



July 2021 Patrols

July started with football frenzy as England had progressed to the quarter final stage of EURO21 and the games were shown in the local town pubs & bars. We also had the first Witham Town Council organised Dog Show on the River Walk. The social distancing guidelines still required people to remain seated in the venues which was going to be a challenge, but we wanted to provide visibility and reassurance during this time.

July 3rd

The first Witham Town Dog Show had been organised by the Town Council on the River Walk near to Chipping Hill and Special Constable Keyse and myself wanted to provide an approachable presence for the residents in attendance. Bringing the marked Essex Police Carrier, we had a great position on the field and providing colouring packs & sweets, we were able to engage with a lot of young children and this was extremely rewarding for us. We are hoping for further engagement opportunities with the upcoming relaxation of social distancing requirements and can bring out more of our kit to try on!



After the judging had been completed, we headed back to base before I picked up a new crew mate to support our football duty as England played Ukraine. We visited each establishment prior to the game to check on numbers of attendees and to provide reassurance on our presence in Witham. With the game kicking off at 8 pm we headed out for patrols around Witham, checking on the previous anti-social hotspots before carrying out foot patrols in the town centre. With the goals came the celebrations but these were well managed by the staff and did not require any intervention. We did stop a vehicle on Newland Street for anti-social driving after they were seen to be taking advantage of the almost deserted roads during the game. At half time as we were driving along Bridge Street, I noticed suspicious activity near to Moorfield Court and I turned around to investigate. As soon as we drove in to the lane a young male on a bicycle tried to make off from us. Although my colleague gave chase, he soon lost sight of the suspect, but we were then left with an expensive electric bike which he had thrown to the floor to run off. We arranged for collection and secured the E-bike for safekeeping. E-bikes are not illegal to ride in public due to also requiring the use of pedals to move and therefore this was not seized for destruction unlike an E-Scooter.



As the England Football Team wrapped up a convincing 4-0 win over Ukraine we maintained a presence as people left the pubs and bars to head home waving flags and chanting with very few issues recorded over the night.

July 7th

A repeat style patrol plan for this shift due to the next England football game against Denmark, this time I was crewed with Special Constable Eaketts and in a similar manner we started by visiting each of the pubs and bars in person to provide visibility and reassurance, with repeated visits over the course of the game. The atmosphere during the game each time we popped in was fantastic and we had lots of praise and appreciation for our role. Outside of the pubs the town was eerily quiet with no pedestrians or vehicles in the high street.



As the game ended and everyone left the pubs in town, a singing, chanting group descended Newland Street celebrating the victory. Unfortunately, there were 40 – 50 revellers who blocked the road and caused a general nuisance which required a significant police attendance to disperse. In good spirits they did eventually drift off with no criminal offences recorded.



July 11th

The England football team had made it to their first major football final in 55 years and expectations were high with most of the local pubs putting on extra staff and increasing their capacity. The weather was beautiful, and we started our patrol with a tour of each of the pubs and bars. As the game progressed, we continued our foot patrol up and down Newland Street and through The Grove Centre, Newlands Precinct and the Witham Town Park which were all very empty. We moved from the town over to the main housing estates and carried out mobile patrols on Allectus Way, Haygreen Road, Holst Avenue, Gershwin Boulevard and Laurence Avenue before heading over to Cypress Road and Forest Road. We returned briefly to The Cherry Tree on Crossing Road before heading back in to the Town Centre via Church Street. As the half time whistle blew, we had to remove a couple of smoke flares that had been released at The Swan after the road was completely obscured but this was quickly resolved & only because of high spirits.



