

# HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL  
TIPS AND  
INFORMATION  
FOR LOCAL  
COUNCILLORS

## TRANSFORMATIONAL DFT FUNDING SECURED TO FURTHER DEVELOP SAFER, GREENER, HEALTHIER TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT IN ESSEX

Essex County Council recently secured government funding of almost £7.4 million (the highest of any English county) for transformational active travel schemes in five Essex locations to encourage more cycling and walking.

We will now develop the schemes, for Basildon (Wickford), Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford and Colchester, in detail with input from public consultations, local councils, councillors, businesses, cycling, access and other key groups.

The overall aim is to encourage Essex residents to explore new ways to travel, offering people choice, so they can consider leaving their cars at home for short journeys, bringing health, environmental and congestion benefits and inspiring more sustainable ways to travel locally.

Essex County Council is investing in specific resources to ensure effective communications and engagement with affected groups over the coming months. Outline proposals with maps are on our website. **For more information see Safer, Greener, Healthier**





**COMMENT  
COUNCILLOR  
KEVIN BENTLEY**  
**DEPUTY LEADER,  
ESSEX COUNTY  
COUNCIL  
AND CABINET  
MEMBER FOR  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Welcome to our festive Highways Highlights and you will see that a great deal is going on in the Infrastructure Portfolio, from how we are introducing alternative sustainable transport to help beat congestion and improve health and the environment, major projects that will keep the county moving, how we are changing our ways and trialling eco friendly vehicles as well as the enhanced maintenance work on our roads.

Where Essex leads others follow! Have a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and here's to 2021 when we all hope daily life returns to normal with road travel improvements ready for all.

# ELECTRIC SCOOTER TRIALS GET GO-AHEAD IN ESSEX!

**One important part of the Safer, Greener, Healthier agenda is to provide alternative socially distanced, sustainable, and affordable travel options.**

As part of this, six Essex urban areas will trial the use of e-scooters - hired from SPIN, a commercial provider, starting first in Basildon and then Braintree, Brentwood, Clacton, Chelmsford & Colchester.

Although private e-scooters are illegal to ride on the public highway or on footways, the Essex trials will provide legal, defined areas where it will be lawful to ride SPIN e-scooters, provided that all the hiring conditions are met.

Private scooters will remain illegal to ride in Essex, except on private land. The trials will make it easier to understand the advantages and disadvantages of this clean, cheap form of personal mobility.

Only people over the age of 18 with a driving licence will be eligible to take part in the SPIN scheme specific training.

E-scooters will run in defined zones at up to 15.5 mph and can be ridden on roads with up to 30mph speed limits as well as on cycleways. **More details about the trial, rules, safety and enforcement is available on our website.**

# SPIN





# SAFER ESSEX ROADS PARTNERSHIP (SERP) LAUNCHES DRIVE TO VISION ZERO

42 people died on Essex roads last year. 830 were seriously injured. This represents many appalling family tragedies, totally unacceptable to all if it was another sort of event leading to these deaths and injuries.

**This powerful video makes the point.** SERP recognises that no family should face a loved one never coming home as the result of a mistake on the roads.

All the SERP partners, including Police, Fire, Ambulance, Highways and councils are committed to **Vision Zero** using a variety of improvements, cooperation and public behaviour change to get to zero deaths and serious injuries across Essex by the year 2040. If you'd like to know more or want to contribute please contact us at [saferessexroads](mailto:saferessexroads).



## INNOVATION >

### BATTERY/ HYBRID WORK VAN ON TRIAL

Essex Highways recently carried out a three-week trial of the LEVC VN5 2.5T van, made by the company that produces modern black taxis.

Based on the new taxi chassis and built in the UK, the van is a plug-in hybrid and runs through an electric motor giving it a range of 60 electric miles.

It also features a 'range extender' petrol engine, which extends its range to 300 electric miles with a full tank of fuel. It can fully charge from zero in 30 minutes.

The trial aimed to see how this technology could work in practice for day-to-day business use as we explore alternative fuel options as part of the ongoing Essex Highways fleet replacement programme.



WATCH THE VIDEO 

# MAJOR PROJECTS CONTINUE ROUND THE COUNTY

**Around the county, we continue to push ahead with a number of major projects as we approach the end of the year:**

- Working with Colchester Borough Council, ECC have been seeking public views on the **Colchester Future Transport Strategy** which proposes transforming Colchester into a place prioritising active and safe sustainable travel to bring about health, environmental and economic benefits. You can take part online, at the innovative **'virtual village hall'** exhibition.
- In Basildon, until 13 December, ECC and Basildon Councils are inviting public comment on a **proposed new pedestrian/cyclist crossing scheme on East Mayne** to reduce people's exposure to poor air quality & to complement wider efforts to encourage Safer, Greener, Healthier travel in Basildon. **More information on the web.**

