



May 2025

This May marks the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and along with several commemorative events there were other events including the Mayors Civic Ceremony and the Witham Dog Show which provided a great opportunity to bring the community together. We have supported these events while still carrying out our normal patrol duties, attending incidents and providing a visible presence around the town.

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.

May 3rd

I started my patrol with a drive through Newland Street before parking in Mayland Road and I continued on foot patrol. My first port of call was the library and pleased to hear that once again there had been no further issues of anti-social behaviour, I next visited the Newlands Centre where I spent time engaging with stall holders on the Saturday market before heading down Newland Street and then to the Witham Town Park via Kings Chase. The park was busy with families, dog walkers and a few familiar faces and following some positive engagement about the park and the surrounding area I moved on to the Grove Centre from Tesco carpark.



Arriving in the centre there were several stalls set up and I began my Community Beat Surgery outside The Witham Hub. Over the following 2 hours I spoke with lots of people offering advice and taking details of concerns in their neighbourhoods. I was asked about the safe disposal of knives and although these can be taken along to the recycling centre, I agreed to collect several unwanted knives for the person due to difficulties for them to do this themselves. At Braintree Police station we have a "Knife Amnesty Bin" where these can be disposed of with no questions asked and this has proven very successful across the Country in ensuring that some very dangerous items have been disposed of correctly. Statistically knife crime is very low in the area and schemes like this or people disposing of knives that they no longer need correctly will help to maintain this.



I was also available for a quick photo request from a Witham resident whose relatives were visiting from America. I always wear the traditional Custodian Helmet when I am carrying out my duties and this is an iconic symbol of British Policing around the World!

With the Beat Surgery complete I had to attend an incident on the RiverWalk for a suspicious person and after gathering a few more details I recovered an object from the bushes, and I headed to the Town Hall to review the CCTV from the area. The additional CCTV cameras along the RiverWalk were added as part of the Safer Streets initiative and have proven invaluable in providing reassurance for people and providing evidence for several incidents since their installation. As I finished up and exited the Town Hall, I crossed the road to immediately confiscate 2 E-Scooters which I had seen being ridden in the town centre. The owners of these brand-new E-Scooters were from out of the town and following advice will be returning these to the shops to avoid them from being seized. The law surrounding the use of privately owned E-Scooters in a public place is well known now but these can still be sold by retailers for use on private land. This seems to be the part of the purchase of these that is either being ignored or misunderstood but use of these in public is currently illegal.

With these removed from the town I returned to foot patrol in the town centre to assist with a person that had taken a fall while crossing Newland Street near to the Witham Barbers. Fortunately, a member of the public with NHS medical experience assisted in the first instance and the Barbers provided their facilities for the initial care. When I arrived, I was able to use my resources to find a relative who arrived to take the person to hospital for precautionary checks. It makes me feel very proud when residents and businesses work together to help people in need. I finished off my foot patrol in the Grove Centre before returning to my vehicle and carrying out a mobile patrol around the Southfields estate before concluding my shift.



May 4th

The Witham Community Special team consisting of Myself, Special Constable Claire Eaketts and Special Superintendent Lorne Campbell were invited to attend the Witham Town Mayor, Lucy Barlow's Civic Ceremony at the Witham Rugby Club. The mayor held the event to celebrate and remember their year in office and to recognise local groups or people that have represented the spirit of the community in Witham. There was entertainment from the Big Sing and special guests who included representatives from neighbouring local councils. We were very honoured to be recognised for our volunteering roles in the community and we each received an award presented by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Charles Thomas.



May 7th

After a quick mobile patrol around the town, I parked in Newlands Drive to carry out foot patrol in the town centre. With an initial visit to the library, I called in to businesses in the Newlands Precinct and the Grove Shopping Centre. With no issues I visited the Town Hall to review CCTV for a previous incident before being called back to the Tesco store due to nuisance behaviour by small group of young people.





