



January 2025

Welcome to 2025 and we wish you a Happy New Year.

With the weather turning colder please be aware of vulnerable people in your area. There are many local groups like The Centre at the United Reformed Church and The Witham Hub that can provide food, clothing, and signposting for support services. If you would like to find out more then please visit the Witham Town Council Information Centre who will be able to provide further guidance.

If you are aware of any person sleeping rough or they are currently homeless you can submit an online report through Streetlink to get them support and to get them somewhere warm.



[StreetLink - Connecting people sleeping rough to local services](#)

We will be out on visible patrols and continuing our fortnightly Community Beat Surgeries, located outside The Witham Hub on a Saturday between 11am & 1pm so please drop by if you have any concerns in your neighbourhood, seeking advice or just to 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.

January 4th

I was joined by fellow Community Special Constable Mikey Mihalyfi. Mikey is one of the Halstead Community Special Constables but we paired up so we could understand how each team works effectively in their designated area. We began in Witham with foot patrols in the town centre with a visit to the library following a report of a nuisance the previous evening. With reassurance and words of advice we next headed through the Grove Centre, Maldon Road and across into the Witham Town Park. Although it was mostly deserted, we did speak to a couple of people walking their dogs before heading through Kings Chase and back up Newland Street. We visited Bubblescape and Battersford Court before stopping by Morrisons Daily where we recorded an incident involving criminal damage. We returned to our marked police vehicle and headed across the town to Spa Road, Flora Road, and Honeysuckle Way before conducting a short foot patrol on the River Walk near to Bramble Road. While on foot we noticed a person on an E-Scooter waiting near to the footbridge who made off as soon as we arrived. We suspect this was due to the illegal use of the E-Scooter but if you see any suspicious behaviour in this area, please report this to Essex Police. We also spoke with a visitor to the area, walking their relatives' dog, who praised us for our presence which made them feel safe.



For the afternoon we headed over to Halstead carrying out mobile patrols visiting a garage area potentially associated with vehicle thefts before conducting foot patrols in the town centre. We visited several high street stores that had been recent victims of shoplifting to understand the impact to staff and customers and offer reassurance and crime prevention advice. During our foot patrol on the High Street we met with local residents who were pleased to see us and we visited two of the COOP stores, gathering information about a specific suspect that had been seen at their stores.

January 8th

I intended to be in Witham between 4:30pm and 8pm to provide some increased visibility in the town centre following continued reports of anti-social behaviour, especially in the Newlands Precinct and around the library. Unfortunately the moment I left Braintree Police Station I came across a serious fire and called up to assist with a road closure on the one way system. With Essex County Fire & Rescue Service on the scene very quickly the fire was contained without injuries or serious damage to property. I was able to reopen the road almost 2 hours later and after picking up a colleague we arrived in Witham for mobile patrols. In the town centre we did not find any ongoing concerns and engaged positively with a small group of children on Guithavon Street before checking on the ASDA store but there were no reported issues. We also visited Cut Throat Lane following up on a report of a potential homeless person staying in the enclosure but there were no obvious signs and we returned to further mobile patrols.





January 11th

It was a very cold day with a heavy frost and that provided Special Constable Eaketts and Myself with an opportunity to update the cover photo on our Social Media X account [@EPWitham](#) with a picture from the beautiful River Walk near to Pattision Close. With the moment captured we then headed into town for the Community Beat Surgery at the Grove Centre. Over the 2 hour period we provided a visible presence in the town, provided help and advice and received lots of positive comments about the reassurance we were providing. Following the event we then headed out on foot patrol around the town visiting the library, Witham Town Park, Newlands Precinct and Newland Street before heading out to the Highfields Road area. We rejoined the River Walk heading down past the Duckpond to check on the memorial paintings near the weir before returning to the store and onto the skate park. With 2 outstanding investigations we were able to gather further information and provide an update and reassurance to the victims.



