



July 2024

July begins with the Town Carnival, a well-attended event where the residents of Witham line the procession route through the town centre. With so many people out to support the event we provide a presence in our role as Witham Community Special Constables. We are always looking to recruit new team members and it is a great opportunity to be visible in your community and provide a safe and friendly town. July also sees the start of the school summer break and there is an increase in groups of children out and about round the town and on the estates, but we aim to engage positively and deter any anti-social behaviour. If you are interested in finding out about becoming a Community Special Constable, then please see the link below or visit the Essex Police webpage and search for *Community Special Constables*

[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 1st

I began my shift in Witham to target a reported issue around the Newlands Precinct for a person who was potentially stalking a young person working in a local business. There was an ongoing Police investigation in progress, but I wanted to provide a visual deterrent and reassurance for the victim. After taking just a few steps into the precinct, I was approached by two young girls, with one of them reporting an unconnected sexual assault. The assault had only just happened, so I created an incident and started to take details and put in place safeguarding and a process for the preservation of evidence. In incidents like this it is vital to gather early evidence and with support from the victim's parent I forensically recovered items before I was assisted by a PC from Braintree CID who recorded a statement from the victim at a safe location.

This was only reported directly to Police after the victim saw me on foot patrol in the town centre which highlights the significance of my role as a dedicated Special Constable in Witham.

July 13th

It was the day of the carnival, and we were once again invited to be part of the procession to promote our role in the community of Witham. The theme was "Countries Around the World" and we were able to decorate the Marked Police Carrier (Riot Van) appropriately and lead the procession through the town. The route from the Witham Rugby Club to the Witham Town Park took us along Spinks Lane and up Newland Street and it was a fantastic sight to see the streets lined on both sides. I was joined by fellow Witham Special Constables, Chief Inspector Lorne Campbell and Special Constable Claire Eaketts and after displaying the lights, sirens and some bubbles...we stopped in the Witham Town Park to let people come and try on uniform and experience being "locked" in the cage! We had very positive engagement throughout the event, including a fantastic photo with the Witham Carnival Court and look forward to attending again next year.



July 16th to July 18th

In our role as Special Constables we get offered unique opportunities to represent Essex Police and I was privileged to be able to take part in a security operation in support of the European Political Community Summit at Blenheim Palace. With Police Officers from forces all over the country it is a great opportunity to meet up and be part of these significant events.

July 20th

I began my shift by carrying out a foot patrol at a targeted area on Spa Road following reports of drug supply before moving on to Maldon Road to conduct a speed check. I have continued to receive complaints about the speed of vehicles with motorbikes and cars being perceived to exceed the 30 miles per hour limit and make it particularly dangerous at the pedestrian crossing point. I set up my position at the entrance to Blackman Way and this enables me to measure the speed of vehicles approaching from either direction. While carrying out these checks we are required to wear high visibility clothing for our safety but it also provides a visual deterrent to oncoming drivers, with the primary goal to ensure that drivers are not speeding. Over a 30 minute period I measured the speed of 100 vehicles and I had only to verbally warn 2 drivers – this is a very positive result based on previous surveys, however, I will conduct further speed actions at this location at different times. I moved into the town centre on foot patrol



before attending the Community Beat Surgery between 11:00 & 13:00. During the course of this time I met with several residents to provide crime advice, received information concerning issues in their neighbourhood and provided positive engagement with children and families. I next carried out foot patrols in the town, visiting the library and the Newlands Precinct, Lockram Lane and the Witham Town Park with no concerns. I returned to my vehicle and attended Maltings Academy where a fun day was in full swing and as I walked around the field I talked with stall holders and visitors providing visibility and reassurance. I returned to my mobile patrols and attended an intruder alarm on the Freebournes Industrial estate and although a false activation, I checked to ensure the premises was secure. I finished off my shift with a further speed check on Rickstones Road and in this area 6 drivers were verbally warned, however, due to the number of warnings I will be carrying out enforcement actions in this area again.



