



April 2026

With the beginning of April, Easter was upon us and marked the first event organised by Witham Town Council with the Easter Egg Hunt on the River Walk. This always gives us the opportunity for direct engagement with families and particularly younger children so they can have a positive interaction with Police Officers and hopefully understand our role in the community. The school holidays generally result in more activity in the parks and the town centre, and we have increased our visible foot patrols to prevent anti-social behaviour.

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](#)

April 1st

I took a half day from my normal job to make sure I could be out and about around the town during the school half term. There had been an increase in anti-social behaviour since the beginning of the holidays with activity centred on the library and the nearby buildings and I wanted to increase my presence to try and disrupt the nuisance. With an early foot patrol in the town, I headed up to the Templars Estate visiting the park area, shop and walking through the Courts. I did meet with a group of children playing football and they seemed excited to see me, so I went back to fetch the public order van for them to climb inside and try out the lights and sirens. I also had lots of great questions about what I do and of course “Where do the baddies get locked up”...so naturally they all wanted to visit the cell in the back! While I was in the vicinity, I revisited the unoccupied flats at Dorothy Sayers Drive which had recently been targeted by vandalism again but pleased to see no further issues.





April 4th

The Easter Trail is one of our great engagement opportunities throughout the calendar year and we are supported by Witham Town Council in providing giveaways, games and sweets. I was joined by my fellow Witham Community Specials, Superintendent Lorne Campbell and Constable Connor Penrose and together we set up our marked Police van for the event. Over the course of the day, we saw over 600 children with their families, and we hope that this provided a fun and informative hit along the trail. With a guest appearance by Peter Rabbit we posed for a photo before packing away and heading home. We hope everyone enjoyed the day and look forward to seeing you again at the next event.



April 8th

I entered Witham via Faulkbourne Road to see a large group of teenagers who all positively acknowledged me before disappearing into the field leading up to the reservoir. I was on patrol in the town centre following up reports that a small group of young children had been seen on the rooftops of some of the buildings in town. This is extremely dangerous and risks serious injury or death. They can also cause significant damage to the listed buildings costing thousands of pounds in repairs. Videos have been obtained from one of the stores and children have been identified for follow up actions. My next stop was the library who had also reported similar groups of children causing a nuisance to the staff and other people in the library. For the duration of the Easter school holidays a security guard had been employed to deter this which should not be necessary. Please check where your children are during the late afternoons and early evenings.

I moved my patrol up to Allectus Way to provide visibility & reassurance before heading over to the Humber Road estate. While checking around Bure Drive and the rear of the shops I quickly diverted to attend an incident at the leisure centre where a member of staff had been assaulted and a public order offence had been committed. Although the suspect had driven away, I was able to submit an intelligence report about their vehicle due to the driver being currently disqualified from driving.

My final incident of the night took me to the other side of town and to Cross Road following a report from a concerned member of public that had overheard shouting from a nearby residence. Although I was first on scene, I waited for an additional unit to arrive from Braintree before we entered and were able to resolve the concern. With a final check on the nearby derelict flats on Dorothy Sayers Drive I completed my shift.



April 11th

Parking in Newlands Drive leaves my marked vehicle visible for people to feel reassured there is a police presence in the town centre, and it positions me nicely to begin my foot patrol starting in the Newlands Shopping Centre and engaging with the market. Alternate Saturdays mark the regular Community Beat Surgery (which have now been running for over 5 years) and I get to speak with many regulars as well as meeting new people every time. This Beat Surgery provided me with local intelligence, and I was able to provide updates and reassurance about ongoing investigations and incidents that had happened recently. Before I arrived in the town centre, I had checked on outstanding incidents, and this allowed me to collect property following a disturbance in the early hours of the morning and return it to a grateful owner in nearby Kelvedon. On my way back down the A12 I carried on for a quick visit to Hatfield Peverel due to anti-social motorbike riding. Fortunately, there were no concerns in the meadows or the recreation ground and I returned to Witham.

Parking up at the ASDA store I headed out on foot patrol around RiverWalk, checking on the Duckpond and the weir before once again returning to the town centre. The owner of a building in the town had started renovations and had raised concerns due to previous criminal damage and I visited to find out if there had been any recent issues. I moved from here to the library just in time to deter a large group of children who had planned to enter the library. Many of the group had been responsible for causing a nuisance over the past few evenings and we have started to collect names for future action. I remained at the library as the group headed back into the town centre where they were then involved in a bullying incident in the precinct with a young lad on his own. After providing reassurance to the victim I then spoke to the entire group before I left them to attend an incident at the Battersford Court.





