



September 2022 Patrols

Visibility & reassurance were the cornerstone of our Community Special Constable patrols. The death of Queen Elizabeth II impacted everyone and several planned events were changed or postponed during the mourning period. We continued to focus on supporting the Witham Community as our Nation & the Rest of The World came to terms with the passing of Queen Elizabeth and the succession of our new King. In our attestation as Special Constables we vowed to 'solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that we will well and truly serve the Queen in the office of constable'. It has been an honour and a privilege and we will now continue to serve King Charles III in our duties in the town of Witham.

September 1st

The first task on my shift was to support officers at a disturbance on the Templars Estate, fortunately multiple units arrived at the same time, and we were able to quickly resolve the concern. I then travelled over to Forest Road and onto Cut Throat Lane where there had been numerous reports of anti-social driving putting the safety of pedestrians & cyclists at risk. We had recently spoken to residents and allotment owners and this time I had a chance to speak with the site manager for the building work just before the railway crossing. If you are aware of any dangerous driving along this popular narrow lane then please, try and obtain the registration details or description and pass this onto Essex Police. I headed over towards Chipping Hill and then onto Bramble Road. Due to an incoming 999 call I responded to a disturbance on Newland Street and with my role as a Community Special in Witham I was able to attend in under 2 minutes. After locating the victim, I was able to record a domestic related incident and return to my patrols.



September 3rd

Witham CSC Special Inspector Campbell, Special Constable Pell & Witham Town Team Officer PC Southgate combined our regular Community Beat Surgery at The Witham Hub with a partnership with Witham Town Council to provide a bicycle marking event in the Grove Centre. The Council set up a stall with information on crime prevention and were also able to direct residents and visitors to officers at the Hub when they required further information. There was an extremely good turnout with 22 bicycles marked and 4 children's scooters which will act as a deterrent and aid in recovery if they are stolen or lost. We were also able to promote a website where you can register your valuable items for free at www.immobilise.com

With the inclusion of the marked police van, we had many children climb inside 'the cage' and had very positive engagement with local families.



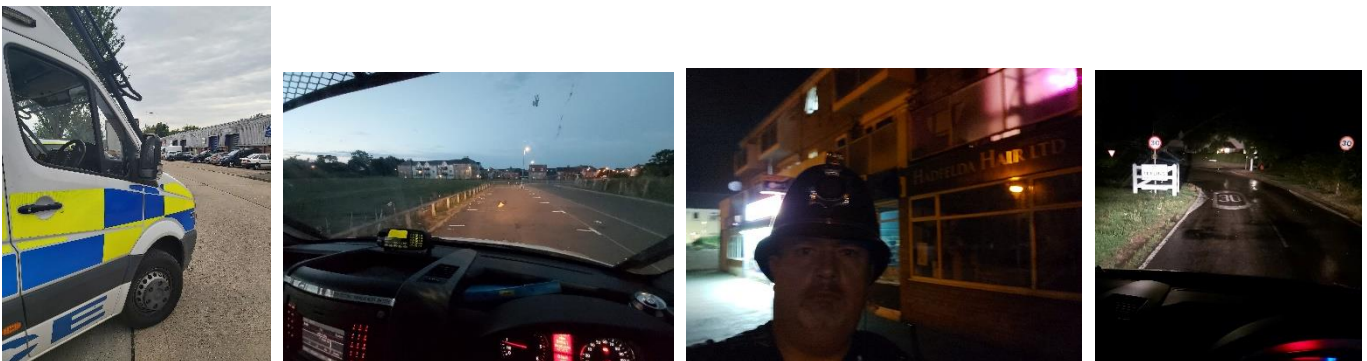
During the Community Beat Surgery we had 2 reports of drug related activity, speeding vehicles and anti-social gatherings at a car park near to the Aldi store.



