



October 2025

The evenings are now getting darker, please check your vehicles to ensure your lights are functioning correctly. If you are out walking, please make sure you have a torch or suitable light with you, especially along the #RiverWalk, where lighting is limited to protect wildlife. If you are a runner or a cyclist, please make sure you can be seen and stay safe.

For some general tips when you are out and about, please click on the link below.

[Personal safety: how to stay safe | Essex Police](#)

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.

October 4th

Community Beat Surgery day and I began the shift with PC Whitby. Our first order of the day was to issue a Section 59 warning. A Section 59 is connected with anti-social behaviour involving a vehicle and can provide a written warning (valid for the person & the vehicle) for up to 12 months. If the person or vehicle is then involved in another incident within this period the vehicle will be automatically seized. If however the original offence is of a serious nature the vehicle will be seized immediately under this same power.

This warning was issued following reports back at the beginning of August of a person who had ridden a motorbike into the Newlands Precinct through stall holders and pedestrians on a busy Saturday morning. During my foot patrols on the day I received several complaints about this and the alarm it caused. I was able to work with the Newlands Shopping Centre to obtain evidence of the incident on their CCTV system and this was presented with the warning to the offender. This has now been recorded but please continue to report any similar incidents like this to officers or by attending the Community Beat Surgeries at the Town Hall or The Witham Hub.

Our next task took us off to Kelvedon for local enquiries before a short visible mobile patrol around Coggeshall, where I parted ways with PC Whitby and returned to Witham for the Community Beat Surgery outside The Witham Hub. I had been away for a couple of weeks and it was so nice to be greeted by so many regular visitors to the Hub and the Grove Centre who were pleased to see my return. This helps to make me feel as though I am making a positive impression in the community. During the Beat Surgery I provided advice and information to a victim of Domestic Violence and received information concerning suspicious behaviour linked to drug supply in a particular area. This will help us to target patrols to build up further intelligence to take appropriate action. Following the Beat Surgery I conducted foot patrols before returning to my marked police vehicle for mobile patrols. Once on the move I was called to assist with a medical emergency on the #A12 where I helped to provide a safe environment while paramedics were attending to the patient. Fortunately I was able to provide a positive update to our control room and with the Ambulance safely on its way I turned my attention back to an articulated lorry that had ventured on to Oak Road and now causing traffic problems in the Rivenhall area. With the assistance of an additional unit to close the road at the junction with Rivenhall Road I carefully escorted the lorry back towards the junction where it could

turn around and take an alternative route. I would like to thank other drivers for their patience while we safely removed the obstruction.



For the final part of my patrol I headed up towards the Witham Skate Park and although there were quite a few children demonstrating their “tail whips” on their scooters it was disappointing to see that the fantastic and colourful artwork that had been recently added to the ramps had been the victim of graffiti. The same “tags” have been seen across Witham and are considered criminal damage. If you see anyone acting suspiciously around the skate park or along the RiverWalk (especially near to the viaduct) then please report this to Police and/or Witham Town Council.





October 10th

I began my shift with a visit to the Witham Library to catch up with the staff and find out if there had been any recent anti-social behaviour. I am very pleased to report that this year so far has seen a dramatic improvement with a reduction on incidents needing police attendance. Our continued foot patrols and mobile patrols in the area are having some positive influence but also the work behind the scenes with community partners to prevent reoccurrences has had a significant impact.



I next visited a location on Calamint Road following a request from Braintree District Council following reports about children continually harassing a tenant by knocking or kicking their front door before running away. While this may seem like harmless fun to the children this can not only result in potential damage but is extremely frightening to vulnerable people. I spoke to several neighbours, and we are sourcing CCTV from the area to identify the children. It is likely that at this stage suitable words will be given to the children to stop this action, but I would ask parents to be vigilant about what their children are doing on the way home from school and during the early evening hours.



With a foot patrol around the estate, I provided a visible presence and engaged with some children on the estate before returning to my car to collect a colleague. During the evening a plain clothes operation was in place on the RiverWalk and surrounding areas in connection with two recent incidents involving dog walkers who had been approached during the early evening. We provided a marked presence in the central part of town to provide back up to the covert team if required. Over the course of the evening, we also carried out foot patrol in the town, speaking with door staff at the Battersford Court, met with the landlord at The White Hart and spoke with staff in The Red Lion. In each location we were made to feel very welcome by staff and customers before walking around the Grove Centre and Newlands Precinct.