Unfortunately, they had left the area before I arrived but with descriptions provided, I knew who I would be keeping an eye out for through the evening. My next incident saw me visit Blackman Lane where I carried out a search following a report that a message had been seen sprayed on the ground '999 HELP'. While this may have been graffiti, we still need to check it out to make sure that nobody needs assistance. With no clues or sightings at Blackman Lane, further information came in over the radio which changed the location to the Duckpond & weir on the RiverWalk. I drove across the town and carried out a search of the area, but I was unable to find anyone needing assistance and several people out walking their dogs also confirmed that they had not seen or heard anything in the area. I returned to my vehicle to continue my patrols before another incident came over my radio near to the skate park and I headed on to Blunts Hall Road to carry out an area search. I had guessed correctly and found the people involved on the footpath towards Humber Road. I was joined by other officers, and we were able to resolve the original concern without further action. With our proximity to the Witham Hangout, we dropped in to say hello and interact with the staff and the children before I once again returned to my vehicle for mobile patrols in the town centre. I had intended to finish my duty at this point, but I was able to assist other units at an address in Witham where a person was arrested in connection with a domestic violence offence. With the person safely secured and off to custody I finished my shift.



May 10th & 11th

Annually I attend the Temple At War event to provide a visible presence throughout the 2 days and with its proximity to Witham I often engage with residents that I would normally see around the town. It is always an extremely well attended event with thousands of people visiting each year and provides a great opportunity for positive engagement. With the celebration of 80 years since Victory in Europe (VE Day) there were even more visitors, and it was great to see everyone having a great time. Over the course of the 2 days the only minor incidents were missing people but in both cases, they had just wandered off to look at the different exhibitors or shows and were quickly reunited with their families.





May 14th

I began my shift in the town centre on foot, visiting local businesses & checking previous hotspots for anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, revisiting these areas helps us to determine if there is an ongoing issue or if our increased patrolling is having a positive impact. My patrol continued into the Witham Town Park where I engaged with families and other people relaxing in the park before returning to my vehicle and heading over to the Templars Estate for foot patrol. After engaging with a group of teenagers outside the shop I visited several of the Courts as I walked around the estate but pleased to report no concerns.



A short while ago a new landlady & landlord had moved into the Cherry Tree pub on Cressing Road, and I visited to introduce myself as one of the Community Special team. They were very pleased to greet me and welcomed future visits as we spoke about their plans for encouraging families and other people back to the pub and its great garden area. I continued my mobile patrols heading up Church Street and on to Ebenezer Close to check on the derelict garages and I carried out a short foot patrol towards Bramble Road. I rounded off my shift on the Hatfield Road estate where I noticed a car with the driver's window left open, by checking on my mobile device I identified the owners address and alerted them so they could secure their car. While this may seem a very minor action it can help to prevent crime. As the sun set on another day, I finished with a visit to Blunts Hall Road which had been a previous area of anti-social behaviour including several small uncontrolled fires but again I am pleased to report that there was no new evidence at this location.



May 17th

I was joined by fellow Witham Community Officers, Special Constable Claire Eaketts & Special Superintendent Lorne Campbell for the Witham Dog Show. This excellent event is held on the RiverWalk near to Chipping Hill and gives the owners and their four-legged friends an opportunity to come out and have some fun competing in a variety of interesting categories over the course of the day. Last year I remembered judging the “Waggiest tail”. This free event also included stalls from associated groups and food stalls around the arena area. We are invited along to enable us to have positive community engagement and for us to provide reassurance and visibility for all that attend. With the sun shining we set up with the police carrier and free giveaways for children and it also enabled us to give out our new leaflets about the role of Community Special Constable. If you can spare a few hours per month and you would like to volunteer in your community then please come and see us at future events or at the Community Beat Surgery on alternate Saturdays at The Witham Hub to find out more. During the event we met with the new Witham Town Mayor Paul Heath and later had a photo with members of Paw Patrol who wandered around the event much to the delight of the children. We had a lovely visit from Essex Therapy Dogs and apart from a couple of items of lost property there were no issues over the course of the event.

Below are a few photos from the event but you can also visit the Witham Town Council Facebook page or their website for further images from the event.





