

# HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL  
TIPS AND  
INFORMATION  
FOR LOCAL  
COUNCILLORS

## MEMBER-LED POTHOLE INITIATIVE RETURNS

We are extremely pleased that our 'member-led' pothole repair initiative is back for another year.

Launched at the start of June, 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.

This scheme enables Members to complete additional repairs locally which may not normally be considered for immediate repair under existing maintenance policies.

This year, we asked Councillors to identify a total of 36 potholes, requested in two batches of 18, as the work has been phased into two visits and planned in such a way to maximise our resources. We have organised works by district to be carried out and work began in earnest on 13 June, continuing through to the end of the year until both phases have been completed.



## COMMENT COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT



### CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

**This month showcases the incredible range of work that the team undertakes to keep the county moving, from emergency repairs to opening Junction 7a on the M11.**

We also continue to look at sustainable travel, launching the Travel Essex App to encourage more people to leave the car at home when they can to travel by public transport which is one of the best ways to reduce congestion and emissions.

Officers are also looking for ideas to encourage more people to travel car-free round the county so please sign up to follow their campaign over the summer.

## A-VOID-ING DANGER AND PUTTING SAFETY FIRST AT BALKERNE HILL

On 15 June our crews went to Balkerne Hill, a busy road in Colchester, to inspect a carriageway defect that had been reported to us. Upon assessment it was discovered that the defect was in fact a void around 1m deep under the carriageway.

Once this discovery was made, our crew's first priority was to make the area safe, keeping road users out of harm's way while we investigated the cause. Unfortunately, this required a lane closure which had an effect on traffic because of the busy location.

The next day, after reviewing the underground services, we started carrying out excavations and we discovered that the void was caused by an old cellar. After assessing the most suitable reinstatement method, we began works the next day. The area was filled, levelled, and cured before resurfacing work began. Once this was completed, traffic management was cleared and on 19 June, traffic once gain flowed more freely.

Balkerne Hill is a heavily used road and this emergency repair meant that some traffic delays were inevitable. It was crucial that we uploaded regular updates to our social media pages to ensure residents were kept in the loop. These updates attracted a lot of praise from our followers, with one saying, "Good Communications" and another commenting "Thanks for the updates and for all roadworkers working in this heat."



# M11 JUNCTION 7A OPENS

**A major milestone was achieved in June with the opening of the new M11 Junction 7A at Harlow.**

Delivered ahead of schedule, the £80million scheme is the largest highways infrastructure project in the county for a number of years and alongside the new Junction has seen the creation of the new junction, a new Link Road and the widening of Gilden Way.

Funded by Essex County Council and National Highways, the much needed new junction will help support future growth in the area, and provide a new east-west route through Harlow, helping ease congestion, and providing new public transport opportunities and better access to the M11 motorway.

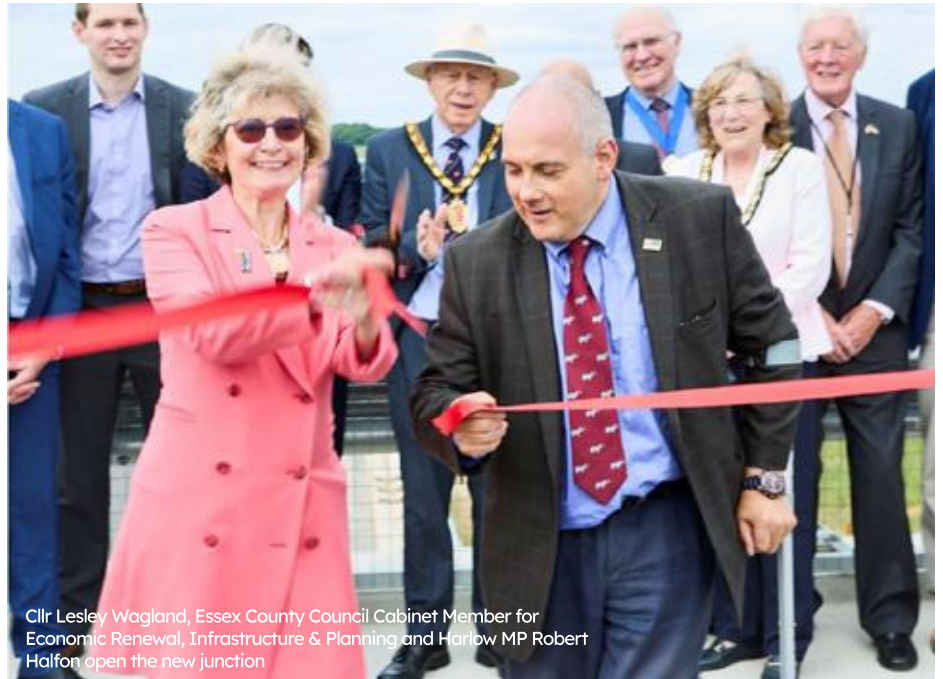
To celebrate the opening, the public were given the unique chance to view the new infrastructure as part of a 5km charity fun run. Attended by over 500 people, the event raised over £9,000 for local charities.

## DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the works undertaken for M11 Junction 7A, there have been:

- 5,723m of drainage installed
- 11,149m of fencing installed
- 65,337 trees/shrubs plants
- 557,000m<sup>2</sup> of grass seed sewn
- 83,652m<sup>2</sup> of pavement laid
- 1400 site inductions undertaken

To find out more about the scheme, please visit:  
[www.essex.gov.uk/junction7a](http://www.essex.gov.uk/junction7a).



Clr Lesley Wagland, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure & Planning and Harlow MP Robert Halfon open the new junction



The Sustainable Transport team will be running a six-week campaign asking people to “think outside the car this summer” as part of their vision for a Safer, Greener, Healthier Essex.

From tips and suggestions for travelling around the county car-free, to curated walks, cycling challenges and e-scooter bus and train updates, the campaign will encourage residents to leave the car at home, especially for shorter journeys.

For more information, please follow @SGH\_Essex on Twitter



## FOCUS IS ON THE BUSES AS TRAVELESSEX LAUNCHES

A new bus identity, TravelEssex, has been launched to help the transport network build back from Covid 19 and encourage people to swap from car to bus.

TravelEssex has been introduced to provide the network with a consistent, strong identity to build residents confidence in using bus services.

Essex County Council has worked with bus operators and other partners and following feedback from residents the TravelEssex name was chosen.

Residents will start to see the TravelEssex name and logo at bus stops and on buses from this month (June 2022).

Cllr Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport and Highways maintenance, said: “We want people to use buses and we want the bus network

to grow. This will be better for our roads, better for all travellers and better for the environment.

“We’ve got to make traveling by bus easier and to begin that process, we have pulled all bus services in Essex together under the TravelEssex identity.

“This is just the start, now we can work together with our partners to develop a website which will make it easier for residents to find information

about Essex’s bus services and plan their journey. This partnership work contributes to ECC’s ‘Everyone’s Essex’ plan to tackle climate change, with sustainability sitting at the heart of our approach to safer, greener, healthier travel.”

Once the TravelEssex identity is launched, there are plans to develop a new TravelEssex website which will include all information relating to bus travel and a tool to help bus-users plan their journey.



Adam Barham, Director of Panther Travel, and Cllr Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, with the new TravelEssex logo

# HEAT OF THE MOMENT SEES SWIFT RESPONSE FROM ESSEX HIGHWAYS



Fire photos courtesy of The Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

**Essex Highways launched an impressive emergency repair clean-up operation in the aftermath of a fuel tanker bursting into flames on the A130 Canvey Way, Canvey Island at around 5:40pm on Wednesday 1 June, following reports of a vehicle fire.**

Fire crews had dashed to Sadlers Farm roundabout in Benfleet to find a fuel tanker carrying 38,000 litres of aviation fuel was 100% alight. Thick black smoke could be seen for miles all the way over towards Chelmsford and along the M25 and the seriousness of the situation saw Fire crews attend and support from Basildon, Corringham, Hawkwell, Leigh, Maldon, Orsett and Rayleigh.

Harrison Channing (pictured inset) was the Out Of Hours (OOH) officer on duty: “At 18:17. I sent a crew out to clear up the fuel, but it quickly became apparent that the incident was much larger than we initially expected.”

During the first night, all the gang could do was help the police secure the site and manage local traffic. Aviation fuel burns at a range between

426.6°C and 815.5°C and lamp columns and lit bollards had been damaged. At 20:45, we called Supply Chain Partner (SCP) Marlborough Highways to make safe the bollards but it was not safe to cut down the two remaining lamp columns as the lorry was still at the scene.

Adler and Allan Group, a company that specialises in environmental clean-up operations also attended with the Environment Agency to help secure and clean the watercourse, gullies and surrounding ponds. They also jet washed the centre island separating the carriageway to clear any debris.

