



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE  
01376 520627  
witham.gov.uk

## AGENDA

Meeting of: **Community Committee**

Date: **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024** Time: **7:30 p.m.**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FE**

**Members are hereby summoned to attend the above Meeting to transact the following business. Members are respectfully reminded that each item on the Agenda should be carefully examined. If you have any interest, it must be duly declared.**

To be present: Councillors

L.	Barlow	(Chairman)	L.	Headley
P.	Heath	(Vice Chairman)	R.	Playle
E.	Adelaja		R.	Ramage
J.C.	Coleman		J.	Robertson
B.	Fleet		E.	Williams

Nikki Smith  
Town Clerk  
NS/GK/6.11.2024

### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

### 2. **MINUTES**

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Committee held 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (previously circulated).

### 3. **INTERESTS**

To receive any declarations of interest that Members may wish to give notice of on matters pertaining to any item on this agenda.

**4. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

An opportunity to enable members of the press and public present to comment.

*Order Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is designated for public participation time with no individual speaker exceeding three minutes unless otherwise granted an extension by the Chairman under Standing Order 3(F) & 3(G).*

**5. ESSEX POLICE**

An opportunity to receive any updates concerning local criminal matters and hear from any officers in attendance.

*Note: Police Inspector Phil Jackson has been invited to the Meeting following the Town Council Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024, S/Sgt Jesse will also be in attendance.*

**6. GUEST SPEAKER**

An opportunity for the Committee to hear from the selected guest speaker ahead of question and answer session.

*Note: The chosen speaker for this Meeting is Kathy Kentish, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice.*

**7. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk on matters arising.

**8. BUS SERVICE**

To receive correspondence from Dame Priti Patel, MP and an email from Essex County Council attached at page 4.

**9. WITHAM TRAIN CRASH**

To receive a Motion Request Form from Councillor Jack Robertson concerning a memorial for the anniversary of the Witham Train Crash, attached at page 7.

**10. GRANT AID REQUESTS**

(a) **Citizens Advice**

To reconsider the Citizens Advice grant (Minute 9(a) from Community Committee held 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 refers, previously circulated).

(b) **Tiny Treble Event**

To receive a grant aid request attached at page 8.

(c) **Popcorn**

To note that despite requests no further information has been received from Popcorn regarding the number of Witham residents who attend their events.

**11. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND BUDGET REPORT**

To receive the Community Committee Income and Expenditure report for the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 attached at page 15.

**12. EVENTS UPDATE**

To receive a verbal report giving an events update.

**13. STREET WARDEN'S REPORT**

To receive the Street Warden's Reports for August and September 2024 attached at page 17.

**14. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE BUDGET 2025/2026**

To receive a draft Community Committee Budget for 2025/2026 attached at page 31.

**15. SOCIAL MEDIA**

To receive social media statistics attached at page 32.

**16. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

At this point, the Chair will move the following resolution: Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 S.1(2) and in accordance with Standing Order 3(d), the press and public should be excluded from the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**17. INFORMATION CENTRE**

To receive a report from the Information Centre Manager attached at page 33.

**THE RT. HON. PRITI PATEL MP**

WITHAM

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 3528

E-mail: [withammp@parliament.uk](mailto:withammp@parliament.uk)

Website: [www.pritipatelmp.com](http://www.pritipatelmp.com)



Agenda Item 8

Ms Nikki Smith  
Town Clerk  
Witham Town Council  
Town Hall  
61 Newland Street  
Witham  
Essex  
CM8 2FE

Our Ref: ZA88503

21 October 2024

Dear Ms Smith,

Further to your recent letter about Saturday services in Witham, I have raised this matter with Cllr Tom Cunningham, the Cabinet Member for Transport at Essex County Council, which I have enclosed below for your information.

I am aware of the concerns about bus provision locally, and particularly on Saturdays, and the impact this is having on constituents. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with the new managing director of Hedingham and Chambers, and I have encouraged him to look into expanding routes and bus provision. I will continue to meet with our local bus companies and encouraging them to expand their services, although it should be noted that these are private companies and ultimately it is for them to make commercial decisions around services.

Thank you again for taking the time to raise this important issue with me and please do not hesitate to contact me again if I can be of any further help with this issue or another.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon Priti Patel MP**  
Member of Parliament for Witham



*'Dear Priti*

*Thank you for your email regarding the 39-bus service and the concerns about its changes.*

*For context, on 28th July 2024, Essex County Council had to replace several expiring local bus service contracts. As a result of the tendering process:*

*Prior to 28th July 2024:*

*Tendered service 40 was operated by First Bus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.*

*Commercial service 39 was operated by First Bus on Saturdays and by Stephenson's of Essex on weekdays (Monday to Friday). First Bus also operated some elements of the commercial service 40.*

*From 28th July 2024 onwards:*

*Tendered service 40 is now operated by Heddingham & Chambers on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.*

*First Bus withdrew their commercial Saturday service 39, likely because they lost the tendered service 40 on Saturdays, which was previously interworked for efficiency.*

*Stephenson's of Essex continues to operate the commercial service 39 on weekdays (Monday to Friday).*

*First Bus also withdrew the commercial elements of service 40, as their contract period had ended.*

*It's worth noting that Witham continues to have sufficient bus services Monday through Saturday, in line with Essex County Council's policy. However, the Honeysuckle Way and Humber Road areas in northwest Witham no longer have Saturday services, though they remain covered Monday to Friday. There may be opportunities for service providers to register a Saturday service in the future, should circumstances allow.*

*Please feel free to pass on this information to your constituents. I will also be following up with the service providers to explore any potential adjustments for Witham's bus services.*

*Kind regards*

*Tom*

*Cllr Tom Cunningham C.C*

*Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport,  
Essex County Councillor for Braintree Town Division'*



**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 3:13 PM

**To:** Cllr Ross Playle - Member CC <[Cllr.Ross.Playle@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Ross.Playle@essex.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: Witham No.39 bus Ecc17236203 09 24

Dear Cllr Playle

Thank you for the email regarding the 39-bus service and the concerns about its changes.

For context, on 28th July 2024, Essex County Council had to replace several expiring local bus service contracts. As a result of the tendering process:

Prior to 28th July 2024:

- Tendered service 40 was operated by First Bus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.
- Commercial service 39 was operated by First Bus on Saturdays and by Stephenson's of Essex on weekdays (Monday to Friday). First Bus also operated some elements of the commercial service 40.

From 28th July 2024 onwards:

- Tendered service 40 is now operated by Hedingham & Chambers on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.
- First Bus withdrew their commercial Saturday service 39, likely because they lost the tendered service 40 on Saturdays, which was previously interworked for efficiency.
- Stephenson's of Essex continues to operate the commercial service 39 on weekdays (Monday to Friday).
- First Bus also withdrew the commercial elements of service 40, as their contract period had ended.