October 11th

I began my shift heading to Newlands Drive where I left my marked police vehicle and began my foot patrol. I initially headed into the Newlands Precinct speaking to shop staff and stall holders before continuing down Newland Street. I called in at Crafty Bear Kitchen to say hello before carrying on to the LIDL store. Visiting different shops and stores provides visibility and provides an opportunity to staff or customers to speak to Police if required. I continued walking along the #RiverWalk from Bridge Street towards Guithavon Road where I met several people along the way who were pleased to see me. I eventually stopped at the Duck Pond where I met with PC Wallis, PC Pryce and PC Bright who had also come to Witham to carry out visible patrols between their investigative enquiries for ongoing cases. After swapping a few notes I headed off round the back of the Duck Pond to see if there had been any recent damage caused and to check the area for discarded property but pleased to report there were no issues. After spotting the egret (small Heron) in the river I headed back over the footbridge and back into the town via Guithavon Street.



After further foot patrol around the town centre I returned to my vehicle to begin mobile patrols but almost immediately an emergency call redirected me to Hatfield Peverel where a cyclist had fallen and required emergency medical attention. When I arrived on scene and closed off Maldon Road a number of paramedics and ambulance staff were working together and I gathered witness details and tried to provide some reassurance. It was a very difficult scene and additional officers joined me to create a safe working environment. With the HEMS team arriving I helped to secure the patients identity and coordinate the road closure with some members of the public who had



volunteered further down the road. I would like to thank all the people involved to ensure that the person received the dignity and the care required before they were transported to hospital for further treatment. To ensure the person's bicycle and property were safe I returned to Braintree Police Station to book these into the property system.

I returned to Witham during the evening in order to provide a marked presence around the town and in particular to the previous locations for anti-social behaviour including Roslyn House and Barwell Way. While patrolling these areas I did take home two young children who were reported to be involved in suspicious behaviour around houses and on return to their parents provided a stern warning and suitable advice to their parents. During the remainder of my shift I continued to stay around the high street and an intelligence report was submitted for a vehicle of interest.

October 16th

I was able to take a day off from my main job to come and volunteer to be a visible presence in the town centre and support a meeting later in the day with MP Dame Priti Patel. I arrived in Witham to assist in an ongoing shoplifting incident that had occurred at the ASDA store on Highfields Road the previous day, where I was able to positively identify the person involved. With a request for the CCTV to be made available from the store I updated the investigation and this will enable officers to resolve the criminal action. While I was on my way out of the store I was approached by a member of the public alerting me to a car accident on Flora Road. When I arrived at the location the car had left the road and struck a road sign causing some front end damage. Fortunately it appeared to be a low speed impact but I was keen to find the driver who was no longer present. While I was inspecting the damage and checking the vehicle details to establish the owner a gentleman approached me stating that he was a family member of the driver and that they had returned to their nearby home and that recovery had already been arranged. After visiting the driver (who had only left due to a young child being in the car at the time) I was able to understand how the collision occurred and provide words of advice to seek medical treatment if required.

In this instance the car had only been driven a very short distance and the primary cause was stated by the driver that while the windscreen was still "fogging" due to the colder weather, when they turned on to Flora Road and the sunlight hit the windscreen it completely obscured any view of the road ahead. In an attempt to pull over as soon as possible the driver had then collided with the post. Luckily this was a very low speed impact but there could have been significant issues if there had been a pedestrian on the pavement or a cyclist on the road at the same time.