April 15th

I began my shift preparing my vehicle at Braintree Police Station when I was alerted to an assault reported near to Borno's Chemist on Newland Street. With the victim no longer on scene and the suspects had already left in a car I didn't have too much to go on so I carried out CCTV scoping from nearby shops, and I hoped my presence would encourage any witnesses to come forward. I had already spoken with the informant on my way to Witham so had a basic brief and I was just in time to be able to secure some excellent CCTV images from a local business. With many business and residential properties now protected in this way, we would like to encourage you to register this with Essex Police at the link below. This can significantly help with incidents and can provide critical evidence to keep Witham safe.

[CCTV Registry | Essex Police](#)



I returned to my patrols to find a man asleep on a bench outside the barbers and as I approached, I was tapped on the shoulder by an elderly gentleman who introduced that the man asleep was his son, but he was in distress and need assistance. An important aspect of my role is safeguarding, and I was able to return them both back to their home address in nearby Boreham. On the way back I called in to Hatfield Peverel, once again checking for anti-social behaviour on the meadows but pleased to see no further issues and arriving back in Witham I visited the Hatfield Road estate before driving round to the skate park. I was able to have some good engagement with groups of teenagers and younger children still enjoying the extra light in the evening before continuing to the Rugby Club to visit the Hangout youth club. After a whirlwind visit,



I was then off to attend an incident at the Witham Oaks Academy which resulted in patrols around the Rosebay Park area and then calling in at the ASDA store to follow up on a recent shoplifting incident. I finished my patrols with checks at the flats on Dorothy Sayers Drive and again pleased to see no further criminal damage.



April 18th

I started with my foot patrol in the Newland Shopping Precinct engaging with market stall holders and local businesses before I was alerted to a report of a potential drink driver on Newland Street. I headed down the town towards the location, and I spotted the vehicle sitting in traffic. I approached the vehicle and signalled for the driver to pull over but the vehicle continued and then drove off without stopping down Guithavon Road. This was immediately reported as a Fail To Stop incident and other units were alerted and started making their way over to Witham to try and intercept the vehicle. The registration number was added to the ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) system and with the various ANPR cameras around Witham I returned to my vehicle ready to join the search. Unfortunately, before I had managed to get out of the car park another incident was reported concerning a young person near to a bridge over the A12 and with my local knowledge I directed the other units to the South of Witham, while I checked Colemans Bridge at the North end. With the other units locating the person, I joined them for a short time until they were assisted out of the area and back to a place of safety.

I returned to the town centre to resume my foot patrol, checking the town park and the Grove Centre before visiting the library and calling at Roslyn House, fortunately with no issues disclosed I returned to my vehicle and made my way towards the recreation ground. I intended to park up in Manor Road but as I drove in the vehicle associated with the drink driving and fail to stop incident appeared directly in front of me and this time, I was able to stop the driver. Almost 2 hours had passed since the first report and following a breath test the driver did pass the legal limit but did have some level of alcohol in their system. An intelligence report has been added to look out for the vehicle in the future.

I was joined by fellow Witham Special Connor Penrose, and we headed on to Spa Road to conduct the first of our speed 100 checks. These checks measure the speed of 100 vehicles which forms part of a survey document and helps to highlight patterns of speeding in specific locations. I had been carrying out foot patrols recently around the shops and had observed cars and motorbikes travelling at speeds which I had perceived to be more than the 30mph limit. During the check several verbal warnings were given and one driver stopped for 41mph.



Our next speed check area was on Rickstones Road near to the junction with Cross Road and almost immediately we had residents coming to see us and talk about some of the poor driving they regularly observe and thanking us for being there. Our speed check was temporarily interrupted when we received a report that caravans had turned up on the field next to the recreation ground and we were able to get to the location within a couple of minutes to record the unauthorised encampment. In this initial stage we record all the caravans and associated vehicles, and these are then checked by our control room before the incident is passed over to the Rural Engagement Team who specialise in the liaison and actions to evict them from the area. We returned to finish our speed check and pleased that we did not have to stop any vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit.



The final part of our shift saw us both return to the town centre for further foot patrols and this helps to maintain a visible and reassuring presence over the day. Generally, when we are seen out and about in the town centre, we receive no reports of shoplifting and on the rare occasion this is reported we are immediately on hand to take action.



April 20th

I changed my normal pattern of patrol and visited some of the surrounding estates, I carried out mobile patrols on the Hatfield Road estate and Maltings estate before I was called to an anti-social behaviour incident on the Humber Road estate. A driver had reported that young children were causing an issue shouting at cars, but when I arrived to investigate, I found they were just trying to encourage drivers to “honk” their horns. After some gentle words of advice and some positive interaction I then parked up on the far side of Humber Road to conduct foot patrol in the fields behind Teign Drive where I spoke to some older children and a homeless person to check on their welfare.



For the remainder of my patrol, I joined a search in the Takeley area for a high-risk missing person where I was assigned to work alongside the Essex Search & Rescue volunteers with one of their drone teams. The £6k drone had a fantastic thermal camera which helped to search vast areas and directed us towards locations of interest. Unfortunately, due to failing light and difficult terrain the search had to be suspended until the following day, and I concluded my shift just before midnight.



