

Colchester City Centre Policing Newsletter

September 2023

Welcome to our monthly City Centre Policing Update, where you can read how we keep the City Centre a safe place to live, work and visit while dealing with concerns raised by the City Centre community.

Throughout September the city centre policing team have carried out a number of high visibility road traffic operations under OPERATION CALLOUS. This operation was put in place after numerous reports and concerns about the delivery drivers who use the city centre.

On the first Operation Callous deployment we saw a large number of vehicles seized due to insurance and driving licence offences being identified. Since then we have seen a much improved compliance with these pieces of legislation.



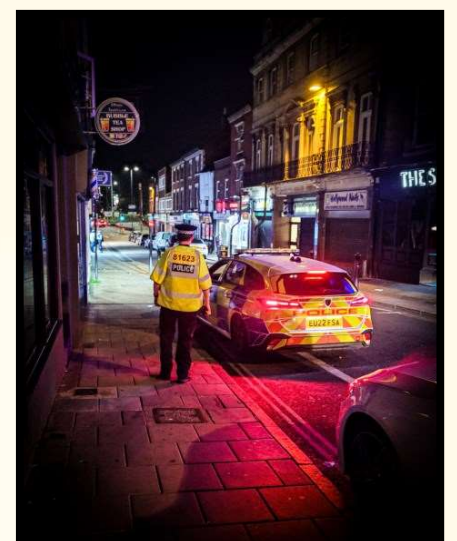
While Operation Callous is designed to educate those using the city centre roads, enforcement action is taken against those who do not have the correct documentation to drive and the high visibility and likelihood to be stopped acts as a deterrent to those using vehicles to come to Colchester to commit crime and those who want to act anti socially on the high street.



On Saturday 9th September the City Centre team conducted plain clothed patrols in the city centre. Using a mixture of plain clothed patrols and uniformed officers they completed 13 stop and searches. Of the searches 5 drug offences were identified and dealt with, including an arrest for possession with intent to supply class A drugs after discovering a quantity of suspect class A drugs during a search.

Stop and search is a useful policing power that is regularly used in the city centre to prevent and deter all crime types. Continuing with the work on this day, the officers also visited locations whereby anti social behaviour had been reported and a quantity of alcohol was seized and people dispersed from the town under the PSPO with details passed to our colleagues at Colchester City Centre to process fines for breaching the PSPO.

Similar to the day time, the night time economy in Colchester is regularly a busy evening for policing in the city centre. We want to ensure everyone enjoying an evening out does so in a safe and enjoyable environment. Our officers are supported by special constables who volunteer their time to ensure you enjoy a safe evening out and the venues in the city centre receive policing support when needed. Earlier in the month we saw 11 special constables assist the community team in policing the city centre on a busy Saturday night. The special constables alone managed to carry out a range of policing activity including high visibility patrol, seizing a vehicle due to it causing anti social behaviour, being first on scene to some medical emergencies whereby they gave initial first aid until colleagues from the SOS bus and ambulance service arrived. They also broke up some drunken fights, made arrests for assaults and drug offences and engaged with 7 licensed premises to ensure license conditions were met and that they did not have any issues.



If you are interested in joining the specials visit www.essex.police.uk/careers



Do it online at:
essex.police.uk

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**



Officers from the city centre team attended a number of licensed premises in the city centre with Julie Taylor who completes a lot of charity work after her grandson was tragically murdered in Chelmsford. Part of this work is providing bleed kits to licensed premises to if there was a serious injury in one of their venues, they would have potentially life saving equipment on hand to use while awaiting medical assistance. The officers also used this as a great time to speak to the staff in the licensed premises to listen to and address any issues they may have and talk about concerns and how we can tackle those concerns.