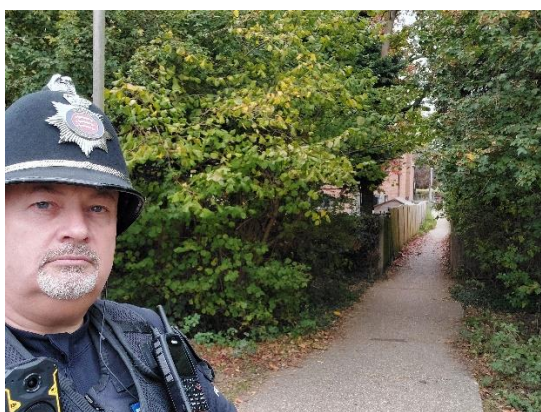
**PLEASE ENSURE YOU CAN SEE CLEARLY
BEFORE SETTING OFF ON YOUR JOURNEY,
ESPECIALLY IN THE COLDER MORNINGS &
EVENINGS**



I headed back in to the town centre to conduct a foot patrol, I met briefly with the street warden to obtain updates on any current issues and then continued with visits to nearby stores to encourage them to report any thefts directly to the Police. While I was visible in the Grove Centre I was approached by a resident from the Humber Road estate who wanted to report an ongoing issue with children playing “Ding Dong Ditch” – a game which involves knocking on a door and then running off. This is of course a game which has been played throughout many years but recently this has taken a darker turn with doors being kicked which creates a very loud noise inside the property. This is rightfully causing alarm for residents and particularly for vulnerable people and after gathering some descriptions I could match these to several children that had been reported kicking doors in the Calamint Road area. I had planned to be in this area around the school finish time to try and speak with the children involved.

Firstly though, I attended the meeting with Witham MP Dame Priti Patel and I joined Essex Police District Commander Richards, Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector Jackson & PC Draper to update our policing strategy in Witham and to highlight successes and to identify areas for future improvement. Listening to Dame Priti Patel we received feedback from constituents and local businesses on topics about anti-social behaviour, thefts from shops and discussed other criminality including drug supply and domestic violence. Many of the issues are being addressed, however, the reporting of successes in these areas can be limited sometimes if there is an ongoing court case or longer term investigation and this could be perceived as lack of action. The Dispatch Newsletter tries to address some of these successes in your area and you can sign up for this in the link below.

With the meeting complete I headed up to the Calamint Road area and over the course of 45 minutes conducted foot patrol in the area which included the car park and area around the Spa Road COOP and Acorn Academy. I had some great reactions to my presence and good interaction with a large number of the children leaving the school. Unfortunately by half past 4 I had not seen the children I was looking for in connection with the door knocking and I concluded my shift with a plan to return the next day.



October 17th

I managed to get back in to Witham after finishing my main job for a little after 3pm and I hoped this would give me the opportunity to speak with the children that had been causing the anti-social behaviour. I began my foot patrol by walking around the estate and then heading along the footpath towards Powers Hall End. I paused at the road crossing where children and parents were crossing, engaging with many of the students from the Acorn Academy before the students from Maltings Academy started to appear. While I waited there were several cars that had to brake sharply on seeing my presence which indicated to me that the drivers were unaware of their speed. This could be particularly hazardous at this crossing point which is not supervised. I met with several students who stopped to



talk to me before a group hesitantly approached the crossing. I quickly determined that two of these children matched the descriptions for the aggressive door knocking / kicking group and I then escorted them back to their homes for suitable words in front of their parents who were supportive. I was also able to determine the name of the other child and recorded this for follow up the next day. I hope this can now bring an end to this behaviour, although I suspect the game will continue for many more years to come, these children will have a better understanding of the distress that it can cause.

My next location took me off to Terling following reports of E-Scooters causing disruption to traffic on the local roads. I joined PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Jones and we thoroughly searched the area before PCSO Jones spent time with the informant seeking further details.



I returned to Witham and I went straight on to foot patrols in the town centre. Over the past few shifts I have been trying to increase a Police presence in the town and several people had begun to notice which is a positive feedback for me. During my patrol around the shopping centres I was called up to go to a suspected burglary in progress in Hatfield Peverel and being the nearest unit I made my way to the incident location. On arrival I approached the address and noticed movement behind the front door, declaring my presence I was then greeted by the homeowner who quickly explained that while he had popped out, the front door may not have been shut properly and this caused it to shut with the wind, scaring the teenager who was left in the house. They had then locked themselves in the bathroom and called Police. While this appeared to be a false alarm I checked the entire house and rear garden to provide reassurance and after providing safety advice I returned to Witham to continue my patrols. I stopped off in the Hatfield Road estate for a visible presence and visited the shop to check with staff on any recent concerns before once again returning to my vehicle to head into the town centre.





