

Witham Town Council

Community Safety Policy: Be Safe, Keep Safe.



1) Overview

Public concerns that crime and drug misuse are increasing and there is evidence of a rise in unprecedented illegal activities such as theft and robbery. The Town Council recognises that members of the public have difficulty in receiving a police response, even when faced with evidence of a crime having taken place.

2) Town Council Policy on Community Safety.

The Town Council is under a duty to consider the safety of the general public at large and recognises the need for positive action and has formulated this policy centred around a four-point action plan to take positive steps towards crime reduction.

3) 4 Point Action Plan

- Continued updating and 24/7 monitoring of the Town Council CCTV network, accessible to the Police via monitoring station and remove devices.
- Recruitment drive to create a team of 8 Community Special Constables from across Witham.
- Providing advice to local people on crime prevention and keeping safe through a variety of channels.
- Promoting a culture of "Eyes and Ears" to increase collection of intelligence working with community organisations and local resident associations.

4) Outcomes

The Town Council aspires to achieving the following outcomes through proactive promotion of this policy:

- Reduced fear of crime & anti-social behaviour with a particular emphasis on older and more vulnerable people and in areas after dark.
- Reducing the overall number of crime and anti-social behaviour incidents.
- A prompt response to all incidents.
- Enhanced ability of Police to target their resources.
- Restoring visible community policing through community special constable presence.

5) Commitments made by Witham Town Council

- The Town Council will make a budgetary commitment to support Community Safety.
- The Town Council will establish a CCTV development campaign.
- The Town Council will continue the funding, promotion and recruitment of Community Special Constables in partnership with Essex Police.
- The Town Council will bolster its available communication channels to improve public awareness of crime and advice on crime prevention.
- The Town Council will seek to establish residents' associations in the Town where there are none and maintain support and contact for these groups to allow local citizens with shared concerns to have their voices heard.