



## **May 2024**

May brings the bank holidays and sunshine as we start to move towards the summer months and with increasing numbers of people outside, we wanted to increase our visible presence on the street and provide reassurance in Witham. Anti-social behaviour is still a challenge, but we are working hard with the Street Warden to identify suspects and take action to prevent this from spreading. We are still asking for you to report directly to Essex Police or CrimeStoppers because we are still seeing potential incidents reported on local Facebook groups which are not directly monitored by Essex Police. Speeding on the roads of Witham has also been mentioned to us at our Community Beat Surgeries and we will be looking to carry out more positive actions.

To report to Essex Police then please use the information at the bottom of this report. Thank you.

## **May 4<sup>th</sup>**

I was joined on my patrols in Witham by a Community Policing team officer, and we arrived to investigate the report of a potential burglary. Fortunately, we were able to ascertain that there was no crime and after speaking with the victim we provided them with reassurance before submitting a care referral to provide them with assistance. We headed into the town centre where we carried out foot patrols in the Newlands Precinct and the Grove Centre before walking through the Witham Town Park and onto the RiverWalk near to Pattison Close. The area had seen a recent increase in anti-social behaviour, but we were pleased to see no issues. We returned to our marked police vehicle and patrolled around the Maltings Lane estate before calling to see a resident and providing them with a personal attack alarm which they had requested. We continued our patrols on the Hatfield Road estate and visited each of the side roads looking for abandoned vehicles. Occasionally we have been able to locate stolen vehicles which are parked up locally for a few days and we would ask you to report any suspicious vehicles in your area. During a visit to Alan Road, we noticed two men, who upon seeing our vehicle quickly changed direction and headed along the footpath away from us. Fortunately having knowledge of the area, we were able to get into position on Spinks Lane and waited for them to appear. Following a short foot chase one of the males was detained for a stop search and although the other vaulted a fence into a garden we recovered items connected with drug supply. Anticipating where the other male had run, we parked up and waited, where after a short while a different male who is known to me for the supply of drugs appeared. Unfortunately, he was on an electric assisted bicycle and quickly made off from our vehicle, but a police information report was recorded for future investigation and we had disrupted their activity.

We concluded our visibility patrols with a visit to the ASDA store and continued along the RiverWalk towards the Duck Pond and the weir to check for evidence of anti-social behaviour but pleased to report no issues.





**May 9<sup>th</sup>**

I was invited to attend the 2024 Essex Special Constabulary Awards evening in Chelmsford and with representatives from all over the different Essex policing divisions I was honoured to receive the Community Award for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. The award is to recognise a Special Constable or Team that has contributed to a community and with the support of the Town Council, residents, and businesses, I hope to continue to provide the visible and reassuring presence in the future. I received my award and recognition from Assistant Chief Constable Mariner where I also met with Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst and Deputy PFCC Jane Gardener who helped initiate the Community Special Constable Scheme which first began in Witham.



**May 11<sup>th</sup>**

Crewed with Community Special Constable Claire Eaketts we parked our vehicle in Newlands Drive and walked through to the Saturday market where we engaged with stall holders, visitors, and the local shop keepers. We are trying to encourage people to report anti-social behaviour and shoplifting and we were able to take several accounts and descriptions of potential suspects which included young children. Parents please speak to your children and ensure that they are not involved in these offences. We work with local partners to help identify suspects and we will look at taking positive action to prevent reoccurrences. We continued down Newland Street and through the Witham Town Park, across Maldon Road and into the Grove Centre where we set up for our fortnightly Community Beat Surgery. During the 2 hours we received information concerning speeding and anti-social behaviour and while talking to a local shop owner about the spate of shoplifting we identified several young girls who had been committing some of the thefts. We followed them through the Grove Centre where they entered the Tesco store and after watching them for a short while we had enough suspicion to question them. With their names and addresses obtained they were given strong words of advice about the impact of a criminal record, which would not only impact their future careers when they leave school but could prevent them being able to travel abroad to some countries in the future. We finished our Beat Surgery and then conducted further foot patrols throughout the town centre before heading to Cressing Temple to provide visibility for the Temple At War event, where we met with reenactors and many hundreds of members of the public who were pleased with our presence.



## May 15<sup>th</sup>

I managed to get to Witham in the late afternoon where many of the recent shoplifting incidents had been reported to us during the recent patrols and by the Street Warden. With my presence in town, I was in the right location to seize an E-Scooter being ridden by two young girls and provided a deterrent around the shopping areas when groups of schoolchildren arrived in the town centre. While I was talking to one of these groups another smaller group were causing anti-social behaviour in the Grove Centre, and I was able to disrupt this and move them on. I called in at several of the shops targeted recently and they were very pleased to see me and thanked me for my visibility.



I left the shopping areas and moved onto Maldon Road following a report from a resident that there had been an increase in vehicles perceived to be exceeding the 30 miles per hour limit. The previous morning there had been an accident involving a car and a pedestrian at the crossing and therefore I set up near to Damans. I had conducted several 100 checks which highlighted vehicles had been exceeding the limit but this time I wanted to carry out direct enforcement. After stopping several cars and giving words of advice to drivers I measured one car travelling towards the town at 51 miles per hour. The driver was reported and is likely to receive points on his licence and a fine.





Following the speed check, I carried out a missing person welfare check on Gershwin Boulevard and attended a road traffic collision on Hatfield Road. During my shift and my various locations around Witham I also recorded 2 separate police information reports for further investigation.