After moving several cars parked on the white zig-zag markings near to the Library and checking the nearby derelict building for any signs of further criminal damage I made one final foot patrol around the Newlands Precinct and Newland Street.



I had planned to finish my shift at this point but I was asked to investigate an abandoned 999 call on Cressing Road. As I arrived in the area I pulled up behind an ambulance and could see the crew going into a nearby house, after confirming the correct address from the control room I joined the ambulance crew inside the property where a young person was having a medical episode. Due to their condition I called for assistance from another Police unit and with a combination of family members we were able to get the patient on to the ambulance and I followed them to Broomfield hospital as a precaution due to the erratic behaviour of the patient. We arrived without further incident and I completed my shift.

October 18th

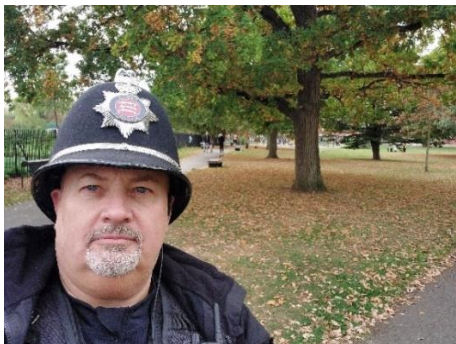
I began with establishing a contact address for the remaining child from the door knocking / kicking incident and then began my foot patrol in the town centre. I finally conceded that the temperature had dropped enough for me to wear my fleece jacket, and I walked through the Grove Centre before spending time in the Newlands Precinct talking to stall holders and members of the public who stopped me for advice or just to thank me for my presence.



It was the day of the Community Beat Surgery outside The Witham Hub, and it was lovely to also catch up with another of the Witham Community Special Constables who is taking time out of her volunteer role to have a baby, hopefully another future Special Constable for Witham! While I was outside the Hub, I spoke to several people to assist them with ongoing issues and provide advice. I also dropped in to Superdrug to discuss recent incidents of



shoplifting before continuing my foot patrol through the Grove Centre and across Maldon Road into the town park. In the park I engaged with a few different groups moving them on to other locations before talking with parents at the play area. The sun had just about made its way through the clouds and it was great to see all the children playing safely.



The final part of my patrol for the day took me back towards Rosebay Close where I was able to meet up with the remaining child concerning the door knocking incident and parents to discuss their recent poor behaviour and to give suitable words deterring this from happening again. I will be continuing to monitor any further reports, and this would be considered harassment which is a criminal offence. One of the positives from this incident is that the community has come together to look after vulnerable neighbours and report to both the Council, Housing Groups and the Police so we can work in partnership to resolve issues.

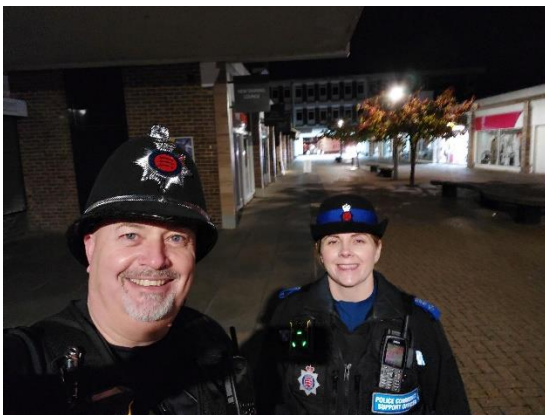
October 22nd

I arrived in Witham and immediately noticed a suspicious vehicle travelling in the opposite direction and alerted other units in the area to its presence. While searching for the car and driver it appeared to deliberately avoid one of the units and despite a through area search it could not be located. An information report has been submitted on to the Police National Computer which will help other officers in future patrols in looking to stop the vehicle. While this was ongoing, a report had been called in to our control room for anti-social behaviour at the leisure centre on Spinks Lane and Witham PCSO Williams went to investigate. This helped me to determine where I was going to conduct my speed check, and I pulled into the entrance to Maltings Academy to measure the speed of 100 vehicles travelling in either direction towards my location. My presence served several opportunities, firstly I remained visible so that drivers could make sure they were adhering to the 30mph limit, secondly, I could keep a look out for the vehicle from the earlier incident and thirdly to be near to the location of any further anti-social behaviour.





