



November 2022 Patrols

With the Safer Streets initiative continuing we anticipated a rise in anti-social behaviour around Halloween and Guy Fawkes night. Typically, this has seen large numbers of teenagers in the streets setting off fireworks, throwing eggs and disrupting local roads and shopping areas. Essex Police provide additional resourcing to cover the district to address these issues directly to allow the normal policing to continue and therefore you may have seen an increase in patrol vehicles or officers on foot. The Witham Community Special Constables continue their normal roles and will also support any specific incidents over the first week or two of November.

If you would like to help out in your town and provide a visible and reassuring presence in your area then please follow the link to find out more about becoming a Community Special Constable.

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)



November 3rd

I had arranged to meet with Gemma Engall the Eastlight Intervention & Enforcement Officer to address concerns raised by local tenants in two areas of the town. Our first visit was to Flemming Way following reports of anti-social behaviour involving drug use and the possession of potentially dangerous dogs. These visits take place at different times in order to try and witness the concerns first hand but are based on reports from neighbours or other sources. While we understand that it is sometimes difficult to want to report something or someone in your immediate area, it may allow Eastlight or Essex Police to intervene early to prevent the issues escalating. We have several initial methods available to us to address these including Community Resolutions & Restorative Justice before any criminal actions. In regards to potentially dangerous dogs we would contact our Essex Police Dog Unit to help assess any risks. In this instance there was nobody at the address and speaking with some neighbours there had been no issues



in the previous 2-3 days. We then moved across the town to Pitt Avenue where a resident had reported drug use and anti-social noise caused by a motorbike. Our visit did coincide with meeting up with several residents and hopefully this visibility will raise the awareness to the perpetrator.



The next part of my patrol was on the Templars Estate and I met with the Templars Community Manager Steve Marshall & Essex County Councillor Ross Playle to walk around each of the Courts and identify any concerns. There were several areas where lights were not functioning and this can make people feel unsafe so these have been noted for Eastlight or Essex County Council to address. The patrol also identifies any abandoned vehicles or evidence of drug misuse which can then be investigated further by Essex Police.



Unfortunately I didn't quite get to finish the full walkaround due to an emergency that I responded to on the other side of Witham near to Honeysuckle Way. Initially this was tasked to a unit who were in Braintree but with my presence already in the town I was able to get to the location within a few minutes. On arrival I was able to assess the concern and engage with a male who should not have been at the address. I then checked on the occupants of the address and while I recorded some details my colleagues arrived and took the male back to his place of residence. An adult social care referral was submitted on his behalf to engage the correct services.

I next attended an incident near to Laurence Avenue to assist with Paramedics who had been called to a nearby address following a report from a concerned person for their neighbour. Unfortunately when Paramedics had entered the property the person had died unexpectedly and I stayed until we could identify and inform the next of kin. When they arrived they were naturally very distraught and I helped as much as I could with comfort & their questions about the next stages. Following the arrival of the undertakers I returned the relative to their home and made sure they were left in the care of other family members. I headed back to Braintree Police Station to complete the paperwork for the Coroner before finishing my duty.



November 4th

The Witham Rugby Club hosted their Annual Bonfire & Firework event with gates opening at 5:30pm. The ticket only event was very well subscribed and we attend each year to provide a visible and reassuring presence, while it also provides us with an opportunity for positive engagement with families and visitors. Part of our duties included foot patrols around the perimeter of the event location and we were able to deter a small number of teenagers who had set off illegal fireworks near to Spa Road, in the park area and the boundary with the Humber Road estate. During the course of the event there were many photo opportunities for children with our hats and kit and quite a number of budding recruits (in a few years!) We link in with the organisers of the event and it was exceptionally well run with no issues reported to us that would require police action. The fireworks were spectacular and a safe way to enjoy them. It was a cool night but the sky remained clear and the rain stayed away which really helped provide a great backdrop for the amazing fireworks. With the show completed a vast majority of the people visiting headed home with a few staying to enjoy the sideshows and various food and drinks on offer. With the local Cadet teams clearing up the area we headed back to our vehicle following another successful community event.



