



July 2025

July included the Witham Carnival and an opportunity for more community engagement with the residents and visitors to Witham. It is also the start of the school summer holiday, and we will be looking closely at deterring any incidents due to anti-social behaviour based on previous experiences. The RiverWalk, Whetmead Nature Reserve and James Cooke Woods see increased activity and will be included in our patrols.

The Community Special Team are continuing the fortnightly Community Beat Surgeries, located outside The Witham Hub on a Saturday between 11am & 1pm and we are always pleased when people drop by if they have any concerns in their neighbourhood, seek advice or just say hello!

[Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)

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

July 2nd

I crewed up with Special Constable Stevens for my Witham patrol and we began with foot patrol from Ebenezer Close to Bramble Road. Several of the derelict garages on Ebenezer Close have now been cleared and in the process of removal which will reduce anti-social behaviour in the area including illegal fly tipping and drug use. During the foot patrol we engaged with several people out walking before returning to our vehicle. Curiosity in Bramston Green saw us assist with the return of two small dogs that had recently escaped from a property and then we headed up to Rickstones Road for a speed 100 check. Beginning at approximately 18:00 we set up at the junction with Cross Road and within a few minutes we were observing speeds of up to 36mph and visually warned drivers, we then heard a car accelerating towards our location and recorded a speed of 45mph. The vehicle was stopped and the driver reported for excess speed.



Finished with the checks we then moved on to foot patrols on the Templars Estate engaging with several people we saw about the Courts before returning to our vehicle and heading in to the town centre to check on a building that has been the location of recent anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Fortunately, there were no further signs of damage, and we then visited the Witham Hangout Youth Club at the Witham Rugby Club. When we arrived, they were just tucking into some pizza and when they finished, we opened the Police vehicle for them to explore. This resulted in lots of questions about the kit we carry, a visit to the "cage" in the back which turned into a "selfie booth" before the children found a way to connect their music into the PA system which created a club like vibe with



the flashing emergency lights. While this was light hearted it was a great opportunity to interact with the children and helps us to build better relationships in the future to talk about more serious issues like drug misuse, knife crime and exploitation.



We were then called away to a robbery incident where suspects that had fled from the town in the direction of the train station. With officers from the Local Policing Team on route to the victims to gather statements and descriptions we headed to the train station where we patrolled waiting for the suspects to appear. With a second report incoming, they may still be in town we carried out mobile patrols and foot patrols before returning once more to the train station where the staff had confirmed that there had been no sightings of the suspects. We remained at the station, where we were also able to assist a person on the platform who had fallen and had injuries, until the last trains left London bound where the suspects were believed to be heading. With no further sightings we believed they may have been able to board a train before our earlier arrival. Fortunately, with my knowledge of the town centre and location of the offence I have been able to contact the relevant people and British Transport Police (BTP) to gather CCTV evidence which will aid in the ongoing investigation.



July 5th

Each year I am invited to the Hatfield Peverel Party In The Park by the Parish Council to provide a visible presence and I was joined by Special Constable Connor Penrose. With our role primarily in Witham we often get to see many familiar faces from the town in neighbouring village events and this was no exception. The weather was kinder than the previous year which saw the event cancelled. We were able to initially set up to promote Essex Specials recruitment with our flag and stand and had a police vehicle which proved a great draw for families with children to



come and try on a hat and take turns being a police officer or a 'suspect' in the back of the car. During the event we also provided visibility and engagement with foot patrols around the stalls and crowds with some very positive interactions and SC Penrose even got to practice his football skills with children in the park. Although we had to make a quick exit at one point due to a concern for a person spotted on a bridge on the A12, we were able to find the person and resolve this quickly so we could return to the event until it closed.



July 12th

It was Witham Carnival day, and we had been asked if we could participate and lead the procession. With approval from the District Commander, we secured the Police Public Order van and headed over to the Witham Football Club to dress the van in this year's Country & Western theme. For the duration of the procession, we are temporarily exempt from needing to respond to calls in the town and this was assisted by other police units from the Neighbourhood Policing Team in the Witham area. With a few balloons, stickers and bunting we took our position at the front and headed out on to Spa Road before continuing along the route through the town centre.



Image courtesy of Alun Sambrook

It was fantastic to see so many people out on the edges of the route waving and cheering and supporting this community event. With the flashing lights and occasional sirens, we arrived on The Grove where most of the floats disembarked before we moved in to the Witham Town Park for further engagement opportunities. The Witham Special Constable team of Special Chief Inspector Campbell, Special Constable Stevens and I were joined by Special Constable Claire Eaketts who although has temporarily stepped away from policing duties was able to join us for this event and had a lovely reception from residents she has helped in the past.

