

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS | APRIL 2023

MASSIVE MILESTONE REACHED AS WE COMPLETE 100,000th LED STREETLIGHT CONVERSION

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COMMENT

COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Welcome to the latest edition of Highways Highlights. I am pleased to say that we are in the process of bringing on new crews to deal with some of the highway defects, and are hoping to have eight crews in place in the coming weeks, with a further four to follow soon after.

We have plans in place for another Member led pothole scheme, as well as schemes going through the Local Highway Panels for both footway and carriageway works.

I will also be sharing monthly reports with County Members that show upcoming planned works in the 12 Districts, and we encourage them to share that information far and wide, so we can let our residents and network users know what we are doing and the investment we are making into our network. Our teams do huge amounts of works, and I want to make sure that our residents are aware of that.



100,000 LEDS INSTALLED



LEFT TO RIGHT: GRAHAM SCRAGG, STUART ATTERBURY, CLLR LEE SCOTT, LEIGH ATTERBURY

Wednesday 26 April marked a major milestone in our LED streetlight replacement programme with the installation of the 100,000th unit in Bracken Drive, Chigwell. On hand to witness this auspicious occasion was Cllr Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport.

Our phase 4 LED installation began in May 2021, which saw crews replacing the first of the remaining 82,000 old-style streetlights ECC operates. By the end of 2022, we had upgraded a total of 40,325 luminaires* (37,000 units through the main programme and 3,000 units through maintenance activities). Reaching this important milestone is particularly gratifying as phase 4 of the programme was significantly impacted by the global shortage of components for the telecells that are used to control the streetlights.

This was due to major events out of our control such as the effects of the pandemic lockdowns and the war in Ukraine. Our telecells manufacturer was

unable to supply materials from April until the end of September 2022. We mitigated this risk for the most part by ordering a surplus of stock before the shortage hit but we were still slightly behind our target programme. Despite this, a recovery programme has been agreed with our contractors to ensure works are completed by the end of the financial year 2023/24.

Cllr Scott said: “I am thrilled with the progress that has been made with the LED rollout. I would like to thank the crews for all their hard work. LED lights bring many benefits for both residents and the environment as they save on average around 75% energy usage and 1700 tons of carbon emissions involved in generating electricity. The replacement will also mean a better service and more effective use of taxpayer’s money, as the LEDs are expected to last 20 years, whereas 20% of all sodium lamps fail after four years and must be replaced.”

*Complete lighting units consisting of a light source such as a lamp the parts that distribute the light, position and protect the light source and connect it to the power supply

Although helped by the fact that Bracken Drive, Chigwell is a quiet residential street, removing the need for more extensive Traffic Management, installation of the 100,000 was very straightforward taking around 15 minutes.

First, the electrical supply to the lamp column was turned off and wiring prepared. Then Leigh Atterbury took to the hoist to set about removing the old lighting unit and feeding through the new wiring cable into the column. Once this was connected, Leigh connected and fixed the new

LED unit into position and the unit was tested to ensure everything was in working order.

You may have noticed that some streetlights in areas haven't yet been replaced and you may be concerned that they have been missed entirely. There are many reasons why this could be, such as operatives being unable to safely gain access to equipment due to foliage or parked cars, to concerns about the column structure. We will get back to them. We are continuing to work until all unfinished units are completed.



SMART LIGHTING ENHANCES COASTAL CYCLE PATH

Essex Highways has been working on an innovative programme called Pedal Power Clacton to Jaywick Sands - Wind and Solar Lighting. The programme involves the delivery of a bespoke cycle network infrastructure aimed at helping to tackle inequality in one of the most deprived areas of the country.

To encourage the use of the cycle scheme lighting was deemed important to ensure that users felt safe and secure during the hours of darkness. As there was no existing lighting or power supplies along the route, it was decided to investigate sustainable sources of lighting powered by renewable energy.

The chosen solution was Kight's off-grid, ultra-low power, smart street lighting control management, which combines a high-performance radio and microcontroller to offer a reliable, secure and scalable solution, for complete monitoring of the street lighting.

