

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

LATEST 'MEMBER-LED' POTHOLE REPAIR SCHEME UNDERWAY

Following last year's hugely successful 'member-led' pothole repair initiative there is now another chance for county councillors to put forward their priority repairs after a major cash investment by Essex County Council.

The new programme follows two previous schemes, in 2018 and 2019, which saw hundreds of extra road and footway problems fixed in addition to repairs completed routinely because of their immediate risk to safety.

Through August and September, each Essex County Councillor has been invited to liaise with their local Parishes and Districts and use their own local knowledge so Members can nominate a list of locally important pothole locations to Essex Highways for repair. The road defects submitted will then be fixed permanently as soon as possible.

Each county councillor will be able to avail of a repair crew in their area for up to 10 days, working to the County Councillor's list. The work will focus on some of the most locally irritating potholes which may not normally be considered for immediate repair under existing maintenance policies.



COMMENT COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY

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

I am delighted that we are able to re-run the Member led pothole scheme which was such a success last year and puts Council Councillors in control of repairs in their Divisions.

I hope you are also liaising with your District and Parish/Town colleagues to assist in getting some of these defects fixed quickly.

I am also pleased to report that from April to July we were able to fix over 5,000 defect repairs with proper social distancing in place. This is because of the brilliance and hard work of all of our crews. Like you, I am very proud of them.

BID FOR SECOND STAGE TRAVEL FUNDING SUBMITTED

Early in August Essex County Council submitted an ambitious bid for further Government Emergency Active Travel funding to the Department for Transport (DfT).

The proposals built on recent experience gained from the emergency Safer, Greener, Healthier measures set up in several towns across Essex, the previously published Essex Cycling Strategy and existing planning already underway.

Nearly 20 proposals were evaluated against DfT criteria and the strongest five were shortlisted and included in one overall bid. The schemes submitted are

required by DfT to reallocate road space to active travel measures such as cycling and walking to ensure better access to town centres, places of employment and other key areas.

Schemes were submitted covering Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford and Colchester. A summary is available in the [Press Release](#). We expect the DfT to announce bid results later in the Autumn.

Over the longer-term, the intention is to improve public health and reduce congestion and pollution, by providing more opportunity to use more sustainable forms of travel where possible.



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO THE STOP, SWAP, GO! 60 DAY CHALLENGE?

The Stop.Swap.GO! 60 Day Challenge is in full swing with hundreds of people across Essex taking part in daily walking and cycling tasks that are building lasting sustainable travel habits.

Prizes are dished out weekly with details of winners shared on social media alongside helpful tips and progress updates of those taking part.

The challenge is still open for new sign-ups and there are still plenty of prizes to be won just for including more walking and cycling into your usual routines.

As the back to school season is also now upon us Stop.Swap.GO! has started to share information supporting

parents and young people travelling back to school.

Updates on the website and social media are about encouraging more walking and cycling, raising awareness on social distancing on the buses and highlighting the likelihood of traffic gridlock.

Look out for maps of walking and cycling routes around secondary schools and 'drive and drop' zones to decrease congestion at the school gates – all available on the [website](#).

Sign-up and take part in the 60 Day Challenge on the [website](#) and follow the campaign for all Stop.Swap.GO! content on [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).



WORKING FOR THE PUBLIC: ESSEX HIGHWAYS KEPT ROADS SAFE AND IMPROVEMENTS ON TRACK

The start of the pandemic lockdown in March introduced a torrid, challenging and frightening period for individuals, organisations and society.

Throughout it all, Essex Highways was able to adapt successfully and at speed, keeping the roads open for people to use safely; adjusting forward programmes in changing and ambiguous circumstances so that improvements could continue; and keeping the workforce and the public safe at all times.

And all this without the access to offices and depots. **Watch our short video**, which opens the door on the incredible work that was achieved in unheard of times.



WATCH HOW ESSEX HIGHWAYS
RESPONDED TO THE PANDEMIC



JUNCTION 7A M11 WORKS UNDERWAY



Works to deliver one of the county's largest new infrastructure projects have begun this month.

The new M11 Junctions 7A at Harlow will see a new motorway junction and link road created, connecting the M11 with Gildea Way, east of Harlow, and creating a new east-west link through the town.

Funded through Highways England and Essex County Council, the scheme will help support future housing and economic growth, ease congestion on the local road

network and create new public transport opportunities. It also generates opportunities for a safer, greener, healthier way of transport through increased and improved walking and cycling infrastructure.

Works on the scheme are being undertaken by contractor Graham and are due to be completed by 2022. For more information on the background and to sign up for the scheme newsletter visit:

www.essex.gov.uk/junction7a

For any enquiries please email: m11j7a@essex.gov.uk

INNOVATION: NEW "RECOFOAM" ROAD RESURFACING MATERIAL SAVES CO2 AND RECYCLES THE OLD ROAD!



This saves up to half of the CO2 normally produced while heating conventional "hot mix" asphalts.

This "Heavy Duty" material is being trialled on Hawkwood Rd, South Hanningfield in the Chelmsford Council area.

It is as durable as other materials, and follows trials of "Warm-mix" asphalt for top surface layers featured in **Highways Highlights in June**.

Councillor Robert Mitchell, Deputy Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, explains how using this new material for base courses when resurfacing uses up to 85% recycled materials (usually the material planed off roads before resurfacing) in a cold mix material.

WATCH THE VIDEO



BACK TO NORMAL HOURS OF USE FOR ESSEX CONCESSIONARY BUS PASS HOLDERS

In March, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, ECC extended the hours of operation for Essex bus passes to all day from the usual off-peak times to help people make use of early hours opening for high risk groups.

Now businesses and shops are starting to return to normal, with schools preparing for a September return, social distancing requirements on bus services mean that during the peak morning travel period there will be additional pressure on bus capacity for school children and workers.

As a result, ECC has agreed with bus operators that the times of operation

for Essex concessionary bus passes are returning to normal hours - 9am to midnight on weekdays and all times on weekends and public holidays from Tuesday, 1 September 2020.

If you know of pass holders who want to travel outside the hours of operation of their bus pass please let them know that they will once again need to pay the full fare for their journey from this date.



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

Potholes fixed per district/city/ borough in July 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 cleared in July on our regular cyclical programme and according to risk-based clearing on both main and local roads are shown.

Drains cleared in Braintree were on dual carriageways. Castle Point continued in August. Chelmsford was completed in July.

August drain clearing also in Basildon, Castle Point, Colchester and Uttlesford.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	107	38	169	2877	602
BRAINTREE	125	128	26	114	209
BRENTWOOD	13	28	27	0	143
CASTLE POINT	27	40	9	816	170
CHELMSFORD	35	57	33	2889	307
COLCHESTER	38	65	28	3258	241
EPPING FOREST	79	79	19	0	160
HARLOW	24	35	9	0	306
MALDON	28	20	19	0	70
ROCHFORD	19	13	29	0	126
TENDRING	15	53	66	0	234
UTTLESFORD	63	69	24	1574	109
TOTALS	573	625	458	11528	2677

