

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

DESPITE THE VIRUS: HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS IN FULL SWING

COVID-19 remains a serious threat and last month we reported on the first steps we have taken with local councils in a number of urban Essex locations to provide safer highway areas for people to move around and social distance. We have tweaked some details as we gained user feedback and we are now preparing ambitious bids for the second tranche of government money to widen the scope and permanence of schemes that will encourage more active, healthier forms of local travel such as walking and cycling.

In support of this desire we have also launched our Stop. Swap. Go! campaign, designed to encourage people to rethink how we get about for short journeys, to help ease congestion, clean up air pollution and improve our health. You can read more about Stop Swap Go inside. July has also been a very busy month for all sorts of other highway progress across the county.

Essex Highways 'Press Releases' page (which also has back issues of Highways Highlights) carries announcements on many of them, including A133 improvements at Weeley & Frating; public launch of plans for Chelmsford NE Bypass and Beaulieu Station and, right at the end of the month, the launch of our latest County Member led pothole repair scheme, enabling all County Councillors to work with their local councils to nominate particular potholes they would like fixed beyond the ones we have already planned for repair.



COMMENT COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY

**DEPUTY LEADER,
ESSEX COUNTY
COUNCIL AND
CABINET MEMBER
FOR INFRASTRUCTURE**

Like the Government, ECC shares the ambition to get more people cycling and walking and we have been, and will be, putting in measures to encourage this for those that can walk or cycle short distances.

It is a fact that many journeys by car are less than three miles. Now, this is not a war on cars because many people do have to use them for all sorts of reasons, but it is a real campaign for people that don't really think socially and morally about whether they need to drive that short distance.

Not only will it clean up our air quality which is better for health, but exercise also improves your long term health and of course we reduce congestion. With fewer cars on the road, those who need them can move more freely. This is a responsibility of us all and we can all play a part.



THE STOP. SWAP. GO! 60 DAY CHALLENGE IS HERE...

The Stop. Swap. GO! campaign aims to encourage long term travel shift towards walking, cycling and bus use across Essex. Interest has been high with well over 40,000 people reached across social media platforms including facebook, Instagram and twitter.

August sees the start of the 60 Day Challenge with participants encouraged to complete a daily sustainable travel task and build lasting habits. To boost participation, the first 500 VIPs will be awarded a branded water bottle and automatically entered into a prize draw to win a bike and cycling gear to the value of £1000.

There will also be weekly spot prizes for participants completing specific challenges and users will be encouraged to share their experiences on social media. Register and take part now on the [Stop. Swap. Go! website](#) and follow the campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). To contact the team directly email Stop.Swap.Go@essex.gov.uk





WORTH SPREADING THE LOVE - TO RIDE!

The Government is now investing heavily in getting more of us cycling, and those who do cycle, doing more. One of Essex's key investments is a partnership with **Love to Ride**, a supportive and encouraging cycling community, with our own local incentives and contacts.

People can register and then record their rides, praise and encourage others, enter prize draws and get ideas for rides and cycle group details. Walking is just as important and very much encouraged by **Active Essex** which works to support everyone of all ages, sizes and abilities to become more active and more healthy.



USE WHAT3WORDS ON ESSEX HIGHWAYS WEBSITE TO REPORT EXACT SITE OF POTHOLES AND OTHER ISSUES

When a councillor or a member of the public wants to report a pothole or any other problem on a road or public footpath, they now have the option to give the precise location using something called 'What3Words'.

Anyone with a smartphone can download the What3Words app which shows you exactly where you (and the pothole) are and three words defining a unique location.

You can then enter those three words in the search bar **when you report your concern online**. This may be particularly helpful in rural areas. Our inspectors can get straight to where the problem is, saving time and money by avoiding ambiguity. **More info here**



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

Potholes fixed per district/city/ borough in June 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.

11,793 drains were cleared in June, including 2,247 across Basildon, Brentwood and Rochford districts along the A127 including slip roads and circulatory junctions.

In July regular district by district clearing of drains on local roads continues in Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester and Uttlesford. Street lights fixed in June are included here for the first time.

For more efficient working (saving crews travel time) lights are repaired in local areas within a district before moving on to the next district, unless there is, for example, a failure of several lights at a busy junction which are repaired as a priority.

Some lights fail due to power supply issues which must be repaired by the electricity supplier – this can take time.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	78	36	92	***	417
BRAINTREE	71	76	71	0	164
BRENTWOOD	70	27	16	***	158
CASTLE POINT	48	58	26	0	199
CHELMSFORD	102	99	135	4517	309
COLCHESTER	67	38	59	3135	196
EPPING FOREST	156	52	97	0	279
HARLOW	22	65	28	0	214
MALDON	36	48	11	0	96
ROCHFORD	44	17	31	***	183
TENDRING	29	52	159	0	188
UTTLESFORD	78	58	26	1894	84
TOTALS	801	626	751	11793	2487

Please Note: Drains Cleared *** We took advantage of lane closures for verge cutting on the A127 to clear 2,247 drains along the road and adjoining roundabouts and slip roads. The A127 has sections in Brentwood, Basildon and Rochford districts.

