

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

RESURFACING RESTARTS

Although some road surfacing is completed all year round, our major resurfacing programme in Essex begins with the new financial year and warmer weather from April. But what is resurfacing and why is it important?



If you have wooden window frames at home, you'll know of the constant maintenance battle to stop rot setting in. You can keep on filling and painting bits, but there comes a time when it makes better sense to replace them. Our road surfaces are similar: we can and do fix separate potholes, but eventually our inspections and technical scans show that it would be more economical and efficient to renew the entire surface.

By resurfacing, the road surface becomes more water-resistant, reduces potholes, improves white-lining and skid-resistance for years to come. This efficient, data-led approach is known nationally as "Asset Management". Our engineers carefully inspect and record the condition of all our roads, and plan surfacing with the right technique according to how worn, how busy, and how fast the road is.

[Continues>](#)

COMMENT COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT



CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT


Now that we have moved into Spring Essex Highways is turning its attention away from the winter service and the clear up from Storm Eunice to planning and delivering our programme of highways maintenance over late Spring and through Summer.

Now that the clocks have gone forward and we have lighter evenings (although perhaps not yet consistently high temperatures!), I would encourage you to try to walk and cycle more.

In this issue you can find out more about the Go Jauntly App and the Travel Essex App which we are launching which we hope will make more sustainable travelling easier.



RESURFACING RESTARTS

From April the interactive map found on our website will show you where we are planning to do each type of surfacing. 

We ask residents or visitors not to park on the section to be resurfaced, as that can cause costly re-visits or even prevent the work being done at all. On the busiest routes surfacing is done at night. We understand

that night works can cause delays and possible disturbance to sleeping residents.

However, they are completely necessary to allow longer working sessions avoiding peak traffic, enabling the work to be completed more quickly with minimal delays for drivers.”

Find out more about our surfacing work on our website. 

SURFACING TECHNIQUES

Surface dressing is used where the surface is in reasonably good condition, but needs sealing to stop water ingress which can last up to ten years. We can cover a large area very quickly at relatively low cost. We use surface dressing on most of our surfacing programme.



Micro surfacing is a slightly more durable and more expensive process which places a thin layer of a completely new surface on the road. It takes longer to cover a given area than surface dressing but is used where roads are busier, and the road needs more levelling off.



Machine resurfacing is where the existing surface is removed, and completely new depth of surface is laid as a replacement. It is a more expensive and slow process but is a great treatment to use in places where the road is badly worn and is required to take heavy traffic.



Recycling is only used in limited areas where the road is very badly out of shape. A very durable new surface can be laid, and logistics make it easier to re-use existing materials rather than bring in new stone. It is marginally more expensive treatment per area covered than resurfacing or other treatments.



Joint and crack sealing is necessary to stop water ingress to the underlying surface. The road surface type will determine which method will be used, this could be cork and reseal, recessed repairs or overbanding.

OUT AND ABOUT FOR THE COUNTY'S VIEWS

The Communications team, along with some happy helpers from across the service, are hitting the streets of Essex to carry out biannual Customer Satisfaction surveys.

The surveys, which began on 22 March and will be running until the end of April, involve groups of four attending key areas in each of the 12 districts to find out how satisfied residents are with different aspects of Essex's road network. The results will provide valuable insight into resident's perceptions,

issues and will indicate trends in particular areas.

This will help us understand where we could improve, change or adapt our policies and practices, to provide an even safer, better value highways service to the people of Essex.

The survey covers:

- Roads
- Pavements
- Traffic lights
- Streetlights/ LED
- Safety signs
- Drains
- Winter service
- Structures (Bridges and Subways)



SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

Transforming travel in Essex

NEW SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL APP LAUNCHED FOR ESSEX

Travelling in and around Essex has become simpler this week, following the launch of the new TravelEssex app

A free-to-use sustainable journey planner, the new app helps people in Essex to plan their journeys and travel by foot, bike, bus and train anywhere in the county.