It's worth noting that Witham continues to have sufficient bus services Monday through Saturday, in line with Essex County Council's policy. However, the Honeysuckle Way and Humber Road areas in northwest Witham no longer have Saturday services, though they remain covered Monday to Friday. There may be opportunities for service providers to register a Saturday service in the future, should circumstances allow.

Please feel free to pass on this information to your constituents. Officers will also be following up with the service providers to explore any potential adjustments for Witham's bus services.

Kind regards

**Tracy Mitchell**

Member Enquiries Officer

Legal and Assurance/Corporate Services



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ITEM NO: 9

**Councillor:** Jack Robertson

**Ward:** West Ward

**Title:** Witham Rail Disaster Memorial

**Motion:** I wish to propose a motion to investigate the viability and cost of placing a memorial plaque to the 1905 Witham rail disaster and a small memorial ceremony/ unveiling on the 120th anniversary, 1st September 2025.

Ideally to be placed at Witham rail station itself so collaboration with Network rail and/or greater Anglia maybe necessary.

11 people died and 71 were injured yet there is no visible memorial to those that lost their lives anywhere in Witham and I believe that they should be honoured.

A positive message could be included to celebrate the fact that modern technology and safety measures make such disasters a thing of the past.

**Supporting Information:** A quote of £456 has been received for a 14" high-cast aluminium sign with room for 12 lines of writing and a motif.

Greater Anglia have been contacted but not yet responded.

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14.	What is your organisations average yearly income?	ONLY REGISTERED IN AUG 2024
15.	What is your organisations average yearly outgoings?	ONLY REGISTERED IN AUG 2024
16.	Have you applied for a grant from Witham Town Council in the past? If so when and how much?	NO

## Project Details

17.	Project title	CHRISTMAS MARKET
18.	Project location	ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, WITHAM
19.	Anticipated start and finish date	7TH DECEMBER 2024
20.	Description of project	VARIOUS STALLHOLDERS SELLING GIFTS IDEAL FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD AND DRINK VENDORS RAFFLES AND TOMBOLA SANTAS GROTTTO
21.	What evidence do you have that this project is needed by the local community?	I HAVE LIVED IN WITHAM FOR MOST OF MY LIFE AND REMEMBER THERE BEING LOTS MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT SANTA. I HAVE HAD A LOT OF INTEREST FROM PEOPLE WANTING STALLS FOR THE EVENT AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE A GROTTTO AT THE SAME TIME. I HAVE HIRED THE HALL AND THE INCOME FROM STALLHOLDERS WILL COVER THAT, BUT I NEED HELP TO COVER THE COST OF THE SANTA HIRE

<p>22.</p>	<p>The council prioritises applications that meet one or more of the criteria detailed in the accompanying policy. Please explain all those you meet and why?</p>	<p>REGENERATION-HELP THE COMMUNITY TO HAVE ACCESS TO AN EVENT WHERE THEY LIVE WITH LOCAL STALLHOLDERS AND VENDORS BENEFITTING TOO</p> <p>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - BRINGING DIVERSITY TO THE FOREFRONT TO BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN AN AFFORDABLE EVENT</p>
<p>23.</p>	<p>If the project reaches fruition what will the benefit be to the local community?</p>	<p>AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY EVENT ENJOYABLE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY REMOVES THE COST OF TRAVEL</p>
<p>24.</p>	<p>How will you ensure sustainability of the project?</p>	<p>ADVERTISE ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, TAGGING ALL STALLHOLDERS TO SHARE PRINT POSTERS TO DISPLAY IN THE LOCAL AREA</p>

25.	How will you measure success?	ATTENDANCE STALLHOLDERS INCOME OPINION POLL
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Funding Specifics



26.	What is the total project cost?	£500
27.	Please state the total amount of grant required from Witham Town Council	£375
28.	Please break down exactly how this will be spent and include 2 quotes supporting this breakdown and showing best value.	SANTA HIRE £415 DECORATIONS FOR GROTTO £85

29.	How much has been raised so far for this project?	£30
30.	Please detail any funding that will be given 'in kind'	NIL
31.	Please give details of how the balance of funding required will be sourced	THE BALANCE FROM THE INCOME FROM STALLHOLDERS
32.	How many people will benefit from this funding being given, both directly and indirectly	250+

Public Engagement

33.	How do you publicise the services you offer?	ADVERTISE ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, TAGGING ALL STALLHOLDERS TO SHARE PRINT POSTERS TO DISPLAY IN THE LOCAL AREA
34.	How will you make sure that your project reaches its intended targets	PLACE POSTERS IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS POST IN COMMUNITY GROUPS ON SOCIAL PLATFORMS

Referees

35.	Please include the names and addresses of two independent referees who are not members of your organisation but know of the group	Reference 1   Reference 2 
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I understand that if the project changes in any way, I must inform the Assistant RFO immediately.

I understand that if a completed project review report is not sent to the Assistant RFO within 6 months of receiving funding that I may be required to repay all monies received.

I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant organisation and confirm that I have read, understood and accept the stipulations listed above and that the information provided in this application is accurate.

Name.....LAURA FOWLE.....

Position within the organisation.....MANAGING DIRECTOR.....

Telephone number.....  .....

Email address.....  
 .....

Checklist of Documents to be Included

Copy of previous year's bank statements	ONLY OPENED IN SEPTEMBER 2024
Copy of two quotes	ATTACHED
Copy of bank details on headed paper	BANK STATEMENT ATTACHED
Completed and signed application form	ATTACHED
Copy of latest AGM minutes	NOT AVAILABLE YET
Any blank sheets used to expand on answers	

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## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 30/09/2024

