

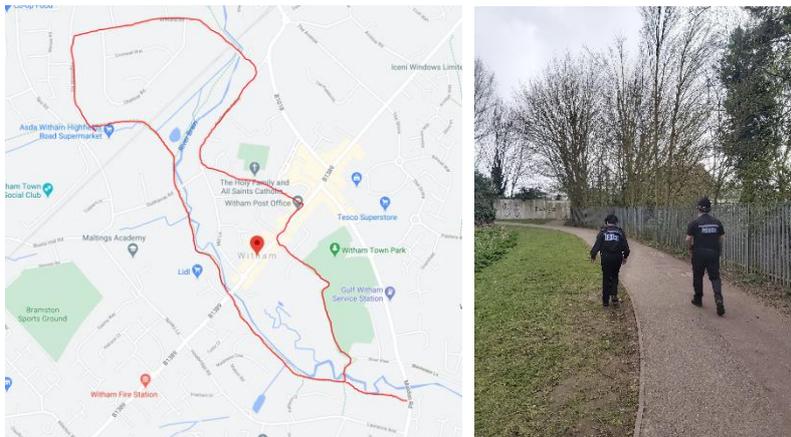


April 2021 Patrols

The group of six rule was reintroduced allowing people to meet with friends or family outdoors and this saw an increase in the amount of people using the parks, River Walk and the Town even though many of the shops were still closed in the early part of the month. An enhanced visible presence was being maintained for an ongoing incident; however, we were able to support the Easter Community event held by Witham Town Council on the River Walk which was very popular.

1st April

I partnered up with PC Wilshire & SC Truscott for patrols along the River Walk, starting at ASDA on Highfields Road we headed under the railway track to Guithavon Road and on to Bridge Street. After crossing we followed the pathway to Maldon Road before heading back up the Witham Town Park. We left the park and headed up Newland Street and through the Newlands Shopping Precinct and then down Guithavon Street. We carried along Guithavon Valley to pick up on Armond Road before walking up to join Highfields Road and back to our vehicle. We then carried out mobile patrols on the Humber Road estate, Hatfield Road estate and the Maltings estate. During our foot patrols we had some positive engagement with residents.



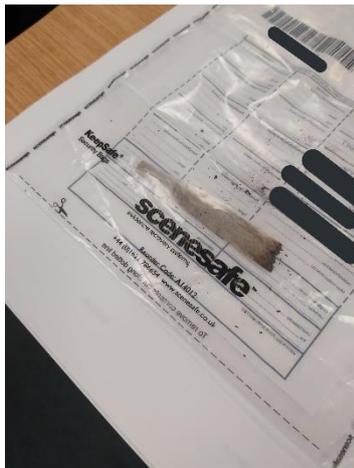
2nd April

On the Bank Holiday Friday I was in Witham supporting a 2-day planned traffic operation for speed checks, seatbelts and mobile phone use. The operation targeted specific locations in Braintree, Witham & Halstead. During this time, I was able to support increased visibility patrols around Maldon Road, Laurence Avenue, Pattison Close, Helen Court and the Witham Town Park. There were still a small number of drivers or passengers not wearing seatbelts and tickets issued for speeding with the top speed at 42mph in a 30mph zone. Several drivers travelling away from the speed check point were also spoken to after warning oncoming drivers of police presence. This is an offence and counters our goal which is to improve road safety.



3rd April

In company with Witham CSC Officer Keyse we joined PCSO Beverley to support the Witham Town Council Easter Egg Hunt on the River Walk. The trail between Guithavon Road and Maldon Road was very busy with parents and children eagerly collecting answers along the way for a reward of an Easter egg on completion. The event was organised to enable people to take part but still maintain social distancing guidelines. For our part we maintained a constant police presence along the route and had some very positive engagements with young children along the River Walk which was rewarding. With the location we were able to support the ongoing high visibility patrols around the Whetmead Nature Reserve, Blackwater Lane and during one circuit of the Witham Town Park we had to deal with a drug related incident in the children's play area.





