

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

Constantly vigilant

For a variety of practical, safety, technical and cost reasons we deliver most of our works during the day. However what most people don't notice is that we are also busy overnight, at the weekends and during public holidays including Christmas and New Year.

In some cases this is to deliver very large or complex projects, but more often Essex Highways responds to out of hours incidents ranging from multi-vehicle collisions, public reports of missing gully covers, safety critical defects, flooding or weather related incidents and traffic lights that have failed.

Continues overleaf

Widderitch Lane



Comment Councillor Kevin Bentley

Deputy Leader,
Essex County Council
and Cabinet Member
for Infrastructure



As 2018 draws to a close we've had a busy time and I am grateful to the teams who have worked hard to get our roads repaired and ready for winter. We have seen a huge number either surfaced dressed or re surfaced.

Through the defects initiative a greater number of potholes have been repaired on top of our on-going

work. I have been privileged to join our crews working on sites across the county and have been impressed. Our winter service is now in full swing to ensure we keep our roads safe. May I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

You can see the video version of Councillor Bentley's message by clicking [here](#).



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Backed by a small call centre team who take out-of-hours calls, our duty Stand-By Officers co-ordinate the expertise and equipment needed to deal with the immediate problem. For instance if there is a vehicle collision or fallen tree an Emergency Response crew will work with the police or fire-brigade to get the road or footway cleared and made safe. This may involve removing debris, putting live electrical connections out of harm's way and erecting temporary barriers and warning signs.

This is called 'making safe' – it may not always look pretty, but it's a crucial step to reopening the road or footway swiftly, making sure it is safe to use. And if there has been a fuel spillage or safety critical defect it may be necessary to arrange for the road to be resurfaced or patched as happened recently under the A12 at Howe Green following a collision. As with the seasonal gritting service, many emergency repairs are carried out overnight, at weekends and holidays unnoticed by the public.

Continued mild weather in November enables more pothole progress

With the main routes in good condition following our seasonal summer capital programmes and a long period of generally favourable weather, work to fill potholes has emphatically shifted to concentrate on local roads, with the new injection (jet) patchers, thermal patching and recycling providing 2,750 potholes fixes so far, using Essex County Council' extra £2.5m investment.

In November we also repaired an additional 1,472 risk-assessed safety-critical potholes and 882 defects on pavements either by spot-fixing or eradicating them entirely by replacing the surface along a length. We also repaired 58 defects on what we call "remote footways", i.e. those not next to the carriageway. Of the 643 'Top 10' defects nominated so far by County Members, over 104 and counting have been patched, as we group them into efficient batches for work.

Main road drains in Brentwood, Maldon, Uttlesford, Rochford and Tendring have been jetted and cleaned with additional work to clear long-term problems in Basildon, Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester and Epping. An astonishing 11,535 drains have been cleared across Essex during November. The data below lists potholes fixed per district/city/borough in November, not including the Top 20 pothole programme.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED
BASILDON	54	131	19	30
BRAINTREE	25	140	16	57
BRENTWOOD	11	79	19	759
CASTLE POINT	7	96	21	(starting soon)
CHELMSFORD	15	77	185	153
COLCHESTER	13	71	103	63
EPPING FOREST	48	237	24	89
HARLOW	4	139	1	0
MALDON	13	20	4	3,151
ROCHFORD	8	164	455	1,400
TENDRING	13	114	24	1,994
UTTLESFORD	9	43	11	3,585
A127				254
Essex TOTALS	220	1,311	882	11,535



Our website - a valuable information resource

Got a new tablet, computer or smartphone for Christmas? Why not use the holiday period to check out our Essex Highways website?

Beyond the Report It and Check a Query tools, it contains hundreds of pages of useful background information on most highways topics.

We update and add pages regularly – for instance, recently we have added information about the [A127 Economic Growth Corridor](#), one of the many major initiatives that Essex County Council are involved in.

There are videos, downloads and various maps available, as well as [Local Highway Panel information](#) and lots more information, so check it out!

And if you have ideas for other topics you'd like to see in future, let us know so we can consider it.



Follow the feed!

Follow us on twitter for winter gritting updates and other useful highways info. To read all our winter service information, visit our winter webpages, at: www.essexhighways.org/Roads-and-Pavements/winter-travel.aspx