## Agenda Item 11

Month No: 6

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>300 Community</u>							
1300 Information Sales Income	27,748	75,000	47,252			37.0%	
1310 Witham Festival Income	150	1,500	1,350			10.0%	
1311 Music Festival	695	1,500	805			46.3%	
1320 Teddy Bear's Picnic	50	50	0			100.0%	
1501 Dog Show	1,298	500	(798)			259.7%	
1509 Christmas Events	2,155	1,500	(655)			143.7%	
Community :- Income	<b>32,096</b>	<b>80,050</b>	<b>47,954</b>			<b>40.1%</b>	<b>0</b>
4301 Community Team PAYE/LGPS	34,541	87,505	52,964		52,964	39.5%	
4302 Events PAYE	192	0	(192)		(192)	0.0%	128
4303 Safer Streets PAYE/LGPS	19,396	0	(19,396)		(19,396)	0.0%	19,396
4305 Remembrance	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%	
4306 D-Day	1,756	2,500	744		744	70.2%	
4310 Silver Cinema	207	300	93		93	69.0%	
4315 Town Clock	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%	
4330 Music Festival	9,889	10,000	111		111	98.9%	
4340 Christmas Decorations	4,212	10,600	6,388		6,388	39.7%	
4345 Information Centre Purchases	18,855	65,000	46,145		46,145	29.0%	
4355 Information Centre Administrat	835	3,000	2,165		2,165	27.8%	
4360 Community Grant Aid	1,000	15,000	14,000		14,000	6.7%	
4365 Citizens Advice Bureau	5,000	10,000	5,000		5,000	50.0%	
4371 Community Safety	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%	
4372 CCTV	9,420	13,000	3,580		3,580	72.5%	
4373 Special Constable Expenses	1,513	5,000	3,487		3,487	30.3%	
4374 Special Constable Recruitment	216	1,000	784		784	21.6%	
4375 Other Community Support	450	1,500	1,050		1,050	30.0%	
4376 Halloween	0	2,200	2,200		2,200	0.0%	
4377 Easter Trail	260	1,650	1,390		1,390	15.8%	
4379 Witham Dog Show	2,436	0	(2,436)		(2,436)	0.0%	
4380 Witham Summer Events	26,837	25,500	(1,337)		(1,337)	105.2%	
4383 Twinning	525	2,000	1,475		1,475	26.3%	
4390 Christmas Events & Tree	1,952	4,000	2,048		2,048	48.8%	
4395 New Events Improvements	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%	
Community :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>139,491</b>	<b>265,255</b>	<b>125,764</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125,764</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>19,524</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(107,395)</b>	<b>(185,205)</b>	<b>(77,810)</b>				
7000 plus Transfer from EMR	19,524						
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(87,871)</b>						

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 30/09/2024

Month No: 6

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
Grand Totals:- Income	32,096	80,050	47,954			40.1%	
Expenditure	139,491	265,255	125,764	0	125,764	52.6%	
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(107,395)</b>	<b>(185,205)</b>	<b>(77,810)</b>				
plus Transfer from EMR	19,524						
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(87,871)</b>						

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## Street Warden Report August 2024

Agenda Item 13

I started my morning by walking to Maldon Road Park, making my way down the Riverwalk. It was here that I came across some lads by the weir that were throwing large stones, breaking up branches and throwing them into the river. I spoke with them about what they were doing and told them that this has got to stop, they were allowed to hang around the weir but not with what else they were doing, they decided to move on their way.

In the afternoon we had the District Commander, among others visit the town hall. After a briefing by the Commander, we headed out in to the town where we visited the library and he had spoken with the library manager. She told him about the anti-social behaviour that the library has been facing. He mentioned that the library should remain a safe space and gave the manager certain suggestions that she could try.

The Police Constable had mentioned that he is going to hold a beat surgery there when he is on his late shift. After this, we visited the shop 'Savers' and spoke with the manager who - told us about the issues that the shop was having. It was again suggested that a town link radio system should be set up so that the Police (who are on duty in Witham) could communicate easily. We also visited the Morrisons, that is located opposite the town hall. The Police Constable spoke with the managers about all the shoplifting and anti-social behaviour that they had experienced. I had also requested a food voucher for a particular homeless soldier who visits Witham from Braintree quite regularly. After that I made sure to take him down to the Methodist church where he could collect some food.

I then embarked on a walk through the park and stopped to have a conversation with the mothers who were supervising their children that were playing in the playground. They had spoken to me about a large man who was in the park on a motorbike. I then went along the River Walk to Armond Road, across to the estate, and then behind to the Spring Lodge Vets. I engaged in many conversations with various people who were out and about, before heading back to town soon after.

I then walked into Maldon Road Park where I spoke to six gentleman who were drinking and being very loud outside of the park toilets. I explained that the police do not want the consumption of alcohol in the park area. They took heed to what I said, grabbed their bags and left the park.

I went to talk to the employees of The Works and Superdrug, as they had been experiencing some problems with children yesterday afternoon. The police told me about when they took an electric scooter off of one of the children and seized it. There was also some shoplifting yesterday. I then went for a walk up to the library where I spoke with the staff to see how their Saturday went; I knew that the Policeman was going to go and check in on them to make sure that they weren't having any problems. Two Police Constables came down at 12.30 and we all went out for a patrol around the town, park and Riverwalk. We spoke with 5 children down the old railway line because they were throwing stones. They had attempted to run off but then decided to come back to talk to us.

Then, there were 3 little children left in a car in the Tesco Car Park. One of the Policemen went in to search for the mother, while another policeman and myself were communicating with the children in the car. The policeman found the mother, but as she was coming back to the car, she became heated and began shouting. There was a heated conversation going on between the police officers and the mother. At the end of the day the police and myself were concerned that it was a very hot day and the young children had been left in the mother's car. Although the mother did not see it in the same

way as us, the police and myself were primarily concerned with the situation the children were left in.

As I was walking through Maldon Road Park headed down towards the river, as I approached the bridge about 6/7 children came running out of the undergrowth ahead of me. I could see smoke inside the bushes, and so as I entered the bushes it led to a little trail and I could visibly see a fire was lit against the tree. I proceeded to put it out with my foot. On researching the area there have been numerous fires lit around in that area. I also saw there was quite a bit of rubbish in there so I reported this incident to the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk who spoke to the Operations Manager about cleaning the rubbish up.

I was called to visit the library where I was told about 5 boys, throwing books (they were biopics) from the top floor to the ground floor. A PCSO was here for the police beat surgery with a WPCSO. So, the PCSO came with me to the library and then the children ran off towards the Newland Street shopping centre. A Constable also arrived in the town, so he went off to speak with the boys.

I Went to Causeway House in Braintree to attend a homeless course run by the council, it was very helpful as it gave an insight in ways you can go get help, and who you can go to for help. It also explained the whole reasoning behind how one can become homeless.

In the afternoon I went for a patrol around the town, I was called to the library where, again, they were having problems with children. This time, they saw me coming and run off in the direction of the memorial gardens. I met up with a Special Sergeant at 3.30pm, we went for a walk into the Newlands Shopping Centre where there was a boy riding his electric scooter. He stopped by us; his details were taken and the electric scooter was seized by the police.

We then went to the library, to find out that the manager had been verbally assaulted while asking 4 boys to leave. The Policemen mentioned that this will need reporting and so all the details were taken down. He has asked me to check the CCTV and see what the boys look like from the description of the clothes that they were wearing.

