



December 2021 Patrols

December brings 2021 to a close but with Christmas & New Year's Eve it is also a very busy month with an increase in residents and visitors to the town for shopping and events. The evenings also see a significant increase in people out in larger groups celebrating with friends and colleagues, so it is important for us to provide a visible and reassuring presence throughout the month to enable people to enjoy themselves. We will still aim to prevent crime and tackle anti-social behaviour of all kinds and continue to disrupt drug related activity. We also increase our patrols around the residential areas and provide advice on securing of properties and deal robustly with drink/drug driving over the festive period where we normally see a sharp increase in people taking chances after a night out.

December 3rd

For my first patrol of the month, I headed out to check on a couple of areas that had recently seen drug related activity. While I was in these locations, I carried out searches in the nearby area for discarded or hidden items. Fortunately, in this instance I did not find anything and there were no further signs of drug activity. I returned towards the Town Centre where I conducted foot patrol through the Witham Town Park and through to the Grove Centre. As I exited the Centre onto Newland Street, I witnessed a vehicle travelling at speed in the direction of The Avenue. Almost immediately over the radio I was alerted that this vehicle was suspected to be a drink driver that had been reported by a member of the public, driving erratically, contravening a red light and did not have any lights on. I returned quickly to my vehicle and fortunately located it on the garage forecourt at the ESSO garage. I quickly identified the driver who was in the shop and the driver was promptly arrested under Section 4 of the Road Traffic Act for being unfit to drive through drink. In order to convey the person to custody I was supported initially by a BTP (British Transport Police) Officer who was nearby and then a Braintree Special Constable unit who arrived so we could safely transport the person to custody for the evidential breath test. Following the test, a positive result of 94 was recorded with the legal limit currently 35! This driver had intended to complete his journey which was a further 55 miles away in extremely foggy conditions. The driver had been to a company Christmas event and taken the decision to drive home. This year sees the beginning of a new Drink Drive campaign highlighted in the link below.

[Make their present, your presence | Essex Police](#)



December 4th

Today was the Witham Town Council Christmas Fayre & Lights Switch-On in the Town Centre and we wanted to provide visible policing and reassurance for the market and the events during the afternoon and evening. Special Constable Mabey & Special Constable Eaketts joined me, and we had some amazing engagement with families and young children which was very rewarding. With various performing street artists and a selection of stalls and food providers there was a real community feel about the event with Newland Street closed off to cars. Fortunately, there were no reported incidents during the event and with the lights illuminating the Town Hall, the Christmas Tree and Newland Street we continued our presence around the town until the close.



December 6th

I began my patrols on the Templars estate with high visibility foot patrols where I was able to cover each of the Courts. There were some fantastic Christmas lights displays that helped brighten up a very cold evening. From here I moved on to patrols on Forest Road and Cypress Road before driving over to Highfields Road for reassurance and then on to the Humber Road estate. Due to the very cold night there were very few people out in the town and even the roads seemed particularly quiet. I headed on to the Hatfield Road estate before heading out of town to Hatfield Peverel and on to Terling. I then returned to Witham, visiting the Maltings/Gershwin estate before driving around Maltings Court, Dengie Close, Pattison Close & Laurence Avenue. With no issues or concerns I visited the town centre before concluding my patrol in Witham. On my way back to Braintree however I ended up finding a wanted male who had tried to leave the area in a taxi. The male was wanted for a number of offences committed in Witham in October so it was a good result for the team.



December 8th

Foot patrols at this time of year are still effective and this was proven again with another successful stop for drug possession. During my patrol in the town and the Witham Town Park a young teenager took evasive action in avoiding contact with me but ended up dropping most of their possessions, so I was able to catch up with them in the bottom of Tesco car park at The Grove. Caught red handed the drugs were taken but before a full search could be completed the person decided to run off. Fortunately, this has all been captured on my Body Worn Video and the person has now been circulated for intelligence reports. I continued my foot patrols into the town centre where I supported a search for a high-risk missing person with a visit to each of the pubs in town in case the person had been seen there recently. I did return to my vehicle and carried out anti-social behaviour patrols around the previous known areas, but I am pleased to say that there were no issues seen or reported. After completing a welfare check on a resident, I finished my patrol with further high visibility on the town centre.



