

# HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL  
TIPS AND  
INFORMATION  
FOR LOCAL  
COUNCILLORS

## PHEW!

**It was an extremely warm July with temperatures reaching 40°C and exceeding the record for this country. With these temperatures being a first for the UK, no one really knew the effect it would have.**

However, we are pleased to say that our roads held up, with only a few reports raised despite roadside temperatures reaching 55°C in Colne on 19 July.

In preparing for the heat, Essex Highways put additional measures in place to safeguard staff and ensure business as usual. Requirements to wear orange Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were relaxed to yellow - which is a slightly lighter material - and ready access to water was provided for the gangs out on site.

Arrangements were made for operatives and site-based personnel to start earlier in the morning, returning back into offices / home by lunchtime in order to miss the hottest of the weather. This also enabled staff to then undertake training / admin tasks, keeping productivity up while minimising any potential adverse effects of the hot weather.

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "I want to send you my personal thanks for your efforts last week working in unprecedented, record-breaking

temperatures. I do not underestimate the additional challenge this also puts on our gangs, operatives, and inspectors, going about their daily jobs on the network.

"We coped well with having additional measures in place to cope with the heat, and it's pleasing to note that generally, our roads fared well under these extreme temperatures."



## COMMENT COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT



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

After a scorcher of a month (which looks like continuing for a while) I want to, once again, thank the amazing team at Essex Highways.

They are out in all weathers, undertaking hard work, and keeping us safe and moving. I say to many people that I speak to how fantastic every single one of the team are, but I can't express enough how much I truly mean this. This month alone they have had to deal with a large number of emergency repairs, and some real life and death situations. Thank you to everyone who plays a part, and keeps Essex moving safely!

I also want to take this opportunity to remind all Members about the Members Pothole Scheme, which has seen great success so far. I have been made aware that a number of the repairs have already been completed. Please can I remind all Members to register their potholes as part of this scheme, as soon as possible when your input date comes up.



## WE'VE MORE THAN SCRATCHED THE SURFACE

Although some road surfacing is completed all year round, our major resurfacing programme in Essex began with the new financial year and warmer weather in April. We're currently right in the middle of the surfacing season so we thought we'd give you a quick update to let you know how it's going.

We've been extremely blessed with great weather over the past couple of months, which has meant we've been able to make excellent progress. If you'd like to see where we are planning to carry out surfacing works next, [head over to the interactive map on our website.](#)

### ESSEX HIGHWAYS ROAD RE-SURFACING PROGRAMMES PROGRESS

METHOD	TOTAL COMMISSIONED	TOTAL COMPLETE END JULY 2022	% COMPLETE
<b>MACHINE SURFACING</b>			
No. of Sites	80	48	60
Total Length (km)	45	27.5	61
Total Area (m2)	307,535	194,009	63
<b>SURFACE DRESSING</b>			
No. of Sites	39	36	92
Total Length (km)	101.3	94.1	93
Total Area (m2)	659,244	620,034	94
<b>MICRO SURFACING</b>			
No. of Sites	40	24	60
Total Length (km)	35.8	9.2	26
Total Area (m2)	194,834	42,052	22

## POTHoles! DON'T FORGET TO NOMINATE!



**This year's 'member led' pothole repair initiative is well underway with 27 nominated potholes already been repaired.**

The programme offers County Members the opportunity to liaise with their local Parishes and Districts, as well as using their own local knowledge, to nominate important pothole locations to Essex Highways for repair.

You can nominate a total of 36 potholes (requested in two batches of 18). If you haven't already nominated your potholes, don't panic, there's still time. You have until the w/c 8 August to get your first 18 nominations in and then until w/c 14 November to get your second 18 nominations in. The best way to do this is via the Members Portal. If you need any assistance with this, please don't hesitate to contact your Buddy.

This scheme enables Members to complete additional repairs locally which may not normally be considered for immediate repair under existing maintenance policies, so don't miss your chance!