### May 18<sup>th</sup>

I began my patrols on foot in the town centre, visiting the Saturday market in the Newlands Precinct before heading across the road to the Grove Centre. After speaking with people in the centre and local businesses staff I continued across Maldon Road and into the Witham Town Park. Recently there has been the start of a new pathway feature and the sculpture stones have now been moved over to this area. There were a lot of families with young children enjoying the play area and a quick check on the toilet block revealed that there were no issues with vandalism. I walked through Kings Chase to appear on Newland Street, crossing the road to walk back towards the town centre. If you see us walking and would like to talk to us about any concerns or need any advice, then please do stop us and we will do our best to help. I returned to my vehicle in Newlands Drive and carried out mobile patrols at Greenfields, Constance Close, Lawrence Avenue and Howbridge Road before continuing up Hatfield Road and onto Allectus Way. A previous patrol had disrupted drug related activity but there were no issues during this time. You can report any activity in your area anonymously by contacting CrimeStoppers. This service will pass on the issues to Police but do not provide any of your details to help reduce any fear that you may have.

**CrimeStoppers.**  
Speak up. Stay safe.

**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

I was then called across town to an incident at the Morrisons store and mediated between staff members and the other party. Due to an incident the previous evening the staff were concerned over the visitors and their behaviour, but I was able to diffuse the situation and left the store without incident. I returned to my planned duties and set up with my speed measuring device on Maldon Road. I conducted another 100-vehicle speed check and although



speeds were generally better, I still had to pull over 2 drivers and advise them about their speed. I moved my checks to Spinks Lane, and I positioned myself outside the Maltings Academy gates to be able to monitor vehicles travelling in both directions. The speeds in this location were very good with many drivers adhering to the 30mph limit. My final task for the day required a check of the park on Spa Road following an anonymous report that children had been seen drinking alcohol and although I could not see any evidence of this at the time, I had received a separate report from a customer that an older male had been seen passing a bottle of spirits to a group of young girls outside the store after purchasing it for them. If you are approached by children to buy alcohol on their behalf, please refuse and notify the store staff or report this to police.



## May 25<sup>th</sup>

In company with fellow Witham Special Constable Eaketts, we boarded the train at Braintree to arrive on foot patrol in Witham. It was a slightly different day in the town with Ride London through parts of Witham and the Women's professional cyclists carrying out 3 laps along some of our roads. To support the event Essex Police had organised an increased presence throughout the event which also included neighbouring Terling & Hatfield Peverel. For our part we carried out visible and reassurance foot patrols and began after a walk from the train station through the market and down Newland Street to the Witham Town Park. With part of the race heading along Lawrence Avenue we continued our foot patrol down to the RiverWalk and up Pattison Close, calling in to the shop to check with staff before heading to Maldon Road and walking back towards the town centre. We entered the Grove Centre and began our fortnightly Community Beat Surgery outside The Witham Hub. Over the course of 2 hours, we spoke to people about the race, road closures, the disruption to the Rickstones recreation ground and gathered information relating to drug related activity. With the Beat Surgery finished we moved on to targeted patrols to prevent shoplifting where we visited all the shops that had seen recent thefts to speak with staff and find out if there had been any further incidents. While we were still local to the Grove Centre, we engaged firmly but positively with three teenagers whose language was inappropriate for the rest of the people there and we were then able to change their behaviour by helping one of them out with an ongoing issue. As they left the Grove Centre, we then spotted a person who was currently wanted by police in connection with an ongoing investigation, by carefully monitoring the person I was able to organise officers to the area and the person was arrested and taken away to complete enquiries. This would not have been possible if we had not been out on foot patrol or had the local knowledge to recognise the person which is a significant element of our role as your local volunteer Witham Police Officers. If you would like to join our team, then please come, and see us at our next Community Beat Surgery or you can search for "Essex Police Community Special Constables" on any major search engines via your smartphone or PC.





## [Community Special Constables | Essex Police](#)



You can also use your smartphone camera to scan this QR code and just click on the link displayed to take you to the webpage.



### May 28<sup>th</sup>

I began my shift by returning an item of property to its owner on the Hatfield Road estate and carried out a short patrol in the area before heading into the Town Centre for foot patrol. Most of the shops had just closed for the day but there were a couple of staff members I spoke to enquiring on any issues during the start of the half term week. Fortunately, there had been no concerns and I continued my foot patrol through to the Grove Centre and past Tesco's on my way to the Witham Town Park. The park was eerily silent, and I headed along Kings Chase and onto Newland Street before returning to my vehicle in Newlands Drive.



Following the continued reports at the Community Beat Surgery I returned once more to Maldon Road and this time set up near to the petrol station to carry out speed checks. Previously I had recorded speeds of more than 30mph



and I wanted to step up my actions by stopping drivers and offering words of advice or issuing a traffic offence report if their speed justified it. Over the 45 minutes I stopped 4 drivers and provided them with advice about the potential impact of their speeds, but I did not have to take any further action.

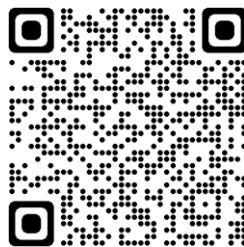
My next location was the Town Hall to join the Community Committee meeting and provide the latest updates to the Councillors and to receive any questions they may have. I spoke concerning the recent anti-social behaviour and the actions that have been taken, and about the recent increase in shoplifting across the town. Several of the suspects have been identified through local knowledge and I asked for the Councillors to pass on the message to report any issues to the Police so that we can work together to keep Witham safe. When I left the meeting, I concluded my shift with mobile patrols through the town.




This concludes the monthly report for May 2024.



You can find Witham Community Special Constable patrol updates on Twitter by searching and following

[Essex Police Witham \(@EPWitham\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/EPWitham)



Contact Essex Police

Emergency call  999

Non-Emergency  101 or  Report it Online

<https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