December 9th

In company with Special Constable Eaketts we started off our duty with foot patrol on the Templars estate, visiting each of the Courts. There were a few families out with children looking at some of the fantastic Christmas light displays and we provided some visibility and reassurance. We then headed over to Newlands Drive following a request for visible patrols on Lockram Lane. A report had been submitted for potential anti-social behaviour including suspected drug dealing taking place. With information reported by residents we can target specific areas to prevent this behaviour and improve your community. Please continue to report this so we can help you. You can do this by calling 999 if you see a crime or suspected criminal behaviour taking place in front of you or call 101 to report



an activity that has already happened. You can also use the Essex Police website to report this and there is a link to the page below which will help. We now also provide a Live Chat function between 7am & 11pm where you can chat to an advisor who can record your concerns directly. If you would prefer to remain anonymous you can still contact Crimestoppers who will then pass the information to Police without your details. We would like to encourage you to report because it is your community, and you are the best eyes and ears where you live.

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Report	Tell us about	Apply or register	Request	Thanks and complaints
Crime	Domestic abuse			
Breach of coronavirus (Covid-19) measures	Road traffic incident			
Missing person	Antisocial behaviour			
Civil disputes	Fraud			
Lost or stolen vehicles	Lost or found property			

Live Chat function
Just CLICK!
7am – 11pm

[Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#)

Give crime information anonymously

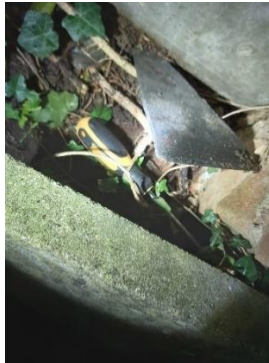
We never ask for your personal information and do not track your device. Call us or fill in our anonymous online form.

USE ANONYMOUS ONLINE FORM

or call us on: 0800 555 111

As we patrolled Lockram Lane a search was carried out for any items that might be related to the report or other potential criminal activity. Hidden at the end of an alleyway out of direct site but easily accessed we found a screwdriver. Although a typical household item, the way it had been hidden away and the potential association with the type of reported activity raised our concerns and therefore this was recovered. We were then asked to assist with an arrest attempt in Witham, the person involved was then located in Chelmsford and we headed over to assist with the arrest in that location. On our return to Witham, we carried out mobile patrols on the Hatfield Road estate, Maltings's estate, Dengie Close, Pattison Close, Maldon Road and Helen Court. During our patrols on Hatfield Road, we located a vehicle parked up and after initially attempting to engage with the driver the vehicle made off and failed to stop. An intelligence report has been submitted for future opportunities to stop the vehicle safely. Our final

incident of the night was at the New Rickstones Academy where a member of public had seen a person gain entry onto the school grounds by climbing over a fence. We were on the scene quickly, however, following a search of the perimeter of the buildings and the nearby construction site we were unable to locate any person, damage or entry point, although the hair dressing & make-up heads did startle me initially!



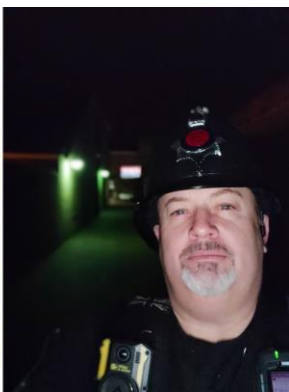
December 11th

I was in company with Special Constable Ballantyne for foot patrols in Witham. Our focus was to be accessible and provide visibility and reassurance around the town centre during these busier shopping times. We started off from Newlands Drive and walked through to Newlands Precinct, Newland Street, Witham Town Park, Maldon Road and The Grove. While walking along The Grove we encountered a couple of people known for the supply of drugs and this foot patrol secured some very good information which will help us soon. We then headed around Greenfields before moving up through the Grove Centre. We then went down Newland Street to pick up the River Walk, where a member of the public alerted us to personal documents that had been left near to Epping Way. On our way we also found a student card for Maltings Academy and planned to return this as well. As we approached the school, we found an insecure door and fortunately we located a member of staff who secured this. After collecting the documents from Epping Way, we then headed back towards the town centre. All these simple tasks were achieved with foot patrols which not only provides a visible presence on the streets but enables us to look at crime prevention. We had lots of very positive engagement in the town and even managed to squeeze in a photo with a couple of festive stilt walkers in the Grove Centre. We returned to our vehicle before heading up to the Hatfield Road estate for more foot patrol around the estate with some positive engagement with children out playing and a few of the residents. We finished our patrols on the industrial estates visiting Crittal Road, Eastways & Freebournes Road.



