

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF ROADWORKER ABUSE

None of us should put up with abuse, threats and violence in the workplace. Sadly, many public service staff face this problem daily – none more so than our road workers.

In an already potentially dangerous working environment, the teams working for the public to repair and improve our roads face further unacceptable risks.

Whether it is swearing, threats or more dangerous behaviours such as ignoring signs, removing barriers and even driving into or through roadworks at speed, it is never acceptable.

At a recent staff briefing, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council, Kevin Bentley and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure said: "It is very important that those who work on our roads feel both safe and respected.

"They do a valuable job both building and maintaining our transport network to ensure we can all get from A to B.

"They certainly do not deserve to be subjected to threatening behaviour from members of the public - instances of which continue to happen. This is why I am supporting



the introduction of CCTV and use of body-worn video cameras to ensure that anyone abusing our colleagues for simply doing their job will be prosecuted where possible."

Cllr Bentley adds: "If you witness any of our road workers being subjected to threatening behaviour, please report it to Essex Police on 101. If you have dashcam or mobile phone film, you can also pass a copy of it on to the police through the Extra Eyes website."

He asks all drivers at roadworks to remember that every worker and highway engineer on the road

is someone's relative, friend or neighbour. Would they want their loved one injured, threatened, abused or living in fear of people driving aggressively through roadworks?

'IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THOSE WHO WORK ON OUR ROADS FEEL BOTH SAFE AND RESPECTED. THEY DO A VALUABLE JOB BOTH BUILDING AND MAINTAINING OUR TRANSPORT NETWORK'

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY

Deputy Leader, Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure



Welcome to the April edition of Highways Highlights which I hope as a Councillor at all tiers of local authorities you find helpful. In this edition you will see my views about abusive behaviour towards our highways staff and be in no doubt I take this very seriously. I hope you will help if you see any such actions taking place. We also have a programme to continue repairing and maintaining our roads in the coming months as well as reporting back on our pothole repairs in your district. Please pass this information on to anyone who will find it useful.