Another Police Constable also turned up at 4.00pm and joined us for a walk around the Maldon Road Park where we were talking to a large group of girls, 3 of which fit the description of girls that were stealing in card zone earlier on that day. All their details were taken down and they were spoken to about their behaviour by the policeman.

I sorted out 3 food vouchers for homeless men for the next day so that they can go and get themselves some food down at the Methodist Church in Witham. One of the vouchers in particular was for someone living in the House of Grace, he doesn't get many benefits, and most of his money goes on his rent at the house.

We dealt with anti-social behaviour in the library by the same 3 girls that were causing trouble around the town yesterday. I have reported this to the Special Sergeant, as he knew the girls and wanted to be informed if they caused any more problems around town.

I then went to Boots as they were having issues with someone who was trying to shoplift from their store. He had left before I managed to walk there, but I spoke with the manager and told her that she needs to make sure that this incident had been reported. After that, I embarked on a walk around the park and along the Riverwalk. The police came into Witham to see the library staff about a girl's behaviour in the morning. They took statements and were going to go pay visits to their homes to ensure parents were spoken to and made aware about their behaviour in the library earlier that morning.

I started my day by walking into Maldon Road Park, where I again spoke with the collection of men that were there drinking. I explained that the drinking in the park is now not allowed and that the police have started enforcing this. They moved on and left the park.

I got 3 food vouchers for 3 homeless men in Witham, I went to hand it to them outside The Well. They just had to visit the Methodist Church to collect their food. The Police came into Witham for 8.00 am and we met up to patrol around the town, calling in and visiting the shops to see about the issues they had experienced over the weekend. We then walked up to the library where we spoke to the staff about the need for them to obtain some CCTV cameras to aid the police to deal properly with the anti-social behaviour that goes on within and around the library.

We then walked through the Maldon Road Park where there was a man laying on a bench. We tried waking him up, and although we struggled at first, he eventually got up. We spoke to him and it turned out he was drunk but he insisted that he was okay where he is. We did emphasise that it was getting hot and he was laying in the direct sunlight on the bench. Consequently, we left him be.

We then went for a walk down the Riverwalk where we visited the area that the children had been lighting fires. We had a good look around, and took some pictures. One policeman, then headed back to Braintree and the other policeman and I carried on patrolling.

We came across 3 girls that were riding an electric scooter, the policeman seized the scooter from them and took the girls details. They are illegal to ride without a licence and insurance. We took it back to the police vehicle for the policemen to dispose of later.

We then headed out again where we came across an ambulance outside the Morrisons local. It was there for a man who collapsed. He had been dealing with some mental health issues, and had bought a substantial amount of paracetamol and drinks, remarking that he wanted to commit suicide. We got the ambulance man outside on the bench to speak to him as the troubled man wanted to harm himself and the policeman, The officer I was with managed to call a mental health team who were going to come out and speak with him. I continued to speak to the troubled man until they arrived and he then passed on into their expert care.

The Police constable and a PCSO came down this morning. We went out on patrol and visited the library. As we left there were 3 children - one of which was on a bike. He was wheeling down the path. The police spoke with him and asked him nicely to dismount and walk his bike on the path, but the boy refused to listen and got back on his bike. Then again the constable went to speak to him. When the boy did it again, the constable took his details and issued him with a 60-pound fixed penalty notice, which he had to go home and explain to his parents that if the fine isn't paid then he will be taken to court.

Another Police constable and WPCSO came in to Witham to attend the police beat surgery. The constable spent some of the time sitting on the bench outside the town hall. A lady from the House of Grace came to see me and as while we were conversing about the House of Grace, the constable mentioned they had a retired firefighter living on the streets who was 60 years old. He asked the House of Grace lady if he could be housed temporarily because he was very vulnerable on the streets. The lady agreed so the constable went to find the man and once he tracked him down he was taken to the house where he is now safe.

Two policemen and myself went to Asda in the afternoon where there were children kicking footballs around the shop. This was a job was sent to the police to go and investigate. When we got there the children had left but there was another group that were outside causing a lot of trouble, they were

asked to leave and we stayed around until they had left the area. They were spoken to about their behaviour by all 3 of us.

An elderly lady approached me in The Grove centre saying she had lost her hand bag with everything in it. I asked the surrounding shops she had been visiting and she gave me a long list and told her to remain where she was so that I could retrace her steps since it would be quicker. I visited the shops one by one, with Poundland first and spoke with staff to see if it had been handed in. It hadn't, so I looked around the store but could not locate it. I then visited boots where I found a black hand bag on the counter. I explained what had happened to the staff and left with the handbag to return to the lady. She was so relieved that the bag had been found, she burst into tears and I sat her down and had a chat until she was ready to move on.

The police went on patrol around the town. I went for a walk in Maldon Road Park where I found other members of the force out and about in Witham today. I made my way down the Riverwalk and visited the sites of where there were recent incidents of trees catching alight. The youth are still going in there and lighting fires. I then went for a patrol around the industrial estate where I was called in and had a chat with some of the business owners. I then headed back to town where I came across another lady who had dropped her purse somewhere, I again helped her to look but was unable to find it. I presume someone had picked it up, but we will have to see if it will be handed in anywhere.

There were several large groups of children aged around 13/14 causing issues near the library and the town yesterday. After, they moved on from town and started to collect in Maldon Road Park. They were also riding through the grove shopping centre at speed on their bikes and pulling wheelies. The ones on the bikes were a lot older and they took no notice when spoken to about riding their bikes dangerously and pulling wheelies. I filmed them on my phone and will ensure to show the footage to the Witham home policing team.

I Started my morning by visiting Lockrams Lane and taking pictures to send to Braintree district council. Since the skip has now been taken away, we need the alleyway to be completely cleaned of the rubbish that has now been left behind. So, I hope by sending pictures to the council, it will help to get them to send people who can clean the alley up.

I then walked along the Riverwalk where there were a group of lads messing around with lighters and vaping. By the the time I got closer to them, they had run off. One had even run across a branch of a tree to the over side of the river.

At 11.am I came into the Town Hall to meet with the management team from the Newlands shopping centre. The Town Clerk thought it would be a good opportunity for them to visit the library to see how their day has been, at the point of 2.30 pm they had had no trouble,

This is regular now as there has been increase presence of myself, the police and the new security guard (who was going to be there for the remainder of the summer holidays).

I walked down the Riverwalk and stopped at the location where there been previous fires. The area is well overgrown and someone can be very well hidden from the path when in the hideaway. There will fortunately be a CCTV camera going up in this hideaway, so that any more problems will be caught on the cameras. I then visited the library where I was talking to the regional manager, and she informed me that they are thinking of purchasing body worn cameras. This is so they can hopefully film the anti-social behaviour that takes place in the library. The police will be pleased by this as filming the children committing anti-social behaviour has been very crucial.