4th April

In the morning with SC Keyse and PCSO Johnson we set out our Community Pop-Up kiosk in the Witham Town Park and were joined by Councillor Susan Ager (from Witham Town Council) to answer any questions or concerns raised by residents. We spoke to a few visitors and gathered some information relating to issues in their areas as well as receiving positive feedback on our continued support for Witham with visible policing presence. During our time in the park PCSO Johnson & SC Keyse carried out foot patrol along the River Walk.



5th April

We were back again with speed checks late in the afternoon which also allowed us to set up near to the recent incidents of sexual exposure providing a visible police presence. Following checks in this location where a number of drivers were stopped for speeding and not wearing seatbelts, we moved on to mobile vehicle patrols along the different access points to the River Walk including Pattison Close, Bridge Street, Armond Road, Chipping Hill and Bramble Road.



8th April

I initially began my patrols in an unmarked police vehicle to attend an address for a statement, however, I was then able to pull over an electric scooter rider whose details were recorded and warned on the illegal use of these on public roads or pavements. Any subsequent stops for this person will result in seizing of the scooter for destruction.



I was then joined by Acting Sergeant Mabey and SC Penrose who conducted foot patrols in the town and Witham Town Park before we headed along the River Walk. Following this we assisted at an incident with East of England Ambulance Service.



10th April

My initial patrol started with an incident on Cypress Road where it had been reported a large group of teenagers were gathered close to residents' homes causing a disturbance and possibly engaged in drug use. On attending the scene approximately 8 teenagers ran off, however, I was able to detain two who were searched in respect to the drug use which was evident in the area. I did recover a mountain bike which had been left behind by one of the teenagers and took this back to the Police Station for safe keeping. Shortly following this incident, I provided additional support for Ambulance staff following concerns for their safety from a patient requiring medical intervention. After this incident, a different group of teenagers were seen running from the train station where they had been playing, which caused distress to the staff due to safety concerns and the welfare of people on the platforms. With the assistance of PC Speller & PC Wilshire we were able to engage with these young persons and provide safety advice and a requirement for them to stay out of the station area. I continued to patrol the town and main housing estates and there were no further issues.





13th April

Following an appeal to the owner of the mountain bike I had recovered from the previous incident; the bicycle was identified as stolen. We had shared the image on the Essex Police – Braintree Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EPBraintree> and this was subsequently shared across the various Witham Facebook Groups. I was then contacted by the owner who provided identification papers and I was pleased to be able to return this to the young man who had the bike stolen 2 weeks previous. The smile on his face and the thank you from the parents was a heart-warming reminder of the positive work that we can do to help the local community.



From this special delivery I then conducted high visibility foot patrols with PC Joseph on Whetmead Nature Reserve, Greenfields, Maldon Road, the River Walk up to Moat Chase, via the Duck Pond and back to River View to provide reassurance in the area due to recent incidents.



15th April

In company with Acting Sergeant Jake Mabey of the Witham CSC team we headed in to Witham to conduct high visibility patrols. A recent increase in anti-social behaviour in the area of Cypress Road resulted in us attending the location several times over the shift. I am pleased to report that there were no signs of this behaviour. We also patrolled the Flora Road & Humber Road area due to reports of a vehicle that had been heard and seen driving in a dangerous manner around the estates. Following the search, a vehicle was located, and a police information report submitted for future action. We attended the Witham Town Park, River Walk and Laurence Avenue before heading over to Hatfield Peverel where we disrupted drug related activity.



16th April

I conducted foot patrol with future Witham CSC officer, SC Eaketts to provide a visible presence on the first Friday night since the latest change in social distancing measures. This allowed people to meet up in up to groups of 6 outside at public houses but with table service only and no gathering inside. We visited The Swan, Battesford Court, The White Hart, Crofters, The Red Lion, The Railway & The White Horse on foot patrol and we had some very positive engagement with staff and members of the public. After our foot patrol we conducted further mobile patrols and attended The Cherry Tree where I spoke with the new owner. Over the course of the evening we also attended the Witham Town Park where several young people had gathered but pleased to report that there were no concerns. With the temperature dropping rapidly and the increased Police presence there were no further issues over the night.