December 13th

I started my patrol on the Templars estate before driving round Forest Road, Cypress Road, Manor Road and on to Church Street. I got out on foot to check the area around the railway foot bridge before returning to my vehicle to check on Spa Road, Humber Road, Highfields Road, Chelmer Road and parked up in Newlands Drive to conduct foot patrols on Lockram Lane. In each of these locations I was pleased to report that there were no issues or concerns. I continued foot patrol around Bramston View, Guithavon Street, Newland Street and the Grove Centre. After visiting each of the housing and park areas and with more visible mobile patrols back into the town centre I conclude my shift with a drive through Kelvedon & Coggeshall.



December 17th

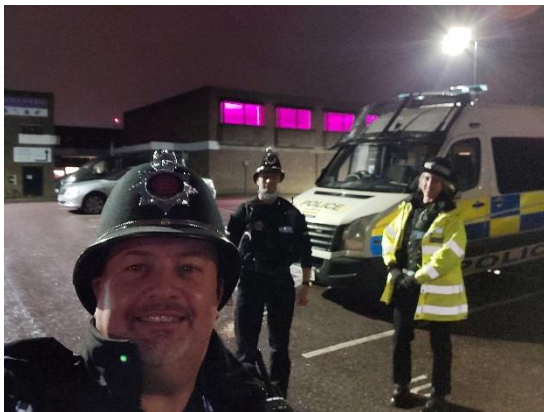
The last working Friday has traditionally seen an increase in festive celebrations and is nicknamed “Builder’s Day” as this would typically be the last working day for the builders who would then go out on a celebratory drink up! To support this, we wanted to provide an increased visible presence in the town centre, especially for the pubs and bars. It also coincided with the celebration of the life of a young man from Witham who sadly lost his life in a car accident a short time ago. Our first call, however, was for some anti-social behaviour near to ASDA on Highfields Road following a report that bottles were being smashed on the footpath towards the River Walk. We carried out an area search and spoke to some teenagers in the vicinity but with no descriptions or evidence of the glass we headed back to our vehicle parked in ASDA’s. It was at this point that we were alerted to a potential drug related concern in the car park and following a stop search we seized a quantity of cannabis and prevented the person from driving. Although there was no indication that the person had already used any drugs this intervention prevented any



subsequent drug driving. With a roadside interview and Community Resolution signed we completed a Police Information Report for the driver and vehicle. With this complete we were then alerted to a report of suspicious circumstances and possible burglary in progress and headed across town immediately. We arrived in under 4 minutes and then discovered that there had been an attempted burglary and a burglary in the area. We carried out a search of the area and the property for the suspect(s), but they had left the scene. The property was then secured ready for CID & the Forensic Team to arrive to conduct their more detailed searches.



During our time on scene our team split up so that Special Inspector Campbell & Special Constable Eaketts could head into town following reports of a fight at The George Public House. On arrival they dealt with an assault and after recording the incident and checking on the victim they provided safeguarding by returning the victim home. On completing our role at the burglary, we headed into town to provide a more visible presence and I was then able to speak with several people concerning an incident from the previous week. We continued to provide high visibility foot patrols around the town centre, Newland Street, the Witham Town Park, the Grove Centre and disrupted some drug related activity in Lockram Lane car park. Before we finished our shift, we were called back to The George for a disturbance, but I am pleased to report this was resolved by the staff before we had to intervene, and we then headed back to base.





December 18th

Special Inspector Campbell conducted an early morning foot patrol in the town centre to support residents and visitors out for their Christmas shopping and carried out patrols in the Newlands Precinct, the Grove Centre, Newland Street and the Witham Town Park where he disrupted some anti-social behaviour in the playground area. Fortunately, with no other incidents or concerns reported he enjoyed some positive engagement with local businesses and the people in town.

