



August 2023

With August underway we are now into the school summer holidays and we start to see an increase in children in the town and park areas. This can sometimes result in an increase of reported anti-social behaviour and we will be looking to increase visible patrols in key areas. The weather has proven difficult with high winds and persistent rain which has caused some events and planned activities to be scaled down or cancelled completely. We continue to carry out speed checks at different locations around Witham to drive speed down which is statistically the second most contributory factor to accidents and we strive to deliver for the national #VisionZero scheme. In addition, the Witham specific #SaferStreets initiative is still in operation, and we continue to provide advice and support at community events to promote this and seek your support in improving your perception of safety across the town.

To report to Essex Police then please use the information at the bottom of this report. Thank you.

August 2nd

I arrived in Witham to focus on an increase in reported anti-social behaviour at different locations across the town. The weather made a significant difference to the number of people out and about due to the continued rain and lower than expected temperatures. I received an initial report of children who had been banned from ASDA on Highfields Road causing a nuisance outside and although they were initially moved on by an off-duty Police Officer I followed this up with the Store Manager to obtain CCTV images to identify the children for further Police action. I then carried out mobile patrols around the town and visited some of the locations reported where there has been a sharp increase in graffiti. These tags are destructive to the appearance of the community facilities, and these have crept into locations including the Witham Town Park public toilets and well used walkways. We work with local partners to try and identify people responsible but if you see anyone committing these acts or if you have information that might help us find people responsible, then please come forward and report this to Police at one of the Community Beat Surgeries or alternatively you can report anonymously through Crimestoppers. I was next called to a highway disruption on the A12 near to the Rivenhall junction and with the support of another unit we temporarily stopped traffic while I retrieved a strap and hooks that had fallen from a lorry. These items can cause a serious accident and are an increased danger to motorbike riders. With the A12 moving once again I returned to the town centre and visited the Witham Town Park to speak with the attendant who informed me of the damage being caused to the toilets with the graffiti tags and to provide me with information for potential suspects. My next location took me onto Spa Road and the underpass close to the COOP where again there were a significant number of these "tags" all over the walls. I visited the Witham Hangout at the Rugby Club to provide reassurance and continued engagement before completing my patrols back at the ASDA store.





August 5th

It was the day of the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub and it never stopped raining, however, I was joined by fellow CSC Officer Claire Eaketts and following an initial area search around White Notley for a vehicle and trailer stolen overnight we arrived at the Hub for the 2 hour drop in session. Although there was a significantly reduced number of people in the town we still managed some great engagement (which may have involved jumping in puddles!) with some young children with their families. We also received some information concerning drug related activity near to a residential area and we will be looking at visible patrols in the area. At the conclusion of the session we then carried out further mobile patrols but again due to the persistent and heavy rain there were very few people out around the town and on the roads and we concluded with another reassurance patrol at ASDA's on Highfields Road.



August 9th

I was on duty with a visit to the Witham Hangout with Dame Priti Patel and Witham Town Councillors for a Dodgeball special event. The staff at the Hangout arrange different activities for the children to experience and this creates a great atmosphere in a safe environment. These activities can be individual or teamwork and this was perfectly demonstrated as two teams engaged inside the club house at the Rugby Club. I was fortunate to be invited to take part and our team soon took a commanding lead...it was then time to introduce the "prison" element to the game where the opposition can "capture players" and unfortunately I ended up in "prison" too often and the other team levelled the scores. I am very pleased to be able to support the Hangout and Dame Priti had attended to understand



a bit more about what the club has and to offer support for the future of the club. It continues to provide a great opportunity for children in Witham and I would encourage parents to look at this for their children in the future.



And you can find out more on their [Facebook](#) page



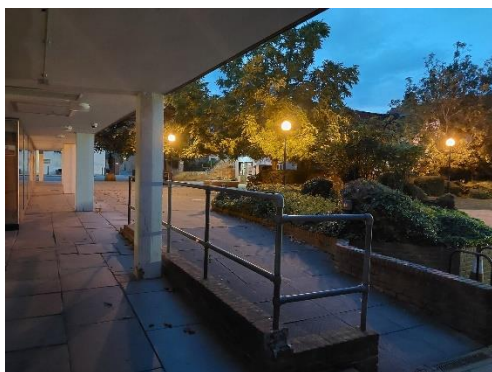
Before I attended the Hangout, I had already supported my colleagues at an emergency assistance call on Humber Road when officers needed help with an ongoing incident. These requests are thankfully quite rare, but every officer reacts immediately to come to the aid of their colleagues. Following the Hangout, I attended an incident to clear an obstruction on the A12 and carried out visible patrols around Greenfield, Newland Street before heading over to the Eastways Industrial estate for an intruder alarm and to follow up reports of nuisance vehicles that had been heard racing up and down the main roads. After checking the building was secure, I then liaised with DEW Security who were present on the Freebournes Industrial estate, where they informed me that they had already spoken with the driver of the nuisance vehicle and moved them on. I completed my shift with a foot patrol in the town centre, calling in to speak with the staff at The George and finished by stopping a cyclist on their way home with no visible lights in the dark. I was able to provide a set of lights courtesy of Essex Safer Roads Partnership and he continued safely on his way.