When the game restarted however, we were called to a nearby medical emergency where a 14-year-old male had suffered a cardiac arrest. As the first officers on scene we are required to provide updates to our control room and manage the scene to allow medical staff access to administer treatment. This was a very difficult situation with my colleague spending her time with the parents, providing them with support and updates as well as trying to obtain any relevant medical history. I then conveyed updates from the paramedics who were already on scene and helped to facilitate the arrival of the Critical Care team and manage visitors and neighbours. When the Braintree Duty Sergeant arrived to take the lead both my colleague and I continued to help until the patient was taken to hospital. Due to the severity of the incident the parents were taken by Police emergency transport and we remained to continue care for family members and secure a scene for any potential investigation. Unfortunately, the young boy did not recover, and he died in the early hours of the morning.

I returned my colleague to the station before I returned to Witham to carry out a scene guard near to The Red Lion Public House which happened at the end of the football game. A male had been seriously assaulted and had been taken to hospital with a head injury. With PC Joseph we relieved the Local Policing Team Unit and waited until the Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO) arrived to take photos and collect evidence.



July 13th

The first part of my patrol was on foot on the River Walk where I walked from the Witham Town Park along to Bridge Street and on to Guithavon Valley and the Duck Pond before returning to my vehicle on Newlands Drive. I carried out anti-social behaviour patrols around Perry Road and Atlantic Square following information that a small group of teenagers had been seen causing damage to a vehicle and trying to gain access to units at Atlantic Square. On arrival a group of four teenagers fled from me disappearing into the Eastways estate. While disruption is important, we would like any concerns to be reported so that we can put preventative action in place.

<https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb/report-antisocial-behaviour/>



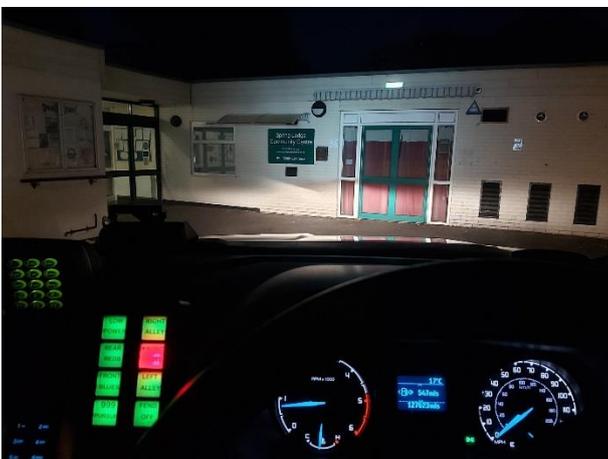
Following an area search, I moved on to Haygreen Road after reports of anti-social behaviour with littering of nitrous oxide canisters from vehicles. On the approach to the area I came across a high-powered electric scooter close to a small group of young boys. The owner came forward and I then arranged for his parent to come to the location so we could discuss appropriate action. This E-scooter had been recently purchased for a considerable sum of money and because it was not being ridden at the time, I chose to give suitable words of advice to the young owner. Fortunately, the parent was very supportive and collected it with the understanding that it would not be used again under the current legal restrictions.



<https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/campaigns/campaigns/2021/e-scooters/>



I continued my patrols on the Hatfield Road estate, Humber Road estate and Flora Road estate providing visibility on Calamint Road, Rosebay Close, Honeysuckle Way & Bramble Road. During the evening I patrolled Forest Road, Cypress Road, Manor Road and Walnut Drive before heading to the Train Station and on to Chipping Hill and Powers Hall End. Recent information I have received while on foot patrols has stated that there are suspicious vehicles parked near the Scout Hut near to the Community Centre but on my arrival on this evening it was members of staff from the nearby Vets and there were no concerns. When I headed back out on to the road and back up Chipping Hill, however, I watched a young teenager on a bicycle nearly knock over a pedestrian and so followed to catch up with him. As I indicated for the rider to stop with my emergency lights, the male made off at speed cutting across the road and although I initially tried to follow the male made a series of decisions that made it clear that he was not going to stop or consider road safety. Although temporarily lost I found the cyclist shortly after in company with another male on Church Street where there was a very strong smell of drugs. On seeing my marked police car, the male made off again, fortunately I had been able to identify the person involved and will be speaking with them soon.





