

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

Summer repair and improvement crews in full swing



In May we mentioned the extra resources being invested to reduce the number of serious potholes in the county.

With the weather now generally favourable and with extra gangs out on the roads, we're making progress.

Last month (June) our crews permanently fixed 1,365 potholes. We are also starting to report repairs district by

district (see page 2).

As well as our repair crews we also have road surfacing partners who are, like recent years, covering miles of worn Essex roads in brand new surfaces paid for with our capital investment.

You can see the forward surfacing programme and explanations of different techniques at: www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing.

Did you know:
Resurfacing roads helps prevent potholes forming, for up to ten years?

Councillor Kevin Bentley comments

Deputy Leader, Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

Welcome to the second edition of the Highways Highlights and I hope you find the information useful to pass on to your residents.

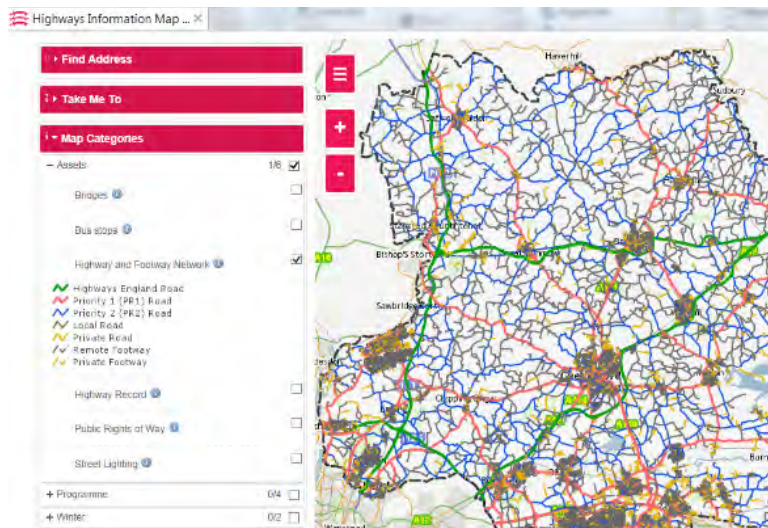
Improving our communications and information about what and how we do Highways maintenance in Essex is one of the many changes I am making. I will be ensuring we

put you, the customer first! It doesn't mean we can do everything straight away as there isn't the money to do everything immediately but prioritising many of our smaller road repairs and fixing street lighting will improve.

We are now starting work on how we use the extra money ECC has invested into repair work and you will soon see the difference.



Do you know your P1s from your PR2s?



In Essex we define the roads we manage a little differently from the A, B, C and local roads that you see on signs and maps.

We classify our roads as 'PR1', 'PR 2' or 'Local', and this excludes national roads like the A12, A120 and M11 which Highways England manage. In Essex, a PR1 route is a main, fast road linking perhaps several towns, or linking a national road like the A12 to other areas.

A PR2 road is a local main road, probably within a town, or linking two areas of town, or linking villages. 'Local roads' include estate roads and rural minor roads. We currently prioritise repairs on PR1 and PR2 roads, which carry the most traffic.

There were 1,574 potholes on these main roads on 2 April. By 16 July we had reduced them to 589 despite there being 2,139 extra ones reported during that time. You can view our classification map by searching on-line for 'Essex highways information map' then under 'Asset' select 'Highway and Footway Network'.

A "P1" is a priority one pothole or other problem, and it must be fixed urgently. Defects get risk assessed and a 'P1' is the highest risk. These issues are not necessarily potholes - they could be a damaged guard rail, oil on the road, or a fallen tree for instance. You can find out much more about these subjects in our Maintenance Strategy. Search online for '[Essex road strategies](#)'.

Potholes fixed

Potholes fixed per district/city/borough in June are as listed below: 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 – see article left) are different too, so a direct comparison is misleading.

BASILDON	140
BRAINTREE	121
BRENTWOOD	87
CASTLE POINT	113
CHELMSFORD	124
COLCHESTER	158
EPPING FOREST	177
HARLOW	73
MALDON	69
ROCHFORD	93
TENDRING	79
UTTLESFORD	107
A127	24
GRAND TOTAL	1365



New Essex Highways briefing sessions for local councillors and clerks coming

Last year a team of senior Essex Highways officers toured district council offices round the county, meeting with local councillors, explaining more about who highways is and how we work, and taking questions.

We also presented to the EALC (Essex Association of Local Councils), talking with 95 Essex parish councillors and

clerks. The sessions, designed to improve understanding and put faces to the organisation, were so well-received we are now looking to run follow up sessions.

Content, dates and venues are currently under consideration, but based on what we heard last year we may cover topics we know are of local importance, including: how highways planning works; how we manage roadworks (and the utility and

development companies who work on our roads too); how we handle local flooding, and 'green claims', as we need help to identify people who damage our assets when they hit them.

If we can gather the correct types of evidence, we can recoup the cost back through insurers and put the recovered monies back into the service.

It's the time of year to keep sight lines clear

Verge cutting season on "fast roads", began in June where we do the bulk of the work at night because the required traffic management (TM in the trade), traffic lights and lane closures, would otherwise cause congestion.

We cut the verges to keep drivers' sight lines clear and make sure all the growth is cut back clear of the road itself. At the same time our first weed spray (of 2 annually) is done in Colchester and Braintree and now Uttlesford and Maldon is being sprayed, with other areas (Tendring do their own) to come.

Summer also sees the Parish verge-cutting programme, in some districts carried out by our partner companies, in others the City, Borough or District council makes their own arrangements. Keep up to date with these and other summer works on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/EssexHighways>

