



February 2022 Patrols

Further relaxation of the COVID guidelines has seen a few more activities and clubs open and we have the opportunity for more engagement. We are continuing to focus on any anti-social behaviour to improve the Witham Community and focusing on vehicles with speed checks, area monitoring and submission of information reports.

February 4th

Special Inspector Campbell was out on foot patrol in the Town Centre with a focus on business engagement after there had been a recent break into a local business, he visited shops in the Newlands Shopping Centre and The Grove Centre. Following this reassurance, he then headed through Witham Town Park down past Helen Court along Maldon Road and onto the Whetmead Nature Reserve following up on reports of anti-social riding of motorbikes. Although there was nothing seen at this time, we will be carrying out future checks and please continue to report this kind of behaviour to help us improve your community.

[Report antisocial behaviour | Essex Police](#)



February 5th

Between 11am & 1pm we held the Witham Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub and we were joined by Witham MP Priti Patel. The meetings had been suggested by the MP for an additional method to allow the residents of Witham to come and see officers face to face and talk about any issues or concerns they may have. We were able to provide an update on our Surgeries and some of the topics that have been raised. We were also joined by residents who wanted some advice and we also recorded some information for further investigation.





Following the meeting we conducted foot patrols through the Newlands Precinct and The Grove Centre where we were approached by kind member of the public who had found a purse near to Lidl and was unsure what to do next. In this instance we took this and headed off in the direction of Lidl for further enquiries. On route, however, we headed through the Witham Town Park, past Helen Court and along Maldon Road towards Pitt Avenue, Elizabeth Avenue and Pattison Close before carrying on along the #RiverWalk towards Lidl. My colleague suggested we call in to the store to see if the owner had left any details and this proved to be the right course of action as we soon discovered a number had been left with a cashier. A short phone call followed, and we were then able to reunite the owner with her purse. The owner had already acted regarding the loss and cancelled bank cards, however, was relieved to get back the purse containing driving licence, cash and a sentimental photograph.

[Report lost or found property | Essex Police](#)



We continued our foot patrol along the #RiverWalk towards the Duck Pond where not only did we see the swans but we also met the Chelmer & Blackwater Ramblers [Chelmer and Blackwater Ramblers | Facebook](#) who were very pleased to see us out and about supporting the community with our visible patrolling. We continued further to Armond Road, Moat Chase and up Chipping Hill to the train station. After checking on the platforms and the waiting rooms we exited the station onto Easton Road and back along Collingwood Road to our vehicle in the Newlands Drive car park. The benefit of the foot patrols was made obvious to us with residents and visitors along the route and we would not have been able to return the purse if we were not out on foot!

February 10th

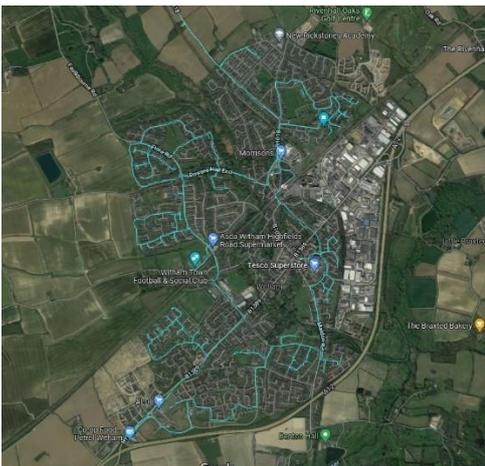
In conjunction with Community Support Engagement Officer PC James Draper, I attended the New Rickstones Academy to carry out a property marking event. Aimed primarily at bicycles the scheme permanently marks the bicycle with an identifier that will help us to be able to trace the owner of the bicycle is lost or stolen and hopefully provide an additional deterrent to theft in the first instance. We had a good number of participants and New Rickstones Academy are our first school to support the scheme.

[Protect your bike from theft | Essex Police](#)



February 13th

I carried out mobile patrols in Witham following up on recent social media posts concerning vandalism and anti-social behaviour. In each of the locations I was pleased to see that there were no ongoing issues and any damage had been repaired. During the first part of my shift, I covered a significant area, including the Templars Estate, Forest Road, Flora Road estates and Humber Road before moving over to Maldon Road, Abercorn Way, Greenfields, Constance Close and then onto the Maltings estate, before finally patrolling the Hatfield Road estate. I collected information on several vehicles which has been recorded for future action. The cold and overcast weather seemed to keep most people inside and therefore I did not see many people out on my patrols.



In the afternoon I was the first officer on scene at a concern for welfare in Witham and spent the rest of the shift with other officers from Braintree and Paramedics in working out a solution. The key person in helping us to resolve this, however, was a very kind neighbour that not only opened their home for us to help the person but also provided them with a hot meal while we worked to resolve the situation. This very kind act is a great show of community spirit and compassion and I cannot thank them enough.

February 16th

Crewed with fellow Witham Community Special Constable Eaketts we set off for our high visibility and reassurance patrols. Our first task was on the Templars estate, where an open safe had been discarded near to one of the Courts. At this time, it was unknown if it was connected to a crime, so we collected this to be booked in for enquiries. We conducted a foot patrol around the estate but due to the high winds we did not see anyone out at all. After returning to our vehicle, we then headed off to Forest Road and Cypress Road before we were alerted to a hit and run accident that had just occurred at the Crossing Temple junction with the B1018. With the vehicle making off leaving 3 injured passengers we assisted the Roads Policing Unit with an area search for the vehicle. After reviewing the damage to the car, we assessed that there would be noticeable damage to the van and we headed back towards Witham, where we quickly located the vehicle parked at the far end of an estate road. Our local knowledge was key to locating this and demonstrates the benefit of our dedicated volunteer role in Witham. There was no driver with the vehicle but due to the involvement with the accident it was forensically seized to help identify the driver.



