



August 2022 Patrols

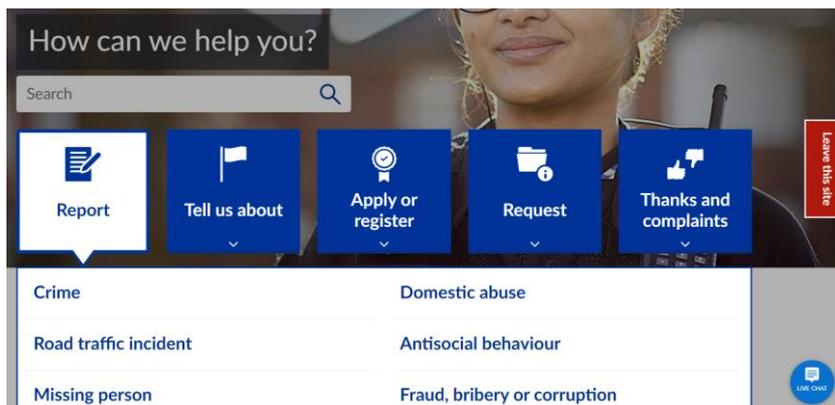
It was a month of action concerning speed & drug related activity in Witham with the Witham Community Special Team executing a warrant, gathering local intelligence, and targeting routes used for criminal activity. There has also been momentum on promoting a Community Speed watch group through Witham Town Council & Essex Police and we were keen to support this with additional checks of our own. High visibility patrols continued with foot patrols along the major walking routes on the RiverWalk and the town centre.

August 1st

I started my patrol in Witham with speed checks on The Avenue and I was very disappointed with the results. The speed limit is 30mph and even though I was wearing high visibility clothing in dry and clear conditions, there were many drivers exceeding the limit. Two drivers will be receiving notification in the post following speeds of **55mph** & **48mph**. This shows no consideration for other road users or pedestrians and if a pedestrian is struck at these speeds, statistics say that they will be killed!



Following the checks, I then continued my visibility & reassurance patrols in Witham. I first visited Dengie Close due to a rise in suspicious behaviour believed to be drug related. Please continue to report any activity which is affecting your neighbourhood. You can contact us by ringing 999 if there is a requirement for an immediate response or call 101 to report ongoing issues. You can also use the online service www.essex.police.uk and click on **Report** which can be easier and quicker to access. There is also a "Live Chat" function (Monday to Friday 10:00am – 09:00pm) on the Essex Police website that will put you online with an officer to help you report the concern.





Another issue that has been raised at the recent Community Beat Surgery and through the Witham Town Council is the issue of speeding in and around Cut Throat Lane. At this time of year there are many people accessing the allotments and currently additional construction traffic. Access is also required for the electrical substation using a very narrow lane that is used by residents to access the train station or continue their route in towards the town centre. With the surrounding field areas there are also people walking dogs that cut across the lane. The imposed speed limit is 5mph. This is very low and for safety reasons, please adhere to this limit to avoid potential collisions and be mindful of several pedestrian access points onto the road. The Allotment Association have reminded their members about road safety and we will continue to patrol the area for signs of dangerous or inconsiderate driving. During my patrol along the lane this time I did not encounter any issues. I finished off my visible patrols on foot around the Templars Estate where I am pleased to report there were no concerns.



August 4th

I travelled a little further afield than Witham on this day to carry out high visibility, reassurance, and engagement patrols to support a cycling event as part of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. This was another opportunity for Special Constables to be involved in policing operations all over the Country and provides new experiences within our volunteer role. We were well looked after and welcomed by the people of Wolverhampton and were praised for the way we positively engaged with children and families along the route. If you can spare from 16 hours per month then come and join Essex Special Constabulary. [Special Constabulary | Essex Police](#)



August 6th

On Saturday morning a warrant was executed under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act at an address on Cypress Road. Intelligence had been gathered over a period that indicated the address and occupant were involved in the supply and distribution of controlled drugs. Initially this can appear disruptive to the neighbours when entry is forced but when this has been completed the search phase is carried out with as little disruption as possible to others. A search dog was utilised, and a number of items and controlled drugs were found. We will continue to disrupt drug related



activity in Witham. If you have any information you would like to share relating to drug use or supply then you can report this directly to us using the links above or Anonymously via Crimestoppers [Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously](https://www.independentukcharitytakingcrimeinformationanonymously.com/) | [Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/) or by ringing them on **0800 555 111**



Following the warrant, I then attended the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub with PC Davies of the Witham Town Team. During our attendance we had several reports and concerns raised and assisted a distressed member of public that initially believed that they had been a victim of a theft in the town. With our presence, we were not only able to provide reassurance but took the person home who was visibly upset and shaken. In this instance the items were found at home by the person and therefore no crime had been committed, however, please be very aware of your valuables when you are walking into crowded shops or areas as open bags make it very easy for an opportunist thief to take items.