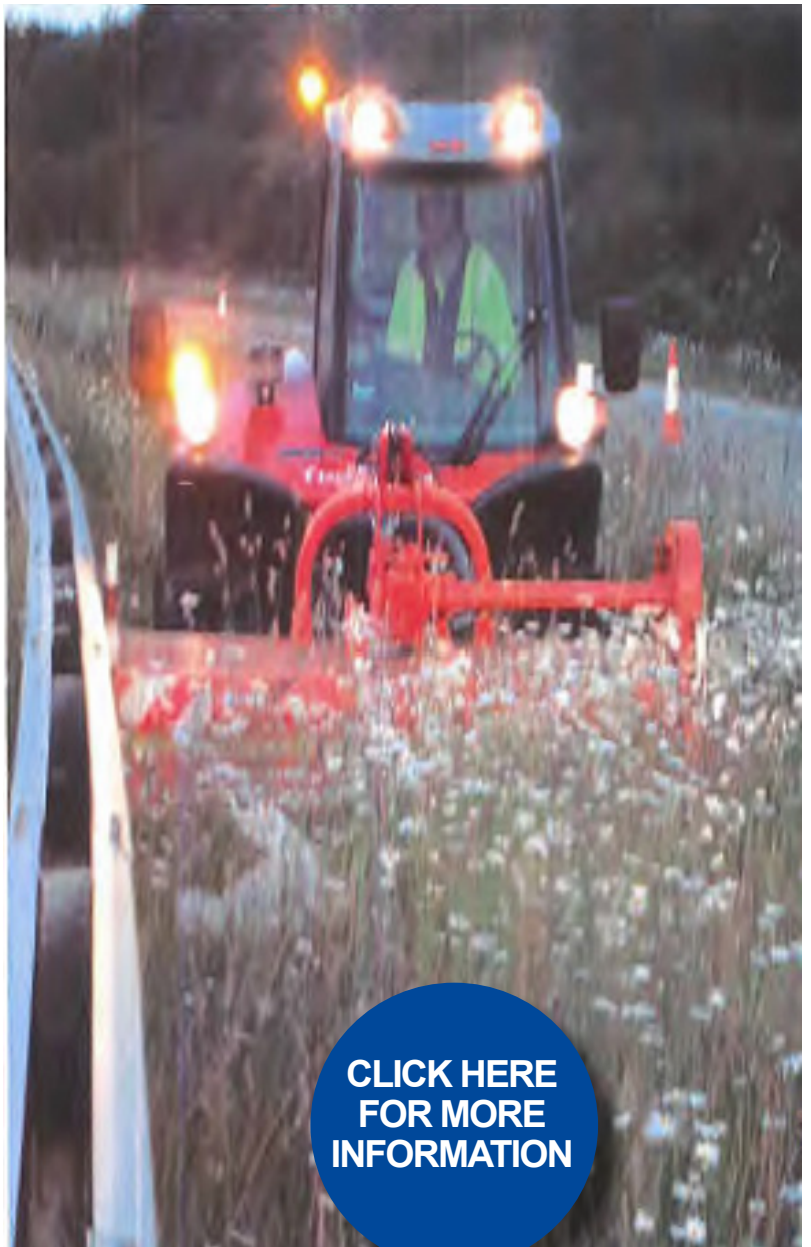
VEGETATION CREWS **SPRING** INTO ACTION



Verge cutting in Parishes in many areas starts in May, as does weed spraying in urban areas to control weed growth.

Roadside verges get cut back to preserve sightlines and keep them clear of overhanging trees and shrubs and we pay special attention to cutting down growth along our high-speed roads, which includes sections of the A13, a little of the A120, A130, A127, A1245 and A133.

Our crews always have to clear tons of rubbish from the verges before they can cut them, so anything that can be done locally to encourage people to take their rubbish home will save us time and money!



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INFORMATION**

PIONEERING PARALLEL CROSSINGS

Although they're not yet mentioned in the Highway Code, Essex is joining a growing band of pioneer councils introducing a new addition to existing zebra-type crossings.

Known as 'parallel crossings' these new type of crossings give crossing cyclists priority over all traffic on the road, which should give way. The aim is to speed up cycle journeys to make cycling a more attractive option as part of shifts away from reliance on cars for shorter journeys. The name comes from the fact that the additional crossing area is 'parallel' and adjacent to the existing zebra.

Just as pedestrians should act when approaching zebra crossings, at the new parallel crossings cyclists approaching from an adjacent cycle path or footway should slow or stop to give motorists a chance to stop for them.

In Essex, the first parallel crossing is likely to be opened in Basildon, with others to follow swiftly in Chelmsford, Harlow, Colchester and eventually elsewhere. If you are a driver, simply treat the parallel crossing as you would a zebra crossing, being ready to give way and stop for cyclists you see approaching or waiting to cross.



PARALLEL CROSSINGS

The photographs show an example of a Parallel Crossing located in Nottingham.

They have been devised as a means to assist traffic flow, help improve journey times for cyclists and motorists alike, as well as helping to ensure the safety of pedestrians.



SURFACING PROGRAMMES IN FULL SWING FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

This is the time of year when you will now see more road and footway surfacing across the county, as our annual Capital Programme for resurfacing swings into action to improve and prolong the life of our roads.

Over the autumn and winter months we have been out on the network patching the worst defects and repairing associated faults in areas where we will now undertake a surfacing treatment.

In many cases we use a technique called 'Surface Dressing', where previous surveys and technical assessments of the road in question indicate that it is the best treatment to use. It restores the road's waterproofing and skid resistance, protecting the layers underneath for longer. We also re-white line it. It is a fast treatment, covering several miles of road in one day and so financially efficient where the underlying condition of the road allows it.

Microsurfacing is a more intensive treatment where smaller town or estate roads can be given a long-lasting waterproofing. And when necessary and where we have the budget we may consider a full resurfacing (remove asphalt and re-lay) or even a full depth re-build, although we try to manage the roads so these more expensive treatments are not needed too much.


You can see this year's programme of work as an interactive map, watch a number of videos and read more at www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing.



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED
BASILDON	6	58	10	131
BRAINTREE	44	38	5	5826
BRENTWOOD	9	44	1	Started April
CASTLE POINT	15	165	4	206
CHELMSFORD	31	33	3	4239
COLCHESTER	27	73	24	Completed previously
EPPING FOREST	46	64	41	Completed previously
HARLOW	3	79	2	1934
MALDON	10	12	0	Started April
ROCHFORD	13	34	4	236
TENDRING	31	14	12	Started April
UTTLESFORD	5	28	0	701
TOTALS	240	642	106	13273



Missed an issue?
Highways Highlights back issues can be found [here](#)