July 16th

During a morning patrol I focused on the Humber Road estate and parked up near to Powers Hall Academy before walking in to the estate via Bure Drive. It was a very sunny day but as I weaved through the alleyways and green areas, I was thanked by numerous residents for my visibility and for the work Essex Police have been doing during the pandemic. While walking through the estate from Teign Drive, Ness Walk and on to Helford Court I came across an insecure vehicle. Fortunately, I was able to identify the owner with the assistance of neighbours and after confirming that the vehicle was not a subject of crime, I was able to secure this and thanked once again by a very grateful owner. Although this was a simple issue to resolve it would not have been discovered without foot patrols in the area which can provide reassurance to the community. I continued my patrol up to Douglas Grove Surgery and filtered back through the estate to Fal Drive and then on to the COOP and the shops before returning to my vehicle.





July 19th

With the continued onset of glorious sunshine, I was back out the very next morning for more patrols with PC Wilshire from the Town Team. We conducted mobile patrols on Bramble Road, Humber Road, and the Hatfield Road estate before heading over to Perry Road. While there we spoke with a local business owner regarding anti-social behaviour and the headed back in towards the Town Centre. As we approached Maldon Road, I spotted a driver not wearing their seatbelt and after safely stopping them in Newlands Drive car park they were issued with a ticket. In this instance the driver simply admitted that they had forgotten to put it on for the short journey, seat belts are mandatory and are a critical element to survivability in a crash, the driver may be required to undertake an awareness course to reinforce this. As we continued our patrols through the Town Centre, we then witnessed an E-Scooter travelling at speed through the Newlands Shopping Precinct and after trying to stop this person on Newland Street they made off from us without stopping. Fortunately, PC Wilshire was able to make a positive identification of the male rider and this has been recorded on a police information report.



July 22nd

I started my patrols in Witham, dropping in to the Town Hall before walking down to the Witham Town Park to meet up with the Essex Police Media Team. They had contacted me in order to film a short video showing that during the pandemic I had been out with my selfie's to show the Witham Community that I had been carrying out my duties of reassurance and visible patrols while the lockdown restrictions had been in place. We then moved on to the River Walk where we met with a couple of residents that were pleased with my attendance and approachability which is a



key factor of the role. After completing this task, I continued my foot patrols along the River Walk up to the Duck Pond and then back to the Town Centre via Guithavon Road and Mill Lane.



After returning to my vehicle I carried out anti-social behaviour patrols visiting previous locations and checking on areas recently reported including Atlantic Square, Witham Train Station, The Recreation Ground on Manor Road and Perry Road on the Freebournes Industrial estate. On visiting the Recreation Ground I did find a large group of teenagers surrounded by litter and after providing a large bag they were more than happy to tidy up.



While I have been patrolling, I have noticed that speeding is still an issue on the roads of Witham and combined with social media response asking for checks in specific areas I set up for the afternoon in several different locations. The first of these was on Newland Street near to the Library but I was pleased to find no issues here. I then moved on to The Avenue and unfortunately, I had to speak with several drivers and issue a ticket for 48mph in the 30mph limit. My presence certainly seemed to make a difference to the general speed and noise on the road and this was noticed by a local resident who thanked me for my time. My next stop was Maldon Road but this time near to Crofters as I checked for vehicle speed approaching the Town Centre, during my time in this position I spoke to a couple of drivers but did not have to issue any tickets. Once again, I was thanked for my visibility by a local resident and an employee from a local business. I will return to this location following information from the residents regarding different times for anti-social driving and speeding. I relocated to Collingwood Road where I had to stop several drivers for words of advice on their speed before issuing a ticket to one driver with a recommendation for a speed awareness course. Due to an emergency on Allectus Way I had to leave my checks to locate a young woman who I was able to care for until additional officers arrived from Braintree. From the first reported call from a concerned



resident I was able to get to the scene within 5 minutes, once again demonstrating the benefits of my patrol in Witham. To complete my patrol I returned to further speed checks on Maldon Road where I stopped 5 more drivers and issued 2 tickets for excess speed. I will continue to conduct these random checks to promote safety on the roads in your Community.



