



April 2022 Patrols

With our Community Beat Surgeries we are starting to see more residents coming forward to discuss issues with us and we have then been able to go directly to the areas requiring additional patrols. We attended the Witham Town Mayor's Civic Service where several residents came out to wish the Mayor well and with Easter Egg Hunt and the Annual Town Meeting there were further opportunities for us to provide a visible presence in the town.

I was joined by PC Southgate & PC Goring for the first Friday & Saturday to show them areas of interest and discuss my previous patrol routes. They are part of the Witham Town Team which means that there will be a dedicated team of Regular officers that aim to build up a relationship and provide visibility & reassurance around the town.

April 2nd & April 3rd

On Friday we carried out foot patrol on the Templars estate and spoke with a victim of an attempted burglary providing support and guidance on how to report this before carrying out a detailed area search for the suspect. Although we did not see anything suspicious, we checked with several other houses due to windows being open to provide crime prevention advice and a visible presence. We then headed over to the Hatfield Road estate where I identified areas where there had been previous criminal activity, before moving over to the Maltings estate. We drove into the Town Centre for foot patrols, walking through the Newlands Precinct, The Grove Centre, and Newlands Street before stopping into a local store to discuss ongoing anti-social behaviour. We moved on to Spa Road & Humber Road and again I identified area which are part of an increased visibility plan. Over the course of the day, we visited each area of Witham, discussing previous anti-social behaviour hotspots, drug related activity, car related crime and for me to share some of the cut throughs and pathways where we can provide additional visibility.

On Saturday PC Goring and I attended the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub and we received information that we are now following up concerning anti-social behaviour & drug related offences. While we were at The Hub we assisted with a medical emergency when a local resident had started to become unwell after making their way to town. By arranging the ambulance and working with the excellent staff in The Hub we were able to make the person comfortable and coordinate the arrival of the ambulance into the middle of The Grove Centre. Shortly following this we were then called to a concern for safety involving several teenagers that were seen dangerously rocking the footbridge on Chipping Hill. Although we were on scene just a few minutes later there was no sign of anyone at the bridge, but we carried out an areas search including Church Street, Powers Hall End, Bramble Road & Spa Road but with no trace. After checking that the bridge was safe, we continued our patrol around the Forest Road estate and Rickstones Road before concluding our patrol.





April 4th

I attended the Witham Town Mayor, Angela Kilmartin's Civic Service at St. Nicholas Church. There were a number of dignitaries also in attendance and a good number of local residents and other prominent figures from the town. I was fortunate to be able to wear my dress uniform for the event and felt proud in supporting the Mayor. I was also able to catch up with Witham MP Priti Patel to discuss our ongoing Policing activities in the Witham community.



April 5th

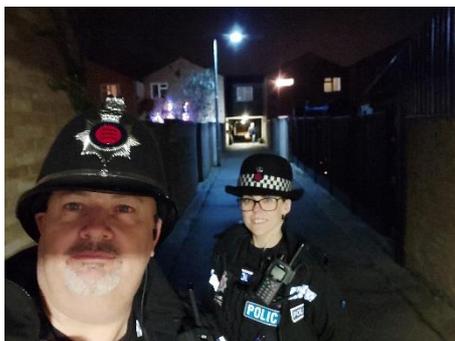
I was on duty with Witham Community Special Constable Eaketts, and we began our patrol on the Hatfield Road estate. We were primarily looking for a specific car connected with crime that had been active in the area, so we conducted foot patrol visiting each of the side roads and garage areas. While we were walking around the estate, we also called in to the Premier Store for CCTV enquiries. With our search complete we then headed up to the Lodge farm estate (Redrow) to carry out checks on the area surrounding the disused building near to the end of Ingles Drive. The building is in a dangerous condition but there have been reports that children had been seen accessing the fenced off area. There are dangerous elements in the structure and the potential for serious or long-term harm so please report any activity inside the perimeter and the advice to parents is to keep children away. We were then notified that the suspect vehicle had activated an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) camera heading into Witham, and we parked up in a location near to Maldon Road. Unfortunately, although the vehicle was seen by one of the other units in the area it disappeared and with no further activations on the ANPR camera we returned to our patrols. There have been recent reports of burglaries on the industrial areas, and we headed over to Crittal Road, Eastways & Freebournes Road where we checked on local businesses to provide a visible deterrent before attending an incident near to Forest Road.