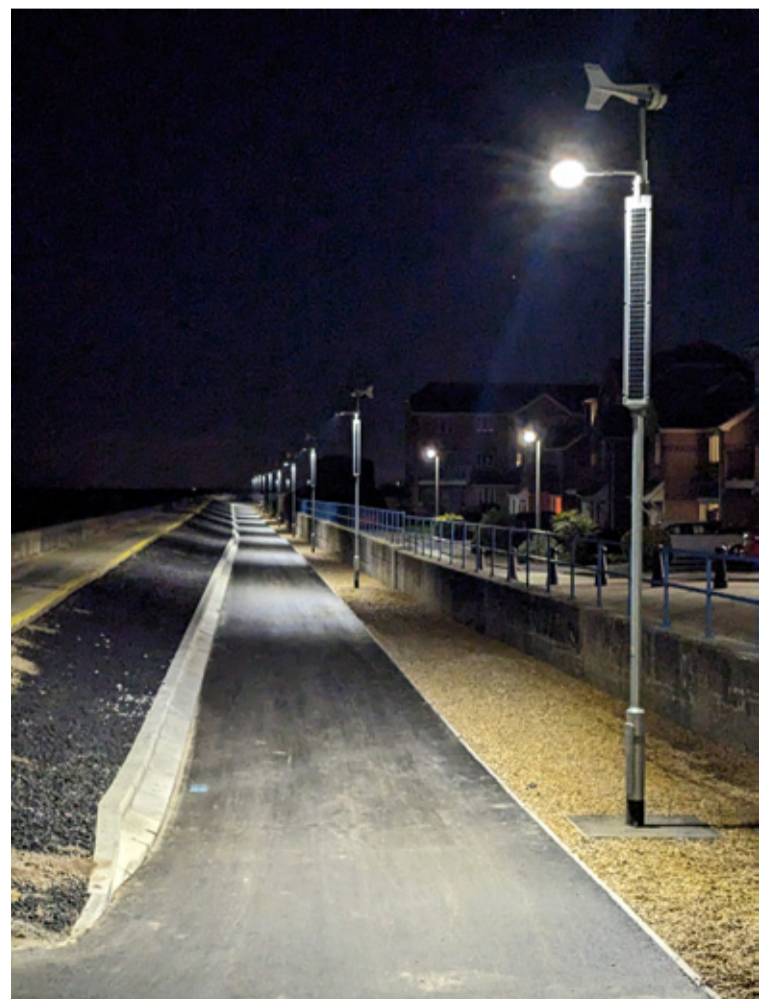
From setting lighting and dimming schedules, dynamic dimming, and remote monitoring for optimising maintenance and detecting problems in real time; the smart lighting control enables us to tailor our off-grid lighting to meet our needs.

These units can be installed in any suitable location where there are no restrictions on wind flow and sunlight. They are particularly suitable where no existing electricity power supplies exist saving on the considerable disruption and expense of new supplies and connections.

The anticipated benefits of the scheme are improved:

1. cycling participation to level up inequalities,
2. sustainable active travel through cycling, including developing local cycling infrastructure,
3. employability of local people and local economy, including access to employment, education, and training opportunities,
4. fitness and physical health of inactive people,
5. mental wellbeing of inactive people and support to be job ready,
6. resilience, connectedness, and social capital in local communities.

Through feedback this project has evolved from a relatively standard cycle route enhancement to a high-profile sustainable connection with enhanced environmental features that will provide many benefits to the local community for years to come.



WINTER SERVICE DONE



Summer is on its way and as we say hello to the good weather we wave goodbye to our winter programme, which finished on 23 April.

During the programme, our gritters went out 71 times (12 times more than last year) and used a little over 20,500 tonnes of salt on our road network.

The gritter drivers delivering the service are primarily made up of Essex Highways operatives who work the hours necessary to keep the roads in Essex safe during the colder months. This is in addition to their usual daytime highways

maintenance tasks, which can be a stretch during winter months.

There are so many people involved in the process of gritting the roads, from the winter decision makers to the incredible colleagues who drive our gritter lorries. We thank each and every one of our dedicated workers who kept the county roads safe throughout the winter months.

Our gritters will be back for the 2022/23 winter season on 23 October 2023... but let's all enjoy the summer first!