I then had reports of 2 females, 1 with a baby trying to shoplift in Poundland. They tried to steal £100 worth of clothing. They were stopped by the very observant Poundland staff, and were thrown out. They headed to select where they were refused entry, and then went on to Tesco's where they were watched by the security guard and then they left empty handed.

I then went in to Maldon Road Park where I was talking with the mothers and children that were in the park. There were a lot of people in the park, but everyone was behaving themselves. I then went for a walk along Maldon Road.

I called in to the Morrisons local store located at Lawrence Avenue. They were pleased to see me and were also pleased at the fact that they are in the Witham town shops WhatsApp group chat, especially as the store is on the outskirts of the town – leading to feelings of isolation. I then headed back in to town where I spoke with the regular costumers that hang around Greggs in the afternoon. They all usually sit outside Greggs and spend the afternoon, drinking tea and chatting.

I went to the area down the Riverwalk where arson has been taking place. We have now got a camera up in the tree and its very high off the ground so should avoid interference from children who may be causing trouble in that secluded area.

I then went through the park where I spoke to a gentleman who told me that there was a lot of activity on the bridge down by Chelmer Road. He said that in the evening there is a lot of people down there who deal drugs. I will ensure to pass this information on to the police when I next see them.

I haven't seen a certain homeless man for a few days, and also wrote an email to Priti Patel's secretary explaining his situation. I mentioned that we need help to get him housed by the winter, as in my personal opinion, I don't think that he will survive another winter here living on the streets and in the park again. He got back to me and did say that she would look in to his situation. Her office phoned me and asked what Braintree District Council have done to help with his situation.

I have come across another woman who is in her late 60s who is living rough in Witham. She has been to the council and various organisations but is still currently living between friends' sofas and living on the streets.

Walking along the Riverwalk there were 2 boys fishing. 1 of them had managed to get a fairly large fishing hook stuck in his finger. I told him that he will need to have the hook taken out and called his mother and explained the situation. I walked him some of the way, and told him to get home.

We had several people in town this morning, sending their children to go and shoplift. They then got into their vehicles and left town. I didn't come across any but the information was put on the Witham shops WhatsApp group. I then visited the library where they were still having problems with anti-social behaviour.

The manager of the library mentioned to me how they are going to be supplied with body cameras so that they can film the children as anti-social behaviour is taking place. I was then told that there were children at the library that were riding bikes and swearing at staff. I sent a message to a policeman about the behaviour of children in the library this afternoon, especially as he will be on duty soon along the high street and is likely to stop by the library.

There was a big theft of alcohol in the Asda today and it was reported to the police that there was clear CCTV of the 2 male and 1 female that carried out the shoplifting.

A fire was left burning overnight down by the duck pond in which the open spaces team put out this morning. There have been many fires started around the Riverwalk area over the last few days.

I was able to get a hold of some pictures of the children that were riding their bikes around Poundland yesterday and sent them to the policeman as he will probably be able to identify them. The incident was reported to the police as well.

Two Irish women were visiting their brother in St Georges caring home and had asked me where it was. Unfortunately, they were the wrong end of town, so I accompanied them there to ensure they got to their destination as swiftly as possible.

I went for a walk along the Riverwalk where I spoke with children who were playing near the weir. Although they were not in the water, they were still messing around and making a lot of noise. This had caused some people to start complain, but nothing could formally be done since the children were not engaging in activity that could directly warrant them to be told to move. I spoke with them and a couple of them were actually very polite. Today, a special sergeant spent the day with myself out on patrol. We started off by walking around the shops and visiting the library, and then about 10 am, headed off to hand letters out to the parents of children that have been causing issues in the town in regards to anti-social behaviour and riding bikes in shops/library.

After this was done, I went to The Well to collect food for a homeless person for the weekend as bank holiday was approaching and The Well would be closed. I gave him his food and reminded him that on Tuesday he would be going to London with a Church Leader to collect his identification.

A Policeman and myself then visited Maldon Road Park and had a conversation with some mother's who were supervising their children. We then headed down the Riverwalk, and visited the library again as they had a magic show booked in at 2 pm. We stayed there for a short while to ensure that there was no trouble from any of the children that had previously caused issues around town.

The afternoon and evening of Saturday was the music festival down the Riverwalk and I patrolled with the police and St Johns Ambulance. It was raining heavily for the first part of the festival, but thankfully it cleared up – resulting in a good turnout. Through that, I spoke to as many members of the public who were talking about things that they see while out in Witham. A PCSO was there as well as the special constables.

Many of the public came to speak with us as we walked around the music festival. I headed into the town where I found that a lot of furniture had been dumped at the entrance to Lockrams Lane. There were no cameras there so I phoned Braintree District Council to ask if they were able to remove all these items of furniture. I will make enquiries to the properties and businesses there to see if we can trace where the furniture has come from. The council then communicated to me that they will send someone to pick it up and requested some pictures. As a result, I took 3 photos and sent it to them via email. I then went to speak with shop staff about reporting to the police about a boy who came to steal from the card factory and also Boots on Saturday.

Card factory did report but boots had not had the chance to yet, especially as their CCTV is still not working – however the man has been banned from all the Boots nationwide. If he is found pictured stealing in store, the police will be able to arrest this man him and go back to prison.

There were two men shouting at each other in the street outside Morrisons. I went to separate them as there were a lot of scared elderly people waiting at the bus stop. The older male was very aggressive and the younger male was on a bike, and so I suggested the younger man carry on cycling while calmed the elder man down.

I was called to the library again because of issues regarding children misbehaving. The library has now started banning children who continually cause anti-social behaviour in the library. The staff who work in there are now finally in agreement that this is now the way to proceed and that the security guard on the front door will have to continue stopping these children that are causing the issues from entering the building.

I then headed in to the Grove shopping centre, where I was speaking with a couple who were complaining about rubbish that had been collecting in the corner by Superdrug and told them that I would ring the centre manager and inform him about the mess that is collecting in that corner.

I then headed up Lockrams Lane where a black car that has been parked for several days was blocking the lane. I checked to see if the car had tax and MOT, and found that it did not, so I reported it online to the government tax site and gave a description to where the car is. It has now been reported to their enforcement team.

I was called into the library where I spoke with the manager and she had told me about 2 lads who were there yesterday that were playing around. When they were asked to leave, they did so, and thankfully did not come back. I then went back into the Grove where there was a dragon and unicorn event going on outside the hub. Many members of the public were engaging in various activities such as having their face painted and watching the dragon that was wandering around the Grove centre. I then went for a walk down the Riverwalk and I saw a young group of boys and talked to them. They were trying their best to learn how to fish and it was so refreshing to see children engaging in nice activities.