January 18th

Witham Special Constable Eaketts and I paired up again for our shift in Witham and it was slightly warmer this time without the frost! We set off on foot patrol in the town centre and met and talked to a lot of people in the town centre attending the market and different stores. Outside Tesco we met Flissy the cat, before continuing round to the Witham Town Park and calling at the Park View Care Home due to an incident earlier in the week. Our patrols then took us on to several specific locations in the town where there have been reports of anti-social behaviour and these reports help us to build an overall picture of the issue so we can target our resources more effectively. We called in at the Witham Hub following the very sad news that one of the regular visitors to the Hub and to our fortnightly Beat Surgery had died recently. Over the past 3 years of the Beat Surgery, we have met or had acknowledgement from many different people, but we also see some residents that regularly engage with us, and he will be remembered. We carried on our foot patrol but were then called to an incident at Cullen Mill and we were able to return to our car and be at the scene of the incident in under 2 minutes. Fortunately, in this instance we were able to calm the involved parties and ensure that there were no further issues, with the victim thanking us for our swift attendance. In our role as Community Special Constables, we have the same policing powers as our regular colleagues and by being able to react quickly to incidents in the town it provides a policing response which enables the Local Policing Team to answer other calls across the wider Braintree District. While we were driving back towards the town centre we were then called to the library for another disturbance and when we arrived, we had to assist staff in removing several young people from the premises due to their disruptive behaviour.



January 20th

I was crewed up with PC Hammond of the Witham Community Policing Team for my shift in Witham and we began with a speed check on Rickstones Road, just shortly after the nearby school had closed. With many children still in the area we wanted to provide a visible presence and a deterrent to speeding and this did seem to have a positive effect. During the period we checked the movement of 100 vehicles and pleased to see that we only had to visually warn 2 drivers with the highest recorded speed of 35mph in the 30mph limit. To assist with the safe crossing of Rickstones Road towards the Forest Road estate, a proposal has been put forward for a marked pedestrian crossing point. We will continue to conduct checks in the area to monitor general speeds.



Our next speed check location was on Maldon Road, near to the junction with Blackman Way and once again we set out to measure 100 vehicles, this was cut short, however, with an emergency request for assistance from Police Officers at an incident on the other side of the town and we were able to get to the location within a few minutes. Fortunately, with the extra Police presence the situation was quickly under control and after ensuring there were no further issues we returned to our mobile patrols. We arrived in Newland Street to find a large group of children near to Prezzo's who then ran down towards Mill Lane. Although there did not seem to be any issue, we continued down the street before seeing them once again gathered outside a business premise. When we pulled over to engage with them – they ran off again and so we decided it was a good idea to continue our patrols, visiting the Redrow estate, Hatfield Road estate and Maltings Lane estate before heading over towards Highfields Road. We met the group again in this area but this time they set off some form of firework on the River Walk and when we went to investigate, unfortunately the group had set a fire in one of the rubbish bins near to Guithavon Valley. Without the capability to extinguish this we had to call out the Fire Service who arrived with a complete unit and put out the fire. While some of the recent actions are considered a nuisance, this kind of incident is an escalation and becomes a criminal act of arson. We will therefore be looking at CCTV in the area to identify the cause and the person(s) responsible.



With the fire extinguished safely we did go and visit the parents of 2 people we positively identified and following this action there were no further incidents over the rest of our shift. Our final emergency in the evening took us out to Great Braxted where a vehicle tracker was reporting the location of a stolen vehicle, unfortunately even though the initial theft was reported just a short while before we could only locate the tracker unit that had been discarded in a field. This has been recovered forensically as part of the ongoing investigation.

January 25th

It was the Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub in the Grove Centre and I had extra company with both PC Roper and PC Hammond of the Witham Community Policing Team with me. We arrived a little early but from the start we spoke to lots of people passing through the Centre as well as engaging with visitors to The Hub. PC Roper & PC Hammond conducted foot patrols, visiting the library to provide reassurance following several incidents of unacceptable behaviour over the week and then visited the market stalls in the Newlands Precinct. When they returned, we finished up the Beat Surgery with a photo opportunity for a foreign visitor who had not seen a Police Officer wearing the traditional custodian helmet. One of the more regular questions we are asked is about the disposal of unwanted knives. We do have a knife amnesty collection bin outside the front of Braintree Police Station (CM73DJ) but understand that this can sometimes be difficult for people to access, and we do not want people to be carrying knives unnecessarily. To support an enquiry this week we attended an address and collected the knives for disposal. You can also dispose of unwanted knives at the local recycling centre where they can be put into the metal bin but please plan your visit so that you are not carrying them around on your person or in a vehicle when in public. If you would like to arrange a collection, then please speak to us at one of the Community Beat Surgeries at either the Town Hall or The Witham Hub.