July 24th

I arrived in Witham in the early afternoon to provide visible presence in the town centre and specifically to visit the library which had already seen a significant increase in groups of children attending throughout the day and causing disturbance for staff and visitors. The start of the school holidays typically sees an increase in groups of children out in the town and surrounding areas during the daytimes and evenings but it is important that any concerns are reported to Essex Police so we can engage positively to deter any disruptive behaviour that may occur. During my time in the town I did engage with a large group of children and they eventually moved on to the Witham Town Park. Unfortunately almost immediately this resulted in a disturbance in the park and a person was restrained and arrested in connection with a potential assault following interactions with the large group of children. Fortunately I was able to be on scene within a few minutes to manage the incident. With the incident resolved I returned to my patrols.



I had been asked by local Councillor & volunteer at the Witham Hangout, Jack Coleman if I would attend to provide some reassurance and advice following the recent high profile incident in Witham involving a group of teenagers where an altercation was filmed and shared on social media. The incident was reported to have involved a knife and other items that were used to inflict injuries. Fortunately these incidents are rare, however, it is important to talk about what happened, explain the implications of being directly involved and the risks and offences that could change their lives. Although some of the children had seen the video circulating on social media, many had not and therefore listened as I explained the impact this could have on families and future careers. I would encourage parents of children to speak to their children about incidents of this nature and be aware of what they may be seeing and sharing on social media.



With the talk completed we had a group photo and I then left to engage with a large group of older teenagers that had congregated on the Spa Road park. With my role in Witham for the last 6 years I have got to know quite a lot of them and after a brief chat most of the group departed. I crossed town to provide reassurance for a recent victim of harrasment before being called to a disturbance at Battesford Court in the town. On arrival a man had been involved in an altercation with a large group in the garden of Wetherspoons and was arrested for assault and taken to custody.



July 27th

I was joined by fellow Witham Special Constable Eaketts for our patrols and we began with enquiries to assist in an ongoing harassment incident. We called at three addresses in Witham to provide words of advice and instructions to stop the behaviour that led to the incident and this was well received and understood with admission by all three people involved. With the investigation updated we then called on the victim to provide them with our update before moving into the town centre for foot patrols. We are regularly stopped by residents in the town who thank us for our presence which they feel provides them with visible reassurance and this is encouraging as the primary function of our volunteer role in Witham. We visited the Newlands Precinct and the library before heading through the Grove Centre and across Maldon Road into the town park and returning back up Newland Street. Outside Greggs we were handed a lost wallet and after identifying an address we left the town briefly to deliver it to a thankful owner in Silver End.



We returned to Witham to assist with a domestic related incident before continuing our patrols with a visit to a derelict property on Hatfield Road, fortunately the building had been secured and there were no concerns so we drove to Spa Road to carry out a speed check. Over the following 30 minutes 100 vehicles were measured with the highest speed measured at 38mph. This area is particularly hazardous for drivers and pedestrians with many children crossing the road at the junction with Highfields Road and not using the pelican crossing and therefore speeding along this road could result in serious injury. With the check complete we headed onto the Humber Road estate to carry out foot patrol, there had been a serious incident earlier in the week and we wanted to provide a presence in the area as a deterrent and to provide reassurance to residents.



As we returned to our vehicle we were alerted to a theft of a motor vehicle that had just occurred in Newland Street and had headed in our direction. We carried out an immediate area search but with no sign of the vehicle, we then



headed out along the country roads, where in previous incidents, personal items were found dumped from stolen vehicles, unfortunately in this instance there was no further trace and we returned back to the town centre where we finished our shift with further foot patrols.

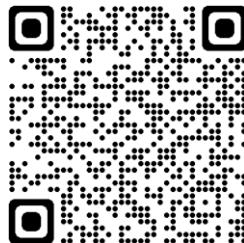
This concludes the monthly report for July 2024.

CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.


0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



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/>