On arrival back at Braintree Police Station I heard over the radio reports of people that had set off a firework in the Town Centre and with my local knowledge and CCTV access I was able to help identify the group as they moved through the town. Fortunately, I was able to assist in directing a Community Policing Team response unit to the scene very quickly and they were able to disperse the group and seize some illegal fireworks.

November 7th

I started my patrol in Witham in the Dengie Close area. The reports of anti-social behaviour around drug supply have tailed off but it is important to maintain a presence in order to drive this out of the area for good. During my visits to the area, I did see a number of cars appearing to exceed the speed limit, especially on Howbridge Road outside the school. While this may have been an hour or so after normal school pickup, please be aware that there are still activities at the school and children will still be in the vicinity. With the evenings now getting dark very quickly it is important to slow down and take care. I then headed off into the town centre for some foot patrol before I was due at the Community Council Committee meeting to present my policing report. I parked my vehicle in Newlands Drive and first attended The George to catch up with the landlady before I was then directed to a nearby takeaway where a group of teenagers had been causing a nuisance. When I arrived, they had run off down Guithavon Street but I was able to review the CCTV and identify most of the males. Due to their involvement in recent anti-social behaviour in the town I will be looking at appropriate actions to tackle this with the Witham Town Team Officers. If you are aware of anti-social behaviour taking place then please report this by either dialling 999 if it is in progress or you can call 101 or report online. All information helps to build a better picture and provide evidence to allow us to take the right action to prevent further issues.

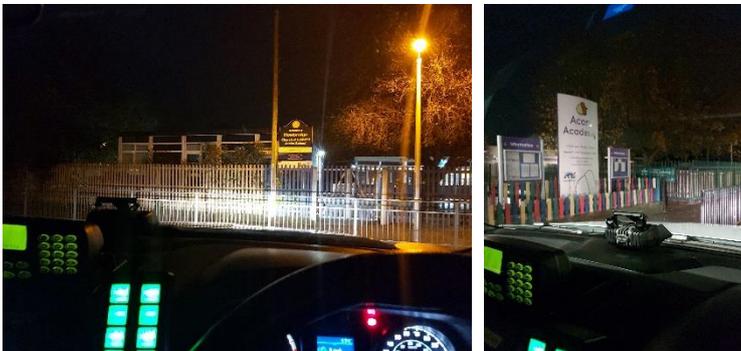
[Report antisocial behaviour | Essex Police](#)



Alternatively, you can find out much more about anti-social behaviour and report this anonymously through CrimeStoppers on the link below

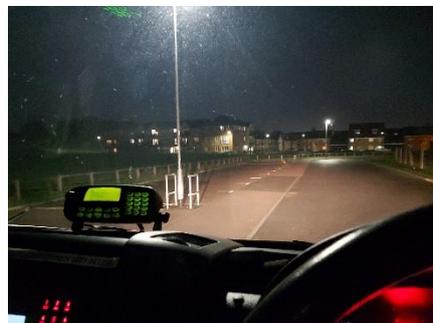
[Antisocial behaviour | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)

I attended the meeting with the Town Councillors and provided information regarding the Essex Police response to E-Scooters and expanded on several items contained in the recent Witham Community Special Monthly report. Following the meeting I headed back to my vehicle to continue my visibility patrols. I carried out an area search for the teenagers involved in the earlier incident which covered the town area, Guithavon Road, Spa Road & Humber Road but with no further trace I concluded my patrols.



