







YOUR MAYOR





At the start of the Civic Year in May,

Councillor Paul Heath was elected by the

Council as Mayor for the 2025 / 2026 year.

Councillor Heath is the first Mayor in

Witham's history to serve three times in

office. Councillor Heath is a familiar figure
around Witham, often accompanied by his

two loyal dogs, Dudley and Arthur.

The Mayor is a statutory unpaid position
and sits as Chair of the Council,

representing Witham at Civic Essex events,
raising awareness of local voluntary
groups, charities and businesses. The
Mayor will be supported this year

by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jack Coleman.

The Mayor's chosen charity for 2025/26 is the Alzheimer's Society 🗽



The Council would like to thank **Councillor Lucy Barlow** for representing Witham as Mayor last Civic Year. She raised £1,788.59 during her term of office for her nominated charities;

Home-Start and Kids Inspire.

Follow our social media



@Withamtc



@Witham Town Council



@town_witham

Page 4	Information Centre
Page 5	Station History
Page 6-7	Public Art
Page 8	Wild about Witham

Events

Page 9-10

DECISIONS DECISIONS



Witham residents are welcome to attend any Witham Town Council meeting to hear what their elected councillors are discussing. Each meeting offers residents the opportunity to raise any issue or concern they might have.

Meetings this Quarter

Full Town Council - every 4 weeks - 7.30pm

A meeting attended by all Councillors where key decisions are made.

1st and 29th Sept, 28th Oct and 25th Nov.

Planning & Transport Committee - every two weeks - 6.30pm



Councillors feedback their views on Braintree District Council's planning applications and comment on general planning and transport policies. 1st, 16th and 29th Sept, 13th and 28th Oct, 10th and 25th Nov.

Community Committee - quarterly - 7.30pm

The remit covers services that impact on the community including events, grants, healthcare, policing and public transport. 10th Nov.

Environment Committee - quarterly - 7.30pm

Making decisions on all things related to Witham's environment from allotments to rivers and discussing Witham's response to Climate Change. **13th Oct.**

Policy and Resources - quarterly - 7.30pm

Overseeing and scrutinising the Council's financial position, including budgets, reserves and cashflow. The 16th Sept.



Open Spaces Sub-Committee - quarterly - 2pm

Overseeing the day-to-day management of Witham Town Council owned open spaces including the River Walk, James Cooke Wood, Whetmead Nature Reserve and All Saints Closed Churchyard. It reports to the Environment Committee. 3rd Sept.

Note that times are subject to change - check website or noticeboard for details

Agendas are available three clear days before each meeting on our website, in the Information Centre or on our noticeboard.



WITHAM'S TOWN HALL INFORMATION GENTRE

The Town Hall and Information Centre sit in the heart of Newland Street. Open Monday to Friday, the centre is a safe and welcoming environment for all.

In addition to being the reception for the Town Council, a variety of local products and services are on sale and information about local events, groups and societies can be found.

If you find it difficult to navigate the internet the Information Centre staff

are happy to help with....
National Express Coach tickets
Local bus timetables
Public Hall shows
Coach trips







Recycling Sacks
Free dog poo bags
Photocopying
Printing
Food caddy liners
Senior & Disabled
Railcard discount codes

Looking to support local business or find a unique gift
Wilkins Jams, Marmalades & Curds
Wilkins Gift Sets
Wilkins Savoury Sauces & Chutneys
Witham Gifts & souvenirs
Local books and maps
Local honey
Artisan gifts from local entrepreneurs
Hand designed greetings cards

Supporting Witham's High Street

Witham Gift Vouchers are also available
to purchase, redeemable in Witham's
participating shops, cafes and
restaurants (see list in the Info Centre)

The Information Centre sells quality handmade gifts on behalf of local entrepreneurs. Whilst space is limited, we have room for one or two new traders. If you produce high quality handmade gifts, that can be displayed in a 30cm³ square, and would like to reach a local audience, please email infocentre@witham.gov.uk for more details, or call in for a chat.

Theatre Tokens

TRAGEDY AND HEROISM AT WITHAM STATION

Around 10.30am on September 1st, 1905, disaster struck at Witham Station when the Cromer Express from London derailed at high speed—travelling at 65 mph. The crash claimed the lives of ten passengers, including a child, and railway porter Jo Doole. Sixty-six passengers and five railway staff were also injured in the devastating incident.