April 6th

I was crewed with Braintree Special Constable Wintin and our first task took us off to Chelmsford before returning through Terling and back to Newland Street to investigate an incident of criminal damage. We arrived at McColls where we engaged with potential suspects and the victim before defusing the situation and taking first accounts. When we went to see the victim, we recorded the damage to a window and after providing reassurance for the young family we carried out area searches and identified CCTV opportunities. After completing our enquiries, we returned to our patrols and visited the Templars housing estate where we conducted foot patrols and engaged with several cyclists offering advice and provided lights courtesy of the Essex Roads Safety Partnership. We were then directed to a concern for welfare on the Lodge Farm estate and provided support to a family until a Local Policing Team arrived to assist further. We completed our patrol with an area search on Helford Court following reports of suspicious activity around several houses.



April 11th

I had specifically planned to carry out a foot patrol around the Cypress Road, Forest Road & Templars estate and therefore I took the train from Braintree which arrived in Witham just after 4pm. While travelling on the train in full uniform I can provide visibility and reassurance to passengers and on arrival I engaged with station staff. I then headed out of the station and down Albert Road to Cut-Throat Lane where I crossed over the railway tracks up to Walnut Drive. I walked through to the flats at Cypress Road, Mulberry Gardens and then through to Elderberry Gardens where I stopped two males, one who was smoking a joint containing cannabis. After disposing of this I then walked through to Chestnut Walk, Yew Close and Holly Walk into Newman Crescent. Here, I found an insecure vehicle and advised the owner before continuing around the footpath/cycleway to Prentice Place and onto Evans Way up to the elevated play area. After some positive engagement with visitors at the pay park and walking along Evans Way I headed over Forest Road and into Lime Close. There have been several ongoing reports of anti-social



behaviour involving an electric scooter being used on the footpaths. This is illegal and the rider/owner may have the scooter seized if it is seen being operated in this manner. I followed the footpath through Poplar Close, Magnolia Close and Sycamore Close before cutting through to Cedar Drive and across Dorothy Sayers Drive to the Recreation Ground. It was lovely to see groups of people enjoying the brighter weather, playing football, and walking their dogs. I left the recreation ground and crossed Rickstones Road onto the Templars estate. After engaging with the local shop keeper, I then went into the crowded play area answering questions from many of the children as well as meeting members of a family who had travelled over from Germany. After a short meeting with the Templars Community Association Chairman, I then walked back towards Cypress Road where I recorded several pieces of information in relation to drug activity before I was picked up by Witham Special Constable Mabey.

We initially returned to Braintree to support another incident but then returned to Witham to attend a report of suspects on premises at Maltings Academy. After receiving an update that the suspects & their dogs had left via the River Walk, we deployed at Guithavon Road and Bridge Street where we were able to stop them and record their details. In this instance there had been no criminal damage caused and no other offences identified, and they could go on their way but with strong words of advice about their behaviour. After updating the staff at Maltings Academy, we narrowly missed seizing an electric scooter that was being ridden "two up" on the footpath and road near to Bridge Street and they eventually escaped along the River Walk towards Pattison Close. During our patrols later in the evening the two teenagers were seen walking into the town so hopefully they realised our intentions and returned the scooter home.

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

We continued our patrols on the Hatfield Road estate where a driver was stopped for excessive speed before we attended an incident in Hatfield Peverel for an abandoned vehicle. After concluding our checks, we then headed back to Witham and carried out mobile patrols on the Maltings estate, Maltings Lane and Constance Close before heading back into the town centre. We finished our patrol on foot on the Templars estate without further incident.





