

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS



**BE IN THE KNOW:
GET ALERTS
ON PLANNED
ROADWORKS
STRAIGHT
TO YOUR
EMAIL INBOX**

We know many councillors and other local representatives often get asked about roadworks that are going on in their area. This may be because someone is unhappy about local congestion, noise or access issues, or simply because someone would like to know more about why their road is being dug up.

Many organisations have the right to work in the highway – generally Essex Highways work to make safe, fix or improve the roads. However multiple utility providers and developers need to dig holes, either to fix something, replace aging or obsolescent equipment or even lay new facilities, for instance high-speed broadband cabling, or connections to a new development.

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COMMENT COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT

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

Welcome to the August Edition of Highways Highlights which, as always, shows the range of projects that Essex Highways are delivering across the County from large scale infrastructure to local maintenance supporting Safer, Greener, Healthier aims.

My predecessor, Cllr Bentley, firmly believed, as do I, that communication is just as important as the engineering work that we deliver and so in this edition we are leading on the one.network resource and how you can make sure you and your parish councils and residents can register for updates so that they know what is happening in their local area as we and others continue to work hard to repair and maintain our network.

BE IN THE KNOW:

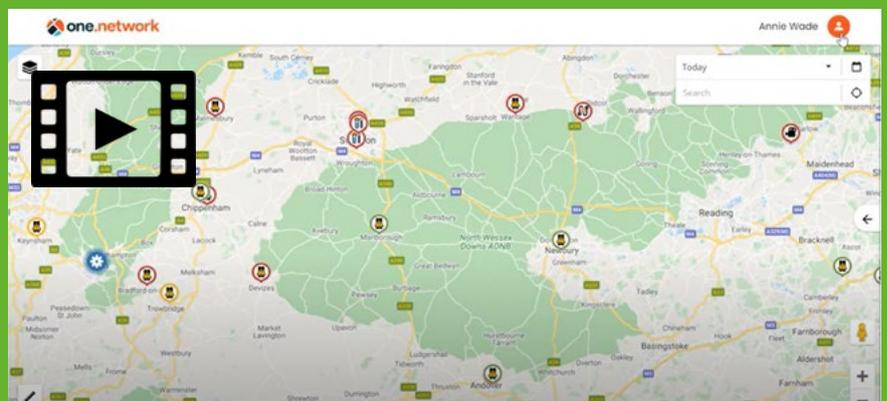
Essex Highways and other highway authorities and private companies use 'one.network' online roadworks mapping to share planned works. This way, everyone can see who's doing what and, in many cases, try to minimise clashes. Of course that's not always possible, particularly when a utility company has to react to an emergency, for instance to fix a water or gas leak or to restore electric power. However the majority of works are shown on one.network.

Councillors, MPs and in fact anyone interested, can set themselves up to receive automated, regular emails that contain details of planned roadworks in any map area you care to define. Provided that you have an email address and have created an account (free) with one.network, you can be receiving updates and information within on an area you define, within minutes. Then a single click on the map will provide you with the identity, nature and likely dates that the works will be going on. Even better – one.network will show official diversion routes, known events, and live traffic information if you select the appropriate layers. Why not sign up and get ahead of the questions?

HOW TO SET UP ALERTS...



If you are new to one.network, **watch this short video** to learn how to create a public one.network account.



Elgin, the company behind one.network **also have a very handy short video** about how to set up email alerts. They also have **written instructions** you can follow if you prefer. You can choose not only the area you are interested in, but also the frequency of alerts and the amount of detail you would like.

COUNCILLORS GO FOR A SPIN



The Chelmsford and Basildon e-scooter trials have joined Colchester in reaching 100k rides since they were launched earlier this year. To mark this milestone, some of our County Councillors including Council Leader Kevin Bentley, joined our commercial partner Spin in a safety session at County Hall. Photo from left to right: Tracey Vickers, Head of Sustainable Transport, ECC; Cllr Sue Lissimore; Cllr Mark Pratt; Cllr Kevin Bentley; Cllr Malcolm Buckley; and Cllr Beverley Egan



BUCKET AND SPADE TRAINS ARE BACK AND AS POPULAR AS EVER

The Community Rail team have been busy running the ever popular Bucket and Spade train trips again this summer.

