

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

CLEARER, EASIER ESSEX HIGHWAYS WEBSITE

If you have visited our website during March, you will have noticed that we have introduced a clearer, simpler look to our web pages at www.essex.gov.uk/Highways after months of behind-the-scenes work.

Websites keep improving and we have responded to hundreds of comments from members of the public and user comments to make ours easier to read and more accessible. We have also simplified the menu structure and navigation to find the information or tool you want.

There may be some teething troubles lurking in a few pages, or some missing content or documents, so please comment in the feedback popup (image below) if you spot any issues, so we can fix them.

We have also been trialling an improved problem reporting/checking web tool and it is now in full use. You can [Tell Us here](#) and [Track a query here](#). Reporting online is the best way to let us know what you have spotted, as our reports are sent directly to a highway inspector to assess. Thank you.



Do you have any feedback about our new website? Let us know below.

Please type here...

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WOODEN WINDOWS THROW LIGHT ON ASPHALT ROADS

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, reducing potholes and improving white-lining and skid-resistance for years to come. This efficient, data-led approach is known nationally as "Asset Management".

Some road surfacing has been done already this year, but the major programme in Essex starts with the new financial year and warmer weather from April. **From 1 April our interactive map will show you where we are planning to do each type of surfacing.**

The two most common sorts are Surface Dressing and Inlay Surfacing. Surface Dressing puts a water-resistant, skid-resistant thin top layer of binder and stone chips back on the road. This resists water ingress and helps tyre traction. Until it beds in and we have swept it, we ask drivers to drive at no more than 20mph, to avoid damage to their vehicles.

Surface Dressing is used for whole roads or long sections, where surveys show a more expensive treatment is not needed. Full resurfacing, also known as "inlay", is much more intensive, intrusive and expensive, planing off the existing top layers and laying new asphalt. This will also give the road surface many years without potholes, but this technique is not always necessary. 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, thank you.

On the busiest routes surfacing is done at night to prevent traffic hold-ups and we apologise for temporary noise and light disturbance.

Find out more about our surfacing work on our website.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the financial year just ending, Essex Highways completed 321 road surfacing schemes; 59 pavement replacements; 13 major bridge repairs; 25 traffic signal renewals, 17 flood prevention works and 164 local safety improvement schemes built by Local Highway Panels in each area.

Already confirmed for next year are 263 road surfacing schemes; 60 pavement replacements; 58 traffic signal renewals and 31 flood prevention works. Other programme details are still being finalised, for example by each Local Highway Panel.



SUCCESSFUL BRAINTREE AREA RURAL ROAD GRASS VERGE CUTTING TRIAL EXTENDED TO ENCOURAGE REWILDING

Last year Braintree District Council and Essex County Council undertook a joint trial to leave sections of rural road verges in central Braintree uncut until the autumn, in a new environmentally friendly trial.

Typically roadside cuts are done to maintain safe sightlines for road users, and keep signs clearly visible. However, leaving the verges uncut in the spring helps to protect the natural habitat, conserve wildflowers and grasses and increase numbers of pollinating insects.

Feedback from Town and Parish Councils showed that wildlife benefits from this without there



being any extra risks for drivers, so the trial will now be extended across the District for a year. If it remains successfully such a policy could then happen selectively elsewhere in the County. The trial follows a successful project along the A131 sowing wildflower seed.

Find out more about this initiative at Braintree District Council's website.

NEW MEASURES TO PROTECT CHILDREN ON ROADS OUTSIDE SCHOOLS



CLICK IMAGE FOR MORE INFO

The North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) is launching a pilot scheme using school parking cameras at two locations in north Essex.

The Park Safe Schools scheme is among the first in UK using cameras to tackle dangerous and illegal parking outside schools. It complements existing "3PR" voluntary efforts.

The cameras will only focus on motorists' behaviour on the 'no stopping' restrictions outside a school and Penalty Charge Notices will be issued to those contravening restrictions.

Signs and road markings will show parking/waiting restrictions at each school and warn drivers that camera enforcement is in place.



LOCAL HIGHWAY PANELS SET FOR FURTHER LOCAL ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS



Having built 164 improvement schemes last year, councillors on each district's Local Highway Panel will soon be deciding their priorities for this year.

If you have an idea for road safety improvements in your area – such as traffic calming or pedestrian crossings – please contact your local Essex County Councillor who can then, if they support the idea, bring it to the Panel for consideration (please note: there are county council elections across England, including Essex, on 6 May).

SAFER GREENER HEALTHIER

Transforming travel in Essex

Great progress is being made across the county in support of our Safer, Greener, Healthier and Active/Sustainable travel initiatives.

SAFER GREENER HEALTHIER TWITTER NOW LIVE!

Getting our own Twitter feed gives us a great opportunity to focus on all the amazing things to do with sustainable travel happening across our county. Please take a look and follow us @SGH_Essex

We've also updated the SGH pages on the new Essex Highways website.

LAST MINUTE CALL FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Views of residents in Basildon, Braintree, Chelmsford and Colchester are being sought for local cycling and walking networks as part of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) consultation. Running until 7 April, we'd love to hear your feedback on the proposed overarching networks. Further consultations will follow in May on specific infrastructure enhancements as part of the Active Travel Fund schemes - watch this space for further details.

We want to hear your views.

SPIN E-SCOOTERS LAUNCHED IN BRAINTREE AND BRENTWOOD

Spin e-scooters are now on trial in Braintree and Brentwood. Residents are able to access the e-scooters through a new long-term hire subscription model which means they will be able to take their Spin e-scooters home for a monthly flat fee.

The other e-scooter trials already up and running in Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester and Clacton operate through a slightly different model where residents can rent e-scooters per minute through a shared scheme rather than having exclusive access to a single e-scooter. So far, there have been over 33,000 rides since the first trial launched in early December in Basildon.



ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING FEBRUARY 2021

In February we continued to clear out drains on local roads in Basildon and drains at higher risk of blockages on main roads in Basildon, Brentwood, Epping, and Rochford.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	76	21	45	2833	622
BRAINTREE	59	39	8	0	295
BRENTWOOD	24	33	32	316	78
CASTLE POINT	16	61	24	0	294
CHELMSFORD	32	58	30	0	226
COLCHESTER	51	53	19	0	397
EPPING FOREST	22	43	45	362	239
HARLOW	11	27	28	0	266
MALDON	26	16	3	650	94
ROCHFORD	22	4	74	164	162
TENDRING	45	30	22	0	318
UTTLESFORD	42	13	5	0	156
TOTALS	429	398	335	4325	3147



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