With the draw of the “County Jail” in the back of our van we saw many “Wanted” people secured behind bars and with the rest of the van to climb over we provided some friendly and interactive experiences. We were also very honoured to have the Witham Carnival Queens and Princesses along for a photo with the “local sheriff”



However, I soon had to swap the cowboy hat for my Police hat to deal with a person who had committed an offence in the town and found their way into the Witham Town Park. Fortunately, we located the person quickly and detained them until a nearby Police unit could take the person away. We returned to our vehicle and concluded our involvement for the day!

July 14th

I was single crewed and wanted to focus on several issues that had been reported over the last week. My first location was the fields behind New Rickstones Academy and Chatten Free School where football pitches were being prepared. There had been reports of criminal damage and fires and so I headed out on foot around the field perimeter discovering several entry points that had been used to access the enclosed field. I have now photographed the evidence left behind of the damage and will be revisiting the area. The evidence of fires was also very concerning due to the current weather and extremely dry conditions, a small grass fire can easily get out of control and destroy large areas, particularly with the limited access to the area by the Fire Service. If you see anything suspicious or smoke then please report as quickly as possible by phoning 999, please do not assume someone else would have already reported an issue. Multiple reports for the same location can really help to ensure that the right services can attend in all incidents.



I headed into the town centre where there had been reports of anti-social driving of cars and motorcycles, so I made myself visible on Newland Street. While in the area I visited Roslyn House, a site of recent anti-social behaviour and criminal damage but pleased to see no further issues. It also provided me with an opportunity to obtain CCTV footage to support an ongoing investigation into a recent robbery in the town centre and this latest evidence will help to secure the identity of the suspects. The town has a new information board on the corner of Newland Street



and Collingwood Road to help visitors to the town but also highlights nearby facilities and the Whetmead Nature Reserve.



While walking about the town I met with several people coming out of nearby restaurants who were all pleased to see my visible presence and even more appreciative when they found out that I was a volunteer! As the evening progressed, I called up to attend a nearby concern for safety which developed into an arrest of a person for multiple offences. With a statement required and property to book into Braintree Police Station I eventually finished my duty at 1:15am.

July 19th

I began with foot patrols in the town centre engaging with shoppers, market traders and shop staff before heading to review CCTV footage from the Witham Town Council system. A recent incident had highlighted the potential use of a vehicle, and I wanted to see if I could help identify the suspect to assist in the investigation. Fortunately, I was able to find the suspect and we now have additional information to help us investigate further. I left the Town Hall and went to The Witham Hub to carry out my fortnightly Community Beat Surgery. I had a request to meet with residents concerning potential drug related activity in their neighbourhood and the Beat Surgery provides a great way for us to exchange and receive this information away from the area which can make people more confident in coming forward and sharing.

The Community Beat Surgery is held every other Saturday between 11:00 & 1:00pm and sensitive information can be discussed in private if required.

With the Beat Surgery complete I headed back to the location of the incident requiring CCTV to update the staff in the store before I called up to attend an incident at the Morrisons Supermarket on Braintree Road where staff had stopped a driver who they believed to be under the influence of alcohol. When I arrived the demeanour of the driver changed, and the male initially tried to run off before it became very obvious, he was in no fit state. With another police unit arriving, a roadside breath test was carried out and the driver produced a positive breath sample. The reading was 4 times the current legal limit. I arrested the driver, where he was then conveyed to custody. I took a statement from a witness and headed back to the Town Hall where I could submit my paperwork. The driver has since been charged and bailed to appear before Court.



[Vision Zero Pledge - saferessexroads.org](https://saferessexroads.org)

I continued my duty with mobile patrols visiting Cypress Road and Forest Road before driving across the town to Pinkham Drive to provide visibility with foot patrol in the area. My final location was back in the town centre on Newland Street where I also checked on a derelict premises which had been the scene of recent anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.



July 26th

I was fortunate to be accompanied by a relatively new Special Constable who had recently attested and had completed a couple of Local Policing Team (999 response) shifts. Today was going to be a different pace and the



priority for the Neighbourhood Policing Team, which the Witham CSC team are part of, is to provide visibility, reassurance, crime deterrent and to solve longer term issues which are causing concerns in the community.