December 19th

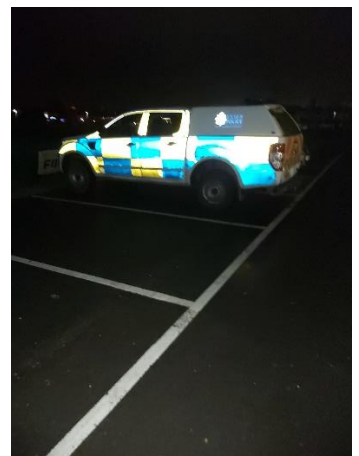
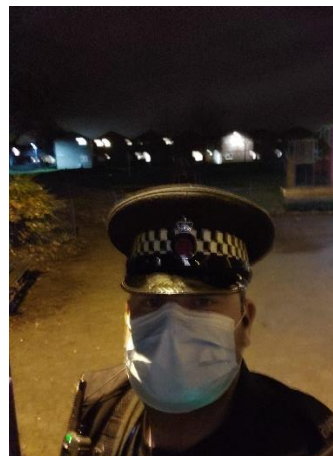
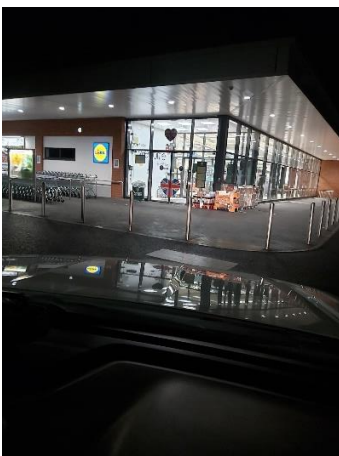
Starting with a morning mobile patrol I visited several areas in Witham to provide reassurance following recent incidents on Forest Road, Laburnum Way, Cypress Road before heading into the town centre for foot patrols. Starting off in the Newlands Drive car park I walked through Lockram Lane before cutting through to Guithavon Street and along Mill Lane to Bramston View, I then continued along Mill Lane and headed up Newland Street before taking a right into Kings Chase. A recent report of anti-social behaviour and potential drug activity resulted in a few areas being searched for any evidence before I then carried on through the Witham Town Park towards The Grove. Along my patrol I met with several people who all thanked me for my visibility and felt that it provided reassurance which was great to hear. I patrolled through the Grove Centre before once again walking up and down Newland Street. I then returned to my vehicle where I recovered a few items that a resident wanted us to dispose of safely and these were taken back to Braintree Police Station. I returned shortly after to commence further patrols and this time parked up at Helen Court, before continuing foot patrol where I then checked on a recently abandoned encampment for a homeless person, stopped a person who was openly walking along Maldon Road smoking a cannabis joint and then captured some evidential footage of a drug deal about to take place near to Pattison Close. In disrupting this deal one person made off on an electric motorbike up Elizabeth Avenue while the other tried to walk away. I was able to speak to them and secured further evidence. A Police Information Report (PIR) has been submitted and marked for the attention of the Essex Police Disruptor team who specialise in tackling this level of crime. With the evening approaching I returned to my vehicle to conduct further visible mobile patrols and then headed over to the Templar estate to join the Mayor as the judging commenced for the Festive Lights competition. It was fantastic to walk around the Courts and see the effort that residents had put in to bring Christmas cheer to the estate. There were several parents out walking with children looking at the lights which was lovely to see. With the judging complete, a winner was selected, and I finished my shift.





December 22nd

Witham CSC officer Mabey conducted his evening patrol starting on the Hatfield Road estate, visiting the shops on Wolvesford before checking on the Alan Road play area and carrying out vehicle checks on the estate. Fortunately there were no concerns and with this he moved on to the Town Centre for a foot patrol along the River Walk before returning to his vehicle. Once again with no issues found Special Constable Mabey visited the Humber Road estate, checking each of the side roads including Helford Court, Teign Drive, Yare Avenue and Fal Drive before moving over to the Football Club and then mobile checks around the shops on Spa Road. The next stop was the train station where he found 4 teenagers who were waiting nearby but he was able to have some good light hearted engagement and they were all in order. The final part of his evening patrol was on the Templars estate where he met with two residents concerning specific acts of anti-social behaviour involving two named individuals. Advice was provided to continue to report any issues via the online chat function or by contacting 101 unless it was happening immediately where they should then contact Essex Police via 999.





December 24th

Christmas Eve and I wanted to provide visibility and reassurance for the last minute shoppers and to address a couple of local issues. One of these involved an E-Scooter rider who had narrowly missed a local resident near to Magnolia Close and I carried out foot patrol in each of the neighbouring roads and housing areas to try and identify the offender and to provide a visible deterrent. Further patrols will be carried out to try and locate the E-Scooter which may be seized for destruction. I then headed around Forest Road to Cypress Road & Manor Road to check on previous anti-social behaviour areas but fortunately there were no issues. These areas have had an increase in Police patrols and through positive engagement with residents and local teenagers we have seen a sharp decline in reported cases. Following this I headed out on foot patrol from the town along Maldon Road and onto the River Walk where I disrupted a drug deal in progress. After following one of parties to gather further information I have submitted a Police Information Report and passed this on to a specialist team for future actions. I continued along the River Walk before heading along Bridge Street and back up Newland Street visiting The Red Lion and The George before returning to my vehicle. I also visited the Witham Town Park and headed over to Church Street & Ebenezer Close.



