test in October last year. A driving conviction in the first 2 years of driving where you accumulate 6 or more penalty points will result in losing your licence and requiring you to resit both the theory and practical driving test again to regain full driving privileges. The final part of my shift took



me over to Hatfield Peverel to examine the remains of a motorcycle which had been set on fire. Unfortunately, I was able to determine that the motorcycle had been stolen and this will now be recovered.



Saturday 29th March

During the morning, I supported two warrants that were executed in Braintree in connection with the supply and distribution of drugs. This involved searching the premises, securing any occupants, and seizing items from the properties. With these actions complete I arrived in Witham in the early afternoon with Witham PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Williams. Our first location was just off Honeysuckle Way to collect some found property before we carried out a high visibility foot patrol between Bramble Road and Ebenezer Close. During our patrol we received some helpful information concerning the previous incidents of indecent exposure and this will be passed onto our colleagues in CID who are investigating.



We returned to our vehicle and headed into the town centre, parking in Newlands Drive before continuing foot patrol through the Newlands Precinct and across into the Grove Centre. We made our way past the Tesco store and across Maldon Road into the Witham Town Park engaging with a different people enjoying the sunshine. When we exited Kings Chase onto Newland Street, we again engaged with lots of people as we headed up to the Morrisons Daily store. While inside speaking to a staff member a person rode their E-Scooter on the pavement and directly through the door into the store and this gave me the power under Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act to seize it. Unfortunately, the owner did not want to give it up voluntarily and therefore with the assistance of another unit the person was arrested, and the E-Scooter seized. When the E-Scooter was secure, and the paperwork completed with



the owner they were de-arrested and allowed to continue on foot. The link below provides further information in relation to the use of privately owned E-Scooters.

[Advice on e-scooter usage | Essex Police](#)

Retuning to our vehicle we completed our patrols without further incident.

This concludes the monthly report for March 2025.

Stay up to date with the latest policing news by signing up to our weekly e-newsletter
www.essex.police.uk/dispatch



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[StreetLink - Connecting people sleeping rough to local services](#)






You can find Witham Community Special Constable patrol updates on Twitter / X 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/>

