

MARCH 2025, ISSUE 92

Witham's Voice

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Spring



Count the hidden eggs (the one above) in this newsletter, share your answer in the comments of our social media post, and you could WIN a prize at our Easter event!



In this Edition



March 2025

FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF BANKS IN THE TOWN CENTRE, WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL WILL BE HOSTING SOME BANKING SERVICES IN THE **TOWN HALL**.



Monday 9am - 4pm

Friday 9am - 4pm



Tuesdays 9am to 3pm



Fridays 9am to 3pm



Follow our social media



@Withamtc



@Witham Town Council



@town_witham

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COUNCILLOR GRANT SCHEME



Witham Town Council is thrilled to introduce the **Councillor Grant Award Scheme**, offering local councillors an annual budget of **£500** each to support community projects that make a positive impact in their Wards.

This initiative is designed to be simple and accessible for **community groups**. If your group has a project that could use a financial boost, grants ranging from **£100 to £500** are now available!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.witham.gov.uk/small-grants where you can also download the application form.

Or reach out **directly** to your **local councillor!**



SUNDAY CINEMA

£1 admission including
tea/coffee



Witham Royal British
Legion Hall (CM8 2AZ)



Doors Open 2:00 PM
Film Starts 2:30 PM



The African Queen
**16th March
2025**



Run Fat Boy Run
**20th April
2025**



A brand-new multi-use community centre is coming to Witham!

Planned for **Haygreen Road**, this two-storey facility will feature a **versatile hall, kitchen, bar, and changing rooms** to support sports players using the nearby football pitch.

Once construction is complete, the £4 million centre, facilitated by Braintree District Council and Section 106 funding, will be **transferred to Witham Town Council**, who will take on its ownership and management.

Designed for Everyone

The centre will host **sports, meetings, events, and social clubs**, creating a hub for the Witham community to **connect and thrive**.



New defibrillator at the Witham town hall

The installation of a new defibrillator outside the Town Hall, specifically at the side entrance, marks a significant step in **enhancing community safety and emergency preparedness**.

This life-saving device is **accessible 24 hours a day**, ensuring that in the event of a cardiac emergency, help is always at hand.





RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT INCIDENTS

No matter how small, to help shape local policing efforts.

Witham Town Council is working with **Essex Police** to address rising antisocial behaviour and shoplifting, encouraging residents to report incidents to support effective action.

Visit **www.essex.police.uk** and click **Report** to share details.



Or ring 101



Or ring 0800 555 111

If you prefer to remain **anonymous** for any reason, you can submit your report through CrimeStoppers, through <http://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

In Need Of Financial Advice?

Witham Town Council has awarded the **second installment of £5,000** to Citizens Advice, as part of a total commitment of a **£10,000 Grant**. This funding aims to provide vital support to Witham residents **facing financial difficulties**.

Citizens Advice offers free, confidential, and impartial advice to help individuals **navigate financial challenges**, access **benefits**, and **manage debt**.



At Witham Public Hall

Thursdays 10am-1pm



citizens advice Braintree & South Essex

For all details type in the website below:

<https://www.bhwcab.org.uk>

or call Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm (and 9am - 8pm on Wednesday)

0808 278 7852

Past Events



Halloween Trail

On Saturday, **26th October**, Witham's River Walk transformed into a spooky wonderland for the annual Spooktacular Halloween Trail!



Families enjoyed hunting for hidden letters, meeting spooky characters, and marveling at magical shows.

Essex Police joined in, adding to the festive fun by handing out sweets.



Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 30th November Witham sparkled with festive cheer at our biggest ever Christmas Fayre across The Grove Centre, Newlands Shopping Centre, The United Reformed Church and Newland Street. The evening kicked off with a heartwarming carol service, followed by over 80 market stalls, live entertainment, Santa's grotto, real reindeer and the big light switch on.

Thank you to our sponsors

Holmes & Hills
SOLICITORS

 **THE GROVE**
SHOPPING CENTRE

AND

**The Witham Hub for the use of
their PA system**



Community Events in 2025



Our Next Event...

COME ALONG TO OUR
EASTER
TRAIL
ON THE
19th April

AT 10AM TO 4PM ALONG
THE RIVER WALK

Free event

TICKETS REQUIRED

MORE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON
OUR WEBSITE

WWW.WITHAM.GOV.UK

*Join us for some
egg-citing fun!*

Upcoming Events

- MAY 8** VE Day 80th Anniversary Beacon Lighting
- MAY 17** Dog Show
- JUN 14** United in Music
- AUG 7** Teddy Bear's Picnic
- AUG 15** VJ Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration
- SEP 1** Witham Rail Disaster Memorial Service
- SEP 20** Street Entertainment Festival
- OCT 25** Halloween Trail
- NOV 22** Christmas Fayre

Keep an eye on our social media for more event details!