May 18th

On the Sunday I was accompanied by Active Citizen Cathy Pengilly who volunteers for Essex Police and Essex Fire & Rescue Service providing support with pop-up events, Community Speedwatch, Fire Safety and can accompany officers out on patrol in the community and other activities. If you would like to find out more about the Active Citizen role then please see the link below. Travelling just south of Witham we attended the Hatfield Peverel Community Information Event held in the village hall. The event is set up by the Parish Council to share information about different community groups and we are invited to provide crime prevention information and offer advice and listen to residents' concerns. During the event, I was able to provide some information concerning a recent incident that had occurred in the village, and I also collected some intelligence concerning potential drug related activity. This will allow us to target a specific issue and hopefully prevent further occurrences. [Volunteers](#) | [Essex Police](#)



May 24th

I was joined on patrol by Special Constable Kian Stevens. With initial shifts completed with his tutor he was free to be able to join me in Witham in the role that had piqued his interest in joining the Essex Special Constabulary. It was 6 years ago when Kian first became interested in the position of a Witham Community Special Constable and hopefully when his training is complete, he will look to join the successful Witham team of volunteer officers. The main goal of our shift was to provide a visible and reassuring presence around the town, and we began with a visit to the library and then on to the Newlands Precinct where we engaged with staff in the stores and talked with the market stall holders. This direct engagement helps us to build up positive relationships with the shops and understand any concerns they may have with previous issues of anti-social behaviour or shoplifting. We continued



our patrol along Newland Street before turning into Kings Chase to enter the Witham Town Park. With only a few people in the park we headed across Maldon Road, where we stopped briefly to reminisce at the location where Kian first became interested in the Police at the Witham Hangout Youth Group when it was held at the Parkside Youth Centre.



We entered the Grove Centre via Tesco car park for our Community Beat Surgery outside The Witham Hub. While we were available for enquiries and advice, we were also invited to take part in several exercises and a virtual experience to help understand Dementia. This is relative to several types of incidents that we attend, especially for missing people or concerns raised by carers or care homes due to the behaviour of a person with dementia. Being able to try and understand some of the key features of this condition will help us to approach the person and try and provide the best possible care in keeping them safe. The Virtual Experience was certainly a valuable tool, and I would highly recommend taking this if the van is present in your town or area.



With the Beat Surgery complete we carried out further foot patrols in the town centre before returning to our vehicle to carry out a speed check on The Avenue. With the SL700 device we measured the speeds of 100 vehicles comparing their speed to the 30mph limit and only a few visual warnings were necessary. We did have one driver speed up after passing us which did reach a speed of 37 mph and I will be looking out for this vehicle in the future. The next part of our patrol took us on to the Hatfield Road estate where we engaged with a group of teenagers at the shops before heading over to the REDROW estate for general visible patrols. Following on from reports at the recent Hatfield Peverel Community Information event and a comment I had seen on one of the local Facebook groups we drove into the village Hall car park to carry out a foot patrol around the Strutt Memorial Park. The reports



were for the dumping of used Nitrous Oxide cannisters which have been used in conjunction with balloons to inhale the gas for a short term “high”. This is extremely dangerous and can damage lungs and airways, especially in younger children. Fortunately, we have seen an overall reduction in evidence of their use and during the patrol we did not find any cannisters. If you see anything suspicious concerning the use of drugs, then please make sure you report this via 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers (details are at the bottom of this report).



While parked in the Village Hall we did then carry out a further 100 speed check on Maldon Road. With our location we were able to measure vehicles in both directions and only one driver was stopped for speeding and another for etiquette at the pedestrian crossing. With further praise from residents and families for our visibility we concluded our checks and finished our duty for the day.

May 26th

I started with a survey of suitable locations for a CCTV camera to be positioned on Chipping Hill as part of a continual process to ensure the Safer Streets cameras are in optimal positions to provide the reassurance and crime deterrent in agreement with the Witham Town Council. I returned to my vehicle and headed up Chipping Hill towards Powers Hall End and then down Spa Road where I saw a large group of teenagers begin to run away from the entrance to the ASDA store. When I attended, I found three more of the group inside causing a noise nuisance and escorted them out of the premises. While the group may have appeared intimidating to staff and customers, I was able to engage with them positively and got them to move on from the store with no further action required.