September 5th

Due to a significant fire incident on the Eastways Industrial Estate I started my patrols assisting with a road closure while the Essex County & Fire Rescue Service managed to get the fire under control. When the roads could be reopened, I followed my colleagues to an incident in Silver End before heading back towards Witham. I carried out patrols at Laburnum Way where I had some great engagement with children playing in the park area and they took turns to sit in the cage and a great group photo inside the carrier. With no issues at the Recreation Ground I then drove over to the Templars estate where I reviewed items related to drugs with the estate coordinator before some further engagement with children in the park. Returning to my vehicle I then headed over to the Humber Road estate, Spa Road Park, and then up Hatfield Road towards Haygreen Road. We had attended several times recently due to several cars gathering until late at night with loud music, careless driving, and suspected drug related activity which was very disruptive to the residents. On my visit there were no vehicles present but we will be monitoring this area closely and will take positive action against this reported behaviour.

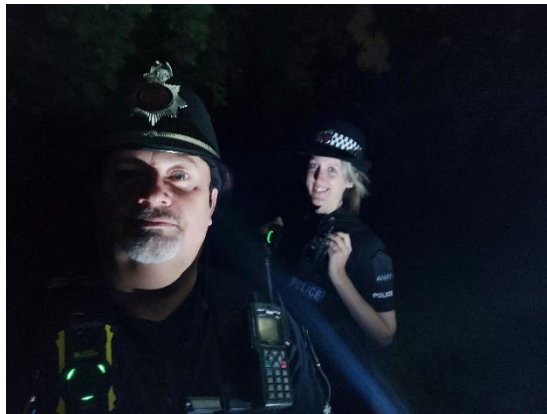
With general patrols in Witham complete I headed over to Hatfield Peverel and through to Terling before returning to Witham again and providing visibility in the Town Centre.





September 6th

I was joined on patrol by fellow Witham CSC Officer Eaketts and we began our visibility & reassurance patrols targeting anti-social behaviour hotspots identified in recent Community Beat Surgeries. One of the key areas has been Haygreen Road which has seen cars arriving in the evenings, driving dangerously, revving engines, screeching tires, and playing loud music. Residents should not be subjected to this kind of behaviour and if there is sufficient evidence then the car drivers can find themselves being issued with a Section 59 warning. Depending on the severity of the offence this may result in the immediate seizure of the vehicle or for a lesser offence a 12-month warning on both the driver and the vehicle where another warning would also result in the seizure. During our shift we visited the area twice with no cars seen. We visited other estates in the town with patrols on the Maltings estate, Humber Road and Allectus Way before heading across the town to the Forest Road area, with specific checks in Mulberry Gardens, Laburnum Way, and the Templars estate. With no concerns found we parked up in Tesco car park in The Grove and set out on foot for a patrol in the town centre. We called in at The George & The Red Lion as well as visiting the Newlands Precinct, Newland Street and then heading through the Witham Town Park and back to our vehicle where we concluded our evening patrol.





From September 9th for the National Mourning period following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Essex Police provided officers to support a dedicated Policing Operation in London and to Stansted Airport for the arrival of dignitaries from around the World who would be arriving to pay their respects. Members of the Witham CSC team were able to take part in the operation and it was a privilege and honour to be able to volunteer as a Special Constable.





September 17th

Witham Special Inspector Campbell, Special Constable Wintin and Special Constable Partridge attended the Witham Hub for the Community Beat Surgery in the Grove Centre. They spoke with several people at the Hub before the Witham Festival, which began with a short commemorative service in memory of the Queen. The event organised through Witham Town Council provided a number of street performances and stalls through the afternoon and was well attended with The Grove Centre, Newlands Precinct, United Reform Church, and the Witham Library all taking part. The event was very well organised and with their visible presence in the town there were no reported issues.



September 20th

The Witham CSC team returned to the Town Hall for the next Community Beat Surgery with Special Constable Eaketts & Symonds providing advice, listening to concerns and recording issues for future patrols or actions. There were a significant number of residents who regularly use the River Walk that are seeing an increased use of E-Scooters and have reported these as dangerous to pedestrians, people walking dogs and families with young children. There is no approved E-Scooter hire scheme operating in Witham and therefore any use of a privately owned E-Scooter is illegal. Unfortunately, due to their speed and manoeuvrability it is very difficult to stop these scooters and when riders are willing to cross from road to footpath and across fields, we need your help. If you are aware of anyone persistently causing a nuisance riding an E-Scooter and have details that can help identify the offender then please report this at one of the Community Beat Surgeries or report this online. We currently have the power to permanently seize these scooters and riders can also be prosecuted for riding without insurance and appropriate licence. Riding one of these E-Scooters while under the influence of alcohol or drugs carries the same penalties as driving a vehicle!