Amid the chaos, quick-thinking signalman Benjamin Sainty, along with colleagues Fred Parish and Thomas Bannister, acted with remarkable speed. They immediately set the opposite line's signal to "danger," halting the oncoming London-bound Cromer Express—fortunately running one minute behind schedule. Their actions averted a second collision and likely saved dozens more

lives, including those of the Norwich football team aboard the approaching train.

The people of Witham came together that day, with local residents coming forward to help look after the injured and feed the rescue workers.

Workmen had been undertaking maintenance on the line prior to the accident but despite investigations, the exact cause of the derailment was never conclusively determined.

Witham Town Council

will be commemorating the quick thinking of the 3 signalmen, who saved many lives, on the anniversary of the tragedy

September 1st

See social media and the Information Centre for more details



A BIG DRAW



Skate of the Art!

Witham Town Council commissioned professional street artist, **Brave Arts**, to brighten up Witham's skate park on Spa Road. Funded through designated Section 106 money from local developers, the artist worked with the local Youth Club and young people to design and create a beautiful modern mural.





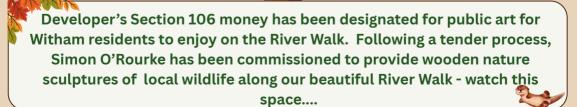




Witham Town Council will be installing a fixed point photography post with a smart-phone cradle at the top of the hill on Whetmead.

Simply pop your mobile phone on the cradle and take your shot of the view. Please feel free to share them with us. Photos taken will help us track the changes in the landscape over time.

openspacesadmin@witham.gov.uk



PUBLIC ART CONSULTATION

Section 106 money is funding provided by housing developers, as part of their planning agreements with the local council, which is designated for a specific use locally.

Prior to building the Maltings Lane development, Braintree District Council agreed developers contributions for different projects and, as a result, Witham was allocated £119,814 to spend on public art by 2026.

Please

This exciting project, which we are only allowed to spend on public art, will be in the vicinity of the new community centre on Haygreen Road and could be used to celebrate nature, community, or local heritage - it's your call!

Witham Town Council would like to hear residents' views, by the end of September, on how the public art funding should be spent.

(Please note the money can only be spent on public art, not for anything else)

We have some ideas to get you thinking, but would welcome any additional thoughts on the type of public art you would like to see. Please do aive as much detail as vou can.

tick	Detail
Sculpture / Sculptures	
Creative play equipment	
A mural	
Other ideas (please give details)	
Your name and contact Number (optional)	

Please fill in and return to the Information Centre on Newland Street by 30th September or complete the survey on our website www.witham.gov.uk



Wild About Witham





This year's watervole and glow worm audit was a huge success with evidence of both thriving in Witham



On Wednesday 23rdJuly, Witham Town Council held their first Bio-Blitz. Working with **Essex Wildlife Trust** and **Essex Field Club**, local residents joined in recording the many species of flora and fauna that make up our beautiful River Walk.



Witham Town Council are due to resurface the

River Walk pedestrian bridge at Bramble Road during the autumn.

We are constantly monitoring the wildlife on our Open Spaces with a view to maintaining and improving the biodiversity.

We would love **you** to be part of the record keeping community.

Let us know what you see on our Open Spaces by popping into the Information Centre or emailing

openspacesadmin@witham.gov.uk

If you are looking for something free to do with the children or grandchildren this summer, look no further than Whetmead Nature Reserve, off Maldon Road. Your mission is to hunt down all 15 nature brass-rubbing posts on our



winding trail and then see if you can spot the real thing! Why not take a picnic? But please remember to take you litter home with you!

We Need you!



Mill Lane was once a beautiful buttercup meadow and Witham Town Council would like to restore it to its former glory. To achieve this, the annual grass cutting policy will be changed from the normal "cut and drop" to "cut and collect". This is where we need help.

The Operations Team will be doing their annual cut in **October** and would welcome **volunteers** to help rake up and bag the cuttings. This will reduce the amount of nutrients in the soil, which wild flowers prefer, and allow the meadow to flourish.

If you can help, please contact: openspacesadmin@witham.gov.uk

Witham Town Council's

Autumn Community Events

SEP

Witham Rail Disaster Memorial Service



SEP **20**

Witham Street Entertainment Festival



ост **25**

Halloween Trail





NOV **Q**

Remembrance Sunday



NOV **22**

Christmas Fayre



Witham Royal British Legion Hall

£1 admission including tea/coffee!!





Doors Open 2:00 PM Film Starts 2:30 PM

THE BOAT THAT ROCKED

21ST SEPT







OLIVER!
16TH NOV



Witham Street Entertainment Festival





DON'T MISS THE MAGIC.