December 28th

I began my shift with a visit to Hatfield Peverel where over the Christmas period a family pet had become very ill after ingesting drugs that were dropped in the local park. Please be vigilant especially if your pet likes to pick up objects while out walking. After conducting visible patrols and providing information to a few residents I returned to Witham to commence my foot patrols in the town centre, visiting the Newlands Precinct, The Grove Centre, the Witham Town Park before heading off down Lockram Lane to Guithavon Valley, Armond Road and the River Walk. I had positive engagement with people out walking and visiting the swans at the Duck Pond. I continued along the path towards ASDA before heading along Highfields Road and back down Guithavon Road to Mill Lane. After checking for drug related activity nearby to Bramston View, I then came across a vehicle of interest and recorded this

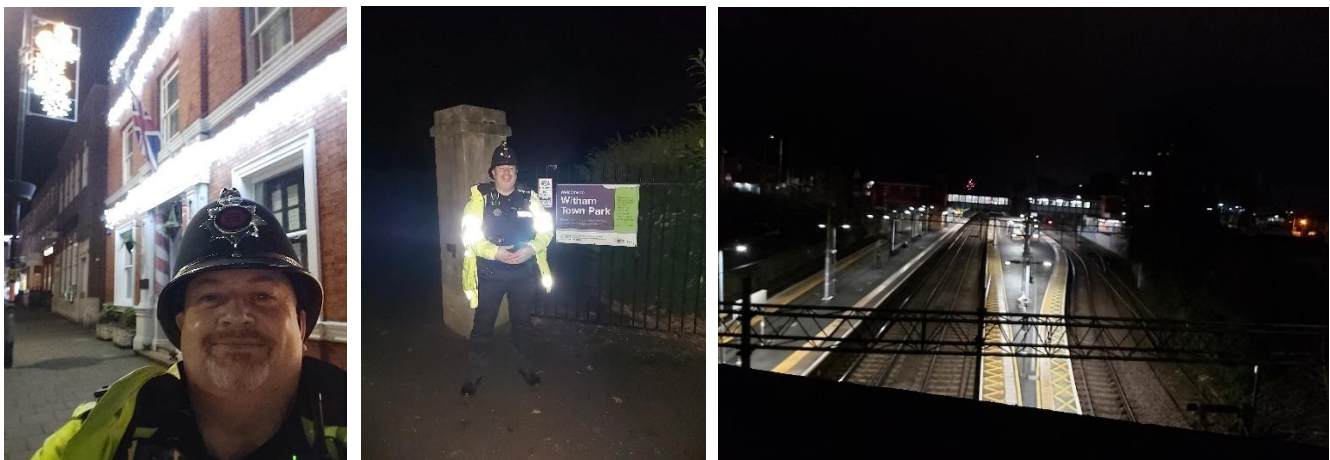


on a PIR. As I headed back through the Witham Town Park and back up Maldon Road, a group of teenagers changed direction heading away from me. Piquing my interest, I followed them back down Newland Street and after cutting through to the lane behind the shops, I caught them running from the park after setting off a firework. Fortunately, I was able to stop them all for some strong words of advice and they apologised before moving off. I returned to the town centre and as I patrolled through The Grove Centre, I dealt with two people for drug offences before once again calling in at The Red Lion and The George to discuss the upcoming New Year's Eve plans. To finish off my patrols I called on a local resident to provide some reassurance following a recent incident and provided some help and advice for safeguarding.



December 31st

For my final duty of 2021 we provided high visibility patrols in the Town Centre, with support from Braintree CPT we had 5 officers able to provide foot patrols throughout the evening, but we were pleased to see that there were no areas of concern. Many of the expected crowds in the pubs did not appear which may have been due to the increasing concerns over the latest COVID variant and combined with ticket only events and The George closing its doors early there really were none of the potential issues. We had very positive engagement in The Cherry Tree, The White Horse, The Red Lion, The White Hart and The Swan and with a few revellers over the night leading up to the firework celebrations at midnight as we welcomed the New Year.





This concludes the monthly report for December 2021.