The trees down on the Riverwalk at the area that was cleaned up back when fires were caused there are now being painted black or red. The trees are also being gauged out with something, so that things can be written on the bark. I was then phoned and was told that there were some children that were setting light to bottles around the back of Superdrug and Poundland.

I went to see if I could see them but they had left the area by the time that I arrived there.

I could see evidence of aerosol cans and bottle and so I cleared it up and discarded of them into the bins. I spoke with Poundland and asked if they could check their CCTV at the rear of the shops. Superdrug made sure to do this as well.

I am going to ensure that I speak to the centre manager tomorrow to ask him if he has any footage on his CCTV that is also at the rear of the service yard.

The library had issues with 3 boys and 1 girl that were playing loud music, in which when they were asked to leave, they turned their music up even louder. They spoke with me and I made sure to write down their descriptions and then soon after went to meet a policeman for a couple of hours. We bumped into the 4 individuals in the Grove centre spoke to them about what they had been doing in the library. They then disagreed with us and denying it was them despite the fact they fitted the descriptions perfectly.

We then went for a walk into the Maldon Road Park, where we saw evidence of burn marks on the grass. I passed this on to Braintree District Council to make them aware in case any thing happens in the future.

There were a large group of children with their parents stealing from YMCA and Peacocks and I was called in by Peacocks to make it so they put back any goods they had not paid for or pass it back to staff members.

Boots then informed me of an aggressive male in their store. He would not leave when the staff had asked him to, so I headed off to speak to him. When I got there, he was just by the doors and I told him that the Store manager had asked him to leave because of his behaviour and his language. We had a chat and he decided to leave after I had spoken with him letting him know not to come back at all for the rest of the day or the police would be involved.

Anti-social behaviour was happening in the Grove centre again. I spoke with the Centre Manager and he ensured me he will check his CCTV cameras when he comes in again to see if they could see anything important.

These children have been causing problems all around the town and down the Riverwalk.

## Street Warden Report September 2024

I walked to the library again and found that this particular day they were experiencing trouble with 4 boys and a girl. They had currently refused them entry but were still standing outside the library shouting and verbally abusing the staff and security guard on the door. As I was walking up to help the security guard out, they fled to the side of the job centre as they saw me approaching towards them. I recognised the individuals involved and spoke to the police about this latest attack on the library.

A known shoplifter was back in the town, walking in and out of various shops, but he didn't try and take anything. I did speak with him but didn't get much conversation out of him, but he left after a couple of hours.

In the Afternoon, I encountered some issues with a group of teenagers in both the Grove Centre and Tesco. They were riding their scooters and a bike, which without police presence is difficult to deal with, but I managed to get them to leave the shops – I will also bring this up with the police.

I was then called into the library to watch some footage of the children who were causing trouble outside the library yesterday, which coincidentally had also been caught on CCTV in the Grove Centre by their cameras too. As a result of this correlation, I have spoken to the Centre Manager of the Grove and he will send the footage to the police when they request it from him.

I then spoke with a man who is experiencing mental health issues in which he was showing intent of wanting to harm himself. He mentioned that he would be seeing a doctor today to talk about any possible help he could obtain from them and I ensured that I wrote a letter to help his case, giving them context on how I found him on the street and retelling the things he was saying he was going to do with himself.

I then spoke with a group of children who were causing issues in the Newlands shopping centre, swearing and shouting at those passing by. I informed them that the behaviour was unacceptable and it would be appropriate for them to move on. I have seen these children before and know them so will ensure to speak to the police about what went on.

I was sent an image through the WhatsApp group about a shoplifter in Savers, who stole various cleaning items, so I will ensure I show and share that with the police when I have the chance of seeing them next.

I went to check the Riverwalk area where children were starting fires. It has been evident that they continuously light fires, but now it's further along and out of the way of the CCTV camera that was installed up in the tree. I will continue keep that area monitored and be vigilant for any more issues that could arise in that particular secluded area.

A lady spoke with me about a man who has been sleeping on her garden furniture at the rear of her flat. Upon further investigation, it turned out to be a man who we are familiar with. I will speak to the police about this and suggested the lady buy a padlock to lock her back gate up so the man cannot access her garden furniture in the future.

I observed a gentleman smoking in Lockram Lane, who, walking towards the nail bar and threw his cigarette on the floor and stamped on it with his foot. I conversed with him and suggested he pick up the cigarette but he was not very compliant. I have spoken with this gentleman before. I then

decided to issue him with a Fixed Penalty Notice according to the prices set by Braintree District Council and gave him the white copy for his records and the pink copy to send to the council with the payment, keeping the yellow copy in the book.

A known shoplifter came into Witham again and shoplifted from Boots and I advised the staff to report the theft to the police.

A gentleman had just reported to me about 2 men on electric bikes, travelling very fast along the Riverwalk, and in the process, nearly running him and his dog over – he has reported this to the police.

While visiting the library, I had a conversation with the staff pertaining to the duration of which the security guard would stay with them, considering how it is likely to end soon due to school being resumed.

While I was along the Riverwalk, I held conversations with many people that were out walking their dogs, in which a recurring complaint about a number of young men that ride their electric bikes along the Riverwalk at high speeds. It is evident a lot of people feel unsafe walking around knowing that these people are out on these bikes.

While in Maldon Road Park some people were out having a picnic and signalled me over to express their complaints towards how the new plants that are along the new path that have not been taken care of (not been watered) and so some have wilted and died. The trees that are along the path have also been left without water, and are not looking too pleasant to the eye. I asked at the town hall and was told that the watering of the trees and plants comes under another authority's remit so officers made contact on my behalf.

I was called into Superdrug to review images of a shoplifter they had in-store yesterday. The individual was working with a woman who waited outside. Boots also reported two men shoplifting today, and they plan to report this to the police.

Later, I walked up to Spring Lodge, where there have been reports of dog owners not picking up after their pets. I spoke to dog owners as they were out walking, and everyone was complying while I was there.

Afterwards, I went to find a homeless person, as his passport had been returned from the Home Office. They now require an electronic photograph to include on his British passport and related documents. I located him in Maldon Road Park, took his picture, and sent it to the Home Office.

The police came to Witham today because a known shoplifter was back in town, stealing from Cardzone. They captured his actions on CCTV, reported it to the police, and now have a crime number. The police returned later in the afternoon to review CCTV footage of a man seen crossing the Riverwalk Bridge around 9:30 a.m. A concerned resident thought this man might be the missing person from Braintree, absent for three weeks, but it turned out not to be him. The police will now investigate whether this individual was involved in a shoplifting incident at Asda that morning.

