

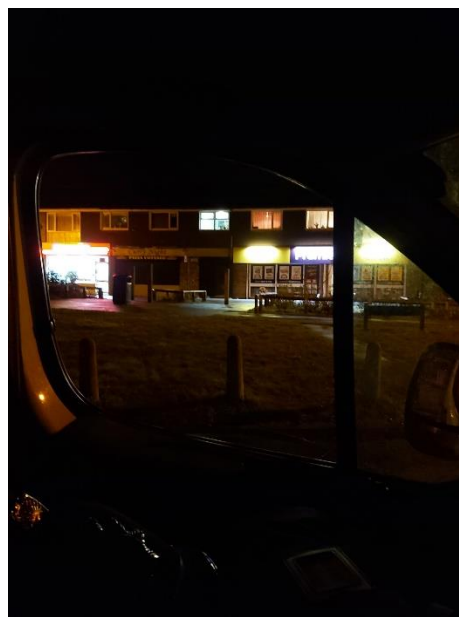


January 2021 Patrols

It may have been the start of a new year but with the same restrictions in place due to the continuing pandemic, this has required us to provide high visibility patrols for Engagement, Explanation, Encouragement and Enforcement around social distancing guidelines. There has been a reduction in vehicles on the road with essential travel only and a noticeable drop in the number of people out in the town and parks. Residents are still going out for exercise and while this has been well respected in Witham, it has allowed us to target specific people that may be involved in criminal activities. We have maintained a visible presence on all the housing estates and checked on local business areas that are currently closed.

January 5th

Following a recent vehicle theft, I focused my patrol on side roads and lanes in Witham, sometimes stolen vehicles are parked up locally for a short time to determine if they are being tracked. If you see a new vehicle in your area that looks out of place, please report this online or by calling 101. Residents can provide vital information in these kinds of thefts due to their local knowledge. While patrolling the Humber Road estate, a report from a resident came in for a group of teenagers hanging around nearby garages. When I attended the scene, I disrupted drug related activity involving this group. Although they all fled the scene on seeing the marked police vehicle, a small amount of cannabis was found, and a police information report has been submitted for the location. I was able to react to the call to police in under 2 minutes due to my presence in Witham. I then attended an assault and carried out an area search following the theft and use of a bank card at a local store.





January 8th

We had two CSC officers out tonight, each crewed with a Special Constable from Braintree, this allowed us to increase our visible presence in each of the areas we visited. This included the Templars estate, covering each of the Courts & garage areas. An intelligence report has been submitted for suspected drug use in one location. We also covered Forest Road & Cypress Road before moving over to the Humber Road estate, while we were on Humber Road, we attended a mental health incident to support the Braintree Local Policing Team and we were able to offer the support and help required. Due to our presence near to the incident location we were able to attend in under 1 minute. We then moved as a group over to the Hatfield Road estate where we covered all the roads and alleyways including the play area at Alan Road. In this area there were no concerns with no-one visible on the streets.



January 9th

As part of local area patrols supporting Witham I was crewed with PC Wilshire and during our patrol we visited Blunts Hall Road, Dengie Close, Pattison Close and Powers Hall End. It was very cold, and this meant for most of our patrol, the streets were empty, however we did assist another unit with a drink driver and separated two teenagers who were out in an area associated with reports of anti-social behaviour. This resulted in one of them being taken home to parents.



