

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

NEW
SAFER,
GREENER,
HEALTHIER
MEASURES
INTRODUCED
TO MANY ESSEX
URBAN AREAS





COMMENT COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY

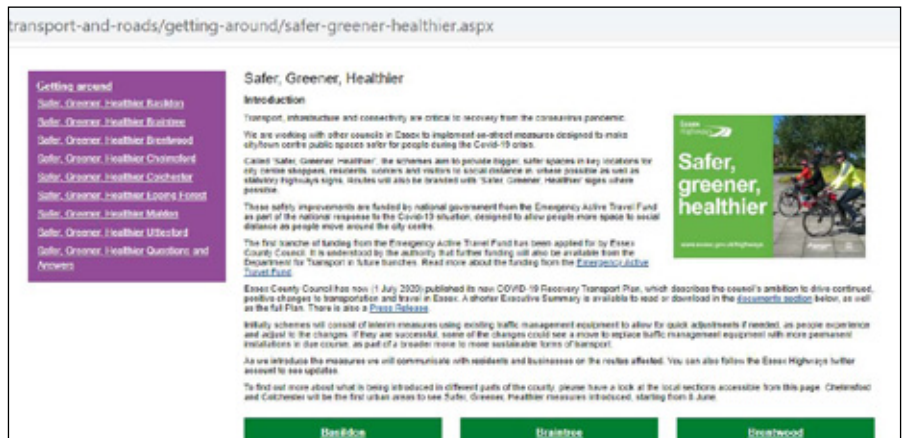
**DEPUTY LEADER,
ESSEX COUNTY
COUNCIL
AND CABINET
MEMBER FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE**

This has been a very busy month as we start to emerge out of lockdown.

While our crews have maintained our defect repair work, we have also been busy getting High Streets across the county open with extended social distancing for both walking and cycling.

During the intense lockdown we saw many more people use alternative methods of transport and this work, helped with Government funding, is helping people move around more safely, it is improving the environment and it is healthier for all of us. It also frees up more space on the road for people who absolutely have to use their car.

NEW SAFER, GREENER, HEALTHIER MEASURES INTRODUCED TO MANY ESSEX URBAN AREAS



As non-essential businesses and shops started re-opening on 8 June, Essex Highways, working with District Councils across Essex, implemented on-street measures designed to make city/town centre public spaces safer for people.

The need for social distancing and more queuing-space requires a fundamental rethink about how our streets and other public spaces, ensure access to everyone safely and fairly.

Under an initiative called ‘Safer, Greener, Healthier’, the schemes aim to provide bigger, safer spaces to better enable social distancing in key locations for shoppers, residents, workers and visitors. As well as statutory highways signs, routes will also be branded with ‘Safer, Greener, Healthier’ signs wherever possible. Starting with Chelmsford and Colchester, measures of various kinds have been introduced to several town centres across the county.

[You can see the current list online on the new Safer Greener Healthier webpages, where you can also find the press releases, an FAQ and, for some more complex schemes, maps.](#) There is also downloadable guidance for local councils about the use of stencils and stickers on Essex pavements. These safety improvements are funded by central government through the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF), part of the national response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The schemes comprise interim measures to start with, as this allow us to make quick adjustments if needed, as people experience and adapt to the changes. However, if successful, some of the changes could see an eventual move to more permanent, green coloured installations as part of wider encouragement to use more sustainable forms of local mobility.

If you have queries or comments about the schemes, email: SGH.routes@essex.gov.uk



TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN PUBLISHED

Essex County Council has already implemented emergency Safer, Greener, Healthier measures in multiple Essex town centres to help people walk and cycle safely while socially distancing.

With the publication recently of Essex Highways new Covid-19 Transport Recovery Plan, the thinking behind the schemes is explained and an approach to future, further measures outlined.



Please see the Executive Summary and the full Plan (see documents section at foot of web page).



NEW GUIDE FOR TRAVEL TO WORK PUBLISHED

Essex County Council has also published a new guide "Smarter Travel for Essex: travelling to work post COVID-19: Briefing for businesses; guidance for employees" to advise owners, staff and customers how to safely travel and transport goods while Covid 19 is still prevalent.

Find it on Essex County Council's coronavirus hub website, under 'Support for Businesses and Employers'



ROAD SURFACING COVERS A LOT OF GROUND - DESPITE RE-ORGANISING FOR COVID-19



Following our update in May, continued good progress has been made. Between 4 May and 22 June, Eurovia Surface Dressing crews completed 81 sites (roads or sections of road) to a total of 870,000 square metres laid.

The more intensive Micro Machine Surfacing crew started work on 18 May and completed Phase 1 on 14 June, completing 9 sites, a total of 68,418 sq metres.

The Micro Hand Lay crew (contractor JPCS) have now completed 10 sites working throughout June, completing 9,000 sq metres. We carried out Joint Sealing from the 9th June on four sites to prevent water getting in and causing more potholes.

Planned resurfacing work in town centres and on residential estates has been re-programmed for next year, with some schemes on other roads brought forward, involving a slight delay in starting some programmes this summer.

70 smaller town centre/residential road schemes for completely new resurfacing were changed into 40 schemes on major roads. 3 crews were working by 1 June, with social distancing measures in place for this complex, expensive process (see warm asphalt video by Cllr Mitchell for a detailed account of how it works.) 24 schemes are now complete, with 19,000 tons of new asphalt laid. Work continues, mainly at night to avoid traffic delays on these main roads.

WARM ASPHALT: SAVES MONEY, ENERGY, TIME AND CUTS POLLUTION

Hot asphalt is a well-known component of many of our road resurfacing jobs.

Recently, Essex has trialled the use of a road surfacing material known as 'warm asphalt' – it's around 50° C cooler than the conventional hot material used for resurfacing, saving energy and cutting pollution.

Cllr David Finch, Leader of ECC, highlighted its use earlier this year at Full Council as a priority and we are now implementing it. Deputy Cabinet Member, Councillor Robert Mitchell explains how it worked during recent works on the A13 at Hadleigh.



CONFIDENCE-BUILDING CYCLE TRAINING OFFER FROM SERP

Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) is supporting the Safer, Greener, Healthier initiative by extending its free cycle training to 1 September.

So, if your residents have taken up cycling over the lockdown period but mentioned that they want a bit more confidence or want to go back to work by bike, please direct them to email: saferessexroads@essexhighways.org and one of SERP's instructors will contact them to offer individual or family group bespoke training to suit their needs.



More Info



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

Potholes fixed per district/city/borough in May are as listed below: When considering these numbers, remember that there are many more miles of road in Uttlesford than in Harlow, for example, and the balance of types of road (main, secondary, local) are different too, so a direct comparison is misleading.

Drain clearing now complete on the A127 where crews worked only at night (using same lane closures as grass cutting teams) to minimise disruption to the travelling public.

June sees regular cleaning of local roads and higher-risk drains on main roads in Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester and Uttlesford.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED
BASILDON	52	37	198	1951
BRAINTREE	70	75	129	0
BRENTWOOD	79	30	72	0
CASTLE POINT	29	39	83	0
CHELMSFORD	104	96	152	4157
COLCHESTER	59	75	41	2410
EPPING FOREST	135	72	90	0
HARLOW	50	43	55	0
MALDON	75	44	6	0
ROCHFORD	22	10	124	0
TENDRING	73	64	117	0
UTTLESFORD	62	49	26	1806
TOTALS	810	634	1093	10324