COME AND FEEL THE ART COME ALIVE
ON THE STREETS OF WITHAM!

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

10AM-3PM

WITHAM TOWN CENTRE







The full programme

Holmes & Hills

The full programme will be available in September on our website or by scanning the barcode below. Althernatively pop into the Town Hall for information



And He Returns.....



Witham Town Council and Essex Cultural Diversity Project have teamed up to bring an exciting new community-driven arts project to town. We have commissioned contemporary circus artist Dulce Duca to develop a unique performance for this year's Street Entertainment Festival.

Originally from Portugal and now based in East Anglia, Dulce is known worldwide for her **inventive**, often **surreal**, **juggling**, blending **circus**, **dance**, **theatre** — and **usually roller skates**! Her performances explore deep emotions like joy, sadness, love and rage through playful absurdity.

Over the summer, Dulce is running creative workshops in Witham, so that local people can help shape the final show that celebrates the town's own stories and voices.

"This is about more than just performing," Dulce says. "I want to create something that truly belongs to Witham and its people."



dulceduca.dif@gmail.com



Come and watch the performance showing at various times at Lockram Lane Carpark



GOOD TO KNOW...





BANKING HUB AT WITHAM TOWN HALL



Mondays 9am - 4pm

Fridays 9am - 4pm



Tuesdays 9am - 3pm



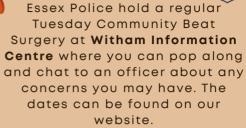
Fridays 9am - 3pm

Please note that cash & cheques can not be paid in or withdrawn



It is vital that all residents and business owners report crime to the **police**, not just Facebook - it is only with statistics and real life examples that the Police will prioritise a stronger presence in Witham.

POLICING



Next date:

Tuesday 30th Sept 10:00 - 1100

Our Special Constables are also outside Witham Hub every alternate Saturday

Emergency: 999

Non emergency: 101 Online: essex.police.uk

Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111
Crime Stoppers: crimestoppers-uk.org

NOT SURE WHICH COUNCIL YOU NEED?

Witham Town Council

Management of:

The River Walk,
James Cooke Wood,
Whetmead
The Closed Churchyard
Street lights with the
initials WTC
Witham Allotments

01376 520627

Braintree District Council

Management of:

Refuse Collections/bins Street Cleaning Witham Town Park Fly Tipping Abandoned Vehicles Housing Planning applications Council Tax

01376 552525

Essex County Council

Management of:

Road surfaces
Road signs
Bridges
Traffic lights
Most street lights
Pavements
Adult Social Care
School Admissions

0345 7430430



YOUR COUNCIL



61 NEWLAND STREET WITHAM CM8 2FE

01376 520627

Witham Town Council Offices

Monday to Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

townclerk@witham.gov.uk

Information Centre

Monday to Thursday 9:00am-4:30pm Friday 9:00am-3:50pm

infocentre@witham.gov.uk

Attend Your Town Council Meetings! When?

Meetings: 7:30 PM

Planning & Transport Committee: 6:30 PM
Timings are occasionally subject to change

Find Agendas

Noticeboard on Newland Street (attached to side of Fenn Wright) **Online:** www.witham.gov.uk/committees

In the Town Hall Council Chamber

With access through the side door via the drive.

NORTH

Phil Barlow

cllr.p.barlow@witham.gov.uk

Leanora Headley

cllr.l.headley@witham.gov.uk

Billy Taylor

cllr.b.taylor@witham.gov.uk

Ethan Williams

cllr.e.williams@witham.gov.uk

CENTRAL

Barry Fleet

cllr.b.fleet@witham.gov.uk

Ross Playle

cllr.r.playle@witham.gov.uk

HATFIELD

Emmanuel Adelaja

cllr.e.adelaja@witham.gov.uk

Lucy Barlow

cllr.l.barlow@witham.gov.uk

SOUTH

Joan Coleman

cllr.joan.coleman@witham.gov.uk

Jacqueline Martin

cllr.j.martin@witham.gov.uk

Paul Heath

cllr.p.heath@witham.gov.uk

Tom Hewitt

cllr.t.hewitt@witham.gov.uk

WEST

Jack Coleman

cllr.jack.coleman@witham.gov.uk

Ron Ramage

cllr.r.ramage@witham.gov.uk

Jack Robertson

cllr.j.robertson@witham.gov.uk

Artur Sloma

cllr.a.sloma@witham.gov.uk

Not sure of your ward? - You can find out at www.witham.gov.uk/wards or by asking at the Information Centre.