January 16th

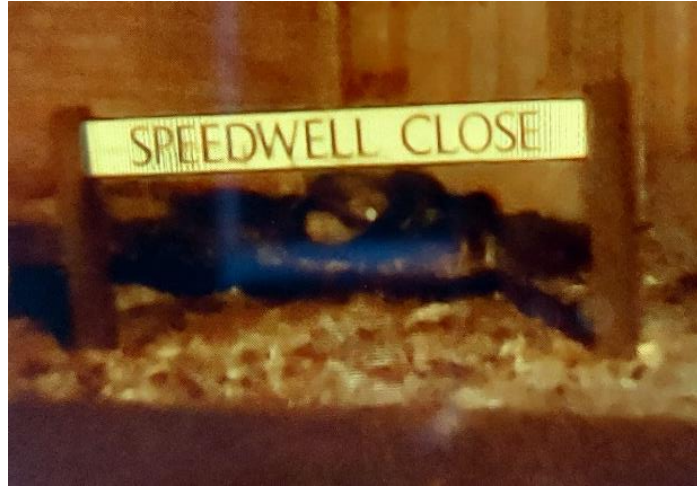
My afternoon patrol commenced with assisting at an earlier road traffic accident resulting in a vehicle leaving the road near to Crossing Temple. I then headed in to the Templars estate for foot patrol around the Courts. I started at Court 1 and made my way through the area but apart from a couple of residents out for exercise, it appeared most people were staying inside. From this location I headed in to the town centre and carried out further visible patrols in the Witham Town Park, Greenfields, Maldon Road, Maltings Lane and the Maltings estate including Gershwin Boulevard. Later in the afternoon an incident was reported to Police following a car that had lost control on London Road and due to my presence in Witham I was able to be at the scene quickly. The driver was required to complete a drugs & drink test (which was passed) however on further investigation the vehicle was seized for breaching and existing Section 59 order. This Section 59 order is generally given on observation of anti-social driving and applies to the driver and the vehicle at the time it is served, lasting for a period of 12 months. Not only was the vehicle seized at this time, but the driver



received another Section 59 which now starts again for the next 12-month period. In addition, the driver was also reported for careless driving after causing damage to road signs and lighting equipment.



In the evening Community Special Constable Keyse with a Special Constable from Braintree carried out patrols in Witham and it would appear 3 was the key number on this shift. They covered a number of incidents, speaking with 3 teenagers about social distancing requirements in Witham Town Park and 3 vehicles were stopped due to the manner of their driving with words of advice given. They provided engagement with a gentleman requiring mental health advice, before disrupting potential drug activity on Yare Avenue whereby a teenager made off from Police. Extensive foot patrols were carried out on Allectus Way, Humber Road, River Walk and they also located a potential rough sleeper and submitted a referral via StreetLink. A total of 3 Police intelligence reports were submitted on their findings and a visit to James Cooke Woods disrupted a number of cars meeting up. To finish their patrol they also visited the industrial areas without further incident.

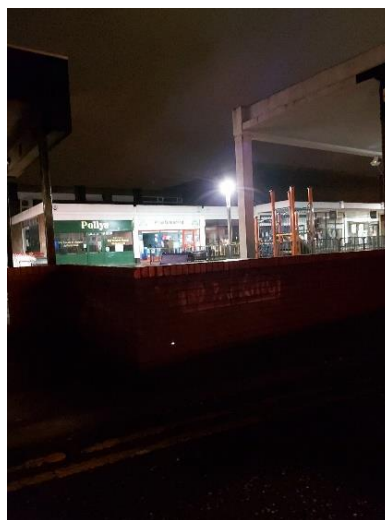


January 20th

In the morning Community Special Constable Campbell carried out mobile patrols in a marked Police vehicle on Honeysuckle Way and Bramble Road before moving down towards Humber Road and on to ASDA. He then headed on to Spinks Lane before driving up to the Hatfield Road estate and on to the Gershwin estate and Maldon Road. He then carried on over to Church Street and Chipping Hill before visiting the industrial areas. While patrolling in the vehicle provides some visibility, he also carried out foot patrols in the Town Centre, Newlands Precinct, The Grove Centre, Witham Town Park and close to the Lidl store before making his way up Newland Street. There were very few people about on the streets, but he did have positive engagement with the people he did meet while socially distanced.