November 8th

I started my patrol in Witham on Snowdrop Close where a member of the public had reported a suspicious vehicle believed to be stolen. When I arrived and carried out checks I was able to confirm this and arrange for the vehicle to be forensically recovered. While I was in attendance, I also checked out nearby premises for potential CCTV opportunities and recorded these for the follow up investigation. I would like to thank the residents of Snowdrop Close who had to help facilitate the recovery due to the size of the lorry that came to collect the car. I headed back to Braintree to collect Witham Town Team Officer PC Southgate to continue our patrols. We initially headed towards Forest Road and drove through Flemming Way and on towards Mulberry Gardens. I navigated the carrier down Cut Throat Lane and also around the Cypress Road flats car park where there had been previous reports of drug related activity. I then headed to Chalks Road and up Church Street to Ebenezer Close before driving towards the Humber Road estate. With no concerns we then checked on the Hatfield Road estate, where I gave out a set of lights courtesy of the Safer Essex Roads team to a bicycle rider, dressed in dark clothing on a partially lit road. It is important that if you know that you will be riding in the dark then you have lights fitted and working and ideally have some form of reflective or high visibility clothing to be clearly seen by other road users. After checks in Haygreen Road for anti-social driving we then drove through the town to the industrial areas, visiting SwanVale, Crittal Road, Eastways & Freebournes Road. During this time, one driver was given words of advice due to the manner of their driving and a vehicle was checked due to its unusual location. Fortunately, this was all in order and the owner returned while we were in attendance.



November 12th

I was crewed with Special Constable Symonds and we arrived in Witham to carry out mobile patrols in targeted areas to provide visibility and reassurance. Recent checks with local residents have shown that our continued presence in the areas has disrupted drug related activity but we will continue to include these areas on our patrols. Following the recent discovery of a stolen vehicle in Witham we carried out further enquiries with the owner to assist with the forensic examination before driving back into Witham for the next of our Community Beat Surgeries at The Witham Hub. We have been running this opportunity to speak directly to officers since January and we continue to see good public engagement with people both appreciating our visible presence in the town on a Saturday but also providing a place to report crime or ask questions. Over the course of the 2 hours we spoke with people concerning drug related activity, anti-social behaviour and arranged to collect a knife for disposal from a concerned resident. This was intermingled with some great engagement with families and young children. Following the event we headed out and collected the knife (for which the resident was very thankful) and returned this to Braintree Police Station for disposal in the Knife Amnesty Bin at the front of the station. Our final task of the day was to thoroughly clean the vehicle, which was to be used for the Remembrance Day events.





November 13th

“At the going down of the Sun & in the morning we shall remember them”

The Royal British Legion had organised the Remembrance Day parade in Witham and we were invited to pay our respects on behalf of Essex Police, Witham Town Team & Witham Community Special Constables.

Special Constable Eaketts, Special Constable Watts and myself formed up on The Avenue in our ceremonial uniforms and paraded with all of the other groups represented in Witham. With the Pipers keeping the beat for us we finished outside at the War Memorial and Special Constable Eaketts laid our wreath honouring those that have given their lives.



November 14th

I was out on patrol in Witham following reports that the defibrillator machine had been vandalised on the Templars Estate over the weekend. On inspection the cabinet had been burnt and the door damaged, the defibrillator had been removed and was found on the roof of the shop. This is an abhorrent act towards a piece of expensive kit that is there for only one purpose – to help to save a life! If one of your family members had needed this in an emergency, whether a young child, elderly relative or even yourself then this would not have been available. If you are aware of a person being involved in this mindless act then please call 101 and provide the following reference 42/278948/22. Information can be treated anonymously and in strictest confidence. After leaving the estate I then carried out foot patrols around Babbs Court & Flemming Way following reports of drug use and then mobile patrols at Mulberry Gardens and Manor Road. Recently there have been reports of increased activity involving cars and people meeting near to the cemetery where it is believed drugs are being dealt. On my first visit of the evening there was no suspicious activity and I then headed in to the town for further foot patrols including The Grove Centre, Witham Town Park & Newlands Precinct, I followed up with reassurance visits to Yings Takeaway following recent anti-social behaviour and popped in to say hello to the Landlord of The White Hart.