Travelling from Colchester to Walton-on-the-Naze, each trip was attended by up to 80 children, parents and grandparents and sold out weeks beforehand. A magic show was laid on, buckets and spades handed out and even a giant fluffy octopus joined in the fun!

Cllr Peter Schwier, Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader and Climate Czar, joined Cllr Sue Lissimore, deputy Cabinet Member for Sustainable Travel on 10 August train to talk about the importance of sustainable travel - and enjoyed the company of a few young Essex train passengers too!



PUBLIC GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF KEY ESSEX JUNCTION

A public consultation has been launched about proposals to re-design a crucial gateway within the county and encourage safer, greener and healthier travel.

Essex County Council has thoroughly assessed a number of potential junction layouts for the Army and Navy junction in Chelmsford, as well as possible sustainable transport improvements, and is now asking the public to help shape the final scheme.

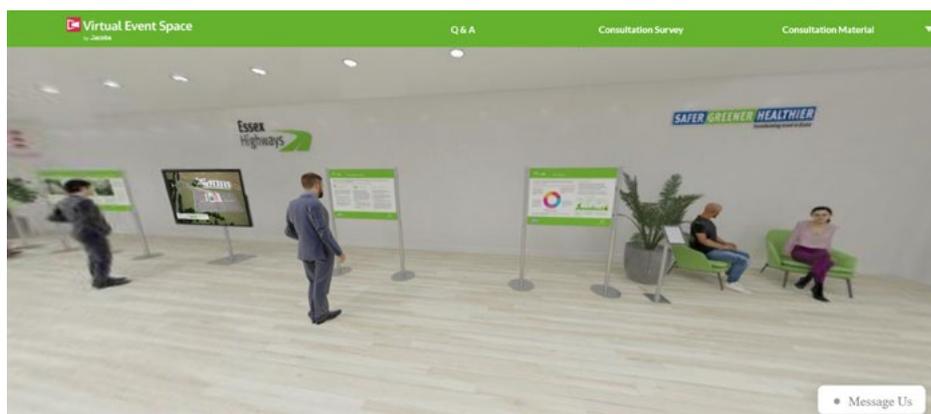
The consultation focuses on two junction options – a ‘hamburger’ roundabout (a roundabout with a road through the centre of it) and separate T-junctions, which are part of a proposed wider Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package.

The proposals also include a 350-space expansion of Sandon Park and Ride, a new Park and Ride site to the west of Chelmsford in Widford and various walking and cycling improvements.

A virtual exhibition, containing information about the proposals and visualisations of the options, is available throughout the consultation, which is open until Sunday, 3 October.

The virtual exhibition, consultation survey and details of upcoming online and in-person consultation events are all available here.

Printed consultation brochures, including an easy read version, can be collected at libraries throughout Chelmsford, the Civic Centre and County Hall.



5000 MORE LEDs

With the replacement programme now in full swing, by the end of August, Essex Highways had installed 5,000 new LED streetlights. On average, 800 old sodium streetlights are currently being replaced each week, with all parts of Essex due to benefit over the next three years.

The move to LED lights brings benefits for residents and the environment as the lights save on average around 60% energy usage and thousands of tons of carbon emissions involved in generating electricity. The lights also contain negligible toxic materials and are expected to last 20 years, whereas half of all sodium lamps fail after five years and must be replaced.

Replacing the current lights with LEDs will mean a better service and more effective use of taxpayer's money. After 25 years it is estimated the net savings for ECC will be around £39 million. Essex Highways plans to complete 25,000 replacements by Christmas with the LEDs being installed area by area until completion in 2024. Work began in May this year in Chelmsford and Basildon with plans to move on to Colchester and Tendring soon.