Providing real-time travel information, users are given detailed expected journey and departure times for bus services, including First, Arriva, Hedingham, and Stephensons, as well as Greater Anglia and C2C rail, National Rail and London Underground trains.

The app has been launched to encourage residents to make sustainable journeys more frequently as part of Essex County Council's Safer, Greener, Healthier approach to travel.

It brings all sustainable travel options into one place for ease of use and with features such as live-

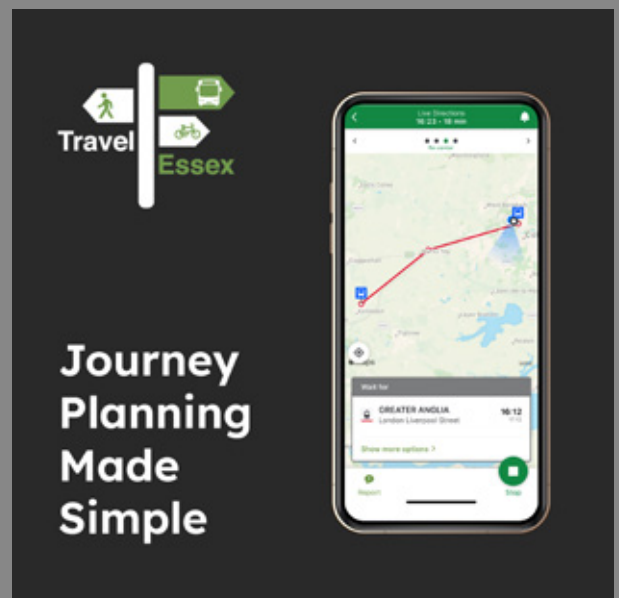
alerts, it will enable users to stay up to date with travel disruptions. Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "The argument for leaving our cars at home is irrefutable.

"We all have to make fundamental changes over the next decade to tackle the climate crisis and making more of our journeys on public transport, by bike or on foot is something we can all do to make a tangible difference.

"Whether you are heading to work, taking the family on a day out or simply exploring our beautiful countryside, this new app is a practical tool that makes it that much easier to access

sustainable travel options and encourage us all to put the car keys down."

To download the TravelEssex app, search for it on the Play or Apple app store. [More information here](#)



ECC SGH STEPS CHALLENGE SEES PARTICIPANTS GO TWICE AROUND THE WORLD

The first Safer, Greener, Healthier walking challenge launched by ECC in collaboration with walking app Go Jauntly on 10 January saw 628 people join the challenge.

This resulted in nearly 100,000,000 (one hundred million) steps being taken during the six-week period, the equivalent of 50,000 miles.

Participants signed up to walk 3,000 steps a day and the challenge received broad support across Essex with Chelmsford, Colchester and Brentwood having the most participants sign-up.

60 per cent of participants said that they walked more during the six-week challenge than they



would do normally, with 67 per cent of people agreeing that the challenge encouraged them to walk more.

Another Essex-wide challenge is planned to take place later this year and is part of ECC's ambition for Essex to become the walking and cycling county. This includes making it easier, more convenient, and safer for residents to walk or cycle, reducing traffic congestion, cutting air pollution and improving residents' physical and mental wellbeing.

Please follow us on Twitter  for up-to-date news about how we're making Essex safer, greener and healthier.

ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING FEBRUARY 2022

In February, 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	14	10	36	0	192
BRAINTREE	20	21	9	0	170
BRENTWOOD	9	15	55	0	173
CASTLE POINT	3	20	9	2251	120
CHELMSFORD	24	10	25	0	137
COLCHESTER	16	35	122	2390	250
EPPING FOREST	6	8	1	0	97
HARLOW	4	2	2	0	102
MALDON	28	5	3	0	56
ROCHFORD	28	40	10	2848	24
TENDRING	17	26	58	1897	148
UTTLESFORD	15	18	2	9386	144
TOTALS	184	210	332	6594	1613