

HELPFUL
INFORMATION
AND TIPS
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

Local repair programme in full swing

Since the Top 20 Pothole Repair Programme was announced in September, County Members have been busy, consulting with their local parishes and districts to identify the potholes they most want repaired.

Using the additional funds made available, eight additional repair gangs have been busy out on our road network over recent weeks, repairing the defects that County Members have prioritised.

To maximise efficiency, the gangs are

working area by area, on grouped defects. A variety of techniques including injection-patching are being used, with individual solutions selected based on defects.

But not only that – once we have set up what we call ‘traffic management’ (basically the safety zone, marked with cones, barriers etc) to make a repair, where possible the gangs also repair nearby potholes identified across all levels of safety priority.

So far (16 Nov) we have not only repaired more than 50 of the highlighted potholes, but also a further 1800 other local defects. This is in addition to the potholes repairs we complete under the existing risk-assessed procedure we use (see next article). Provided the weather remains reasonable, the pace of the programme will continue right up until the Christmas break, and then restart in the New Year.

Comment | Councillor Kevin Bentley

Deputy Leader, Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

I am delighted that we have been able to fix so many potholes and other minor defects as a result of the extra money announced in May.

I hope you have found the reporting system beneficial and that you are seeing direct repairs taking place at your request.

I have also had tremendous feedback on the 'buddy' system with many County Members now being able to discuss local outstanding highways issues with an Officer which has led to some long term matters now in the process of being resolved.

I hope you enjoy this issue and find all the information useful.



Mild weather means high numbers of potholes fixed

The mild weather through October and well into November has really helped us keep the pace of general repairs up. It has also helped us deliver a number of resurfacing schemes around the county.

Nevertheless, it's worth remembering that any winter weather we experience will lead to a seasonal decline in repairs made (as operatives are refocused on gritting), and an associated increase in new potholes forming.

Drain clearance underway

Main road drains in Epping Forest have now been cleaned, with Basildon, Brentwood, Maldon and Uttlesford following during November. A full network clean is underway in Tendring urban areas and Rochford, and about to start in Harlow and Castle Point. Colchester and Braintree areas will be cleaned together in early 2019.





Potholes fixed

We list below the October risk-assessed safety priority pothole numbers we have fixed per District/Borough/City. 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. Pavement (what engineers call footways) defects fixed in August are in the fourth column:

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED
BASILDON	28	34	17
BRAINTREE	17	44	25
BRENTWOOD	4	44	120
CASTLE POINT	3	40	8
CHELMSFORD	8	41	131
COLCHESTER	16	93	52
EPPING FOREST	20	150	35
HARLOW	2	187	20
MALDON	17	30	6
ROCHFORD	4	61	7
TENDRING	11	125	136
UTTLESFORD	17	20	13
A127	-	-	-
TOTALS	147	869	570
GRAND TOTAL (ALL)			1586

Gullies cleared

Gullies cleared per district/city/borough in October are as listed below: The difference between districts should even out to an extent (remembering some areas more drains than others) as crews work to do roads in one area before moving on to the next.

BASILDON	230
BRAINTREE	84
BRENTWOOD	468
CASTLE POINT	100
CHELMSFORD	737
COLCHESTER	0
EPPING FOREST	608
HARLOW	0
MALDON	1608
ROCHFORD	1334
TENDRING	1964
UTTLESFORD	1284
A127	491
GRAND TOTAL	8908

Update: Local Devolution of Highways Services

In mid-November Councillor Bentley and Highways officers met with interested Town and Parish council representatives at County Hall to discuss a pilot project to devolve some highways maintenance functions to these local councils.

and resources would make these councils well-placed to deliver lower complexity but locally important works such as verge-cutting and weed control, local sign maintenance, bus shelters and simple maintenance of local Public Rights of Way.

Those councils are now considering the detail and opportunities offered in the proposals. Local knowledge

Discussions continue, with the aim to get a pilot programme underway in signed up councils, early in 2019.



Lest we forget

Maintenance manager at Springfield Depot, Dean Willsher, volunteered to meet Great Notley Parish Council's request for barriers at their centenary Remembrance Sunday parade.

We try to support communities with similar requests when we can. Charities, schools or local groups can approach their local Essex County Councillor who can contact Essex Highways on their behalf.



Direct Delivery powers ahead

Earlier this year we introduced a directly-employed team to improve the delivery of smaller, simpler Local Highway Panel projects.

The single team has proven to be very good at delivering many schemes quicker and cheaper than having to tender through third-party suppliers.

Following this success, we are introducing a second gang, extending our ability to get simpler approved LHP schemes installed.

The Panels have responded enthusiastically, by so far identifying a further 50 approved schemes that could be delivered by the new gangs. The second gang starts work in January. Read more about LHPs at: www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads/Highway-Schemes-and-Developments/Local-Highway-Panels.aspx



Follow the feed!

Are you into social media? If not, you can join twitter in a minute and start following all or any of our information feeds. Local MPs, councillors and many parishes already follow us. There's loads of live, useful info as well as interesting ideas.

With Winter now upon us, these are a useful source of information if you're planning journeys over the forthcoming festive period, especially should we experience extreme weather as we did last year...

Twitter feeds you might find useful:

[@essexhighways](https://twitter.com/essexhighways) – for warnings of major road closures for our works, progress reports and general useful highways info

[@Essex_Travel](https://twitter.com/Essex_Travel) – followed by almost 50,000 people, the Essex Travel Control Centre tweets live incidents, congestion and roads cleared Monday to Friday 6am-8pm

[@HighwaysEAST](https://twitter.com/HighwaysEAST) – regional Highways England feed with live incidents and congestion on their roads through Essex and beyond– A12; M11; M25; A120

[@MetOfficeEEng](https://twitter.com/MetOfficeEEng) – regional East of England weather forecasting

Highways Highlights is available online at: <http://bit.ly/2M2TFEQ> Please share the link