During the speed check only 1 driver was verbally warned but further speed checks will be carried out in the future. I returned to my vehicle and parked behind the library and headed into the town centre for foot patrol, visiting the Newlands Precinct, Newland Street and the Witham Town Park where I met a large group of teenagers. After illuminating them as they scattered around the park, we spent the next 10 minutes having some good engagement before I returned to my patrols and headed in to the Grove Centre. For the remainder of the shift, I paired up with PCSO Williams and we continued to maintain a visible and reassuring presence around the town centre.



October 25th

The Witham Town Council organised a special event for the children of Witham, a Halloween Trail along the RiverWalk between Guithavon Valley and Chipping Hill. Every year we have attended to help provide an attraction along the route with themed stickers, puzzles and treats and we invite children to come and see the police carrier vehicle and try on some of our police uniform. This year I was joined by our newest Witham Community Special team member SC Connor Penrose and with 600 free tickets issued we were very busy over the whole event.



These community focused events provide a great opportunity for us as representatives of Essex Police to have lots of positive interaction with young children to help break down any fears or curiosities they may have about who we are and what we can do in the community to help keep them safe.



All the children were in costumes and even some of the parents got into the 'spirit' as well, we even met Dumbledore (Witham Town Mayor) on his travels which marked another very successful event.

October 31st

It was Halloween and typically a very busy night with families out on the streets 'trick or treating' with children, the older teenagers take to fancy dress, and we increase our presence and visibility to provide reassurance and a deterrent to anti-social behaviour (particularly around the discharging of fireworks in public places). Due to previous years where the behaviour by some has been dangerous and put the safety of members of the public & shops at risk, a Dispersal Order was put in place. The Order allows Police to stop, detain, search (where appropriate) for fireworks or items used to cause anti-social behaviour and to issue a dispersal ticket preventing them from being out in Witham until the following morning. This generally involves an appropriate adult being informed and their child collected from the street. With these powers in place we hoped that this would be deterrent enough and would not have to be implemented.

Essex Police from Braintree, along with Myself as Witham Community Special Sergeant worked with Community Partners from Braintree District Council and the Witham Fire Service to provide visibility in the town centre and around the Witham Skate Park and RiverWalk during the early evening. We also had excellent support from Witham Town Council who provided up to date intelligence from the CCTV cameras around the town and this proved to be an excellent resource to ensure we could deploy in the right areas effectively.

Local groups had also offered opportunities to join them including Witham Boxing Club and Kinetix to encourage children to come and visit their clubs rather than be out on the streets, which demonstrates the community coming together.

Unfortunately, as the night progressed, we started to receive calls about groups of children forming and then discharging fireworks on the RiverWalk, Armond Road, Chipping Hill and Bramble Road. Due to the number of vehicles and Police we were on hand to stop a significant number of children, confiscating fireworks and issuing dispersal notices which made a good initial impression and severely disrupted the behaviour. The purchase and possession of fireworks of Category 2 or above is illegal to any person under the age of 18 and Category 4 fireworks are only allowed for professional use. Details of the legislation can be found at the following link.



[Fireworks: the law - GOV.UK](#)

[The Fireworks Regulations 2004](#)

Between incidents we engaged with parents and children and there were some very imaginative and 'scary' costumes, and it had a very positive community feel around Spar Road/Highfields Road where one resident had really put on a Halloween show.



A serious incident in the area occupied a significant number of our Police Officers but were quickly backfilled by support from the Operational Support Group. Over the evening it felt like there was a big improvement on previous years with members of the public telling us that they felt there was a reduction of issues, and they felt safer. As the evening progressed, groups were quickly moved on or dispersed and their ability to discharge fireworks became more sporadic as we drove them out of the Witham Town Park and kept them moving until we had resources in place to detain the group members.



In all cases with the dispersal notices we issued we were very pleased with the response of parents who arrived quickly to remove their children and prevent any further reappearances. We continued to provide a visible presence in the town centre and around the RiverWalk as the groups started to split up and disappear and no further issues reported.



This concludes the monthly report for October 2025.

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www.essex.police.uk/dispatch



CrimeStoppers.
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0800 555 111
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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/>