I headed back to my vehicle and drove across town to the Hatifeld Road estate and then the Lodge Farm estate (REDROW) where I checked on several vehicles acting suspiciously and have noted these for future patrols. Due to the recent spike around Halloween and Bonfire Night, I visited Spa Road & Highfields Road but maybe due to the damp & mist there were very few people or cars on the roads and I continued up to Humber Road. After a quick foot patrol around Aire Close I then proceeded up to Bramble Road and Honeysuckle Way before stopping a van driver on Rosebay Close due to some of the rear lights on his van not working. With the nights drawing in and especially with fog or early morning mist it is essential that you check the working function of your lights to give you and other road users the best chance of seeing you. In this instance it was friendly words of advice but failing to get these fixed could result in further action. Over the course of my patrol I had to return to Manor Road following a report of a vehicle that had appeared to be involved in an exchange with another person before speeding off towards Crossing Road. Fortunately I was able to identify the vehicle and although it had left the area an information report has been submitted to stop this vehicle in the future.



November 15th

Although the rain came down, Special Constable Eaketts & Symonds attended the Community Beat Surgery at the Witham Town Hall. Donning their big fluorescent coats they provided a visible presence out on Newland Street and encouraged people into the Town Hall for crime prevention advice, Safer Essex Streets and to discuss any other issues. While they were there an incident involving an E-Scooter which had collided on the pavement with a lady was recorded and this will be investigated further. E-Scooters are illegal to ride in public and are not permitted on the road or pavement. They also had two separate abandoned vehicles reported to them and following the Surgery they headed off on patrol to find out more information about them. In this instance both of the vehicles were checked for involvement in crime or to see if they were stolen. Abandoned vehicles can be reported to Braintree District Council and they can be removed from the highway through their enforcement procedures.



November 17th

I was crewed with fellow Witham CSC Officer Eaketts for our patrols in Witham and we started at the Templars Estate where we reviewed CCTV to assist with the investigation into the damage caused to the defibrillator machine. With several instances showing children and teenagers at the cabinet, we need to stress that this piece of life saving equipment is not there to be abused, damaged or accessed except in the need of an emergency. We moved off from the estate to carry out a search of the Witham Town Park following a report that there was a group of teenagers causing anti-social behaviour. Fortunately on our arrival there were no people found and we then continued down Maldon Road following a vehicle which appeared to be driving erratically. We stopped the car in Constance Close after checks on our mobile devices stated the colour of the vehicle was different than the car we had stopped. A check of the driver and the vehicle identification number revealed that the car had been sprayed recently a completely different colour from the logbook colour. We informed the driver/owner of the vehicle that they needed to inform their insurance company and the DVLA that they have changed the colour of their vehicle. Without the change recorded this could invalidate the insurance on the car. Please ensure that any modifications you make to your vehicle are recorded with your insurance company.

We continued around the Witham area, calling at Pattison Close, Dengie Close, Maltings Lane and Haygreen Road before following up on a concern of "aggressive knock down ginger" on the REDROW estate. While this may seem harmless fun to children, they are often unaware of the impact this can have on elderly residents or people with young children and can be perceived as frightening. Please speak with your children especially those who may visit the area of the REDROW estate to stop this behaviour.



As we continued our high visibility patrols we stopped a car transporter which was not displaying any lighting to the rear on Hatfield Road. While we checked the driver details and requested them to go to the nearest garage to fix them, I noticed a young person pushing an E-Scooter along the path next to us. As they drew closer I was able to positively identify them as the rider of the E-Scooter that had been involved in an incident where an elderly lady was knocked to the ground. I stopped the rider and asked them about the incident and they confirmed it was them riding the E-Scooter at the time and I seized the E-Scooter. With the owner unable to get insurance for the E-Scooter this will be permanently confiscated to prevent future use.