During the early hours of the morning on Thursday 2 June, the recovery vehicles managed to remove the lorry once it had cooled down. Harrison said: “We closed Canvey Way in the direction towards Sadlers Roundabout, including the slip lane to the A13. The rest of the roundabout was opened. Because of the Bank Holiday, SCP support was unavailable and so our OOH gang set up all Traffic Management, ensuring the road was closed safely, returning home at around 04:30.”

[Continues over>](#)

## HEAT OF THE MOMENT SEES SWIFT RESPONSE FROM ESSEX HIGHWAYS

At 08:19, the service received a call that the traffic signals were stuck on red and having a diverse affect to the whole roundabout. SCP Telent were called to site to get all the signals working normally again. Between the hours of 09:00 – 11:00 the service organised for the road to be re-surfaced. Eurovia were available and Harrison met them on site at around 15:00, saying: “In some ways, they were very much the ‘cavalry’ as far as this incident is concerned. Eurovia rose to the challenge and very quickly mobilised crews to site. They sprang into action and planed the carriageway to depths of 40-100mm.”

Marlborough Highways returned at around 16:00 and the lamp columns were made safe. Saturday 4 June was the earliest we could get material, thanks to Eurovia who managed to get a batching plant to open, despite it being the weekend and the carriageway re-surfacing operation started from 07:30 with Lining work also completed.

We managed to re-open Canvey Way around 14:00. There was still burn damage to lamp columns, bollards, traffic signals kerbs, vergers and the centre island but everything was made safe with plans in place to revisit the site within normal working hours to complete repairs.

Cllr Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: “I am very proud of Essex Highways’ response to this incident, a major clean-up and repair operation which was completed in a very short space of time for such a complex logistical operation.

“Our teams worked at very short notice over two bank holidays of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee to keep access to Canvey Island open and, most importantly, keep every motorist safe. Safety is always our utmost priority. The short time it took to repair this damage is testament to the hard work of our road crews.”

Photos below show repaired section of the A130 following the tanker fire



# FURTHER WARM ASPHALT SURFACE TRIAL

**Essex County Council has made its commitment to carbon zero clear in Everyone's Essex and in its response to the Essex Climate Action Commission.**

As part of this, Essex Highways challenged its supply chain to pursue innovative products and services to improve sustainability in the county. Consequently, Eurovia has been rolling out its Tempera warm mix product on the Essex Highways network by Eurovia Surfacing.

The product works around 40 degrees lower than a hot equivalent. This means that Tempera requires less energy, and generates fewer carbon



emissions during manufacture than conventional hot mix asphalts, delivering carbon savings of up to 25%.

Because materials arrive on site at a lower temperature, Eurovia's Surfacing teams can complete the work in less time and reopen roads more quickly, reducing the time traffic sits in roadworks with engines idling, something which contributes to poor air quality and impacts on everyone's travel times.

The reduced temperatures throughout the process significantly decrease age-hardening, which maintains the material's durability

and improves its long-term performance. During the COVID-19 lockdown Eurovia Surfacing laid in excess of 3,500t of warm asphalt across the highways in Essex. Because of reduced road traffic, the team could mobilise and accelerate the resurfacing programme.

Volumes continue to increase with plans to introduce low temperature technology into a wider palette of asphalt materials in the coming months. The roll out of Tempera has been facilitated through the Materials Innovation Group involving Essex County Council, Essex Highways, Eurovia and other supply chain partners.

## ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING MAY 2022

In May, 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      | 16            | 18          | 29                     | 400            | 205                |
| BRAINTREE     | 39            | 27          | 13                     | 0              | 308                |
| BRENTWOOD     | 11            | 11          | 41                     | 0              | 97                 |
| CASTLE POINT  | 12            | 11          | 6                      | 2023           | 92                 |
| CHELMSFORD    | 22            | 4           | 2                      | 3159           | 84                 |
| COLCHESTER    | 50            | 33          | 25                     | 0              | 89                 |
| EPPING FOREST | 71            | 43          | 75                     | 2078           | 273                |
| HARLOW        | 2             | 18          | 3                      | 2711           | 330                |
| MALDON        | 21            | 11          | 7                      | 0              | 75                 |
| ROCHFORD      | 16            | 3           | 22                     | 0              | 41                 |
| TENDRING      | 30            | 22          | 6                      | 1411           | 258                |
| UTTLESFORD    | 27            | 8           | 8                      | 0              | 171                |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>317</b>    | <b>209</b>  | <b>237</b>             | <b>11782</b>   | <b>2023</b>        |