17th April

A similar shift to the previous night as Essex Police increased visible presence in the towns and villages to ensure that everyone could enjoy themselves but within the social distancing guidelines. Initially the shift started with a high-risk missing person incident in the Braintree area but when the person was located, I headed in to Witham with SC Truscott. We carried out mobile patrols on Forest Road, including multiple visits to the Cypress Road area, the Town Centre including each of the public houses. We searched for a vehicle identified on ANPR coming in to Witham before carrying out a detail patrol of the Humber Road estate with all side roads included, then headed up to Flora Road, Calamint Road, Rosebay Close, Honeysuckle Way and Bramble Road. An incident at the Witham Train Station saw us attend with PC Wilshire & PC Clarke following reports of an assault. From the information received from the victim and witnesses we then carried out an extensive search of the area surrounding the station but there were no signs of the suspects. Over the course of the evening I used the CCTV device provide by Witham Town Council to help identify areas of activity and we were then able to ensure we were present in those locations.



22nd April

On this night, there were 2 Witham CSC officers out on patrol when I was joined by Acting Sergeant Mabey. Our primary focus was to address anti-social behaviour in the Cypress Road area following previous reports of young people gathering outside residents' homes. This kind of behaviour can feel intimidating and is disruptive to the neighbourhood. I first attended the location on my own and found one person that I had previously spoken to. The person informed me that this was where they would be meeting their mates. After a warning to move on and not return this person left the area. Unfortunately, about 30 minutes later the rest of the group turned up and were then seen kicking garage doors, moving large recycling bins around and other anti-social behaviour. We responded to the reports and although the group had moved from the Cypress Road area, they were located on Cut Throat Lane heading towards the town. The group was identified, and names recorded. Two of these people had been warned previously and therefore an additional action will be applied to them. There were no further reports during the shift, but we did revisit the location several times during our evening. With our vehicles parked at each end of the River Walk we carried out high visibility foot patrols until Sergeant Mabey was called to assist with a disturbance near to Chipping Hill. While



he attended to support the Local Policing Team officers, I continued my patrol through to Highfield Road from Helen Court. On my arrival at ASDA I was also able to support the other officers and a man was detained and taken in to custody.

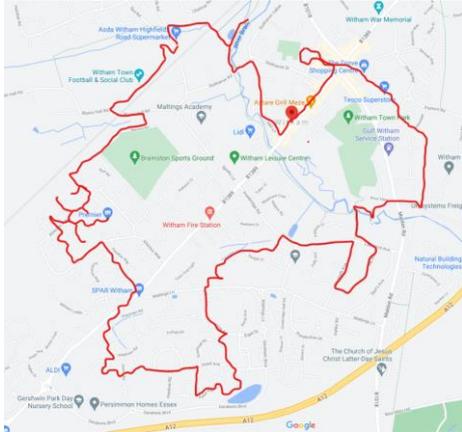


24th April

The weather had improved and with many people outside in the fresh air, I parked up in the Newlands Drive car park and headed out through the town to be visible in the Newlands Precinct and The Grove Centre. Moving on though Greenfields, I crossed over Maldon Road on to the River Walk. I then patrolled up Pitt Avenue and back down Elizabeth Avenue, along Laurence Avenue before heading up to Dengie Close. After looking around Maltings Court I headed up Elgar Drive and onto Greenwell Road, Baker Way and continued along Holst Avenue to the Chipping Hill Primary School. After spotting some young lads on the open ground near Haygreen Road, I gave them some safety advice before heading through Hardy Walk and on to Allectus Way. I spoke with a couple of car enthusiasts in Christina Road and headed over to Deford Way, Philip Road and then on to the field leading down to Alan Road. As I walked down the side of the Bramston Sports field, I spoke to three young boys who were trying to gain access to the pitches via a hole under the boundary fence and then walked up Blunts Hall Road and through the footpath to the Rugby Club and Football Club. The skate park was busy and there were several groups on the field enjoying the sunshine. I continued my patrol along the River Walk to the Duck Pond and up to the weir before turning back