[Report antisocial behaviour | Essex Police](#)

[E-Scooters: What you need to know | Essex Police](#)



September 21st

I was on patrol and had just arrived in Witham when I was directed to a concern for safety at Hatfield Peverel train station with a report of a person on the tracks. Fortunately on arrival there was no trace of this person and while I was searching the platforms it was confirmed the person had boarded a recently arriving train and was now seeking help at Chelmsford station. While I was in Hatfield Peverel I checked Hadfelda Square which has had a number of recent reports for anti-social behaviour, drug related issues and criminal damage and as I pulled up in the car park 4 males made off from their vehicle. Luckily I recognised two of the males I was able to submit a comprehensive information report for future action. I then returned to Witham, where I set up a speed survey on Guithavon Valley. We have had several reports via our Community Beat Surgeries in relation to excessive speeding in the area. Over the course of an hour from 6:30pm I measured a large number of vehicles and only stopped 4 drivers and gave them words of advice after checking their licence and vehicle details. In general the speeds were within the 30mph limit but we will continue to carry out random checks in this location. If you are aware of a specific vehicle or a specific time that speeding or dangerous driving occurs then please come along to one of the Beat Surgeries and provide us with the details. With the survey completed I then carried out visibility patrols on Haygreen Road and then continued around Holst Avenue, Baker Way & Gershwin Boulevard. I also visited a number of other previous 'hotspots', checking in Dengie Close and then Pattison Close before heading up Hatfield Road onto Allectus Way. With further patrols on Humber Road, Forest Road and Rickstones Road I finished with a patrol in the town centre.