In the evening I carried out a short speed survey on Cypress Road following social media reports of excessive speeds on the road. During the 30 minutes I used the speed measuring device, I stopped 9 drivers for exceeding the speed limit. Although all of these were below the speed for a direct ticket, each was given some words of advice and a warning. Unfortunately, in nearly every case the driver was local to the immediate area. Once it had started to rain it became dangerous to the road users to continue but I will be back for further checks on this road. The remainder of my patrol revisited several of the areas that Special Inspector Campbell had covered earlier in the day and on Allectus Way at the Premier shop 3 teenagers who were not adhering to the social distance guidelines were sent home. I spent a little time parked in Newland Street where several drivers appeared to be driving above the speed limit. Further speed checks will be carried out in this location in coming weeks.



January 21st

Special Inspector Campbell returned to Witham for a morning patrol and was very visible in hi-vis attire, hopefully this would have been noticed by residents during his patrol. In the marked police vehicle, he covered Powers Hall End, the Humber Road estate, ASDA and then up to ALDI before spending time out on foot on Gershwin Boulevard as a deterrent for speeding. He then patrolled the Hatfield Road estate and Maldon Road. After parking up, he conducted foot patrol in the Town Centre, Newlands Precinct, The Grove Centre, Witham Town Park and Newland Street. Inspector Campbell was pleased with the positive engagement by everyone he saw and felt that the residents appreciated his presence in the Town and surrounding area.



January 26th

Special Inspector Campbell carried out mobile patrols on a very cold morning starting out at Honeysuckle Way and the Flora Road estates before moving down Spa Road towards the Humber Road estate. He also attended ASDA before patrolling Spinks Lane and heading in towards the town centre. Following this he headed up to the industrial areas of Freebournes Road, Crittall Road & Eastways before moving on the Maldon Road, Maltings Lane Howbridge Road & School. His mobile patrol then moved on to the Gershwin/Maltings estate before visible patrols on the Hatfield Road estate. The patrols in the marked police vehicle were broken up with foot patrols in the Town Centre including The Grove Centre, attending the Tesco store, Witham Town Park and Newlands Street. There were no reported incidents during the shift however Inspector Campbell did engage positively with residents.





January 27^h

During an evening patrol with PC Wilshire & PC Jenney we carried out targeted patrols in the areas known for anti-social behaviour and drug use. It had finally stopped raining and it was a milder night, so the expectation of people being outside had increased over previous duties. While conducting patrols on Forest Road we disrupted drug activity at a wooden bus shelter, where three young teenagers fled from us into Yew Close and one headed down Cut Throat Lane on his bike. Due to their rapid escape they left behind a small amount of cannabis and a pair of gloves! A police information report has been submitted for this location and after our post on Twitter & FB, a number of local residents not only thanked us for our work but also provided further information which will help us in the future. A quick check on the Templars estate and then we moved on to the Humber Road estate. Unfortunately, we found a large group of teenagers outside the Douglas Grove Surgery who all ran off as we arrived. The group consisted of both teenage girls & boys who ran in different directions to avoid contact with us and even though we carried out an area search on foot we were unable to locate any of the group. On inspecting the scene, we found a large amount of takeaway food which had been discarded as we arrived and a mountain bike. This demonstrated that the group were not adhering to the social distancing requirements in meeting up and are risking themselves and their family's health. We then removed the bike back to Braintree Police Station for safe keeping so we could try and ascertain the owner. Although we carried out further patrols in Witham there were no further incidents during the shift.





Following an appeal on social media through the Essex Police – Braintree Facebook page, an owner came forward after a crime of theft had been recorded. After a positive identification by the owner the bike was arranged for safe return.

January 28th

A morning patrol by Special Inspector Campbell in Witham saw him conduct high visibility mobile patrols in a marked police vehicle on Honeysuckle Way, Bramble Road, Rosebay Avenue, Speedwell Close, Foxglove Close & Calamint Road before driving around the Humber Road estate. Following this he covered the industrial estates and then back in towards the town centre where he carried out foot patrol. During the patrols there were very few people out and in general we have seen a significant reduction of residents in the town unless for essential reasons. After visiting the Witham Town Park, The Grove Centre, Newlands Precinct he returned to the vehicle to carry out further reassurance and visibility patrols on the Hatfield Road estate, Gershwin Boulevard, Chipping Hill, Cypress Road and Forest Road.