August 7th

On patrol in Witham to follow up on the reports from the previous day's Beat Surgery. My first location was again Cut Throat Lane and I spoke to a couple of local residents but they had not seen anything concerning speeding or dangerous driving on the lane. I then moved across Witham to the Hatfield Road estate following reports of alleged drug dealing between Allectus Way & Wendon Avenue. I also checked a number of the side roads including Christina Road, Deford Road and Alan Road. The play area was deserted but this was probably due to the very hot weather and there were no other concerns. I then moved up towards King Edward Way and checked in the car park at the rear of the shops. Recently a stolen vehicle had been left here and recovered during one of our patrols. After leaving Allectus Way I then visited the Lodge Farm (Redrow estate) and then over to Maltings Lane, Holst Avenue & Gershwin Boulevard before arriving in Dengie Close. In all locations there were no obvious issues, but these have been identified for repeat patrols at different times. Help us to help your neighbourhood by reporting any issues. While carrying out further patrols on Forest Road I was called to an incident on Conrad Road after a CCTV camera had been triggered on the building site. After finding my way onto the site I did spot a person walking around the unfinished houses. Although I carried out an extensive search of the area, I was unable to locate the person. Building sites can be extremely dangerous areas where it is very easy to get injured which is why the sites are locked up when not in use. If you trespass on a closed site and sustain an injury it is unlikely that you will be able to receive rapid assistance so stay out and stay safe.



August 9th

It was time for the Community Beat Surgery at the Town Hall and Witham Community Special Constable Eaketts & Special Constable Symonds were outside and on hand to answer questions, provide advice and listen to any concerns. They had some positive engagement from passing families and children, however a number of issues were reported including suspected drug supply on Armond Road, speeding on Guithavon Road and motorbikes & E-Scooters on the River Walk.

At the end of the Beat Surgery, they then conducted foot patrol heading through Kings Chase to the Witham Town Park and then continued past Helen Court onto the River Walk. They met several residents along the route as they headed towards Bridge Street who voiced concerns over the use of electric scooters and the lack of consideration for other users on the River Walk. E-Scooters are not permitted for use in Public unless backed by an authorised scheme. There is no scheme in Witham and therefore privately owned E-Scooters that are being used can be seized and destroyed for not having the correct insurance which is not available for privately owned scooters. Pit bikes or scrambler style motorbikes or electric motorbikes are not allowed on the River Walk and are also not insured and will be seized. If you are aware or know someone who owns an E-Scooter or motorbike and uses it in this way then please report this before a serious accident happens. You can do this online, calling us or by reporting to Crimestoppers. Please see the links above.

[Harlow: Man dies after e-scooter collision | Essex Police](#)

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

They continued their patrols along the River Walk, passing the Duck Pond and heading along Armond Road towards Chipping Hill before heading back towards the town centre. In the town centre a prolific shoplifter had been detained in the Tesco store by two Braintree Special Constables and SC Eaketts & Symonds met them to assist with the arrest.





11th August

I was crewed with fellow Witham Special Constable Eaketts, and we headed into Witham to conduct our patrols. We started on the Flora Road estate with a mobile patrol of Bramble Road, Honeysuckle Way before moving across the road to Rosebay Avenue and Calamint Road. We then followed Flora Road to Powers Hall End where we checked the car park and area to the rear of the COOP before turning into Humber Road. While here we checked a number of vehicles and recorded a information report which is shared to other officers. As we exited the estate and drove down Spa Road, we noticed a large plume of smoke rising from what appeared to be the outskirts of Witham, fearing another field fire we followed the smoke until we discovered a significant field fire in Wickham Bishops adjacent to the main road to Maldon. After briefly liaising with the Fire Service, we closed off the Station Road junction with Langford Road to protect drivers from the spreading fire and preserve access for the Fire appliances. In total there were 8 fire engines from different areas required to bring the fire under control with 8 hectares of field affected. Following the lifting of the road closure we headed back towards Witham, stopping at James Cooke Woods and carrying out checks following reports of anti-social behaviour. There were a couple of cars in the parking area, and we met a couple out walking their dogs as well as a person taking some time out from a busy day. Following the trails around the perimeter we did discover an area where a fire had been previously lit and discarded plastic bottles, crisp packets and sweet packets littered the ground. We reported this back to the Town Council so they could alert the Open Spaces Team.