April 13th

I joined Witham Town Team Officers PC Southgate & PC Goring to conduct enquiries and high visibility patrols in Witham. Our first incident required an area search and investigation near to the Morrison's store but after concluding this we travelled over to Laurence Avenue where we parked our marked vehicle and continued on foot. Our first circuit saw us cover Laurence Avenue, Pitt Avenue, Elizabeth Avenue, Pelly Avenue and Pattison Close before I parted ways, with PC Southgate & PC Goring heading along the River Walk and across to Helen Court and through the Witham Town Park. I took a different route along Maldon Road, Blackman Way and through to Greenfields, Barleyfields and the Witham Town Park. When I headed into the Newlands Precinct, I did deter two young males approaching me with one on an E-Scooter. Due to my presence they decided to head back out of town along Collingwood Road before I could get to them. I continued down Newland Street to Bridge Street and then picked up the River Walk back towards Pattison Close. I had several positive engagements with people out walking their dogs and a family out for an evening walk. Just before I reached Pattison Close, I then caught sight of the same two males coming towards me on the River Walk but once again with an abrupt turn they headed back off in the opposite direction. Eventually we saw them 3 times over the evening and each time they were able to escape due to the manoeuvrability of the bike and E-Scooter, but they were very aware of our visible presence and our disruption to their actions. We finished our patrols with an abandoned vehicle check in White Notley as we left Witham.



April 14th

I was crewed with Witham Special Constable Eaketts and on our way to Witham we called to an incident in Silver End whereby some children out playing had found a suspicious package, thought to be drugs, and told their parents who called on us to investigate. The use of the What3Words (<https://what3words.com> tool) was very useful and we met up with the children and parent to discover the package which was in a nearby wooded area. Fortunately, in this instance the package was safe, and we were able to provide reassurance and disposed of the item. We continued to



Witham where we carried out a welfare check following the discovery of a motorbike that had been left unattended but had been involved in an accident. Fortunately, the rider was safe at home and was trying to arrange their own recovery. Our next incident involved a suspicious man that had been seen close to the Pharmacy on Flemming Way and we drove over to the area to conduct enquiries. Initially there was no trace of the male, however, after conducting foot patrol around some of the nearby roads, several residents came out to see us and helped to build a picture of what had been seen. We continued foot patrol until we eventually came across a man matching the description and spoke to him in relation to the concerns. In this instance the male accepted our advice and returned to his home without further incident. This would not have been possible without carrying out foot patrol which provided access for residents to come out and speak to us and assisted us in finding the person involved. On returning to our vehicle, we checked on several of the locations around the town and estates for previous anti-social behaviour and reports of suspected drug related activity, these included Cypress Road, Forest Road, Allectus Way, Laurence Avenue, Pattison Close, Humber Road and the Maltings estate. Please report any of these activities for us to be able to take positive action in your community. Our last incident of the patrol involved a young missing person; however, they were found quickly, and we completed the necessary welfare checks on their return to their home.



April 16th

I was crewed with future Witham Special Constable Symonds and we began our shift on foot patrol at Guithavon Valley in support of the Witham Town Council Easter Egg Hunt. It was a lovely sunny day and there were already a lot of children and parents enjoying the hunt along the River Walk towards Maldon Road. We had lots of positive engagement as we moved through the crowded footpath and once again it was a perfect setting for the event.



With our Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub, in the Grove Centre, commencing at 11:00 hours we headed up into the Town Centre and then into the Hub. Over the course of the Beat Surgery, we had several enquiries, and we were able to provide reassurance and appropriate responses and exercise our visibility with some words to cyclists in the middle of The Grove Centre who were riding dangerously. If you have any issues you would like to discuss in person with Officers there are now 4 opportunities each month, with 2 sessions at The Witham Hub on alternate Saturdays and in the Town Hall on the following Tuesdays.

Following the conclusion of the meeting we then headed through the Newlands Precinct following reports of people selling tobacco on the street. In this instance we were unable to find anyone but please report this activity if you are approached. We then returned to the Easter Egg trail and we were joined by Witham Special Constable Mabey who had 2 Braintree Special Constables with him. We did meet up briefly with them for a quick photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny but then we headed off to Maldon Road. After carrying out a vehicle check on Blackwater Lane, we continued through to Perry Road and into Greenfields before crossing over to the Tesco car park. It was at this location that I witnessed a person known to me appear to approach a parked car, give something to the driver and then walk away. Based on this activity I then stopped and searched the person where a quantity of unknown packages was found on them. I then arrested a 17-year-old male on suspicion of the supply of drugs. With the assistance of Special Constable Mabey and his officer the suspect was conveyed to Chelmsford for interview and further investigation. A search was also conducted at the suspects home address where a further quantity of drugs and related paraphernalia was seized. This action demonstrated the value of local knowledge and foot patrol to discover this activity.