January 30th

The rain returned with another drop in temperature and localised flooding in many areas, however this did not stop our patrols and I was crewed with a Special Constable from Braintree. After assisting with a couple of incidents in Silver End, we carried on to Witham where we returned the stolen bike to its owner, carried out mobile patrols on Allectus Way, Spinks Lane, Guithavon Street, Mill Lane, Newland Street, Maldon Road & The Grove. We parked the vehicle in Newlands car park and headed in to the shopping areas on foot patrol. From the Grove Centre we headed through the Witham Town Park and up Newland Street before walking through Newlands Precinct back to our vehicle. We were then requested to travel to Kelvedon to check on the welfare of an elderly lady who had not been heard from in 4 days, fortunately the lady was ok and we contacted a relative to



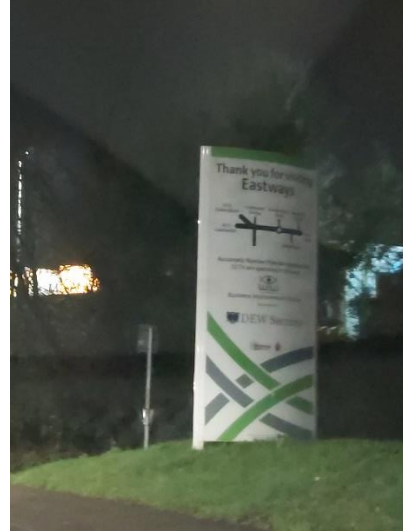
provide reassurance before being redirected to an incident in Hatfield Peverel. Each journey took us back through the town centre of Witham but sometimes we are called out of area to support Essex Police priorities. In Hatfield Peverel we obtained details for the assessment of potentially dangerous dogs before heading back to Witham. Almost immediately we attended a very drunk male who had been found staggering near to the road by 2 members for the public who had stopped to assist. Due to the location at the junction of Hatfield Road and Maltings Lane we quickly got the male into the back of our vehicle and were able to clear the roads which had started to build up with traffic. Unfortunately, we spent the next 3 hours with this male trying to establish his identity and where he lived, which due to his state he was unable to provide. We have a duty of care to make sure that in the very cold and wet conditions that he was not going to be outside with the risk of falling asleep or into unconsciousness and we achieved this by keeping him warm in our vehicle until he had started to show signs of recovery. Eventually this male was able to make his own way.



During the evening patrol, Community Special Constable Keyse was out with a Special Constable from Braintree which provided a total for the day of 19 hours of visible policing in Witham. SC Keyse was very busy and covered all the following areas, Humber Road including Douglas Grove & Yare Avenue, Allectus Way, Forest Road, Dorothy Sayers Drive, Cypress Road, Greenfields, Freebournes industrial area, Eastways industrial area, Rosebay Avenue & Maltings Lane. During these patrols they had to speak with 5 individuals in the park at Cypress Road and recorded social distancing warnings. After one car made off from them in Cypress Road a pursuit trained unit from Braintree LPT caught up with the driver in Feering where they had to account for their actions. Following this a vehicle stopped by another Braintree unit near to Morrisons in Witham required a full vehicle search following intelligence linked to drug supply. This was further complicated when it was identified that a female in the vehicle was a potential victim of an assault and potential cuckooing. The term cuckooing is used in describing how a person is taken advantage of by another, who uses them or their home to carry out illegal activities. This typically happens to vulnerable individuals but can also include threats to the victim to keep them trapped and compliant. In this instance the person did not want to take any further action at this time and no drugs were located After assisting the unit SC



Keyse moved on to foot patrols in the Witham Town Park and along the boundary of Greenfields following reports of drug & alcohol use in the old abandoned shelter. After a final vehicle stop on Braintree Road, which was all in order, they finished their shift in the early hours of the morning.



This concludes the monthly report for January 2021.