July 23rd

Acting Sergeant Jake Mabey crewed up with another Braintree Special Constable to conduct patrols in Witham. Initially starting on Conrad Road and heading over to the Forest Road estate he headed along Cypress Road and then on to the Train Station. After checking Station Road, he continued along Avenue Road and then on to the Grove and Maldon Road. Driving in to the Town Centre they checked Newlands Precinct before heading down Newland Street and up Hatfield Road towards Allectus Way. Moving up to the Redrow estate they then continued to Gershwin Boulevard and in towards Haygreen Road. After weaving their way through Holst Avenue, they reappeared on Gershwin Boulevard and on to Maltings Lane before dropping down on to Laurence Avenue. Shortly after heading back in to the Town Centre they were called to an incident outside of Witham and were unable to return. During the patrols they did not encounter any concerns.

July 27th

My patrols began with some vehicle checks following reports from concerned residents, the first was a car that had been seen adjacent to some garages on the Hatfield Road estate. Fortunately, with access to the Police database and assistance from the Force Control Room I was able to establish that the vehicle was all in order and the owner was aware of the location of their car. I then moved on to an area search at the Spring Lodge Community Centre following a report of a person matching a description from an earlier incident. After arriving on scene, I carried out a thorough search of the area and Community Centre. I headed off towards the Freebournes Industrial area for my next vehicle check but was immediately diverted following an intruder alarm for a business on Crittall Road. After checking the building was secure and contacting the alarm company, I was then on to Maldon Road and up to Maltings Lane for a concern for welfare. Although there was no answer at the property, I was able to carry out nearby house to house enquiries and establish that the person had been seen earlier and was ok. Follow up checks



completed later in the shift and the following day confirmed that there were no further concerns. I then headed over to Allectus Way where I spotted a vehicle parked in an unusual location. There was a person in the driver seat and following checks I identified the person did not have insurance to drive the car and there was also circumstantial evidence that nitrous oxide may have been used. With the vehicle secure and suitable warning and words of advice given, the person was collected by a friend and left the vehicle behind. A police information report has been submitted for future vehicle and driver checks. With the nitrous oxide canisters recovered from the road I then headed over to the Humber Road estate to support a police officer attending a domestic related incident. From this incident I headed back on to Freebournes Industrial estate to complete my vehicle check and I was able to confirm no further concern. I continued my mobile patrols in the Town Centre before attending a disturbance on Constance Close where I arrived first on scene, I was able to resolve the issues and finished my patrol in Witham.





July 31st

Special Inspector Campbell was on duty with a Braintree Special Constable in Witham conducting a mixture of mobile and foot patrols. The mobile patrols included Newland Street, Bridge Street, Hatfield Road estate, Forest Road estate, Gershwin estate, Maltings Lane, and Maldon Road before visiting the industrial estates to provide a visible presence. They then moved on to The Avenue, the Train Station, Chipping Hill and up to Flora Road where they provided reassurance around Rosebay Close and Honeysuckle Way. During the night they also visited the skate park, Witham Town Football Club, the Templars estate and the new Redrow estate. These patrols covered a large proportion of the outer housing areas in Witham, but they also carried out foot patrols in the town centre from the Newlands Precinct through the Grove Centre to the Town Park before dropping down to the River Walk and along to Bridge Street. They also visited several the public houses along their route on Newland Street back towards their vehicle with positive interaction with members of the public they encountered. During their duty they attended 3 incidents reported as a concern for the welfare of a person and assisted in an area search for a missing person.

This concludes the monthly report for July 2021.