April 19th

Witham Special Constable Eaketts and I attended the Witham Annual Town Meeting at the Royal British Legion. The meeting had not been held since 2019 due to the pandemic and therefore it was setup to allow local groups to showcase some of the work they carry out in the community. Following an update from the Mayor and Town Councillors on local issues we provided an update on the current crime rates and reports over the last 12 months.



After the meeting we carried out mobile patrols around Witham including, Laurence Avenue, Hatfield Road estate, Maltings estate and Humber Road before finishing our patrols on Forest Road and the Templars estate with no incidents or concerns.

April 20th

I was crewed with Special Constable Wintin for our high visibility & reassurance patrols, and we headed to Witham on the train. When we arrived at the station, we spoke with staff members before setting off in the direction of Morrison's to enquire on some recent CCTV. Almost immediately we were asked to assist with an incident near to Haygreen Road where a young person had broken their arm following an assault. When we arrived, my colleague gathered first accounts from the witnesses while I checked on the condition of the injured party. Fortunately, an ambulance crew were already on scene and were able to make the person comfortable. We were joined by another local policing team crew and we returned to our foot patrol.

We headed along Purcell Way before walking along Sneezum Walk and then through to Elgar Drive before visiting Maltings Court following reports of anti-social behaviour in the area. We then took the footpath from Townend Field through to Dengie Close and on towards Howbridge Road before crossing to Pattison Close. While we checked out the River Walk, we engaged with several people out walking their dogs then continued over the footbridge towards Helen Court and The Witham Town Park. After the park we patrolled through the town centre and up Collingwood Road and on towards Morrison's. We concluded our checks and then travelled along Cut-Throat Lane, Mulberry Gardens, Elderberry Gardens, Yew Close and then through to Newman Crescent. We took the footpath around Flemming Way until we reached the park on Evans Way. As we walked to the top of the park, we spotted two teenagers at the edge of a field next to the trees along the entrance road to the Rivenhall Golf Club. On seeing us they fled into the trees and after a short search we discovered a small gift box containing cannabis. Although this may be a relatively small amount of the illegal substance the concern was that it was in a gift box that could have been found by children. We retrieved this and the grinder which is used to prepare the drug for use and these will be destroyed. As we returned to the park another teenager on a bicycle heading in the same direction quickly cut across the park away from us. This demonstrates that our presence is a disruptive influence on this illegal and anti-social behaviour. To continue our patrol, we then headed down Evans Way and crossed Forest Road into Lime Close and followed the footpath up to Rickstones Road, passing through Poplar Close, Magnolia Close, Sycamore Close, Palm Close & Redwood Close. We finished our foot patrol on the Templars estate taking advantage of the facilities which have now been made available to us by the Eastlight Community Team and after covering most of the Courts we walked back towards the train station to head home. With the whole shift on foot patrol, we covered approximately 10 miles around Witham, if you would like to find out more about becoming a Community Special Constable to help your local community, please see the link. [Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)



April 30th

In company with Witham Special Constable Eaketts we arrived in Witham to conduct foot patrol through the Newlands Precinct, The Grove Centre, Witham Town Park, continuing down on to the River Walk and back up Newlands Street towards the town centre. We then attended the Witham Hub to support our Community Beat Surgery. During the 2 hours we met with several Witham residents offering advice and reassurance, recorded a crime and had some positive engagement with young children who popped in to see us with their parents. On conclusion of the meeting, we headed back to our vehicle and then joined Witham Town Team officers & Braintree Community Policing Team Officers at an industrial unit in Witham following the recent discovery of a large cultivation of the Class B drug Cannabis. Details of this can be found on the Essex Police Braintree Facebook Page ([1](#)) [Essex Police - Braintree District | Facebook](#)



This concludes the monthly report for April 2022.