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

This issue was raised to the Witham CSC team on the 9th November, the incident was reported by the victim on the 15th November and on the same day the team utilised the Witham Town CCTV system to review the incident and identify the potential suspect. On the 17th November the suspect was stopped and the E-Scooter was seized. #YouSaidWeDid





November 19th

The shift was split around several other duties including a Community Beat Surgery in Hatfield Peverel and the Braintree Town Christmas Fayre, however, between these events I was able to carry out mobile patrols in Witham during the day and a targeted patrol in the evening. We had received information through Witham Industrial Watch that a car meet (where any number of cars would arrive at a location) would be taking place on the Freebournes Industrial estate. We arrived just before the planned start time and worked together with DEW Security to ensure that any cars were quickly turned away. Due to the size of the anticipated group we followed the cars to a new location in Braintree where we recorded vehicle and driver information before returning to Witham. We arrived back as an incident was reported of a theft in progress in Perry Way and in conjunction with a Dog Unit and a Local Policing Team Unit we carried out a search of the area. Unfortunately in this instance there was no trace of the people involved. We then headed out along Maldon Road to Laurence Avenue and visited Pattison Close & Dengie Close. With no concerns we then continued up to Haygreen Road where we checked on a vehicle parked up and then over to the REDROW estate. We paid a quick visit to Hatfield Peverel before coming back to the Hatfield Road estate where we recorded information concerning a suspicious vehicle.



November 25th

I was crewed with Witham Special Constable Eaketts for a visit to 1st Witham Beavers following a request during one of our Community Beat Surgeries and we took along a marked Police car, a selection of Police clothing to try on and fingerprinting kits. With approximately 20 Beavers we were able to fingerprint everyone and take it in turns to sit in the police car and turn on the flashing blue lights. It was also a great opportunity to discuss safety, the correct numbers to ring in an emergency and tell them about the kit we carry and our role in the community. These visits are very rewarding to us to help build trust and reassurance.





Following the visit we then stayed in the town on patrol during the England World Cup game, fortunately there were very few concerns over the course of the game so we were able to provide visibility on Manor Road & the Cemetery, Rosebay Close, Calamint Road, Honeysuckle Way, Humber Road and we also checked on a reported homeless person on Armond Road but there was no sighting at this time.



November 26th

As I started my shift I was asked if I could attend a theft of bicycle which had just happened outside Greggs in Witham. I headed straight to the train station to make enquiries in case the person had tried to board a train and take the bicycle out of the area. Fortunately they had not seen anyone with a a bike matching the description and I continued on to the Town Centre. Within a few minutes I had found the owner of the bicycle and obtained a description and a possible location where the bike was last seen. I entered the first building to search the communal areas and the rear of the property, however, there was nothing seen. I moved down to the next building and as I knocked at two different addresses a person came out of the property and admitted that they had taken the bicycle. With this information I took the persons details and recovered the bike which I then took back onto Newland Street and returned to a very thankful owner. In this instance the owner was happy with the matter to be dealt with by means of a Community Resolution which is an agreement between both the victim and the suspect for the return of the bicycle with no further action by Police. The crime is recorded and will remain on the Police database but removes the need for an arrest and criminal record. With the incident resolved in just over an hour from when it was first reported I considered this a good start to my Community Special Constable patrols.



I then walked through The Grove Centre to commence the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub. As I entered the Hub my help was immediately required by a person who had come into the Hub to report that they had been a victim of a fraud and didn't know where to turn. After moving up to one of the private rooms the person with a chaperone from the Hub, provided me with the circumstances and I created an incident. Due to being on my own a Local Policing unit was dispatched from Braintree to take over the investigation. While we waited for them to arrive I escorted the person to a local bank to change their pin number to protect their account and card before returning to The Hub where officers joined us to take over. This was an example of the opportunity the Beat Surgery has to offer in being able to provide face to face support or reassurance. Over the remainder of the Surgery I met with a lot of different people receiving thanks for my presence as well as chatting to local residents about concerns in their areas. Towards the end of the Surgery I met a street performer in The Grove who was granting Christmas Wishes.

