

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

NEW LED STREETLIGHTS: NEXT UP, COLCHESTER AND TENDRING

After successfully completing the replacement of 19,879 streetlights with LEDs in Chelmsford and Basildon, crews have now made a start on installing new LED streetlights in the Colchester and Tendring areas.

This is all part of Essex County Council's programme to upgrade 82,000 old-style streetlights, mainly in residential roads, with LED ('light-emitting diode') streetlight technology, over three years. The ambitious programme began in May 2021 with LEDs that are being installed district by district until completion in 2024. We've been working in Colchester and Tendring since mid-January and are currently replacing over 800 lights a week.

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "I am delighted with the work we have done in Chelmsford and Basildon as part of the LED rollout, and I would like to thank the crews for all their hard work so far.

"You may have noticed that some streetlights in the Chelmsford and Basildon areas haven't yet been replaced and may be concerned that they have been missed entirely. There are many reasons why this could be, such as operatives being unable to safely gain access to equipment due to foliage or parked cars, to concerns about the column structure.



"I assure you, we are continuing to work until all unfinished units are completed. LED lights bring many benefits for both residents and the environment as they save on average around 60% energy usage and thousands of tons of carbon emissions involved in generating electricity. The replacement will also mean a better service and more effective use of taxpayer's money, as after 25 years it is estimated the net savings for ECC will be around £39 million."

More information about Essex's LED replacement programme [here](#). 

COMMENT COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT



**CABINET MEMBER FOR
HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE
AND SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT**

**This edition shows the
breadth of work that Essex
Highways delivers.**

Whether from responding to Storm Eunice where teams were out around the clock clearing trees and running our Winter Service to major infrastructure projects where sustainable transport is an integral part of the design, so that people who want to walk, cycle or use public transport can do so safely.

Encouraging more people to walk and cycle is a habit we are trying to encourage from a young age providing safe spaces through our School Streets programme which I hope you find interesting.



STORMS OF ENQUIRIES IN ESSEX

In February, Essex felt the full effect of storms Dudley, Eunice, and Franklin as winds hit 80mph in the county.

During the main weekend, we received reports of more than 1300 incidents requiring an urgent response across our 5,000-mile network of roads - this is over 1000 more enquiries than we would expect to get in the same timeframe.

Most of the enquiries related to fallen trees, some affecting priority roads, but there were also other issues such as streetlights being affected by high winds.

In addition to the direct resources we already had, we worked closely with our supply chain partners, the emergency services and partners in borough, district, and city councils to attend and resolve incidents.

Additional crews were placed on standby overnight on Friday 18 February and over the weekend to help manage our response,

while also delivering the necessary winter service.

Cllr Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "I want to pay tribute to all of our incredible Essex Highways staff and partners, who have worked non-stop in incredibly difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions to keep our county's roads safe."

Due to the large volume of incidents reported, the recovery phase continued for several days. Please do bear with us whilst we deal with the remaining incidents.


Information from road users and residents is key to keeping the county road network open, so **if you see a road blocked by fallen trees or branches you can let Essex Highways know at www.essexhighways.org/tell-us.** 

If it is an emergency and you think there is a risk to life, call 0345 603 7631.



We're making good progress on all five of the Active Travel Fund 2 (ATF2) schemes in Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester, and Wickford.

Following the consultations which took place last year where over 80% of respondents told us that they were concerned or very concerned about traffic congestion, air pollution and road safety in the county, final designs are being worked on. We hope that construction will commence at the beginning of June, lasting until the end of the year or early 2023.

All details of the schemes can be found on our Safer, Greener, Healthier page here. 

We'll be sure to keep you updated as the schemes progress.

School streets

With a clear opportunity to improve the highway environment around schools, especially for children, the School Streets scheme aims



to facilitate improvements to make these areas more accessible and attractive to those arriving by foot, scooter or bike.

As part of the Active Travel Fund 2, we're working to achieve the first phase of measures and are busy developing the scheme in partnership with the schools and local communities in all five locations. For example, in Brentwood we're working with our partner Sustrans (the cycling

and walking charity) and are now beginning to engage with the proposed schools on Sawyers Hall Lane.

The types of engagement activities Sustrans will be undertaking include classroom exercises, after-school parent/carer drop-in sessions as well as engagement with parents and carers at the school gates.

More updates will follow as this engagement work progresses.



ARMY AND NAVY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PACKAGE MOVES A STEP CLOSER

Proposals for the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package have been given Government approval and funding to move forward.

In July last year, ECC submitted the final version of its strategic outline business case for the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package to the Department for Transport (DfT), the first step in potentially securing Government funding.

This sets out the case for investment based on how well the scheme meets local and wider Government infrastructure objectives, along with demonstrating that there are viable options that will meet these objectives.

The DfT has now confirmed that the scheme has been approved to move to the next stage of development under the Government's Major Road Network Programme. This will see the



development and submission of an outline business case which identifies a preferred option following detailed assessment of a shortlist of options.

The County Council has been granted nearly £1.4 million by the DfT in support of this work. The preferred option for the junction will be considered by the County Council's Cabinet in March, with the submission of the outline business case expected in the summer.

It is expected a planning application for the Army and Navy junction will be submitted in early 2023 with the final business case going to the DfT in Summer 2024. Construction for the whole package of measures is scheduled for between Winter 2024 and Autumn 2027. For more information about the project and to sign up for an e-newsletter, please visit www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy. 

ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING JANUARY 2022

In January, 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	19	30	36	0	1359
BRAINTREE	20	41	9	0	743
BRENTWOOD	10	8	8	0	331
CASTLE POINT	17	9	2	2410	632
CHELMSFORD	23	9	37	0	784
COLCHESTER	15	39	16	3917	800
EPPING FOREST	5	11	5	0	784
HARLOW	2	1	3	0	956
MALDON	15	5	23	0	170
ROCHFORD	11	3	7	267	565
TENDRING	9	2	9	0	695
UTTLESFORD	13	18	4	0	420
TOTALS	159	176	159	6594	8239