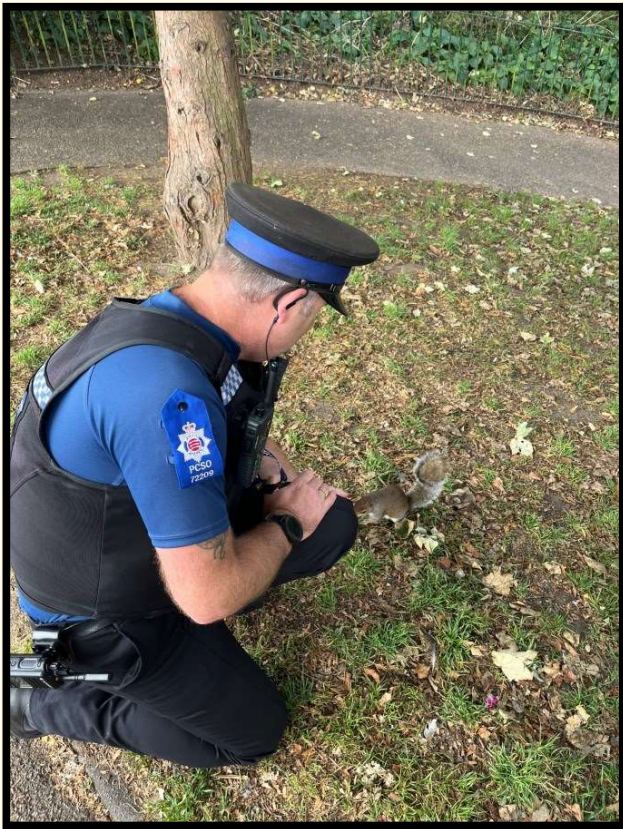
Officers from the Community Policing Team and Special Constabulary have been carrying out patrols around the city centre including St Marys car park and Balkerne Hill following reports to police and to the City Council around anti social driving. While you can see the high visibility patrols, you can not see the various discussions and meetings we have held with the council around a long term problem solving approach to this re-occurring issues.

You may have seen in the news this week that the council are going to trial closing the car park overnight to stop access to those causing a nuisance to the local area. We are also regularly out looking to evidence and enforce any breaches of the vehicle PSPO. More information around this can be found on the Colchester City Council Website.

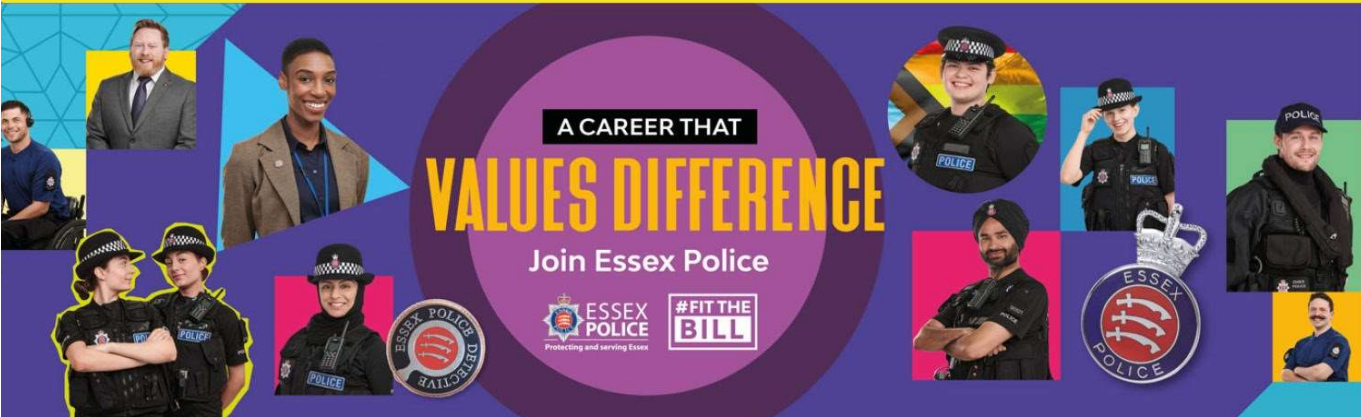
The City Centre sees a large number of events happen in the park, from shows, concerts, festivals and community group meets. This means thousands of people can attend the city centre on any given day. We work closely with planners of events to ensure they are run safely and that any events do not have a negative impact or encourage crime to occur in the town centre. We also hold our own events in the city centre. Such as the first Thursday of every month we are in the Community 360 Hub on long wyre street between 10:30-11:30am to speak to anybody about any local issues they wish to discuss.

If you have a community group or club and you would like engagement from the police please contact—colchestercommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk

Your community policing team are regularly conducting foot patrols in the town centre so make sure you say “hello” to them while they are passing.



Digital 101 is available on the Essex Police website: essex.police.uk



If you, or anyone you know, is interested in protecting and serving Essex, you can follow us on social media, or search **#FitTheBill**