I also went to the library after they sent me a picture of three boys and one girl causing trouble there on Saturday morning. I forwarded the image to two certain policemen, as both officers are familiar with the group and can handle the matter accordingly.

This morning, I walked toward Maltings Academy, joining the students on their way to school. They were cheerful and chatty, and it was a lively start to the day. I then continued along the Riverwalk, where I chatted with dog walkers as they enjoyed the morning with their pets.



Next, I headed to the House of Grace, where I spoke with a priest about the possibility of securing a room for the homeless man, whose British citizenship application is progressing rapidly. They mentioned that a current resident will be moving out on Thursday, which could improve the other person's chances of finding a place there.

Afterwards, I made my way to the town hall and met with two PCSO's who were in town for the Witham beat surgery. Three residents came in to consult with them about various local issues, and it was good to see people engaging with the police about concerns in Witham. I hope they left satisfied with the advice they received.

In the afternoon, I was visited by two PC's, who were on patrol in Witham. We had a quick catch-up before they continued their patrol towards Braintree. I then stopped by the library to discuss recent issues, including a group of young men who had previously caused trouble. Fortunately, things had been quiet, and the library has since let go of their security guard.

I also heard from a lady at DASS, who informed me that the homeless man's right to remain in the country has been granted. As he is currently homeless, he is now a priority for housing, meaning they must secure him a bed and room within 48 hours.

Finally, I noticed another instance of illegal dumping outside the Mawere. CCTV footage shows a man unloading a damaged chest of drawers from his car, leaving some pieces behind the shop and scattering others near the Braintree District Council bins.

I contacted Braintree District Council and informed their enforcement officer about the incident. She will handle the matter from here, coming in next week to obtain CCTV footage of the incident.

I visited the Redrow Estate because our Events Manager and Finance Assistant had spoken with a resident there who reported a fly-tipping incident. At the Information Centre Manager's request, I went to inspect the area. After looking around, I didn't find any evidence of fly-tipping, though there was some minor litter. I took photographs and informed the staff at the town hall that if the resident contacts us again, he should provide more specific details about the location and speak directly with me.

The Braintree District Council enforcement officer is scheduled to pick up the CCTV footage tomorrow regarding a separate fly-tipping case behind the YMCA, where the individual involved made four trips to the back of the shop to dump rubbish. I also contacted the council to request assistance in removing this rubbish since the charity shop cannot afford to hire a removal service, which would reduce their funds for charitable purposes. In response, the council sent two men with a van who collected all the dumped items.

The enforcement officer from the Braintree district council visited the town hall to collect the CCTV footage related to the YMCA fly-tipping incident and mentioned that they would be issuing a £1,000 fine to the individual responsible. She also spoke with the shop manager about preventative measures for future cases.

Later in the day, I encountered a known shoplifter leaving a store with two electric razors. When I asked for a receipt, he threw the boxes at me, stating he was homeless and hungry. I suggested there were better ways to seek assistance, but he ran off, and I didn't see him again.

I visited the library to check on the situation since the children had returned to school. They decided to stand down the security guard as they currently feel he is not needed; however, they'll reassess over time. I then patrolled Maldon Road Park, where families were at the swings, and walked along

the Riverwalk before returning to town hall and discussing local matters with a Witham Councillor for West Ward.

At the Eastways Industrial Estate, I visited some businesses involved in the Witham Industrial Watch, as I hadn't been there for a while due to being busy over the school holidays. I then walked over the train bridge to the Forest Road Estate, inspecting the field near the cemetery where people were walking dogs and children were playing with their mothers in the park.

Back in town, a man, clearly under the influence, approached me. I encouraged him to go somewhere safe where someone could look after him. Fortunately, his friend arrived and agreed to take him home and keep an eye on him due to his high level of intoxication.

I reported a car that has been delivering pizzas without tax. After notifying the government site and the traffic warden, it has now been reported to the police, who will follow up on the matter.

At the Newlands shopping centre, a distressed woman approached me, grieving the recent loss of her son in a car accident. I spoke with her, and then took her to the Witham Hub, where staff offered her support. I also gave her my card and offered further assistance if needed.

Later, I spoke with a Braintree District Council Streetcleaner in the park, who showed me new graffiti, including on a tree and a wooden fence by the new houses. He will report this to the council, and I will submit a report as well.

In the morning, I visited Maltings Academy to greet students arriving at school. I spoke with both the head teacher and safeguarding teacher, who raised concerns about a few children loitering around the premises after school. These individuals do not attend the academy and are reportedly home-schooled. I advised them to inform the police, and I will also pass on this information.

I patrolled the Riverwalk, where a man on an electric bike has been seen again. Several locals have expressed concerns, especially those out with children or pets. I'll report these sightings to the police.

Throughout the day, I engaged with people around town who had questions about the annual street festival organised by the town council.

The next morning, I started at 8:15 am by assisting puppet acts arriving for the festival at the Grove Centre, helping them find their assigned locations. I also coordinated with the St. John Ambulance team, who brought their own gazebo and didn't need the one provided by Witham Town Council. Finally, I distributed parking permits to the performers who arrived by vehicle.

After this I started my patrols around the town and was soon joined by a Special Sergeant and an Inspector as we all went out on patrol, continuing with conversations and engaging with various members of the public that were all in town enjoying the puppet festival. There was no reported trouble at the street festival but there were a couple of casualties on the St John Ambulance team, but overall, not busy for them either.

I visited the library and spoke with the staff to discuss how the weekend had been, especially since the street festival was on in town. They informed me it had been quiet over the last few days, with Saturday being particularly slow.

Afterwards, I walked up to the train station because I'd been informed about stickers on lampposts advertising drugs through a barcode. Upon arrival, I removed all the stickers, scrunched them up, and disposed of them in one of the bins near the station.

Later, I received a call from the manager of the YMCA, who reported fly-tipping at the back of their shop again. This time, it was food bags and general rubbish. I took some photos and plan to discuss this with the enforcement officer of Braintree District Council, sending her the images I captured. I'll also check our CCTV to verify if we can identify who left the rubbish.

I then walked into town, stopping by Poundland, Savers, and a few other shops to talk with the managers about their experiences during the street festival. They all mentioned it was busier than usual, with a large crowd in town on Saturday, although no shoplifting incidents were reported, which was great news.

During a walk-through Maldon Road Park, I saw two young girls sitting under a tree in the pouring rain. They explained they were waiting for their mother, who was finishing work soon. She arrived about ten minutes later and explained they'd finished school early, so they had come to meet her. I was a bit concerned about their safety but relieved once I saw them leave with their mother.

