

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

Eyes on the road

Help us, help your area

Have you ever seen a vehicle hit or damage one of our road signs, bollards, bus stops or guardrails? Do you have details of the vehicle responsible? If so, we'd like to hear from you - and it's better for us to be told something more than once, than never being informed!

Every year Essex Highways writes off in excess of half a million pounds because of damage caused by persons unknown to our highways equipment and fittings. Essex County Council does not have the funding to repair damaged signs and other street items, bridge strikes or oil spills, unless they are immediately safety-critical.

However, we always pursue insurance companies when we know about third-party activity, so that wherever possible, we get reimbursed for repair costs. But we can't claim if we don't have the right evidence. This is where

you can help. As your local area's representatives you are in a better position than the highways service to quickly identify the cause of the damage, as it happens, and gather the evidence. Therefore, we ask you to report what damage incidents you can –

If you see an incident taking place, or if you know someone who has evidence that identifies responsibility in an incident, passing that critical information to Essex Highways is the vital first step towards a successful claim on behalf of taxpayers.

The info we need:

- At least one photo of the vehicle that caused the damage, ideally with the vehicle still in the location of the damage. A visible registration plate for the vehicle involved in the damage is really helpful.
- Brief description of the type of damage
- The location (described as



What are Green and Red claims?

Claims that the council makes against a third party who has damaged council equipment or assets are called 'Green Claims'.

Claims that third parties make against the council (for instance pothole damage) are called 'red claims'. We are interested in all damage that occurs by a third-party to our assets. This can include vehicle strikes (to lights, signs, bollards, guardrails etc); oil spills that damage the carriageway, and so on.

precisely as possible)

- The date and time of the incident
 - Description of vehicle make, model and colour, with other distinguishing details if available
 - If applicable and obtainable, a Police Incident Number/Fire Brigade Reference number
 - If available, witness names and contact details so we can approach them for a statement
- Then email the details to:
Green.Claims@essex.gov.uk

We handle all information confidentially, as you would expect.

We don't want anyone putting themselves in harm's way - take photos from a safe place and do not interfere with the work of any emergency or recovery services.

With your help, we can claw back more of the money we need to replace our damaged items.

Councillor Kevin Bentley comments

Deputy Leader, Essex County Council and
Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

I recently joined two of our repair crews in Halstead to see at first hand the work that is carried out to keep our roads safe and moving.

I saw the professionalism and pride these crews take in their work. They are part of the 30 gangs that work on Essex highways. I have ensured that you are kept better informed of what is happening in your part of Essex and you will find a table in this newsletter telling you of the work we have carried out in July which means you can accurately report back to your residents.

[You can find a short video looking at the work of our repair crews here](#)

[You access the latest Essex Highways Annual Plan 2018-19 document here](#)



Local Highway Panels are improving!



Local Highway Panels (LHPs) are an effective way to carry out improvements requested by local residents, with many schemes completed.

You can read which current schemes have been approved, and which are on the 'potential' list, in the relevant district LHP documents at <http://bit.ly/2vaGOat>.

One criticism of LHPs is that it seems to take some time from initial proposal to building the improvement. Some delays come from the contracting process, so earlier this year we introduced a 'direct delivery crew'.

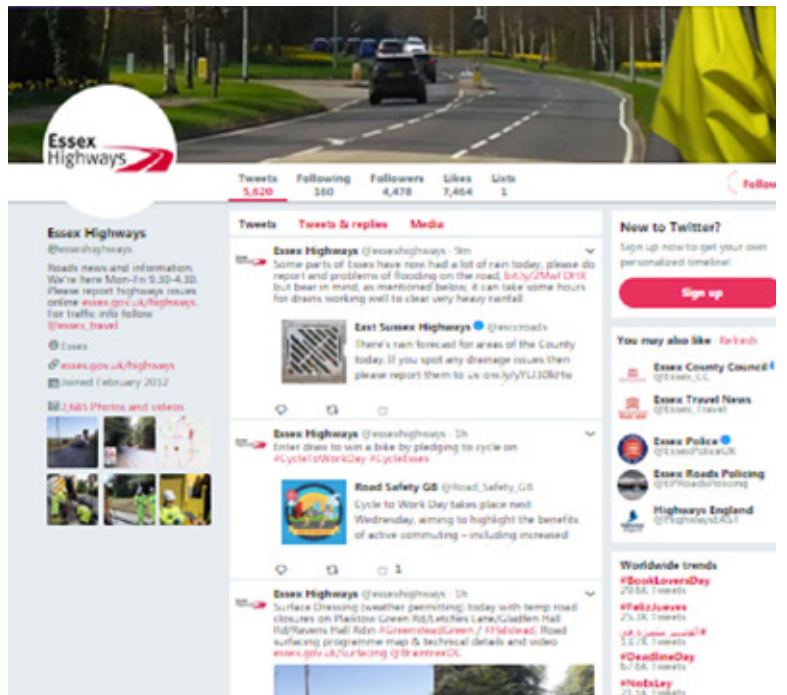
These colleagues, directly employed by Essex Highways, can start work immediately a scheme is designed and finance agreed. So far this year 29 improvement schemes, from Basildon to Bradwell-on-sea have been delivered by this crew. Everything from extra or improved warning signs, dropped kerbs with tactile paving for people with visual impairment to "pram crossings" and speed limit repeater signs.

Very often the costs involved in construction are less, saving money and bringing safety sooner to our local roads.



Essex Highways

Are you one of the Twitterati?



Persistently patching more potholes

All our road surfacing crews are working flat out: surface dressing, resurfacing and micro-surfacing are all techniques used according to the condition and nature of the road, see www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing

This work not only fixes many potholes, but prevents them for years to come. Our pothole fixing crews are still managing to repair around 1,000 a month, despite the very uncomfortable recent conditions. We're about to trial new techniques, more details in the next edition.

Are you into social media? If not, you can join twitter in a minute and start following all or any of our information feeds. Local MPs, councillors and many parishes already follow us. There's loads of live, useful info as well as interesting ideas.

Five Twitter feeds you might find useful:
@essexhighways – for warnings of major road closures for our works, progress reports and general useful highways info

@Essex_Travel – followed by almost 50,000 people, the Essex Travel Control Centre tweets live incidents, congestion and roads cleared Monday to Friday 6am-8pm

@Essex_pt – the Council Passenger Transport Information team publish bus-related changes and news

@SaferEssexRoads – Safer Essex Roads Partnership for road safety campaigns and information

@HighwaysEAST – regional Highways England feed with live incidents and congestion on their roads through Essex and beyond–A12; M11; M25; A120.

Potholes fixed

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, and local) are different too, so a direct comparison is misleading.



BASILDON	111
BRAINTREE	122
BRENTWOOD	63
CASTLE POINT	67
CHELMSFORD	153
COLCHESTER	91
EPPING FOREST	173
HARLOW	59
MALDON	46
ROCHFORD	36
TENDRING	61
UTTLESFORD	113
GRAND TOTAL	1095

Don't stand for rogue highwaymen who never deliver!

We have had reports that the Essex Highways name is being appropriated by individuals engaged in fraudulent activity in the Clacton area, although they may be active in other locations. The perpetrators are allegedly using vehicles with Essex Highways branding and are offering to do private work for local residents. We don't do private work.

They have allegedly already managed to obtain £2,000 from an elderly gentleman. Information on location, vehicle details and descriptions would be welcomed by the Police. Call Essex Police on 101, thank you.

Highways Highlights is available online at: <http://bit.ly/2M2TFEQ> Please share the link