When we returned back in towards the Town Centre, we carried out visible patrols on Blackwater Lane, the Lodge Farm estate and the Witham industrial areas with no reported incidents.

August 12th

I was crewed with Special Constable Storey for patrols in Witham and we wanted to address concerns raised about speeding on Guithavon Road. While we acknowledge that we are not always able to attend immediately or at specific times we hope that our presence will raise awareness in the community to help drive speed down. Guithavon Road is quite challenging to carry out a speed check due to the bend in the road and the parked vehicles that line the road. They can both slow road users but also encourage short bursts of speed to pass the obstacles. Driving of this nature creates harsh acceleration and noise increase which becomes a nuisance to residents and pedestrians. Our position at the bridge allowed us to measure traffic coming from Highfields Road and generally we noticed that speeds were within the required limit of 30mph. After completing our checks, we moved over to Maldon Road but before we could check many vehicles, we were called to an intruder alarm on the Freebournes industrial estate, fortunately there were staff on scene and it was an accidental activation. As the sun disappeared, we parked up in the town and carried out reassurance patrols calling in at The George, The Red Lion and Charlie's Bar. With everyone enjoying themselves we left the town and started to make our way back to towards Braintree. We only got as far as Cressing Temple, discovering a vehicle that had lost control and ended up in a ditch. The driver had run off leaving behind a number of items, including empty alcohol bottles, Nitrous Oxide cannister, Class B Drugs and a search was initiated, involving the Fire Service, an Essex Police Dog unit and a Drone Unit but with no success. Our shift finished a full 3 hours later than expected, with the vehicle recovered and the prohibited items booked into our property system.



August 16th

Witham Community Special Constable Eaketts and I drove into Witham and our first stop was Guithavon Road to again set up with the speed camera. Over the course of 30 minutes, every vehicle measured, was within the 30mph limit but during our checks we did see a number of children and families crossing the road at the bridge as they travelled along the River Walk. Concluding our checks, we parked up near to the Witham Town Park and conducted a foot patrol following reports of a sighting of a high-risk missing person. After a sweep of the park, we found no trace of the person and crossed Maldon Road, through Parkside and into Tesco car park to enter The Grove Centre. We walked through the centre and crossed over into the Newlands Precinct before returning down Newland Street to our vehicle. The remainder of our shift required us to head to Kelvedon for another high-risk missing person (who we



located on the Recreation Ground within minutes of arriving) and then onto Braintree for a business burglary at a Garden Centre.



August 18th

To support an ongoing operation in Witham we had a Braintree Special Constable and 3 Witham Community Specials heading to Witham, however, before we even arrived, I was able to issue a Section 59 Seizure for a vehicle in Braintree. Section 59 provides a power to seize a vehicle if it is being driven in an anti-social manner and carelessly or dangerously. The vehicle can be recovered by the registered owner but only after paying a release fee, the owner and vehicle are then monitored for a further 12 months and if there are any repeat offences the car would be seized again. With the car taken away I then headed into Witham where we met up with the other unit and initially planned to carry out a speed check on Spa Road. Traffic in the area was very light and after a few minutes we decided to relocate, however, we were then alerted to a group of teenagers who had stolen products from nearby LIDL. As we drove down Guithavon Road we saw a group matching descriptions run across the road onto the River Walk. With other units in Witham, we were able to surround the area and after a short foot chase we caught up with 5 of the teenagers near to the Duck Pond. After recording their details and establishing that they did not have anything in their possession we returned to our speed checks on Rivenhall Road. The results in this area continue to be disappointing with speeds well in excess of the 30mph limit. Three drivers were issued tickets within 20 minutes!





August 19th

Witham CSC Officer Eaketts crewed up with another Special Constable to support the ongoing operation in Witham. The three-day operation focused on vehicle crime and drug related activity between Witham & Braintree. In Braintree, Town Team Officers stopped and arrested three people connected with drugs near to Braintree Train Station and while this was ongoing SC Eaketts and her colleague carried out patrols around identified hotspots in Witham. In one of the locations a vehicle seen acting suspiciously was followed and located parked in a side street. Although the driver was not present the car had been seen to be driven and checks confirmed that it was shown as notified off road with the DVLA (Sorn notice) and had no insurance. With this information the vehicle was seized under Section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1988. Following this incident SC Eaketts & SC Wintin were called to assist with the arrest and conveyance to custody following a domestic related incident in Witham.