August 12th

I was out on duty with Witham Town Team officers PC Davies & PC Southgate for evening patrols in Witham. Initially crewed with PC Southgate we attended The George Public House on Newland Street to speak with the new staff and we also met with the manager. It is important that we continue the excellent relationship we had with the previous owners which helped to significantly reduce late night and after closing anti-social behaviour. Following this engagement we collected PC Davies and attended a concern for safety following a third party report at Freebournes Court. Fortunately PC Southgate was able to build up a quick rapport with the person involved and determined that they were ok and did not need any further assistance. Just as we returned to our vehicle we received an emergency call for a road traffic collision on Bridge Street involving a motorcycle and a car. Fortunately with us already being close we were able to be in scene in under a minute. An ambulance was already in attendance and we assessed the condition of the casualty prior to trying to reopen the road. Following the accounts from the driver of the car, rider of the motorcycle and nearby witnesses we were able to determine a potential mechanical fault with one vehicle and this was recovered for further investigation. The other vehicle was then seized due to a road traffic matter and the road was cleared. The rider of the motorcycle was taken to hospital for further checks for the injuries. We carried out high visibility patrols around the town before returning back to the station to complete the accident report and I was also able to utilise the remote access to the CCTV system to assist with an offence that occurred later in the evening.



August 16th

I arrived in Witham to conduct follow up patrols on an area reported for drug use and anti-social behaviour around derelict garages near to Ebenezer Close. We had also received reports of motorbikes being ridden up and down the RiverWalk around Bramble Road and I headed along Church Street in my marked police vehicle. As I entered Ebenezer Close I saw two young teenage girls riding an E-Scooter along the path and on seeing me they headed straight towards the garages and RiverWalk. Although I followed them in the vehicle they had made their escape. I have added this to the report almost everytime for the past year, privately owned E-Scooters that are not part of an official hire or trial scheme are not legally allowed to be used in public places. This includes roads and pathways and due to their current classification would require a rider to have an MOT, insurance and road tax and for the rider to have the appropriate driving licence. None of these conditions can currently be met in the UK and therefore the E-Scooter can be seized and will be destroyed in the same manner as an uninsured car or motorbike! With my vehicle now down the lane and adjacent to the derelict garages I spotted 3 teenage males who had climbed through an open window. When I approached them I found drug related paraphernalia including a 'bong' used to inhale drugs, grinders and a small amount of cannabis. I carried out a stop search on each of the boys and then contacted their



parents who were unaware of their child's activity. The items related to the drugs were removed and disposed back at Braintree Police Station and the stop searches recorded.



August 19th

I was joined for the Community Beat Surgery at the Witham Hub by Witham Officer PC Southgate and we managed to "book" some sunshine for the day. We were fortunate to have lots of positive engagement with people walking through the Grove Centre and we addressed issues including, parking, speeding and drug related concerns. We were also on hand to judge a recent competition in The Hub about Endangered Species and selected a worthy winner but all the entries were excellent. With the Surgery finished we carried out foot patrols around the town centre to provide visibility and reassurance and then returned to our vehicle to deliver a free anti-theft device to recent victims of bicycle theft in Witham. These devices are fitted to the bicycle and provide a unique identifier that can then be scanned to reunite a stolen bicycle with their owner.

Further information can be seen at the following location



During our patrols across Witham we were able to disrupt drug related activity near to Constance Close and we would like to thank the person for reporting the suspicious behaviour. If you wish to remain anonymous when reporting you can do this using the Crimestoppers webpage and the report will still get through to Essex Police but without reference to the person reporting. It is still extremely helpful to us when you submit a report to enable us to target issues in your area.



