

# HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL  
TIPS AND  
INFORMATION  
FOR LOCAL  
COUNCILLORS

## READY FOR WINTER



**With the first month of Autumn almost over and done with, it's time for us to get geared up and ready to deliver this year's winter gritting programme.**

Our salt-barns have been filled and our drivers will be on stand-by from 24 October. You may also see the gritter vehicles out and about at the beginning of October even though it probably won't be cold enough. Don't worry, this is just to allow our drivers to refresh their knowledge of all the routes we grit and learn the new routes introduced through our route optimisation schemes.

Last year, we began a route optimisation scheme which saw 12 routes combined into six. A further optimisation has been carried out ahead of this winter season. Using the ExacTrak gritter routing software, changes were able to be easily made in-house to routes, reducing the need for five vehicles.

Routes have also been made more efficient, reducing fuel spend on 'dead running' - when the gritter is travelling but not spreading any grit as its on its way to the route. For Stansted depot, where a full route redesign was undertaken, dead running was reduced by 32% or 68 miles saving £3k over the winter along with five tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Similar gains have been made in other depots. Overall £10k less will be spent on fuel this year, saving 14T of CO<sub>2</sub>. The reduction of 11 routes and added efficiency enhancements mean that the Essex Winter service this year is being delivered for £216k less than two years ago.

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## **In Memorium**

**Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**  
**21 April 1926 to 8 September 2022**

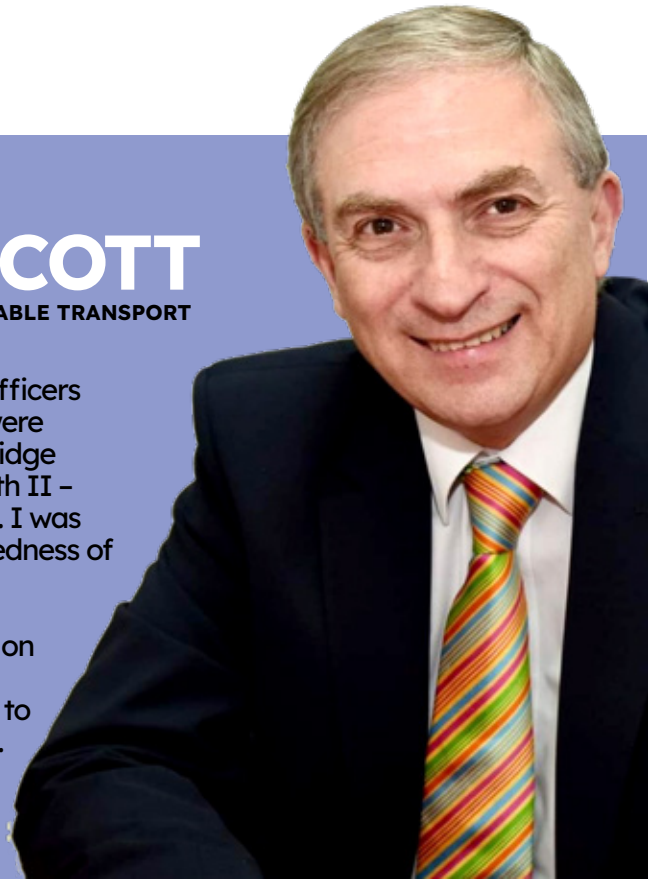


# COMMENT COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Firstly, I'd like to extend my thanks to all our Highways officers who, with other agencies and the emergency services, were involved in the planning aspects of Operation London Bridge – the arrangements for the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II – with regard to how it might have involved travel in Essex. I was impressed with the levels of support offered and preparedness of the service.

In our August issue, we reported how Essex Highways is on track to successfully complete its LED Streetlighting replacement scheme on time and to cost despite having to mitigate the effects of a global shortage of components. I'm pleased to say that telecell deliveries have resumed and that the programme will be accelerated in Quarter 1, 2023, to meet its original completion date.



## READY FOR WINTER

Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council, says; "Throughout our winter maintenance period, our gritter crews are on standby. Long range weather forecasts cannot always tell us with any reliability what sort of winter weather we may get. Last winter in Essex our gritters went out 59 times on our 59 routes, covering 114,429 miles and using a little over 12,993 tonnes of salt on our road network.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank our gritter team for the vital work they do to keep our road network moving safely throughout the winter months. The gritter drivers are the same operatives who repair potholes, jet drains etc, so they are very busy at this time of year."

If you want to refresh your own memory of roads we grit, please have a look at our [gritting routes map online](#)

Don't forget that National Highways, **not Essex Highways**, grit the A12, A120, M11 and M25 in Essex.

You can also find out much more on our other extensive winter travel pages - and if you would like to get daily alerts about whether we are gritting or not, then please follow our [Essex Highways twitter feed](#).

**'ADDED EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENTS MEAN THAT THE ESSEX WINTER SERVICE THIS YEAR IS BEING DELIVERED FOR £216K LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO'**





# SMART AND SHINY



Pictured are the five new welcome additions to our gritter fleet, which each offer some pretty nifty technical upgrades to the winter service.