towards Guithavon Road. A short walk along Mill Lane and on to Newland Street where I then returned to my vehicle. In the afternoon I attended an incident in Witham Town Park and during my time there I answered a number of enquiries from residents, including fraud advice, neighbour disputes and email scams. Following area searches in vicinity of the park and River Walk I was able to return to my vehicle and finish my shift.



26th April

Special Inspector Campbell carried out 2 separate foot patrols with the first taking place in the morning where he started out on the River Walk before heading along Hatfield Road and on to Spinks Lane. He stopped at Maltings Academy to engage with students and teachers before heading up Highfields Road and Spa Road. Returning to the town centre via the River Walk he then attended the Newlands Precinct, The Grove Centre and the Witham Town Park before walking back down Maldon Road to the River Walk once more. The afternoon session saw him at the Duck Pond and move up to Armond Road and head back in to the town via Collingwood Road. During his time in the town he carried out vehicle checks assisting with keys found left in a car and then attended an incident for a potential assault until the Local Policing Team arrived to take over. Following this he then headed around to Blunts Hall Road, Highfields Road, Spa Road, Brain Road and back down Armond Road to the River Walk and Duck Pond to finish his high visibility patrols.



27th April

The Inspector was out again for a similar shift with a different foot patrol route, this time heading out from Guithavon Valley towards Morrisons and Cypress Road. After crossing the Recreation Ground, he headed along Dorothy Sayers Drive to Rickstones Road. He then headed to Crossing Road where he maintained a visible presence for vehicles coming in to the town before walking up Conrad Road, past Elm Hall Primary School and New Rickstones Academy, where he had lots of engagement with pupils, before following Rickstones Road back in towards the town centre. He walked along The Avenue and on to the Grove before entering the Witham Town Park and dropping down on to the River Walk before completing the circuit along Laurence Avenue, Howbridge Road and Bridge Street to arrive in the high street. One gentleman he met on his patrol has lived in the town since 1939 and therefore has seen a lot of changes over the years but was pleased to see him out on foot patrol and visible.