INNOVATION
IN ACTION

LOOK! NO HANDS

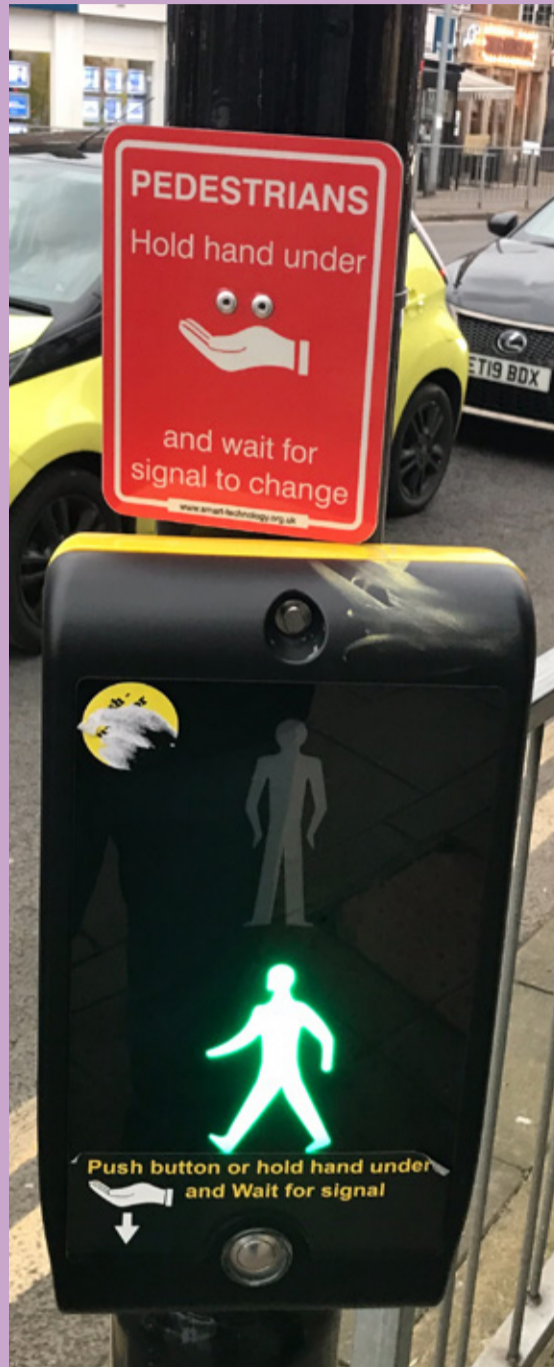
During 2021/22, Essex Highways was one of 39 Local Authorities from across the country to receive a £250k allocation from the DfT (ITS Maintenance funding).

The funding was made available to authorities so that they might improve their ITS assets.

The money was used to upgrade pedestrian crossings and traffic signals - primarily converting them to LED technology to help reduce energy consumption and installing detection upgrades to maximise efficiency.

The opportunity was taken at several sites in Braintree, Brentwood and Loughton to also fit touch-free or contactless units at selected pedestrian crossings.

These contactless pedestrian crossing units enable much better accessibility than the usual pushbutton type, especially for people who may find pressing a button difficult, such as those with Parkinson's disease. The touch-free approach also has the advantage of helping to prevent the spread of diseases.



SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

Transforming travel in Essex

DID YOU KNOW THAT MAY IS NATIONAL WALKING MONTH?

The Safer Greener Healthier team is urging residents to take part in National Walking Month coordinated by walking charity Living Streets.

This includes Walk to School week, running from 15 and 19 May, which has the theme this year of "Walk with Wildlife". Essex County Council is funding 23 primary schools to take part in the event, the equivalent of 243 classes and an estimated 7,290 pupils.

Encouraging as many residents as possible to walk rather than use their cars for shorter journeys is part of ECC's ambition to make Essex safer, greener and healthier.



ROUTINE REPAIRS: MARCH 2023

In March we continued to repair carriageway and footway defects. When looking at these numbers, it is important to remember that repairs are prioritised by severity not by district, so numbers can vary considerably. Streetlights-fixed totals don't include the work being carried out in the LED upgrade programme. Please note: Our gully clearing service has been severely impacted this month by the winter weather as most of our Essex Highways gully operatives are also winter service drivers.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	203	28	101	7870	80
BRAINTREE	141	81	24	0	96
BRENTWOOD	38	32	11	0	161
CASTLE POINT	24	11	3	0	111
CHELMSFORD	48	40	22	0	52
COLCHESTER	81	159	17	188	53
EPPING FOREST	185	44	17	3033	102
HARLOW	17	11	16	0	69
MALDON	28	33	19	0	17
ROCHFORD	50	31	30	0	138
TENDRING	53	41	26	0	52
UTTLESFORD	48	4	0	270	19
TOTALS	916	515	286	11361	950