April 25th

I began my patrol by visiting a resident near to Motts Lane following reports that vehicles were travelling at excessive speed down into Cut Throat Lane which had seen 1 cat killed and 1 badly injured in the previous 2 days. Providing reassurance, I then drove across town to visit Honeysuckle Way following reports of tents being seen in the green space area and I was able to positively engage with 2 people currently homeless. Fortunately, they were engaging with CHESS and other agencies and were being supplied provisions while their accommodation situation was being resolved.



I moved on to the town centre to begin my foot patrols in the Grove Centre and then started my fortnightly Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub. With the lovely weather there were many more people out and about and I was busy over the 2 hours talking about local issues and providing reassurance which was noted by many passing by. With another successful session complete I headed out on foot in to the town centre visiting the library to check if there had been any recent anti-social behaviour concerns but very pleased when they said that there had been a noticeable reduction. Within our patrols we target specific hotspots and our presence in the town during the early evenings and engaging with the young people associated with the behaviour seems to be working.



For the afternoon I visited nearby Hatfield Peverel where there had been new reports of motorbikes being ridden along pavements and dangerously in the roads and by utilising some local knowledge and feedback from residents, I was able to locate the motorbikes. I will be looking to take action to address the behaviour which could result in the bikes being seized using Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002.

I returned to Witham to complete my shift with more foot patrol around the town centre visiting the Newlands Shopping Precinct, Newland Street, The Grove Centre and the library.

April 27th

A completely different shift which started in Braintree with a collision on the road between a car and a mobility scooter. I waited with one of the parties until the ambulance attended before driving over towards Witham. After a mobile patrol around the town and no incoming incidents in the area I visited Hatfield Peverel once more where I disrupted suspicious behaviour involving 2 vehicles on Crabbs Hill. One vehicle failed to stop and drove off before being pursued by another Police unit in the area, while I stopped and recorded details for the other car and the occupants. A significant intelligence report has been submitted on the vehicles and the behaviour, and we will be looking at these and the area again in the future.



I returned to Witham and during my foot patrols around the town I was able to collect information relating to suspicious activity which will be passed on to the licensing team, this information gathering was only possible by carrying out foot patrol which gave me the opportunity to monitor and then investigate which shows the value of the role as a Community Special. I completed foot patrols around the town before being recalled to an emergency in Braintree and with the Public Order van having a “cell” in the back I transported an aggressive suspect to custody.

April 29th

I began a little earlier in Witham with foot patrols in the town centre in the afternoon visiting the library and the main shopping areas before heading through the Witham Town Park and as I walked up towards Maldon Road, I was called to an incident of a person trapped in a car following an accident in the Tesco car park. I was at the scene in under a minute and quickly ascertained that the driver was ok, but the nearby bushes prevented the car door from opening. Fire Engines arrived shortly after, and they used their best gardening skills to be able to extract the person from their car where I could then continue the rest of my checks.



Although a little shaken the owner was being looked after by Tesco staff who had come out to assist and they had erected barriers, leaving very little for me to have to manage. The Fire Engines departed just before an Ambulance arrived at the scene and after a brief discussion with the driver, they were happy that no medical assistance was required and returned to their duties while I continued to help the Tesco staff manage the scene. When the recovery truck arrived, I was able to leave and recommence my patrols which took me on to the Templars Estate following a report from a concerned resident that people had gathered in the park area near Shaw Road following an incident that had occurred the night before.

I carried out foot patrol around the surrounding Courts and spoke to the staff in the nearby shop who confirmed that there had been a large group gathered but it was earlier in the afternoon, close to school finish time. With this updated information an intel report has been submitted, and the local policing teams have been made aware of this potential flashpoint. If you have any concerns in your neighbourhood then please contact Essex Police via the methods mentioned in this report, if you choose, your information can be kept anonymous but to keep the community safe we ask you to share any information that would help.





I continued my mobile patrol, visiting the Hatfield Peverel area before returning to Witham and entering the Redrow estate to follow up on reports of antisocial behaviour around the waste ground near Wendon Avenue. Some damage to fencing was evident; however, no individuals were present at the time.

I then moved on to the Hatfield Road estate, where I completed a brief foot patrol, before driving to the skate park on Spa Road. I remained parked there for a short time and was pleased to see many children making use of the facility now that the evenings are lighter. This appears to be having a positive effect by providing young people with a great inclusive activity and reducing nuisance behaviour in the town centre.

I later received information regarding teenagers on electric bikes causing a nuisance near the Co-op store. Upon arrival, the individuals had already ridden off into the Humber Road estate. A short area search was conducted, but they were not located.

With no other incidents or concerns I returned to the town centre to remain visible until the sun set and I concluded my shift.

This concludes the report for April

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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](#)



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/>

