

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

SALTED!

Summer is on its way and as we say hello to the good weather we wave goodbye to our winter programme, which finished on 17 April. During the programme, our gritters went out 59 times on our 54 routes, covering 114429 miles and using a little over 12,993 tonnes of salt on our road network.

This year's programme kicked off on 18 October 2021 and as a result of the pandemic, there was a national shortage of LGV drivers to deliver salt to salt barns. We tackled this by pre-ordering small amounts of salt throughout the programme to ensure we were constantly topped up. Equally, we worked hard to ensure that we had enough gritter drivers to deliver the service, drawing primarily from a pool of

Essex Highways operatives who worked the hours necessary to drive gritters in Essex. This is in addition to their usual daytime highways maintenance tasks, which can be a stretch during winter months requiring well planned rotas.

There are so many people involved in the process of gritting the roads, from the winter decision makers to the incredible colleagues who drive our gritter lorries. We thank each and every one of our dedicated workers who kept the county roads safe throughout the winter months.

Our gritters will be back for the 2022/23 winter season in October... but let's all enjoy the summer first!



COMMENT COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT



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

As Summer approaches (hopefully bringing a bit of sunshine with it!) our Winter Programme reaches a close once again.

With gritters going out 59 times on our 59 routes, it was a busy programme for our Team. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the challenges faced throughout.

This month's issue shows off some fantastic photos and information about the RideLondon event that took place throughout parts of Essex last at the end of May.

The event saw thousands of cyclists hitting the streets of Essex promoting our goal of a safer, greener, healthier County - hopefully you'll enjoy the pictures as much as I enjoyed attending the event.

UTILITIES AVOIDANCE TRAINING SHOULD HELP PROVIDE LESS 'BANG' FOR BUCKS

In our last issue, we reported on Ringway Jacobs' new safe dig area in Chelmsford, a fantastic, multi-functional 'street scene' training facility set at the Springfield Depot.

It is inevitable that we come across buried utilities on our network and its imperative we have a safe environment to inform, train and upskill people on the dangers of working around utilities. The street scene comprises two footways and a carriageway construction complete with utility covers, kerbs, tactile paving slabs, ramp kerbs, street signs, a mini feeder pillar, lamp column and pedestrian guard rail.

The safe dig area replicates the type of environment that our teams would find out on the network. It is used to train safe digging techniques (Operatives can excavate down to and around ducts in a safe manner in a controlled environment), tracing and locating utilities (using the Genny and CAT, hints and tips, false readings), visual clues on site and GPR training.

On Thursday 12 May, Paul Cansdale, Utilities Service Manager, delivered a days' training on utilities avoidance to an attentive group which included technicians from Ringway Jacobs' Buckinghamshire contract. Everyone agreed that the facility is superb and that the training was both informative and engaging, offering excellent insight into the subject matter.



RIDE LONDON COMES TO ESSEX

With the use of active travel being an integral part of our goal of a safer, greener, healthier Essex, we were thrilled to have over 20,000 riders (that's more people than can fit into the O2 arena!) travelling on our network as part of this year's RideLondon event.

The event took place from the 27-29 May and was the first time it had come to Essex after previously being held in Surrey.

The route which included a section used by the Tour de France when it came to the county in 2014, started in central London, entered Essex via Epping Forest and passed through Chipping Ongar and picturesque villages such as Fyfield and Leaden Roding before reaching Great Dunmow.

Felsted marked just over halfway in the 100-mile ride, before cyclists headed back south towards Chelmsford, Writtle and then back towards Chipping Ongar, before heading into London again ahead of an iconic finish at Tower Bridge.

For Essex Highways, preparation for the event took a lot of organising, including our permit team arranging permits, our inspectors out checking that routes were fit for purpose and our operational teams arranging for repairs to be carried out on defects that were identified.

During the three days of events, Andy Champ, Network Operations Manager, manned the Essex Traffic Control Centre, and standby crews were in place at Hastingwood depot on Sunday should any support be needed on the network. Our hard work even extended to



some of our colleagues taking part in the race itself!

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "We were delighted to partner with RideLondon. Essex has a strong legacy in major cycling events, having previously hosted the mountain biking at the London 2012 Olympic Games and a stage of the Tour de France in 2014. With our beautiful countryside and picturesque

villages, there's more to Essex than a lot of people realise and it was a great opportunity to showcase our county to riders and spectators alike."

According to the RideLondon website, Event Director Hugh Brasher the RideLondon-Essex route and said: "It was an amazing atmosphere out there - very inclusive, with far more diversity among the riders. It was beautiful countryside out in Essex, on a new route that's flatter and easier and the whole thing was really inspiring."

SUPPORT FOR E-CARGO BIKES BUILDS FOLLOWING COLCHESTER CONFERENCE

Over 150 delegates attended the first ECC e-cargo bike revolution conference on May 24th and heard fantastic local and national examples of how the economy and environment are benefitting from the use of e-cargo bikes.

There really is very little that an e-cargo bike can't transport, indeed the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) predict that 50% of all motorised freight trips could be converted to cargo bikes. All the delegates also got to trial a few of the bikes on show including our very own Tracey Vickers, head of sustainable transport, who demonstrated how great these bikes are to ride (top right)!



JUNCTION 7A FUN RUN

With the new M11 Junction 7A due to open to traffic in the coming days, local people have been given the chance to view the new infrastructure before it opens to traffic, with a special Fun Run taking place on 9 June.

Open to all ages and abilities the event will see participants travel from the London Road Roundabout to the new junction and back, a route of approximately 5km.

Cllr Lesley Wagland, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, said: "With the new junction and link road reaching completion, we want to make the most of this unique pre-opening period and give local people an opportunity to see the new infrastructure ahead of opening to traffic."

Following the event, the junction is due to open to traffic on 10 June. For more information visit www.essex.gov.uk/junction7a



ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING APRIL 2022

In April, 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 will now be sharing 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	33	50	100	0	146
BRAINTREE	60	52	5	0	206
BRENTWOOD	29	21	33	0	130
CASTLE POINT	11	34	188	2678	160
CHELMSFORD	11	9	73	1706	94
COLCHESTER	24	49	89	0	384
EPPING FOREST	36	19	136	1070	122
HARLOW	5	4	8	1011	272
MALDON	13	4	8	0	109
ROCHFORD	5	13	5	352	91
TENDRING	6	20	7	2493	327
UTTLESFORD	14	21	5	0	63
TOTALS	247	296	657	9310	2104

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact: Member.enquiries@essex.gov.uk