Stinging nettles may seem like a nuisance, but they're actually a not-so-hidden gem on our River Walk...



Deep-rooted nettles stabilise riverbanks, reduce erosion, absorb pollutants, and provide a vital home and food source to over 40 insect species, fostering a healthy ecosystem.

However Witham Town Council recognises that there is a balance between the needs of nature and our residents who like to see our beautiful River Brain.



Therefore this year, our Open Spaces Team will open small sections of the riverbank for residents and wildlife to enjoy the River Walk.

PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Maintaining our River Walk is a top priority.



Last year, using Section 106 funding, we improved safety by replacing the uneven pathway between **Pattison Close** and **the River Walk**.



This Spring, we'll repair the pathway near Moat Farm Chase and Saxon Drive with flexible materials to protect tree roots, and ensure pedestrian safety.

Have your voice heard

Witham Town Council's Petitions Policy



Here at Witham Town Council, we welcome community engagement and encourage residents to make their voice heard.

What Makes a Petition Eligible?

Your petition should relate directly to Witham Town Council's services or decisions. While all petitions are reviewed, those deemed vexatious or inappropriate will not be accepted.



How to Submit a Petition

Send your petition to the **Town Clerk** at Witham Town Hall, email it, or present it in person during a Council meeting.

EMAIL - TOWNCLERK@WITHAM.GOV.UK



What Should Your Petition Include?

Clearly outline the **issue** and the **action being requested**. Include **supporter details** with **names, addresses, and signatures**, along with the **organiser's contact information**. For online petitions, ensure measures are in place to **prevent fraudulent signatures**.



How Are Petitions Handled?

500+ Signatures:
Organiser can present at a Council meeting for discussion and decision at the next suitable meeting.

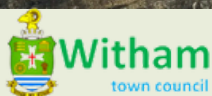
50-499 Signatures:
Reviewed by Town Clerk and Councillors; full Council debate at mayor's discretion.



COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT

2025/2026

How will we spend the budget?



Maintaining our beautiful Outdoor Spaces including:

Whetmead Nature Reserve

James Cooke Wood

River Walk

Closed Churchyard

Allotments



Got Questions or Concerns? Share Your Thoughts with Witham's Town Council!

All Witham residents are invited to our Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 9th April 2025.

Royal British Legion Memorial Hall
For a 7pm start

Tea and coffee available



Witham Community Events

Information Centre

Witham's Community Special Constabulary

Witham's Street Warden

Funding and Managing CCTV

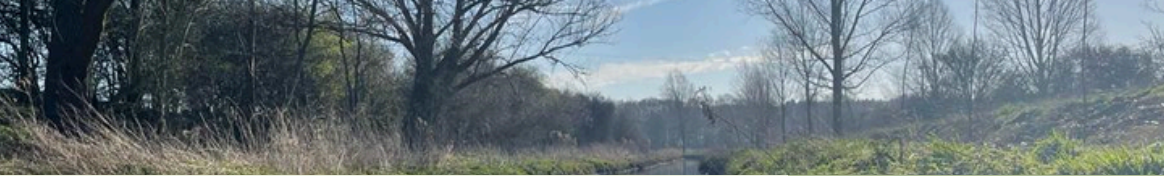
The Voice Newsletter

Maldon Road Park Toilets

Community Grants

Witham in Bloom and Tree Planting

Christmas Decorations



The Average Band D household will pay Witham Town Council less than £2.14 a week (£111.26/year)

THE REST WILL COME FROM

- Room Hire Charges
- Allotment Charges
- Event Income
- Interest Received
- Information Centre Purchases
- Sponsorship



Free events in 2024 ...

199 Children attended the Teddy Bears' Picnic.

540 children attended the Easter Trail.

590 children attended the Halloween Trail.

Around 16,000 people attended the Witham Street Entertainment Festival.

178 children met Santa Claus in the Town Hall Grotto.

6,000 attended the Christmas Fayre.

The Town Council gave 1,167 residents free dog poo bags.

The majority of Witham's houses fall into band B or band C and will therefore pay less than band D.



YOUR COUNCIL



61 NEWLAND STREET WITHAM CM8 2FE

01376 520627

Witham Town Council Offices

Monday to Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm

Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

townclerk@witham.gov.uk

Information Centre

Monday to Thursday 9:00am-4:30pm

Friday 9:00am-3:50pm

infocentre@witham.gov.uk



CENTRAL

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Attend Your Town Council Meetings!

When?

Meetings: 7:30 PM

Planning & Transport Committee: 6:30 PM

Find Agendas

*Noticeboard on Newland Street
(attached to Fenn Wright)*

Online: www.witham.gov.uk/committees

In the Town Hall Council Chamber

With access through the side door via the drive.

NORTH

Phil Barlow

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Leanora Headley

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Not sure of your ward? - You can find out at www.witham.gov.uk/wards or by asking at the Information Centre.