August 21st

I was out on patrol and due to one of my previous shifts being cut short to attend an emergency incident outside of Witham I wanted to pick up where I left off and visit a few local areas that had been identified for anti-social behaviour. I initially returned to the derelict garages at the bottom of Ebenezer Close but pleased to see there was nobody there at that time and no evidence of further damage or drug use. I next travelled across the town to Dorothy Sayers Drive and Laburnum Way following reports that children had once again been trying to access the empty flats by ripping away the boarding to gain access and playing on the flat roof. These buildings are destined to be demolished and now present a danger for anybody to access with damaged floors, glass and serious risk of injury. Fortunately the recent broken boards had been replaced and there was nobody visible in the immediate area and I was able to move on to the Recreation Ground. Surprisingly on a fine evening I did not see anyone in the park area and continued my patrol round to Forest Road and into Cut Throat Lane. The lane is well used by people walking to and from the station and by local residents to access the town but we have had reports of motorbikes riding up and down the lane involved with drug supply and causing a danger due to the speeds. While I waited for the next train to pass through the crossing I spoke with several people before continuing my patrol, heading over to Armond Road where I accessed the River Walk to conduct further foot patrol. My next engagement was at the Town Hall where I attended the Community Committee Meeting and I was able to present the recent report for the activities of the Witham Special Constable team. I was also presented, along with Acting Chief Inspector Lorne Campbell, with a commemorative 5 year pin badge for our continued service. Following the meeting I attended a road traffic collision at the junction of Chipping Hill and Braintree Road.





August 26th

I was crewed with Witham CSC Officer Claire Eaketts for our patrol in Witham which initially began with a search for a vehicle that was stolen overnight in Witham. Unfortunately in this instance we were not able to find it, however, I would like to remind residents to be vigilant if a new or different vehicle suddenly appears in their neighbourhood, it may be have been abandoned or parked up to see if it has a tracker fitted. If you see anything suspicious then please do not hesitate to contact Essex Police and we can follow up on this. We next headed down to Spa Road and set up for a 100 vehicle speed check, the park area is very popular with children who frequently cross the road at the junction area which is already dangerous, without speeding cars. Fortunately over the course of the 45 minutes only 3 drivers were visually warned to slow down and only 1 driver stopped and issued with a Traffic Offence Report for 41mph in the 30mph limit.

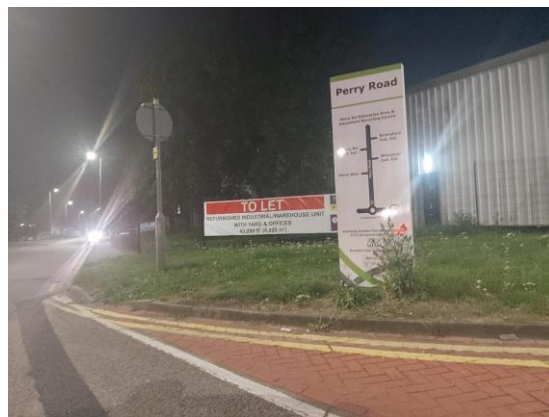


With the checks completed we parked up in The Grove Centre and joined 2 Regular Officers who had come to The Witham Hub to promote the #SaferStreets campaign and provide crime prevention advice and giveaway some free items to help. During our time there I also met with local residents to talk about recent drug related activity and completed some intelligence reports for future investigations. The final part of our shift took us to the ASDA store on Highfields Road where we recorded a criminal damage following a group of children who had caused damage to items in the store the previous evening. With further visible patrols in the immediate area and no further concerns we concluded our patrols.



August 30th

Community Special Constable Eaketts was out on patrol with Special Constable Wintin and initially tasked to carry out a licenced premises check at The George Public House. Every month we check 10 premises across the district, these are carried out periodically to ensure the licence is correct and up to date, appropriate staff are present at the premises and to make sure that the establishment is complying with all the necessary conditions so that the customers can enjoy themselves in comfort and safety. The results of the check are then returned to the Licensing team at Braintree Police Station. With this completed they were called out to the ASDA store on Highfields Road, where once again there had been reports of children acting in an anti-social manner causing harrassment to staff and customers. This is unacceptable and we will take action to prevent this behaviour which could include conditions that the children responsible are excluded from the store and area. With no trace of the children when the officers arrived on the scene they then made their way up to the park area before continuing their patrols around Witham. They visited several of the areas where anti-social bahviour has been reported including the Redrow Estate, Haygreen Road, Maltings Lane, Dengie Close, Greenfield & Barleyfields. In each instant there were no issues seen during their visibility patrol, however, they did meet a potential new team recruit! They finished off the evening with more mobile patrols including the industrial areas.

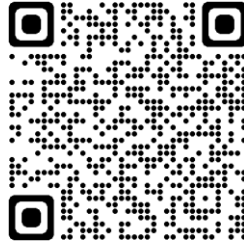


This concludes the monthly report for August 2023.






You can find Witham Community Special Constable patrol updates on Twitter by searching and following

[Essex Police Witham \(@EPWitham\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/EPWitham)



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/>