With the recovery complete we carried out mobile patrols around Witham before being diverted to a tree that had fallen across the road near to White Notley due to the high winds.





February 19th

I took new Community Special Constable Symonds with me to the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub to show him our role in representing Essex Police, providing residents and visitors to the Town with the opportunity to talk with officers. Over the course of the event, which occurs fortnightly at The Witham Hub and on the following Tuesday at the Heritage Centre in the Town Hall we offer advice and we can record crimes if people wish to report them. On this Saturday we provided advice to several residents concerned with anti-social behaviour in their area and added these areas to our planned patrol routes to provide reassurance and visibility. We also spoke with a local business manager concerning a group of young people that were causing a problem in his and surrounding stores. With a record of their actions and CCTV images of the people involved we will be looking at taking positive action to prevent further occurrences. At the end of the Surgery, we set off on foot patrol in the rain through the Newlands Precinct and as we waited at the traffic lights to cross to The Grove Centre, I picked up on comments from passers by concerning an Electric Scooter that had just been seen travelling down Newland Street. A quick change of direction and we promptly seized the E-Scooter after informing the rider that it was illegal to be used in a Public place. With his being the first-time, discretion has been used and the E-Scooter was returned to the owner's home with further advice given to the parent/guardian. We do understand that these are expensive items, however, they can and will be seized if the current laws are deliberately ignored.

[E-Scooters: What you need to know | Essex Police](#)



February 20th

I was with Special Constable Partridge and we began our shift with high visibility patrols on foot on the Hatfield Road estate before heading to Pattison Close & Laurence Avenue. We returned to our vehicle to conduct mobile patrols around Forest Road. While in the area we collected what is suspected to be drugs that were found by a resident and these were seized for destruction.





It was fortunate that we had been out on foot early in the shift due to the weather which dramatically changed for the worse in the early evening as Storm Franklin arrived. We were parked up on Humber Road while the worst of the rain, hail and wind hit but still managed to disrupt drug related activity before we were called to the Freebournes Industrial estate for multiple intruder alarms going off. After confirming a power interruption as the cause, we then attended a fallen tree blown over on the slip road at Rivenhall and then travelled down the A12 towards Hatfield Peverel. A report of two young people throwing items on to the A12 from a bridge in Hatfield Peverel was our destination but pleased to see that there were no obvious obstructions to the road and following an area search of the bridge and the surrounding area in Hatfield Peverel there were no signs of the two suspects. We then headed straight back to Witham to resolve a neighbour dispute and we supported mediation in a dispute at a local restaurant before being redirected to Dunmow for a high-risk missing person. Driving there in the heavy rain and strong winds we arrived to find another unit had fortunately located the person and we were sent straight back to Witham for an alleged assault occurring in the Grove Centre. As we arrived on scene it seemed that this was a hoax call with no potential victim near to the phone box, or the 20-30 people alleged to be involved. As we carried out foot patrols in the Grove Centre, we were then alerted by staff in Tesco that a male had been throwing rocks at the large glass windows. Believing this could be connected to the hoax call we spoke to staff leaving them with information to report further issues and that we would carry out a wider search for this male. Almost immediately we were back outside in the rain we were directed to Witham Train Station after it was reported that another high-risk missing person was about to arrive from Braintree on the train. Fortunately, we were only a couple of minutes away and in time to meet the train and collect the missing person, returning them safely home. With the paperwork completed we concluded our very busy shift.





February 22nd

Special Inspector Campbell had organised for us to visit the Witham BB Group again, this time to meet with the younger children. In company with SC Eaketts, SC Mabey & SC Chipperfield we took along two of our vehicles to demonstrate the equipment and talk about safety and 999 advice. We also provided some uniform for the children to try on and explained the kit we carry on our person when we are on active duty. We had great engagement and several of the children took some of our Police Do Not Cross tape home to secure their bedrooms!



Pictures of the children can be found on the Witham BB Facebook page. [\(1\) Witham BB | Facebook](#)

February 28th

Special Constable Eaketts and I attended the Witham Town Council Community Meeting to present our latest reports, discuss the Community Beat Surgery's and listen to residents' concerns conveyed through the Councillors. Following the meeting we headed out on patrol around Witham, beginning in the Newlands Shopping Precinct & The Grove Centre. We then moved up towards Cypress Road after receiving several calls regarding anti-social behaviour that had started to re-appear. Although we did not find anybody on this occasion, there were signs of people having been there with litter discarded nearby to residents' properties. We will continue to patrol the areas to deter this behaviour. Following this we carried out targeted vehicle checks in several locations around Witham before heading on to the Humber Road estate. As we conducted checks and provided visibility, we found a vehicle waiting at the side of the road, checks revealed that the car had no MOT or Tax, and this was promptly dealt with and the owner arranged alternative transport until these could be rectified.



This concludes the monthly report for February 2022.