PC Roper & PC Hammond had started earlier in the day, supporting a warrant in another part of the district and finished their shift, so I continued my own through the afternoon. After conducting further foot patrols in the town centre and on the RiverWalk, I attended a concern for welfare on Humber Road before diverting to a house fire on Church Street. Due to being the first Police unit to arrive I was able to assess the situation with the on-scene paramedic and start to evacuate people from the neighbouring properties. Fortunately, in this instance the homeowner had been rescued and was being monitored by the paramedic. The Fire Service arrived quickly and were able to get the fire under control and got the thick black smoke out of the home. The heroic rescuers had been alerted by a smoke alarm which proved invaluable in saving the homeowners life. If you do not currently have a smoke detector / alarm fitted in your property, then you can contact the Fire Service who will come and install one for you for free. For further information then please click the link or call them on the number displayed below.



[Smoke Alarms](#)

We want to make sure that every single home in Essex has a smoke alarm, so we will visit any home in Essex and fit smoke alarms completely FREE of charge.

What a home safety visit involves:

- Identifying and making you aware of the potential fire risks in your home
- Making sure you know what to do to reduce or prevent these risks
- Helping you put together an escape plan in case a fire breaks out in the future
- Making sure you have a working smoke alarm and, if you don't, we will fit a FREE ten year smoke alarm

To arrange your home safety visit please call 0300 303 0088 or complete an [online form](#).



January 28th

I was joined on my patrol by PC Snow from the Braintree Community Policing Team, and we are currently working across the different shifts to provide an increased presence to deter anti-social behaviour which has been occurring across the town. Many of the individuals responsible have been identified and have received home visits and behavioural orders. To support this, we are carrying out more foot patrols and mobile patrols to provide a visible and reassuring presence to the local businesses and members of the community. Fortunately, we also had the weather on our side and the cold and rain are a very good deterrent (nicknamed PC Rain) we had an all-weather crew out! We visited the Grove Centre, Library, Newlands Precinct, and the Witham Town Park with no reported issues.



We were also able to support an engagement event at 1st Witham Beavers and the Beavers were very excited to be some of the first to experience our new Police Public Order vehicle. The shields, lights and the cage were of particular interest, and we had lots of interesting questions and some potential future recruits!

January 29th

I began my patrol with a speed check on Spa Road, I will be carrying out more of these across the roads of Witham over the coming months to support the Roads Policing Team, to try and reduce one of the root causes of collisions. While some of the checks are speed surveys to try and form a picture of any issues in a specific area, we will still look to administer recommendations for educational courses or issue traffic enforcement reports which may result in a fine, penalty points or to be reported to court. To carry out a speed check we have several requirements to meet including the wearing of additional high visibility clothing, conducting the check from a safe location and we must consider the road conditions are suitable to be seen by drivers or riders. Additionally, if we require the vehicle to stop, we need to have a suitable area where this can be done safely without causing a risk to other road users. These requirements impact some of the locations that have been discussed at the Community Beat Surgeries, especially on the housing estates where there are many parked cars. During the 30 minutes I stopped and warned one driver for 36mph in the 30mph limit but was unable to safely stop another driver who was measured at 40mph. Following the speed check, I visited the ASDA store to secure CCTV from a recent incident and then seized an E-Scooter which was being ridden illegally and dangerously by two young children.

After speaking with the parent and explaining my action I headed into the Town Centre for foot patrol. I visited the library providing reassurance before returning to the Grove Centre where I was called to attend a road traffic collision on Perry Way. When I arrived on the scene just a couple of minutes following the call to Police, I was able to quickly assess that there were no injuries and with everyone involved swapping details, I swept up the broken glass and returned to my patrol. My next visit was to discuss a licencing check with a bar owner but before I could carry



out another foot patrol I was called to a disturbance at the ASDA store. Again, with my presence in Witham I was able to be there in a couple of minutes and quickly dispersed a group gathered outside the store.



The final part of my shift took me to the Templars Estate where I conducted a foot patrol around most of the Courts. We had received a recent report of damage to a front door which had been kicked by a group of children running past but while I was on patrol I did not see anyone out and about during my patrol. We will carry out further patrols while we investigate the criminal damage that was caused. With the temperature dropping I headed back to my vehicle and completed my patrol just as the gritting lorry entered Witham.

This concludes the monthly report for January 2025.

Stay up to date with the latest policing news by signing up to our weekly e-newsletter www.essex.police.uk/dispatch



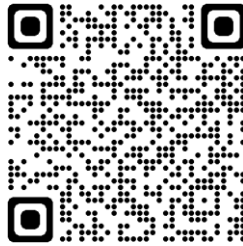
CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



You can find Witham Community Special Constable patrol updates on Twitter / X 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/>