To support this role, we parked up in Newlands Drive and set off on foot around the town visiting the market in Newlands Precinct and engaging with stall holders, residents and shop staff. We continued along Newland Street, calling in at Bixby & Co and then the Morrison Daily store to update the staff on an ongoing investigation. Crossing over the street we headed in to Kings Chase and the Witham Town Park before visiting Greenfields where we had some lovely engagement with a group of children who came running across to see us. Approximately a 1000 questions later! We left and walked through the Tesco car park and in to the Grove Centre where we stopped off at The Witham Hub for an impromptu pop-up Beat Surgery. Before long we had several enquiries and information to follow up before returning to our vehicle.



I wanted to provide some additional visibility in certain areas across the town and we parked up on Allectus Way to carry out patrols on foot but surprisingly we only saw one person out walking their dogs and no other issues or concerns as we walked though. Hopefully a few people did see us out and about, but this is not something we can measure. Our next location was Pattison Close which gave us an opportunity to look out over the RiverWalk and here we saw a lot more people out enjoying the warm weather.



Our final area for the day was over on Cypress Road following reports of suspicious activity believed to related to drugs and criminal damage to part of the building structure of the flats. It is important that residents continue to report any activity like this so that we can target patrols and gather evidence. To support their concerns, I am working with Eastlight Housing to tackle the issues.

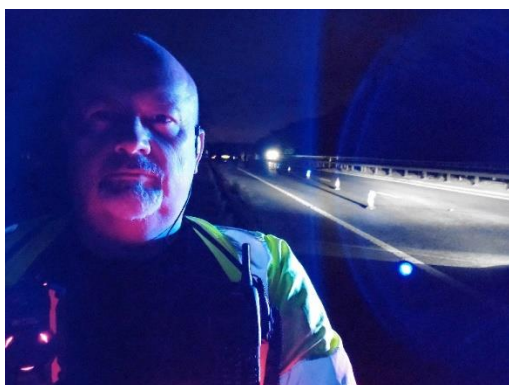


July 29th

I arrived in Witham to begin my shift at around 6pm, patrolling around Cypress Road before crossing the town on to the Hatfield Road estate, where I planned to return several times over my shift. There had been several reports of suspicious activity late at night around garages and vehicles and reports to Police that 2 cars had been stolen in the past week. Persistent patrols around the estates helps to provide a deterrence and hopefully reassurance to residents. I visited the Humber Road estate exploring each of the different roads and cul-de-sacs before parking up near to the Spa Road shops for a short foot patrol. I spoke to the Manager in the COOP and nearby residents and viewed the traffic along Spa Road which seemed to considerably slow down on seeing me. Please be aware of your speeds with the crossing area in front of the shop making this particularly hazardous.



My next location took me into the town centre for foot patrol and I visited Morrisons Daily on Newland Street before patrolling in the Newlands Precinct, the Grove Centre and the town park. As I headed back to my car a building alarm in town began to sound and I went to investigate. Fortunately, in this instance it was a false alarm caused by cleaning staff and eventually we were able to leave the premises just before the key holder arrived to reset it. Details of the key holder are now recorded so in future instances a faster response can be achieved in turning this off which was causing some distress to nearby residents. With the daylight disappearing quickly I was called to assist with a “fend off” on the A12, where we position our vehicle with emergency lights, cones and signs to provide a protective area around a hazard. In this case it was to assist with the arrival of a recovery lorry to remove a car from the edge of the carriageway. The occupants of the car had realised the risk and were out of their vehicle and on the safe side of the barrier and called Police and their recovery agent. We didn’t need to put in the single lane closure for too long but again there were several drivers on the A12 approaching us that had to take evasive action which demonstrates the danger to everyone involved.





With the obstruction removed we cleared the cones, and I returned to my mobile patrols once again visiting the Hatfield Road estate, Redrow estate and the Maltings estate. By this time other mobile units had joined me to patrol the estates and after initial contact with a suspicious vehicle on Hatfield Road a pursuit began with the vehicle racing through the town centre and on to the A12 heading towards Kelvedon. The vehicle even lost a front tyre but was still driving at dangerous and excessive speeds before it came to a halt in Kelvedon, and the driver ran off from the closest unit. Although I could not be directly involved in the pursuit due to the additional training required, I did arrive in Kelvedon shortly after to help with the area search for the suspect who had gone to ground. The National Police Air Service (NPAS) helicopter joined the search and a Dog Unit but after extensive searching the person was still not located and eventually the search was stepped down. The vehicle was recovered forensically, and any results will hopefully identify the driver for further action. I returned to my vehicle and headed back to the station finally finishing at just after 3am.



This concludes the monthly report for July 2025.



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

[Essex Police Witham \(@EPWitham\) / Twitter](#)



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Non-Emergency ☎ 101 or 💻 Report it Online

<https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