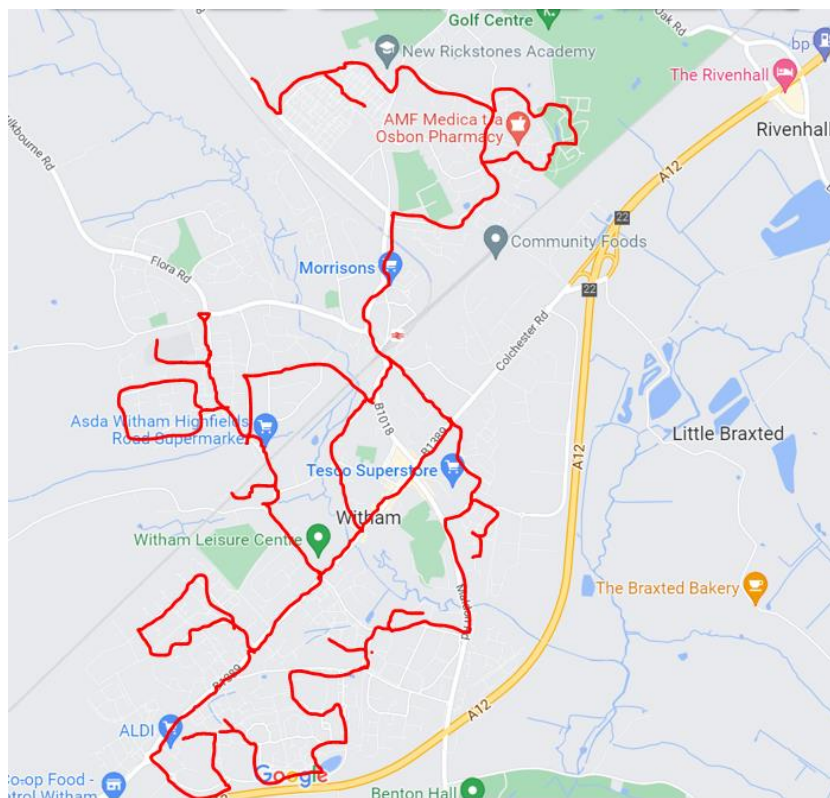
September 23rd

I was joined by Witham CSC Officer Eaketts and we started our volunteer duty in Witham with a foot patrol on the Templars Estate. There were a large number of children in the park area and we had some great engagement. After completing a walk around the estate we headed over to Forest Road, Mulberry Gardens and Cypress Road before driving across town to Humber Road. There had been a recent spate of vehicle thefts and sometimes stolen vehicles are left parked up to be collected at a later date. This is a great opportunity for us to recover the vehicle and get it back to the rightful owner. While checking every side road and parking area we located an insecure vehicle which had the boot left wide open. With our mobile devices we are able to check the owner details at the scene and in this instance alert the owner that they had left their car open. They were very thankful and secured their car before we continued our patrols. Our next port of call was the Lodge Farm estate (Redrow) and while checking each of the roads and parking areas we found another insecure vehicle with the passenger door wide open. Again we were able to make contact with the owner and they secured their car. In both instances the vehicles had been left insecure where parents had forgotten to return to their cars after taking their children into their homes. Please try and remember to close doors and lock your vehicle otherwise you could become a victim of crime. In both cases the vehicles were discovered by patrolling the neighbourhood which is a priority within the Community Special Constable role. To finish off our patrols we headed back in towards the town centre and called in at the Witham Town Park, although there were no people present a container had been left behind on the floor in the dark by the toilet block. On opening the pot it had been crammed with cannabis an illegal Class B drug and this was seized for destruction. If you need help in relation to drug abuse there are many resources available through your Doctor or online such as FRANK [Find support near you | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://www.talktofrank.com)



September 26th

I was out on patrol with new Witham Community Special Constable Watts. The scheme has recently been revised for current Essex Special Constables to be able to offer a reduced amount of hours but enable them to contribute to their community alongside their main roles. We arrived in Witham and walked on to the Templars estate where we engaged with a number of children and local shop keepers. Unfortunately we were then directed to an emergency in nearby Hatfield Peverel. When we were able to return we attended the Witham Town Council meeting to introduce SC Watts where he was warmly welcomed to the role. We resumed our patrols starting on Forest Road, Mulberry Gardens and Cypress Road before travelling across the town via Collingwood Road and Armond Road where we checked for drug related activity on Moat Farm Chase. We continued on to Humber Road, Spa Road park and travelled up Hatfield Road onto Allectus Way before heading to Haygreen Road. With a final check on Baker Way, Elgar Drive, Dengie Close and Pattison Close with no issues seen or reported we finished our patrol.



September 29th

I was crewed with Witham CSC Officer Eaketts for our evening patrol but before we arrived in Witham we were assigned to assist with a high risk missing person in Braintree. With a number of units out searching as a priority due to age and other vulnerabilities it was decided to request the assistance of NPAS (National Police Air Service) and the Essex Police Dog Unit. The 'Eye in the Sky' can be invaluable in searches over a wide ranging area, equipped with high resolution cameras and heat sensing technology they can offer a real time search coordination. On the ground the Essex Police Dog units can assist with tracking and searching areas not visible from the helicopter. With a last known sighting heading towards Braintree town centre we headed there for foot patrols. We were extremely lucky in our search and we managed to locate the missing person and stand down all of the other units attached to the incident. Typically these incidents can involve different units from all over Essex Police and it really demonstrates our One



Team approach to solving concerns. In this instance it was ourselves as Essex Special Constables that found the person which shows the value of this volunteer role.

For more information about these teams then please follow the links below

[National Police Air Service - NPAS](#)

[Essex Police Dog Section \(@EPDogs\) / Twitter](#)

[Special Constabulary | Essex Police](#)

We arrived in Witham and headed up Hatfield Road towards the RedRow estate, as I looked over towards Haygreen road I could see several cars parked up. There has been an increase in reports from residents in this area of anti-social driving, excessive noise, littering and potential drug related activity. When we arrived, there were 4 cars present and although there were no immediate issues, we engaged positively with each of the drivers and encouraged them to move on from the area. We will continue to check this area to ensure that the drivers understand the impact they are having on the local neighbourhood, but we encourage residents to continue reporting any significant concerns to us. After the cars left the area, we moved on to the Hatfield Road estate and followed up on reports of suspicious activity, then we continued to the Humber Road estate before heading back towards the town centre and Newland Street. While we parked up outside the Town Hall, we monitored vehicle speeds and noise which appeared to be greatly reduced with our visible presence. We finished our patrols visiting Greenfields, The Grove, The Avenue before checking on the Train Station, Cypress Road, Forest Road and travelling back through Silver End to conclude our duty.



This concludes the monthly report for September 2022.