## BYPASS ENABLING WORKS BEGIN

**Advanced enabling works are now underway ahead of the construction of a new multi-million-pound bypass between Chelmsford and Braintree.**

Developed by Essex County Council, working with Chelmsford City Council, the Chelmsford North East Bypass scheme is part of a £250 million investment that also includes a new railway station at Beaulieu. The advanced works, which are being undertaken by contractor Octavius Infrastructure, involve building a conveyor bridge which will ultimately span the new bypass. The bridge will enable the continued operation of an existing mineral quarry, Bulls Lodge, during construction and operation of the bypass.

Plans for the bypass were granted planning approval earlier this year and will involve building a new 4.6km single carriageway road between the current Beaulieu Park development and a new roundabout on the A131 at Chatham Green.

The advanced enabling works are expected to take about 12 months to be completed. No major traffic disruption is expected, with most of the works taking place away from the existing road network.

The tender period for the main bypass works has also now started, marking another significant milestone for the project. Once open, the bypass will provide a crucial link between the A120 and A12, supporting growth, improving journey times and helping ease congestion in Chelmsford.

**You can receive more information and sign up for the Chelmsford North East Bypass newsletter [here](#).**



## FOCUS ON FLEET

# A NEW HIGH: ESSEX HIGHWAYS IS FIRST IN UK TO DEPLOY ELECTRIC HOISTS



**Wednesday 3 August marked another first for Essex Highways as we became the first Highways service to deploy electric-powered hoists in our new Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs). The first pair of six new MEWPs arrived in July, with another two arriving in August and the final pair in September.**

Each vehicle is a Mercedes Sprinter Chassis with a Euro 6 Engine, but the big difference is that all feature a Versalift electric hoist, which generate a number of operational benefits.

Although fuel prices are volatile at the moment and subject to change, as a rough guide it has been calculated that each vehicle should realise in

the region of £6k worth of fuel cost savings per annum. There is also less wear and tear on the engine which means less maintenance will be required over the life of the vehicle.

But the switch to using electric hoists also has other significant benefits in terms of carbon savings too - each new MEWP will realise a daily carbon saving of 4.01Kg, a monthly carbon reduction of over 80kg and an annual carbon saving of 960Kg.

This is another example of how the service is working to become Safer, Greener, Healthier and in realising as many efficiencies as possible in order to ensure we provide good value to the residents of Essex.

Simon Butt, Operations Director, said: "We have always been committed to working smarter and pulling through innovation into the service, particularly where we can add value, realise cost savings and work towards reducing negative impact on the environment.

"I am delighted that we are the first Highways service in the UK to use these MEWPs operationally as they fully represent the type of changes we are constantly looking to implement in Essex.

"It is in all our interests to be able to do more for less, to reduce our carbon footprint and to implement advances in technology to everyone's advantage."



# COLLABORATION RESULTS IN BESPOKE SAFETY FEATURES ON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT VEHICLE

**Ringway Jacobs (RJ) has collaborated with specialist companies Acklea and MotorMax to realise bespoke safety features on its latest Traffic Management vehicles.**

Acklea are specialists in Traffic Management Vehicle equipment with an emphasis on operator safety, while MotorMax specialise in vehicle electronics, particularly pioneering fleet safety solutions.

David Bonehill, Head of Fleet and Plant, Ringway Jacobs, said: “Ringway Jacobs and Acklea were looking for a partner who could guarantee collaborative working and product innovation. Motormax completely understood our challenge.

“Their solution is bespoke and the first of its kind. We are continually improving the safety of our fleet in order to protect our teams and the surrounding public. Motormax play an integral part in making this happen.”

MotorMax’s solution immobilises the vehicle when the tail lift is not stowed. Its Safetymax technology also delivers an image and a spoken voice warning which alerts the driver. Warnings were also installed to the near and offside doors, handbrake and seat belt.