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "I am so pleased that we're pressing ahead with the LED rollout. Not only are LEDs more environmentally friendly and efficient, but they will also make our streetlights more effective and reduce the number of repairs we'll need to do. I would like to offer my thanks to the crews working at pace to install them and ensuring we remain on track to meet our targets."

This three-year rollout is the final phase of Essex Highways' LED replacement scheme, with 82,000 lights to be replaced in total on residential roads across Essex. By the end of the scheme virtually all 127,000 ECC managed streetlights will be using the newer technology.



Cllr Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport recently visited Wavell Close, Springfield to see progress on LED streetlighting installation



ALL THE POWER, ZERO EMISSIONS

Introducing the latest innovation being trialled here in Essex, the JCB 19C-1E - the industry's first fully electric mini excavator.

We've been putting the machine through its paces while we assess its performance, particularly with regard for footway works.

As you know, safety is at the heart of all we do, and this innovation definitely fits the bill as it produces zero emissions at the point of use.

It is also extremely quiet, which means a huge reduction in noise pollution in urban areas and during 'out-of-hours' works which helps to keep our residents happy.

The lack of noise helps to make communication much easier for our colleagues on site and means that essential information can be conveyed more quickly between operatives.

The e-digger is powered by four lithium-ion batteries which can be charged overnight ready for a full day of use the next day.

Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport and Simon Butt, Operations Director, Essex Highways recently visited one of the trials taking place in Basildon.

Councillor Scott said: "At Essex Highways we are committed to harnessing innovation and new technology to deliver the most efficient and sustainable outcomes possible.

"Electric powered machinery will no doubt play a strong part in our industry moving forward, just as it will in other walks of life. The benefits are numerous and support our drive towards a safer, greener and healthier Essex."



Councillor Lee Scott



SAFER GREENER HEALTHIER

ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING JULY 2021

In July we continued to clear out drains on local roads. Road drains are cleaned on an annual cycle, district by district. We also cleared 204 drains on the A127 in addition to the figures listed below.

Streetlights-fixed totals don't include the work being carried out in the LED upgrade programme and are listed here as an addition.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	6	30	61	1004	0
BRAINTREE	25	34	41	2777	414
BRENTWOOD	13	14	13	169	228
CASTLE POINT	9	24	10	0	230
CHELMSFORD	29	22	74	88	567
COLCHESTER	36	37	64	88	373
EPPING FOREST	46	58	17	1290	500
HARLOW	12	18	65	0	616
MALDON	35	3	11	1207	111
ROCHFORD	9	11	177	601	258
TENDRING	25	26	16	1755	265
UTTLESFORD	27	15	27	0	236
TOTALS	272	292	576	8979	3798

TRY OUT TWITTER FOR TRAVEL, TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY UPDATES



Twitter user? You should be – there are several twitter accounts very helpful to people living and working and therefore travelling in our great county. Why not follow one or all of them?:

[@essexhighways](https://twitter.com/essexhighways) for general Essex highways news, progress and information

[@Essex_Travel](https://twitter.com/Essex_Travel) for live Essex traffic updates from Monday to Saturday

[@SGH_Essex](https://twitter.com/SGH_Essex) for safer, greener, healthier travel developments and ideas in Essex

[@SERPCycling](https://twitter.com/SERPCycling) for bicycle safety training and [@SaferEssexRoads](https://twitter.com/SaferEssexRoads) for general Essex road safety matters.

For travel updates on the strategic roads in Essex like the A12, A120 and M11, follow [@highwaysEAST](https://twitter.com/highwaysEAST), and [@EPRoadsPolicing](https://twitter.com/EPRoadsPolicing) is good for roads enforcement news.

Last but not least, [@Essex_pt](https://twitter.com/Essex_pt) (Essex Passenger Transport) issues useful bus and other transport updates.