I had planned to respond to some concerns raised at one of the recent Community Beat Surgeries about drug related activity on the RiverWalk around Moat Farm Bridge and I parked on Armond Road before continuing on foot. During my walk I spoke to several people who provided some further insights into activities in the area but at this time I could see no evidence, but I will be back at different times. I carried on my foot patrol towards the weir, where I observed a heron fishing in the river, but this was interrupted by an urgent call for assistance to a domestic violence incident close to my location. Running back to the car I was the first unit on scene but fortunately I was quickly joined by another officer arriving shortly after. An ambulance crew were already attending to the victim, and we quickly located and arrested the suspect. When additional units arrived on scene to follow up with the victim and convey the suspect to custody I returned to my CSC duties.



I headed in to the town centre parking in Lockram Lane car park and continued on foot patrol on Collingwood Road, as I neared the traffic lights an off-road motorbike roared around the corner from Newland Street through the red light and then pulled the motorbike into a wheelie and continued down Collingwood Road narrowly avoiding other moving traffic. This was captured on my Body Worn Video camera and although a search was carried out at the time there were no further sightings of this dangerous individual. If you have any information about this motorbike being ridden in this manner throughout the town, please report this to help us stop them before a serious collision occurs. An information report has been submitted on to the Police database for future investigative opportunities.



I returned to my vehicle to assist in the search but as I headed along one road, I was flagged down by people outside reporting a disturbance at a nearby property. As I exited my vehicle, I could indeed hear shouting coming from inside a property and called for additional assistance. On the other officer's arrival, we were able to enter the property and investigate to address some of the neighbours' concerns. After updating everyone involved, we were able to leave the street peaceful and I continued my patrols visiting Church Street and the derelict garages on Ebenezer Close.



May 28th

I was crewed with Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Stacie Williams for our Saturday patrol in Witham, and we began by setting up the TruCam II speed measuring device on Newland Street outside the Holy Trees Day Nursery. This is one of 4 locations currently identified for the device to be used in Witham, but we are looking for more information and conducting speed surveys to add new locations. With the camera facing towards the bridge, we measured a significant number of vehicles travelling towards the town centre and 5 vehicles were captured significantly exceeding the speed limit. This device does not require Police to stop the vehicle, and any captures are then processed by the Casualty Reduction team and the drivers notified by post.



With the check complete we returned to the town centre to conduct visibility & reassurance foot patrols, beginning in the Newlands Precinct and talking with the market traders and members of the public before we continued down Newland Street and into Kings Chase towards the park. In the park we engaged with families in the play area and a few others before crossing Maldon Road and into the Grove Centre. It took us quite a time to walk through as more and more people now stop to talk to us and this is not only great engagement for us, but most people were praising us for our presence which is at the core of my CSC role. We do, however, still tackle issues that are reported and I had to carry out a stop and search on a person in the centre of the shopping area who was smoking a hand rolled cigarette containing a drug which was reported by several people who were walking through the centre with children. This behaviour is not acceptable and although the search for additional drugs was negative, this has been recorded for future reference. The person was then given strong words of advice and instructed to leave the Grove Centre.





During the afternoon I was back on my own and I made my way into the town centre for further foot patrols following reports that the dangerous motorcycle rider had been seen again on the high street. Although there were no other signs of the rider, the information that had been reported by a member of the public will be added to my previous report and helps to build up a profile that hopefully will stop this person soon. For my final task of the day I returned to my vehicle to attend an incident close to the town for a domestic related incident, fortunately this was quickly dealt with and I conveyed one of the parties out of the area and finished my shift.

This concludes the monthly report for May 2025.

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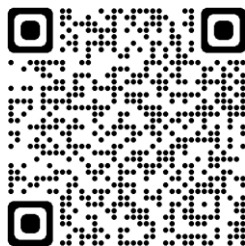


[StreetLink - Connecting people sleeping rough to local services](#)



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/>