I also called the Enforcement Officer from Braintree District Council, regarding 50 black bags of rubbish fly-tipped in Lockrams Lane. I sent her photos by email, and she assured me she would come by later that afternoon to handle the situation. There's also a mattress dumped nearby, and local residents have mentioned seeing rats in the area. I have already spoken with the council, as this rubbish issue needs addressing to improve the condition of the lane.

During my patrol along the Riverwalk, I received positive feedback about the recent street festival. Many people mentioned it was a wonderful event, bringing a great atmosphere for Witham's residents. I shared this feedback with the Town Clerk.

At Holland & Barrett, three young men wearing caps attempted to steal probiotics and hair products but were challenged by staff and left. Shortly after, I passed by the store and found the staff distressed by the incident. I advised them to report the theft immediately by calling 999, as the men might still be in the area. A shoplifting incident also occurred at Savers, where a man ran off with a large quantity of products. This was reported to the police as well.

I continued my patrol along the Riverwalk towards Chipping Hill Bridge and visited some roads where residents have reported an increase in people not cleaning up after their dogs. I spoke with a resident who mentioned that dogs were frequently allowed to roam his garden early in the morning. I assured him I would make more patrols in the area over the next few weeks.

Later, I checked in with the staff at Holland & Barrett and Savers to see how they were doing after the shoplifting incidents. They appreciated my follow-up, although they mentioned that, despite reporting the thefts, no police had come by.

In the morning, despite the rain, I walked to Maltings Academy, spoke with some students heading to school, and chatted with the teachers on duty. I then went into town to speak with the Savers manager about the theft that had occurred the previous day. He informed me that he had reported it to the police and his head office, and he also had CCTV footage of the incident.

At the library, I engaged with a few young people who are tutored there as they are currently not attending school. I recognised some of them and spoke with them briefly while they were reading.

The rain grew heavier, but I continued along the Riverwalk, where some people were still out with their dogs. I later stopped by Tesco, where a security guard had just escorted some boys out of the store due to issues they caused in the toilets. The guard shared their descriptions to warn other stores in town about their behaviour.

A PCSO and I then met with another police officer for a patrol around town, focusing on recent shoplifting incidents. We stopped by several shops and eventually walked through Maldon Road Park, where a group of workers were drinking beer by the children's playground. Some mothers in the area complained, so we asked the men to move on, which they did without any issues. After that, the police and I returned to the town, where the PCSOs headed back to Braintree, and I continued to the Eastways Industrial Estate to chat with business owners.

I assisted with a parking ticket issue on the high street when a car owner removed a ticket from his vehicle and placed it on another car before driving off. I was handed the ticket by the other car's owner, so I called NCP Parking and explained the situation, leaving my details.

Back at Maldon Road Park, some people reported a man on an electric bike who often meets young people and appears to be exchanging money with them. I will report this again to the police.

I spoke with the Grove Centre manager, who introduced me to a new colleague assisting him with managing the centre. I also checked in with several shop managers.

Later, the police and I went on patrol, visiting Maldon Road Park and the Riverwalk, where we spoke with people out walking. We then returned to the Town Hall to attend the Police Beat Surgery, though unfortunately, no one showed up this week. It has been quite busy in previous weeks, however.

Back to Agenda

Agenda Item 14

PROPOSED COMMUNITY COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2025/2026				
Community	2024/2025		2025/2026	
	Current Budget	Forecast Inc/Exp	Proposed Budget	Difference
Information Sales Income	75000	75000	75000	0
Witham Festival Income	1500	1650	1500	0
Music Event	1500	500	1500	0 <i>Projected income from bar/food stalls</i>
Dog Show	500	1298	500	0 <i>Projected income from bar/food stalls</i>
Witham Pride			500	<i>Projected income from bar/food stalls</i>
Teddy Bear's Picnic	50	40	50	0
Christmas Events	1500	1800	1500	0 <i>Projected income from bar/food stalls</i>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>80050</b>	<b>80288</b>	<b>80550</b>	<b>500</b>
Community Team - Salaries, NI & LGPS	87505	65000	101041	13536 <i>Streetwarden (balance to come from EMR)</i>
Town Clock	1500	1500	1500	0
Christmas Decorations	10600	10600	13000	2400 <i>Long term contract expires Jan 2025</i>
Information Centre Stock	65000	65000	65000	0
Information Centre & Administration	3000	3000	3000	0
Community Grant Aid	15000	15000	12000	-3000
Carnival Grant	0		8000	8000 <i>Committee ringfenced grant</i>
Citizens Advice	10000	10000	10000	0
CCTV	13000	13000	14000	1000 <i>New camera warranty ended</i>
Community Safety	1500	1500	1500	0
Community Special Constables Expenses	5000	4000	5000	0
Community Special Constable Recruitment	1000	800	1000	0
Other Community Support	1500	1500	1500	0
Witham Dog Show		2142	2500	2500 <i>Summer event line split</i>
Witham Street Entertainment Festival		23000	23000	23000 <i>Summer event line split</i>
Witham Pride			5000	5000 <i>Possible new event</i>
Witham Summer Events	25500			-25500 <i>Summer event line split</i>
Remembrance	1000	1000	1000	0
D-Day Event	2500	1200	0	-2500
Twinning	2000	500	500	-1500
Halloween Event	2200	2200	2200	0
Music Event/VE Day	10000	10000	10500	500 <i>100 year anniversary</i>
Christmas Events & Tree	4000	4000	4500	500 <i>Increase in size of event</i>
Easter Quest	1650	300	1650	0
New Events & Events Improvement	1500	1500	1500	0
Silver Cinema	300	300	300	0
<b>Overhead Expenditure</b>	<b>265255</b>	<b>237042</b>	<b>289191</b>	<b>23936</b>

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ITEM NO: 15

**Officer Report: Social Media Report – 1<sup>st</sup> August 24 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 24**

**Issue:**

The most popular posts on social media in the last 3 months have been:  
Facebook: Post Music event thanks – 81 likes  
Instagram: Christmas Market 18/10 – 12 likes

The posts that reached the most people through the algorithms of social media:  
Facebook: Music Festival Thanks – 20k  
Instagram: 1 day countdown to music festival – 275

Traffic on our social media pages:  
Facebook visits: 14.7k    New followers: 123    Total Followers: 4176    People reached: 120.3k  
Instagram visits: 1.3k    New followers: 28    Total Followers: 844    People reached: 273

Due to changes on the X platform (previously Twitter), this information is no longer available.

We continue to post daily Monday to Friday, promoting WTC events and any other WTC initiatives. On Tuesdays we post or share something climate related, on Thursdays we post anything relevant to the weekend, e.g. Sunday Cinema and on the first of each month we post the upcoming meetings for that month. We also share anything that is relevant to the community, such as information from Essex Police

**Advice:**  
To receive & note