August 20th

Although it was the day of the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub, I was required to initially assist with an incident out of the town, fortunately when this was resolved I was able to get back to the Hub and meet up with residents. One of the recurring topics that is brought up with us in the use of cannabis, especially in a built-up environment around residential properties. Cannabis is a Class B controlled drug and is illegal. While this can be an emotive subject for some in regard to the effects of cannabis and the perception that it should be legalised, it does affect a person's abilities and is still considered a gateway drug to the use of Class A drugs. Money generated from the production and sale of cannabis funds criminal activity and the distribution network uses young vulnerable children to sell it on the street. We will continue to tackle the use, possession and distribution of this in Witham and encourage residents to report this via our online service, ring 101 or submit a report via CrimeStoppers.

If the smell of cannabis use is affecting your life and neighbourhood you should report this to Environmental Services at Braintree District Council who will be able to assess the problem and will be able to speak directly to the offender.

Following the Beat Surgery, I conducted mobile patrols in Witham including Dengie Close, Howbridge Road, Pattison Close, Humber Road and Forest Road with no issues or concerns.



August 23rd

Special Inspector Campbell arrived for the Community Beat Surgery at the Town Hall and he was also joined by Witham Town Officers PC Southgate & PC Davies. Several topics were discussed with residents which have been recorded for follow up. One resident had asked if we would be able to help them with the disposal of some knives that were no longer needed but was unable to get to the nearest knife amnesty bin. In this instance these may have been kitchen knives but the amnesty bin allows any type of bladed item to be deposited without question, so if you have any items that under the latest legislation are banned from being owned then you can safely deposit them.

Please follow the link below for further details, your nearest Knife Amnesty Bins are in Braintree, Colchester, Chelmsford & Maldon at the following locations.

[Knife amnesty launched | Essex Police](#)

- Braintree Police Station, Blyth's Meadow, CM7 3DJ
- Colchester Police Station, Southway, CO3 3BU
- Chelmsford Police Station, New Street, CM1 1NF
- Maldon District Council office, Princes Road, CM9 5DL

August 24th

I was crewed with a new member of the Witham Community Special Constable scheme, Special Constable Watts. We initially headed to the Town Hall where SC Watts met with the Town Clerk and we provided some advice for a resident who had been into the Town Hall to report an incident. We then began investigative patrols around Pinkham Drive & Dengie Close, in recent weeks there have been an increasing number of reports of activity relating to drug supply & use. When we walk through the alleyways and cut throughs as well as providing a visible presence, we are looking for evidence of drug use that would be impacting the neighbourhood. If you are being forced to shut windows and doors and not able to sit out in your gardens due to the obvious smell of the use of drugs then please in the first instance contact Braintree District Council Environmental Team who can act on your behalf to speak with



the offenders. If there is suspicious behaviour that you believe is the distribution, production or receiving of drugs then please contact Essex Police by calling 101 or using our online reporting service or alternatively you can report this to Officers at the next Community Beat Surgery.

August 26th

I was crewed with SC Eaketts for our patrols in Witham and first action was to collect a selection of knives for disposal. We then moved on to Pattison Close, Dengie Close & Pinkham Drive for more visible foot patrols. As we continued mobile patrols around Witham, we visited the Hatfield Road estate & Maltings's estate before heading to the other side of town to Cypress Road & Forest Road. In nearly all of these areas there were very few people about in the early evening. We were called to Hatfield Peverel following reports of Nitrous Oxide use on one of the bridges over the A12 and as we arrived on scene a vehicle containing 5 males from the London area were just about to depart. As we turned our vehicle round to challenge them, they quickly disappeared leaving behind 3 large Nitrous Oxide cannisters and spent balloons. For more information around side effects and terms used them please follow the link below. While the individual use of Nitrous Oxide is not currently illegal, the supplying of the cannisters to others is and can carry a sentence of up to 7 years!

[Nitrous Oxide | Laughing Gas | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](#)

After clearing away the discarded cannisters & balloons which pose a real risk to curious children and animals we then drove back towards Witham town centre. It was good to see a large amount of people out on Newland Street, frequenting the various locations as people started their bank holiday weekend.