- A final shortlist of options for a sustainable **Army and Navy junction in Chelmsford** is set to be confirmed early next year. The Army and Navy Taskforce overseeing the development of the project were updated on the latest progress in early December; the decision of a final shortlist of options is expected to be made in early 2021. Work is continuing to assess and refine four options for the junction - a hamburger roundabout, enlarged roundabout, two-way flyover and separate T-junctions.
- The much-needed upgrade to the critical **east-west A120 route between Braintree and Colchester** moves closer. Earlier this year the Government announced funding to progress the project and plans are being taken forward by Highways England. A recent top-level meeting of MPs, local politicians, business and community representatives heard a preferred route for the dual

carriageway could be announced at the end of next year (2021). **More A120 information is online.**

- Work continues on the additional **new Harlow junction on the M11, 'junction 7A'**. **Gilden Way** is being widened, and piling for the new bridge abutments has started. Work is scheduled to start at Churchgate Roundabout in December. **You can get further updates online.** ECC is also investing **£200,000 to make key cycleways in Harlow safer, greener and healthier.** After taking advice from all four Harlow County Councillors and town cycling enthusiasts, the money will be spent on key cycle routes in the town. Further money is set to be invested by Harlow Council, reflecting the smaller proportion of town cycleways owned by Harlow Council.
- Essex County Council has signed the final contract to secure almost £100m from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) **for new transport infrastructure in Colchester and Tendring.** The funding will support the design and delivery of the new Colchester Rapid Transit System (RTS) and a new Link Road between the A120 and A133.
- Essex County Council is to receive £2.4 million, from the Government's Getting Building Fund, managed by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and Essex Physical Activity Local Delivery Pilot (LDP), towards a **new cycling project in Clacton and Jaywick Sands.** Essex Pedal Power is a community-based project, which provides residents with a free, high-quality bike to get them more active and provide travel for work, school, college, shopping and leisure. Qualifying residents will benefit from improved access to employment, education opportunities and public services.

## "TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY... CAREFUL" WINTER SERVICE GRITTING PLAYING ITS PART

**Our gritters have been out a handful of times in November.**

Although the weather has so far been unseasonably mild, anything could happen through December and the new year. We're fully stocked with salt, very local forecasting is more precise and we have rotas for drivers planned, so we can mitigate any Covid-related absences as far as possible.

To find out more about our gritting service, including routes we cover and what the public can do to help, just visit our **Winter Gritting pages** and follow us on **Twitter** to get daily gritting decisions.



# UPDATE: COUNTY COUNCILLOR-LED POTHOLE REPAIR SCHEME: FOCUS ON 1800 AREAS

As part of the current county councillor-led repair scheme, we are now looking at 1800 specific problems or areas that Councillors have highlighted.

As at 30 November, we had created 366 'jobs' involving some degree of technical assessment and prioritisation and we have fixed 139 jobs containing numbers of defects with more planned, weather- and coronavirus-permitting, all the way through to the end of March. Some people have asked why some repairs get done in a street, but then others seem to get left that are close by. This can be for a number of reasons, including:



- Some repairs may need urgent 'make safe' work done quickly, necessitating a second visit at another time
- A lower-speed road may need different permit conditions and traffic management arrangements made, compared to a road with a higher speed limit
- Sometimes we need a road closure; this takes longer to organise.
- Different repairs that need different techniques and, possibly, different materials and equipment

The aim is to do the overall work as efficiently as possible, maximising the total budget.

## DFT HIGHLIGHTS TRAVEL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGN AS 'BEST PRACTICE'

Development of Safer, Greener, Healthier ways of travelling is crucial to longer-term goals ECC has for improving congestion, the environment and public health. In a recent bulletin issued by The Department for Transport Essex County Council's recent 'Stop, Swop, Go' campaign, encouraging people to consider swapping to walking or cycling locally particularly for shorter or school journeys, was highlighted as a 'best practice' case study.

## WHAT A YEAR!



Recently, Cllr Kevin Bentley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, and his two Deputies, Cllrs Robert Mitchell and Lesley Wagland, looked back over the unique and very challenging year that has been 2020, from a highways perspective.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT ESSEX HIGHWAYS!





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

The numbers of potholes, pavement defects and streetlights fixed and drains cleared in October and November 2020 combined are shown below.

We have completed local roads drain-cleaning in Colchester and will return to clean known higher-risk drains in the area. We are continuing the regular cleaning of local roads drains in Basildon and

the known higher-risk drains on main roads in Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Epping Forest and Harlow areas.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	45	105	198	5988	1196
BRAINTREE	67	78	70	1915	794
BRENTWOOD	29	53	21	1927	243
CASTLE POINT	19	55	50	0	466
CHELMSFORD	28	70	146	0	703
COLCHESTER	59	76	226	2542	744
EPPING FOREST	71	114	90	4118	381
HARLOW	10	86	128	1526	336
MALDON	19	40	62	0	213
ROCHFORD	20	23	192	0	400
TENDRING	36	49	190	0	712
UTTLESFORD	33	39	22	1674	232
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>19690</b>	<b>6420</b>



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