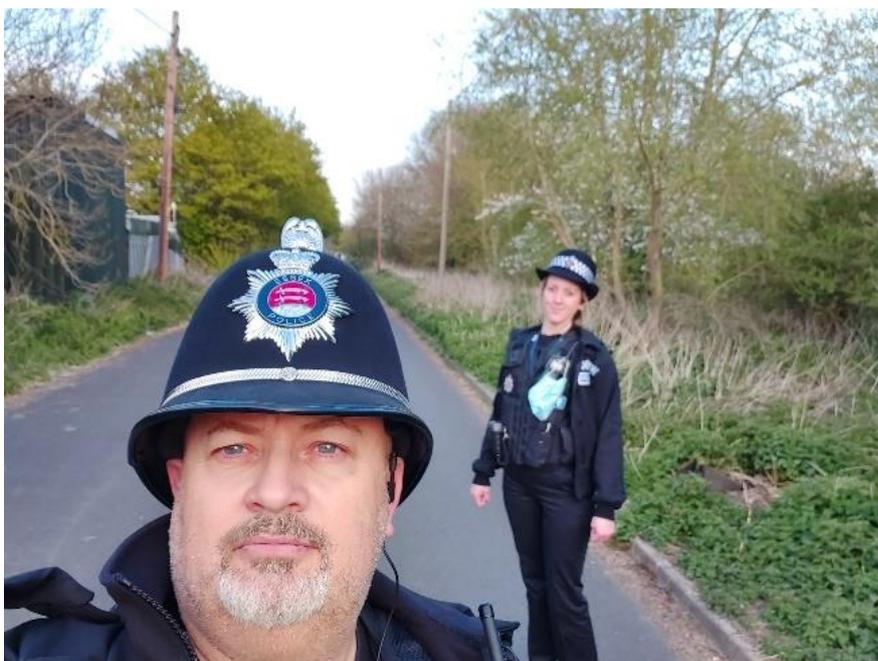
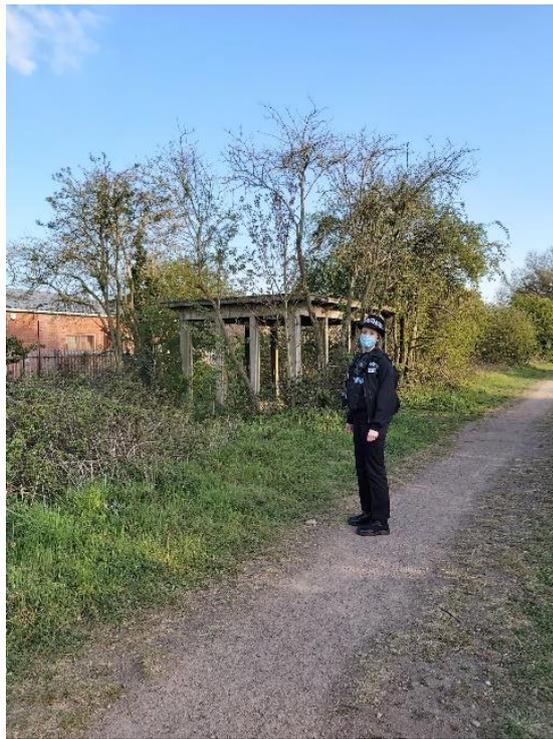
Splitting his shift again he then started his afternoon patrol along the River Walk towards Armond Road, Collingwood Road then back towards the town via Newlands Precinct, The Grove Centre, the Witham Town Park, back up Newland Street before reconnecting with the River Walk and travelling towards ASDA. Patrolling up Spa Road, visiting Brain Road before dropping back down on to Armond Road and back in to the rear of Newlands Drive.



During the late afternoon I took over the patrol duties with Special Constable Eaketts who is working towards independent patrol status to join the Witham CSC team. Following a drive down Newland Street we spotted a person on an electric scooter heading in to Lidl. After stopping to talk to the rider we advised them that due to the current laws that these are illegal to ride on public roads, footpaths or cycle paths with their use only being permitted on private land with the land owners permission. I have been trying to provide a suitable warning about the use which enables the owner to walk this home and keep their scooter until the laws change, however, repeat offenders will have the scooter seized. After this we headed off to Pattison Close and carried out a foot patrol which took us past Helen Court and onto Maldon Road before heading through Blackman Way and onto the field area between Greenfields and Freebournes Industrial estate. We engaged with a group of teenagers in the disused shelter before continuing our way up through the Grove Centre and back down Newland Street. Taking Kings Chase, we headed in to the Witham Town Park and then back across Maldon Road to repeat our journey back to our car. As we drove away from Pattison Close,



we then called up to be first on scene at an incident which was initially reported nearby to the NISA store on Rickstones Road. After an area search involving a Local Policing Team officer and a Traffic Unit, we were able to locate the incident after exploring the park area inside the Templars estate. With the addition of a Dog Unit we then arrested a person in connection with the incident and they were taken in to custody.





28th April

Witham CSC officer Special Inspector Campbell carried out foot patrols during the early morning starting out in the Town Centre to focus on retail engagement. Essex Police are currently promoting 'Open for Business, closed for crime' and many retailers stated that although the previous week had been very busy, it had slowed a little during this current week. He carried out further patrols on Newland Street, The Grove and Tesco's before heading through the Witham Town Park and the River Walk.

30th April

For the earlier part of the day Special Inspector Campbell patrolled the industrial areas before heading in to the Town Centre and once again visiting the main shopping areas to provide reassurance and visibility. After walking along the River Walk he engaged with a number of members of the public on issues including telephone and text fraud, as well as talking to another regarding parking issues around the Howbridge Infants School.

