

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS



PUBLIC GET FIRST LOOK AT INITIAL OPTIONS FOR CHELMSFORD'S ARMY & NAVY



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VIDEO

Many Essex people will know the Army & Navy junction in Chelmsford. If you live, earn, learn, shop or visit the city it is highly likely that you will have experienced the junction.

Consequently you will also know that the junction is currently operating significantly over capacity in the morning and evening peak hours, meaning drivers regularly experience delays and it offers very little resilience to cope with traffic incidents. The issue has been compounded by the permanent

closure of the Army and Navy flyover, which Essex County Council announced in September 2019 following the recommendation of a detailed engineering report.

The council is now pressing ahead with plans to remove the flyover as soon as possible, while various short-term measures have been put in place to manage traffic flow.

We have now shared initial options for a long-term solution at the junction with the public for the first time. The Department for Transport

has stressed the importance of sustainable transport in any solution to help reduce travel demand throughout the city centre and a city-wide package of potential sustainable transport measures is being developed to complement the final scheme.

The public information brochure, which provides background to the project and outlines the initial options in more detail, including the advantages and disadvantages of the options, is available online at: www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy



COMMENT COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY

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

Winter is definitely here and already our gritters have been out and about across the county to ensure our main roads are kept safe.

I know you will join me in thanking them, as the crews, the same as the ones who fix defects on the highway, go out in all weathers and at all times of the evening and night. I think they are unsung heroes and do the most amazing work.

Also in this issue you will see a new footpath surface we are trialling which shows how innovative Essex Highways is and how it continues to lead the way.

WE NEVER 'TYRE' OF INNOVATION



Essex Highways is constantly trying new techniques, products and tools as innovations that offer good combinations of efficiency, value, durability and usefulness.

Recently in Herongate, Brentwood we have been trialling a promising new material to re-build a Public Right of Way.

Councillors Kevin Bentley and Louise McKinlay, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, recently met on-site in Louise's division to watch the process of mixing the material ('NuFlex' - www.nu-flex.co.uk/) and the crew who were laying it.

A pathway laid with Nu-flex is tough, hard-wearing, provides good grip and is slightly flexible, liked by walkers, runners, horse riders and cyclists alike. One huge advantage is that the material is porous, so even heavy rain just runs straight through, draining into the surrounding grass/soil/gutter, leaving the surface dry and free of ice even in the coldest weather.

Three materials go into the mix: some aggregate (small gravel); polyurethane binder, which holds it all together; and the key

ingredient- recycled rubber tyres. The rubber gives much of the grip and flexibility and is very durable. At the moment HGV tyres are used, which are more durable and enable far more rubber to be extracted from each tyre.

NuFlex is laid cold, so the process doesn't require heating on site, a big advantage over traditional hot asphalt – local pollution may be reduced as a result.

Costs are currently comparable to traditional methods and the councillors saw how fast the specialist crew laid the material, which must be carefully levelled but which then only needs a few hours before it can be walked on.

It has been notoriously hard to find an economical use for used tyres, but careful work in the lab (the amount of binder in the mix is critical) may have found the answer- in these recycling-conscious times a whole new meaning for re-tread?

The councillors were certainly impressed and further trials on other sites in Essex are proposed. If the trials are successful, it may be considered for more widespread use.



POTHoles, PAVEMENTS AND DRAINS FIXED IN SEPTEMBER

Potholes fixed per district/city/borough in September 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.

Drains are cleared in a cyclical programme. Each district is done one after the other in rotation throughout the year. All drains were completed in Maldon this month. In October we continued with the cleanse of drains on local roads in Epping and Braintree targeting urban areas with additional cleansing being carried out on the "risk based network" of those drains we know to be at higher risk of blockage and so flooding.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED
BASILDON	3	7	25	0
BRAINTREE	30	32	14	5522
BRENTWOOD	2	8	24	0
CASTLE POINT	3	11	8	0
CHELMSFORD	2	39	38	0
COLCHESTER	7	16	61	0
EPPING FOREST	9	27	30	2857
HARLOW	0	9	26	0
MALDON	12	0	0	673
ROCHFORD	1	5	138	0
TENDRING	9	32	44	0
UTTLESFORD	5	7	5	1565
TOTALS	83	193	413	10617

74 PAVEMENTS PROGRESSED OF THOSE LOGGED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS - 163 PLANNED

These pavement repairs are in addition to all the standard priority repairs, major rebuilding and slurry sealing pavement works.

To date crews have completed 74 (up from 26 last month) repairs logged by councillors, with 163 further repairs planned to complete by 31 March 2020.

Examples include: Alfels Rd in Elmstead Market where many older people will benefit; missing kerbs replaced on Stansted Rd, Colchester; Littell Tweed in Springfield which was prone to flooding and freezing and repairs to the uneven surface on Swan



Mead in Vange, Basildon. (Photos are from repair works on Maltings Green Rd, Layer de la Haye, Colchester.) Work continues on Member-requested footways repairs through until March, weather-permitting.



IS MY ROAD BEING GRITTED?

As the weather turns colder, people want to know if and when roads in Essex are being gritted.

The easiest way to find out is to follow our twitter account @essexhighways, as we tweet our decisions daily. Sometimes we only grit in certain areas, according to local specialist weather forecasts. You can check the five areas of Essex we divide gritting up into (we call them 'domains') on our gritting map.



DON'T FORGET OUR WEBSITE

www.essex.gov.uk/highways - is a veritable treasure-trove of reference information, as well as the place to go to report problems.

Not only can you catch up on back issues of Highways Highlights (in the 'News and Press Releases' section); you can check current and future local roadworks, check highway records and get updates on key schemes under way. There are also videos, downloads and various maps available, as well as Local Highway Panel information and lots more information, so check it out!

Missed an issue?
HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS
 back issues can be found here