

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

Part of our work is to manage traffic on the public road network. Every Monday to Friday, from 6am until 8pm our Essex Traffic Control Centre uses a combination of traffic cameras, road sensors, police reports and other information to build up a picture of how well our roads are flowing.

Of course this is particularly valuable at rush hour - it only takes one accident to occur in a critical spot to quickly cause wider bottlenecks and delays.

Our County Hall-based team provides a valuable twitter-based service allowing users to get information in real-time; they also update the roadside information displays, provide information to broadcasters and, in some cases can make changes to traffic light timings and so on.

Since February, additional investment has allowed us to extend coverage to include Saturdays from 9am until 5.30pm, ensuring people shopping, visiting friends or family or simple crossing the county can get speedy incident information.

If you are a road-user, but aren't yet one of the 52,000 twitter followers @Essex_Travel has, why not consider joining those in the know?

LIVE ESSEX TRAFFIC UPDATES NOW EXTENDED TO SATURDAYS



COMMENT COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY

Deputy Leader,
Essex County Council
and Cabinet Member for
Infrastructure



We are now coming to the end of our Winter Service and although it has been a mild winter our crews have nonetheless been out during the night on a number of occasions.

I am sure you would join me in sending them our heartfelt thanks for a job well done especially as the gritters are out when most of us are tucked up in bed.

I have already written to County Members about the additional pavement scheme work, more details on how to record the information will come soon. I am anticipating it to be similar to the pothole scheme.

POTHOLES, PAVEMENTS AND DRAINS FIXED IN THE MONTH...

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED
BASILDON	17	50	18	1066
BRAINTREE	19	86	4	3833
BRENTWOOD	9	46	2	Starts 1 April
CASTLE POINT	11	102	5	Cleanse complete
CHELMSFORD	20	44	4	3409
COLCHESTER	28	55	19	Completed previously
EPPING FOREST	46	120	26	36
HARLOW	16	101	6	6163
MALDON	18	13	1	Completed previously
ROCHFORD	12	4	3	Completed previously
TENDRING	23	16	4	Starts 1 April
UTTLESFORD	16	56	1	2948
TOTALS	235	693	93	17455

POTHOLE REPAIRS CONTINUE AT PACE

The Member-led local pothole programme continues, alongside our routine asset-led repairs. Associated with the County Council Member-led programme we have now repaired over 5000 defects county-wide, and are in the process of repairing and arranging for over 800 defects specifically requested by Members. This programme will continue through to the end of May.

Beyond the programme, the main repair data for March is as above. It's worth understanding that we are now in a relatively good position pothole-wise across the county, not least because the winter weather has been milder this year. However, as we have a relatively low number of potholes now, it is likely that the trend for pothole numbers will increase over the next 12 months as our focus moves to more footway repairs and fewer carriageway pothole repairs.





2018/19 DISTRICT HIGHWAYS BRIEFINGS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED

Every year we offer information briefings to County Council Members to help develop understanding and awareness of how we deliver many of our highways services. For instance in early October we offer a Winter Service Briefing, covering how, why and where we grit; how we forecast and so on.

About two years ago we started to offer a further multi-topic highway briefing not only for County Council Members, but available to every local councillor at all Essex District, Borough and City councils. We worked with the EALC to deliver a similar briefing to more than 70 parish clerks and councillors.

In late February we completed our second round of briefings – we'd like to thank the host councils (Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester and Harlow) for allowing us to use their facilities, and thank the councillors who attended, listened and asked questions. **You can review the slide deck we used, online.**

We are now reviewing attendance numbers, considering whether we resource a third round of briefings, and which further helpful topics we could cover.

HELP YOUNGER RIDERS IMPROVE THEIR SAFETY AND WIN A MOTORBIKE!

Do you or your residents know a motorbike rider up to age 25? If you do, why not let them know that they can win one of 2 great bikes, in a Safer Essex Roads Partnership competition to improve safety amongst this vulnerable road user group. Please pass on the web address at www.street-spirit.co.uk/ - you can find the competition, and its terms and conditions, there.



HELP US HELP YOUR AREA - GREEN CLAIMS

Claims that the council makes against a third party who has damaged council equipment or assets are called 'Green Claims'.

Every year Essex Highways writes off more than half a million pounds because of damage, caused by members of the public, to things like bollards, streetlights and guardrails.

Help us to claim back money to pay for repairs, by reporting details of collisions or other damage to us. If someone reports the details we need, our Green Claims team at green.claims@essex.gov.uk can chase the driver's insurance company. We will treat all details confidentially.

THE KEY DATA THAT WE NEED IS:

- Location (as precise as possible)
- Description of item(s) damaged
- Date and time of incident
- Registration plate of vehicle Description of vehicle
- Photos of incident – best if a photo is included that shows vehicle at location of the damage



Bridge damage caused by collision, West Essex Road closed until repairs can be arranged