August 27th

I was crewed with PC Sahin a Witham Community Policing Team officer for patrols in Witham. After initially attending an incident in Braintree we arrived in Witham to carry out patrols specifically targeting drug supply routes and dealing locations that have been identified around the town and parks in previous patrols. We identified a person acting suspiciously near to Armond Road and on him being aware of our presence took off towards Chipping Hill. Fortunately, we then caught up with the same person who was positively identified who had met with another teenager who was sitting on White Horse Lane preparing a Nitrous Oxide balloon. Although an attempt to stop the males was made, both rode off on bikes towards Morrisons. With an area search carried out with no trace we decided to conduct a foot patrol from Armond Road along the RiverWalk. We met a number of residents along the route and some visitors from out of town enjoying the sunshine by the Duck Pond. We followed the path along Mill Lane and up Newland Street where we crossed over and into the Witham Town Park via Kings Chase. It was here that we found our two males again but they saw us very quickly and split up again heading in two different directions out of the park. We decided a slightly different approach to the problem and went straight to one of the males' parents and explained the behaviour and suspicion of involvement with criminal activity. The parents were supportive of our comments and hopefully they will convey our strongly worded message that if caught in the street committing criminal activity in relation to the possession or distribution of controlled substances that arrest is likely with a criminal record before the teenager has even started their life. Please look out for signs of your children involved in the supply of drugs, new expensive clothing, a new phone, quantities of cash (without them having a regular job) a new bicycle or e-scooter, they may appear more secretive and are likely to go out at strange hours including through the night. These are some of the potential indicators that someone could be running drugs for an organised distribution network. Help is available and there are different groups available if you follow the link below.

[Drugs & Alcohol Useful Tips | Turning Point \(turning-point.co.uk\)](https://turning-point.co.uk)

We concluded our patrols with an attempt to stop and seize a high-powered electric scooter, however, at over 30mph it was too dangerous for the rider and other road users to stop and an intelligence report has been submitted. Personally owned E-Scooters are still currently illegal to use in the UK and when ridden in this manner will be seized immediately and destroyed. Our final task was to assist a Witham resident who had recently purchased a vehicle and was concerned that it may have been stolen, fortunately in carrying out document and a physical inspection of the vehicle it all seemed in order but had recently had an engine replacement from petrol to diesel. While this may not seem a major change, it does affect the classification of the vehicle and therefore the DVLA must be notified to correct the Registration Document and also the owner must notify their insurance company before the vehicle is driven, with an engine change considered a modification.

August 28th

Witham Special Constables Eaketts & Woollett were out on patrol and as they left the Police Station in Braintree they were called to the nearby park where they located and arrested a wanted male for the offence of assault. The male had been wanted for 4 weeks so this was a very positive action. After they had conveyed the detained person to custody and completed their paperwork, they finally headed to Witham to carry out their intended patrols. The first location was Haygreen Road, following reports of cars that had been gathering there recently and been considered by residents as being anti-social. There were no cars visible and they moved onto the Redrow estate before driving down to Allectus Way. Following Hatfield Road, they then drove up Newland Street to provide visibility in the town centre and continued through towards the Eastways & Freebournes industrial areas. There were no other concerns or incidents for them to attend and they concluded their patrols.



August 30th

On my arrival in Witham, I started with CCTV enquiries for an ongoing investigation with house-to-house visits we can ask residents if they have seen or heard anything in connection with the incident or to ask if they have CCTV from a Ring Doorbell or similar that may help in our enquiries. I had some quite positive results and these are now being processed. I then headed into the town centre to meet up with one of my former Witham Community Special Constables that has recently transitioned from the Special Constabulary to a full-time officer with Essex Police. There has been a significant number of officers that have chosen the route of trying out elements of policing as a volunteer before deciding on a full-time role. Following a presentation to PC Mabey, by the Mayor and a thank you from all of the Council I then continued on my patrols.



My first location was Manor Road & the recreation ground where a group of teenagers had gathered near to the cemetery fence. After chatting with them about taking their litter with them, I moved on to visit Forest Road, Mulberry Gardens and Flemming Way. I continued my patrols along Armond Road and then onto Highfields Road where I saw a vehicle driving aggressively near to the entrance to the park. As I pulled up alongside, I discovered that the car belonged to angry parents of a boy who had been threatened at the park. As we walked across the pitch-black field towards a group of teenagers, they all made off on bikes towards the Rugby Club and disappeared onto Blunts Hall Road. Due to the nature of the incident, I carried out an area search after recording details of the incident which required me to raise a safeguarding referral. With the family safe and no further trace of the potential offenders I headed over to Haygreen Road. We had been receiving reports of anti-social behaviour involving cars gathering in the area driving dangerously and potential drug use. On arrival I joined other units on scene and several searches were carried out. With no evidence of drugs and no evidence of anti-social behaviour I advised the group to



seek an alternative location for their “meet” which would be away from residential areas to prevent further calls to the Police. I was the last unit on scene and waited until all the cars had departed before I finished my patrol on the Hatfield Road estate after a vehicle of interest was spotted entering the estate. A police information report has been submitted for the sighting of the vehicle.



This concludes the monthly report for August 2022.