Each vehicle is equipped with a salt spreading programme that can automatically spread salt at certain points of each route, varying the quantities used to match the conditions

needed for each section of road. This reduces waste and ensures that road surfaces receive an optimised amount of salt.

We'll soon be issuing details of a gritter naming competition, so that our new additions can join Gritty Gritty Bang Bang and Grit Notley out on the network. Details will follow soon!







## £67 MILLION FUNDING BID FOR ARMY AND NAVY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PACKAGE

**Essex County Council has now agreed to submit an outline business case for the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package - the next stage of the bidding process for funding.**

The decision is an important milestone for the project and another step towards providing a long-term and sustainable solution at the Army and Navy junction, encouraging safer, greener and healthier travel in and around Chelmsford.

The proposed package of improvements includes a hamburger roundabout (a new roundabout with a road through the centre of it) at the Army and Navy junction, as well as

improved sustainable and active travel provision at the junction, with bus priority measures and walking and cycling improvements at the junction itself and on the approaches to and from the roundabout. The package also includes a 350-space expansion of Sandon Park and Ride, and a 500-space expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride.

Planning applications for the various elements of the £80million project, which will also be part funded by the county council and Chelmsford City Council, are now expected to be submitted next year. Based on the current programme, construction is scheduled to start in early 2025.

### WHAT THE HAMBURGER ROUNDABOUT OFFERS:

**Resembling the look of a hamburger, this type of roundabout has a main road running through it. Traffic would be able to travel straight through the centre of the junction between Essex Yeomanry Way and Parkway.**

Other movements would be made using the roundabout, with traffic signals used to manage flows and priority. The roundabout would predominantly have three lanes around the circulatory, while there would be two lanes in each direction on the road through the middle of central island between Parkway and Essex Yeomanry Way. A left-turn slip road would be created between Chelmer Road and Essex Yeomanry Way.

The proposed design includes significantly improved walking and cycling facilities at ground-level at the junction, replacing the current subway and creating attractive, safe and accessible routes. Fully segregated cycle lanes and direct crossings are proposed, in line with

Department for Transport's latest guidance. Optimised signal timings would help ensure pedestrians and cyclists can travel across the junction safely and quickly. New bus lanes and bus priority measures would be added on Parkway and the bus lane would be extended on Essex Yeomanry Way. The latest modelled journey time improvements for the Hamburger Roundabout are:

**Average journey times for cyclists will be 44% quicker**

**Bus journey times will be about 40% faster on average**

**Journeys will be 53% quicker on average for motorised vehicles**

**Walking through the junction at ground level will be about 11% quicker**





## RINGWAY JACOBS OUT TO INSPIRE FUTURE HIGHWAYS WORKERS

**On 21 September, representatives from Ringway Jacobs attended a careers event at Chelmsford Racecourse to promote the different roles available in our sector.**

The event was attended by eight schools who sent their eager 16-year-olds along to experience the great variety of career fields they could enter once they leave school.

We had 11 members of staff, each from different areas of the company, assist the event including members from design, maintenance, performance, commercial, finance, and communications. This allowed us to give the students a comprehensive insight into the wide range of roles and activities that make up the Highways sector.

Throughout the entire event, over 100 students came to speak to us with an interest in a career in highways... and of course the branded goody bags proved very popular too! After the success of this career event, we are heading to another one at the beginning of October.



# WEEDS: THERE'S NO TRACE WITH FOAM

On 21 September, Essex Highways trialled a heated, plant-based foam weedkiller to assess its potential as a safer, eco-friendlier alternative to chemical-based sprays. Exposure to heat makes plants shrivel up and die but using hot water and steam on weeds tends to be ineffective because heat escapes too quickly into the atmosphere to cause enough damage to the plants.

UK company Weedingtech has developed a foam made of natural oils and sugars from plants that is able to trap and retain heat when mixed with hot water. The foam is applied to weeds at a temperature of 97°C using a handheld spraying lance. This creates a thermal blanket around the weeds that kills them within 48 hours. The foam and dead weeds then biodegrade into the soil.

Although the foam is slightly more expensive than chemical weedkillers and slower to apply, Weedingtech claim it to be more cost-effective than other non-herbicide options currently available on the market. The merits of using Foamstream in Essex will be assessed to see if it offers viable operational benefit to the service, along with substances such as Wood Vinegar, a combination of wood sap and vinegar, which we have also recently trialled in Frinton-On-Sea.



## ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING AUGUST 2022

In August, we continued to repair carriageway and footway defects. When looking at these numbers, it is important to remember that repairs are prioritised by severity not by district, so numbers can vary considerably. Streetlights-fixed totals don't include the work being carried out in the LED upgrade programme.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	7	20	191	2469	179
BRAINTREE	30	58	31	120	80
BRENTWOOD	8	48	41	0	120
CASTLE POINT	2	6	6	0	48
CHELMSFORD	46	23	18	1592	186
COLCHESTER	22	73	35	0	176
EPPING FOREST	32	25	30	2045	146
HARLOW	17	42	13	1984	193
MALDON	16	18	46	0	53
ROCHFORD	10	6	3	0	168
TENDRING	25	48	15	2624	215
UTTLESFORD	15	29	23	0	145
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>10834</b>	<b>1709</b>