

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS



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PAVEMENT PATCHING PROGRAMME PROGRESSES

In June we announced the latest County Member-led highways focus, to identify and repair the worst footway ('pavement') defects in the county council area, work additional to the already planned and funded footway repair programmes.

Since then Members have been working with their local communities and parishes

to compile short lists for engineers and lists and photos have been flowing in.

Taking advantage of early information, good weather and swift mobilisation, some works have already been completed such as Wethersfield Rd, Colchester; High Road, Loughton, The Drive, Loughton; & Hockley Road, Basildon. Across all 12 Districts, Boroughs and City, much more is now underway,

with gangs dealing with groups of reported defects.

Sometimes the repair is a simple small one; on other occasions more complex works have been requested - for instance, recently John Kent Avenue, Colchester has been the subject of works to remove defective concrete bays damaged by tree roots, reinstate bays with bituminous material, install new timber edging material

and replace damaged kerbs. Footway repairs can sometimes be surprisingly complex and time consuming, particularly if there are underground utilities to watch out for, but with reasonable weather we will be working hard to fix these key concerns until funding is exhausted.

Follow @essexhighways on twitter for updates and local pictures.



COMMENT

COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY

DEPUTY LEADER,
ESSEX COUNTY
COUNCIL
AND CABINET
MEMBER FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE

Our Highways teams have been busy all summer repairing our roads and the good weather has helped. They will continue this work as Highway repairs are a never ending job.

We are also now turning our attention to the footway repairs that many of you have reported as part of the top five initiative. Thank you to all of those County Councillors who have reported their top five defects in their Divisions.

After extending the time to send in your list the scheme is now closed. Thank you also to those who have stopped me to say what a good job the teams have been doing and I will ensure these messages are passed on.

YOU CAN EVEN RECYCLE POTHOLES (OR AT LEAST THE MATERIALS!)



Trialed previously for practicality, a 'pothole recycling machine' is now being used across Essex to test its efficiency, for both financial, operational and quality of repair.

Councillor Kevin Bentley caught up with David Forkin, Essex Highways Head of Maintenance and Operations and the gang, at James Carter Road in Colchester, calling it "The ultimate bit of recycling in Essex".

Extreme heat melts the old asphalt and with some new material added, enough very workable filler for smaller potholes is produced. We therefore save on buying material and transport to and from the depot as well as avoiding harder-to-work cooling



material, causing possibly less long-lasting repairs.

Potentially a useful addition to our armoury, as well as benefitting us all environmentally, the trial will tell...



DATA AND TECH TARGET HIGHWAYS SITES AT MOST RISK OF FLOODING - AND SAVES MONEY

Hi-tech drain cleaning? Yes – even gullies can benefit from data recording.

We have been collecting data on the amount of silt found in roadside drains before clearing them, so now we can use a risk-based analysis shown on electronic mapping.

Managers can now target the highest known flood-risk roads for regular or “cyclical” cleaning by our crews, rather than waste time and money visiting drains that may not need emptying so often. Crews have access to enhanced and reliable information on their tablets, removing paperwork and improving their productivity.

Data is also transmitted live so when an inspector identifies a defect, the follow up jetting crews can act on it immediately. We can all concentrate on engineering, not admin!



POTHOLES, PAVEMENTS AND DRAINS FIXED IN THE MONTH...

Potholes fixed per district/city/borough in July 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) are different too, so a direct comparison is misleading.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED
BASILDON	19	9	155	0
BRAINTREE	8	32	38	747
BRENTWOOD	11	19	54	298
CASTLE POINT	9	14	2	0
CHELMSFORD	8	13	63	0
COLCHESTER	7	70	59	0
EPPING FOREST	31	48	27	1694
HARLOW	1	72	19	0
MALDON	16	18	13	1118
ROCHFORD	8	7	34	0
TENDRING	8	35	21	2216
UTTLESFORD	10	11	11	4589
TOTALS	136	348	496	10662

DON'T FORGET OUR WEBSITE

www.essex.gov.uk/highways - is a veritable treasure-trove of reference information, as well as the place to go to report problems.

Not only can you catch up on back issues of Highways Highlights (in the 'News and Press Releases' section); you can check current and future local roadworks, check highway records and get updates on key schemes under way.

There are also videos, downloads and various maps available, as well as Local Highway Panel information and lots more information, so check it out!

 **Missed an issue? HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS back issues can be found here**