The company also provided a 360-degree parking sensor system which activates below 10mph, and a live DVR system which delivers footage from four cameras to aid the driver with low-speed manoeuvres from images from the nearside camera and the rear camera. All this information is delivered to the driver via the on-dash monitor.

Clive Brocklehurst, Acklea Product Manager, said: “Without the expertise of Motormax, this project wouldn’t have gone forwards. Motormax’s pioneering technology enabled us to meet Ringway Jacob’s high standards.

“The products we needed were not available in the marketplace. We engaged with several companies, and Motormax was the only company that came back with a solution.”

Safety has always been Ringway Jacobs’ number one priority and the company recently received a RoSPA Gold Award for the fifth consecutive year for its safety performance. Phil Horton, Ringway Jacobs Managing Director, said: The recent award reflects our commitment to ensure the safety of our staff, customers and supply chain partners. Working with Motormax is a key part of improving the safety of our fleet and we look forward to the partnership ahead.”



Despite this being the age of digital communication, Ringway Jacobs held a couple of events recently that really demonstrated that in-person communication remains a productive – and inspirational – way to do business.

In two events, one in Cheshire, the other in Essex the company hosted forums to bring together many of the supply chain partners it works with on its UK highway contracts.

Central locations were chosen to reduce unnecessary travel, providing a valuable and timely opportunity for Ringway Jacobs management to meet the companies that help us provide our high-quality services in Central Bedfordshire, Essex, Cheshire East and Transport for Buckinghamshire.

Almost 100 people attended the half-day events which focused on collaboration and some examples of shared learning and best practice. Attendees also explored themes connected to some of the challenges the industry faces such as current global supply issues and rising inflation as well as the opportunities there are to innovate in order to meet environmental responsibilities.

Time was also taken to focus on the latest safety guidance and practices and what needs to be done to ensure that RJ staff and the employees of its partners keep safe – a topic that always remains at the forefront of the company's thinking.

Feedback was really positive with everyone happy with the chance to meet in person and to bounce around ideas with colleagues as well as to look at what currently works well and what is needed to ensure that everyone stays ahead in the field. Ringway Jacobs looks forward to holding similar events with its supply chain partners in the future.

# BACK WITH THE (SUPPLY) CHAIN GANG



# GET ON YOUR BIKE THIS SUMMER WITH OUR HOLIDAY CYCLING TRAINING COURSES

The whole family can get on their bikes this summer. Children love cycling - it's fast and fun and gives them freedom and independence to get around.

That's why the bikeability team at ECC are running a number of holiday cycling training courses during the school holidays in Basildon, Chelmsford, Harlow and Colchester.

And if mums, dads or carers are a little bit rusty on two wheels, we're still offering FREE adult cycling training - for beginners or those who just need a confidence boost.

[Check out all our cycling training courses here](#)

**HOLIDAY COURSES**

**Bikeability Level 1, Level 1 & 2 and 3 and Learn to ride courses**

To book, please visit link  
[essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking](http://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking)  
 There is a £10 non-refundable booking fee

**SAFER  
GREENER  
HEALTHIER**



Essex County Council




## ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING JUNE 2022

In June, 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. This month we have made a little change to the road defect figures. Previously, we have included the defects that were both reported and repaired in the month in question. However, we now include the defects that have been repaired in the month in question (no matter when they were reported).

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	6	15	74	1971	162
BRAINTREE	69	30	14	0	337
BRENTWOOD	64	3	44	0	109
CASTLE POINT	6	13	15	1018	142
CHELMSFORD	4	6	142	2472	106
COLCHESTER	38	41	22	0	141
EPPING FOREST	22	18	57	2528	417
HARLOW	5	3	2	3079	150
MALDON	5	4	9	0	70
ROCHFORD	5	25	16	0	53
TENDRING	20	27	12	1531	218
UTTLESFORD	41	36	17	0	86
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>12599</b>	<b>1991</b>