I returned to mobile patrols in the late afternoon with visits to Bradshaw Gardens where there had been reports of children causing a nuisance to residents with persistent door knocking and while I was there I was able to speak to several of the residents to provide reassurance that we would be continuing our visibility patrols. I then travelled across the town to the Templars Estate where I carried out further CCTV enquiries for Braintree CID to complete my shift.



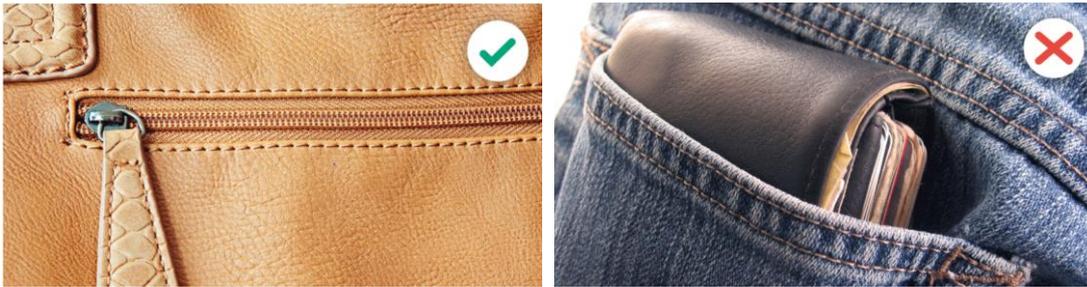
November 29th

Witham Special Constable Eaketts and Special Constable Symonds were on duty today to carry out the Community Beat Surgery at the Town Hall. With the officers outside the front of the Town Hall, they provided information leaflets and their visible presence encouraged residents to come and speak to them about speeding on Newland Street, Collingwood Road & Spinks Lane and the latest banking scams. They were also able to provide some advice to a recent victim of a purse theft which was reported in the Newlands Precinct the previous day. At this time of year it is important to be especially vigilant and take some simple steps to protect your property when shopping. The most



straightforward of these is to make sure you put away your purse or wallet in a bag and to zip up or fasten the bag. This will immediately make it very difficult for an opportunist person to dip into your bag.

[Don't let them pocket it | Essex Police](#)



Following the Surgery they headed off on foot patrol along the River Walk from Bridge Street to the Duck Pond, then onto Armond Road and to Chipping Hill before turning back towards the town. They checked in at the Newlands Precinct and The Grove Centre before conducting mobile patrols where they searched for a homeless person reported on local social media groups. The first location checked was under the railway bridge on Armond Road but there was nobody located, the second location was behind the library and an empty tent was located. We will continue to try and engage with the person to try and provide signposting to street support services. They also checked on a damaged van which had been reported on Allectus Way and this has now been removed.





November 30th

I arrived on the Templars Estate to carry out visibility patrols, there had been some low level anti-social behaviour and I felt that my presence would provide some reassurance that we are listening and taking positive action. I met with a small group of children outside of the shops before I engaged with the older teens under the blue shelter in the park. It was a cold damp evening and there very few other people about on the estate, save for some residents erecting Christmas lights to brighten up their houses ready for the festive period. As I continued on my patrol I spoke with a concerned resident regarding an ongoing neighbour issue and offered advice before heading up to Court 18. Once again they have really gone to town with the Christmas lights and the glow could be easily seen from Conrad Road and neighbouring Courts. I stopped for a short while to speak with one of the residents busily adding to his already impressive display before walking back towards the shops. A larger group of young people had gathered and we had a quick game of one touch football before I returned to my vehicle. My next stop was the Library on Newland Street to follow up on reports of rough sleepers and although I did find the tent – it was once again empty. I did make enquiries in the library and staff confirmed that the two people do come in and use facilities in the library during the day and seem to be ok. We will continue to try and locate them to ensure they are getting any support they need as the weather turns colder.



This concludes the monthly report for November 2022.