For the evening shift we were able to provide three Witham CSC officers with SC Keyse, Acting Sergeant Mabey and Myself who all had another Special Constable as a crew mate. This allowed us to focus on deterring anti-social behaviour alongside the Regular Witham Officers who were attending the pubs and bars to provide visibility and reassurance as well as making sure that the current social distancing rules were maintained. We started out on the Templars estate covering many of the Courts before meeting up in the park area near to the Shaw Road shops. Here Sergeant Mabey led the team and joined in briefly for a game of 5-a-side football with a number of children already in the park. I am not sure what the score was but hopefully showed that we are keen to engage with all ages and show that we are there to support you in your community.





WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL



After the final whistle we headed over to Cypress Road which had seen a recent spate of anti-social behaviour but I am pleased to say that there were no issues on our visit or over the rest of the night as we returned a number of times. We turned our attention to the train station and as we arrived on Albert Road a couple of teenagers spotted us, changed direction to run over the railway bridge and ran down Station Road, through the car park and hopped over the fence on to Atlantic Court before disappearing. After an area search provided no further sightings, I hope that our visibility provided a deterrent to the persons involved. Moving over from the Train Station to the Humber Road area we deployed on foot from different locations to enter from the Spa Road park, the Spa Road shops and from Yare Avenue. As each team filtered through the estate, we found very few people outside and only a handful of cars moving about the estate. One of the advantages of our foot patrols are the ability to search areas which are not visible from driving around or accessible to vehicles and in one location we found 3 insecure high value bicycles at the rear of a property. We encourage owners to lock up bikes and get them protectively marked. If stolen this marking can be used to identify the bike and get it returned to its rightful owner. You can follow the link which lists some actions to protect your property. <https://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-of-a-bicycle/>

After concluding the patrol on the estate, we separated and with one unit heading in to town, I then went up towards Haygreen Road, Holst Avenue, Mortimer Way & Baker Way, once again there was little activity. One driver parked up in Haygreen Road was spoken to by Sergeant Mabey but was all in order and as he continued over to Allectus Way, we travelled a short way down the A12 to Hatfield Peverel for some high visibility patrols. Due to reports of activity in the grounds of the Little Bear Nursery we carried out patrols in several locations nearby and the Nursery but pleased to report no concerns. The only issue I did notice was the increased speed of some vehicles and this information will be shared with the Community Policing Team for future checks. We returned to Witham and headed in to Newland Street and up to Maldon Road before heading around The Grove to The Avenue and back to Cypress Road. We moved round to Laburnum Way and spoke to a group of young people sitting around several pizza boxes on the green. They were advised on making sure to leave the area tidy when they left but were otherwise all ok. I headed back to Braintree to drop off my crew mate but then returned to Witham to focus on the town centre with the other CSC officers due to closing time. In the town centre Sergeant Mabey detained a male who was subject to a stop search following reports of suspicious activity and SC Keyse dealt with another male who had been riding an electric scooter in town and provided a verbal warning to walk this home. Unfortunately, just 5 minutes later the same male was then seen riding again in town and the scooter was confiscated.

Currently privately owned electric scooters (E-Scooters) are illegal to ride on public roads or footpaths. This is due to their classification as a motor vehicle and they require insurance (which is not currently available) and a driving licence. If you are found to be contravening the law on the use of an e-scooter it can be seized although most officers are offering a discretionary warning to riders to take the scooter home and keep it safe until laws around their use change. Subsequent breaches of the warning however will result in the e-scooter being seized and the rider prosecuted.

<https://www.essex.police.uk/news/essex/news/news/2020/december/e-scooters/>



After we encouraged revellers to leave the town centre safely and quietly we concluded our patrols, once again visiting the estates and I handed out some free bike lights to a couple of riders courtesy of Essex Safer Roads to ensure they could be seen after the street lights went out.

This concludes the monthly report for April 2021.