



HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS | NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022



OUR GRITTERS ARE GO!



COMMENT

COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

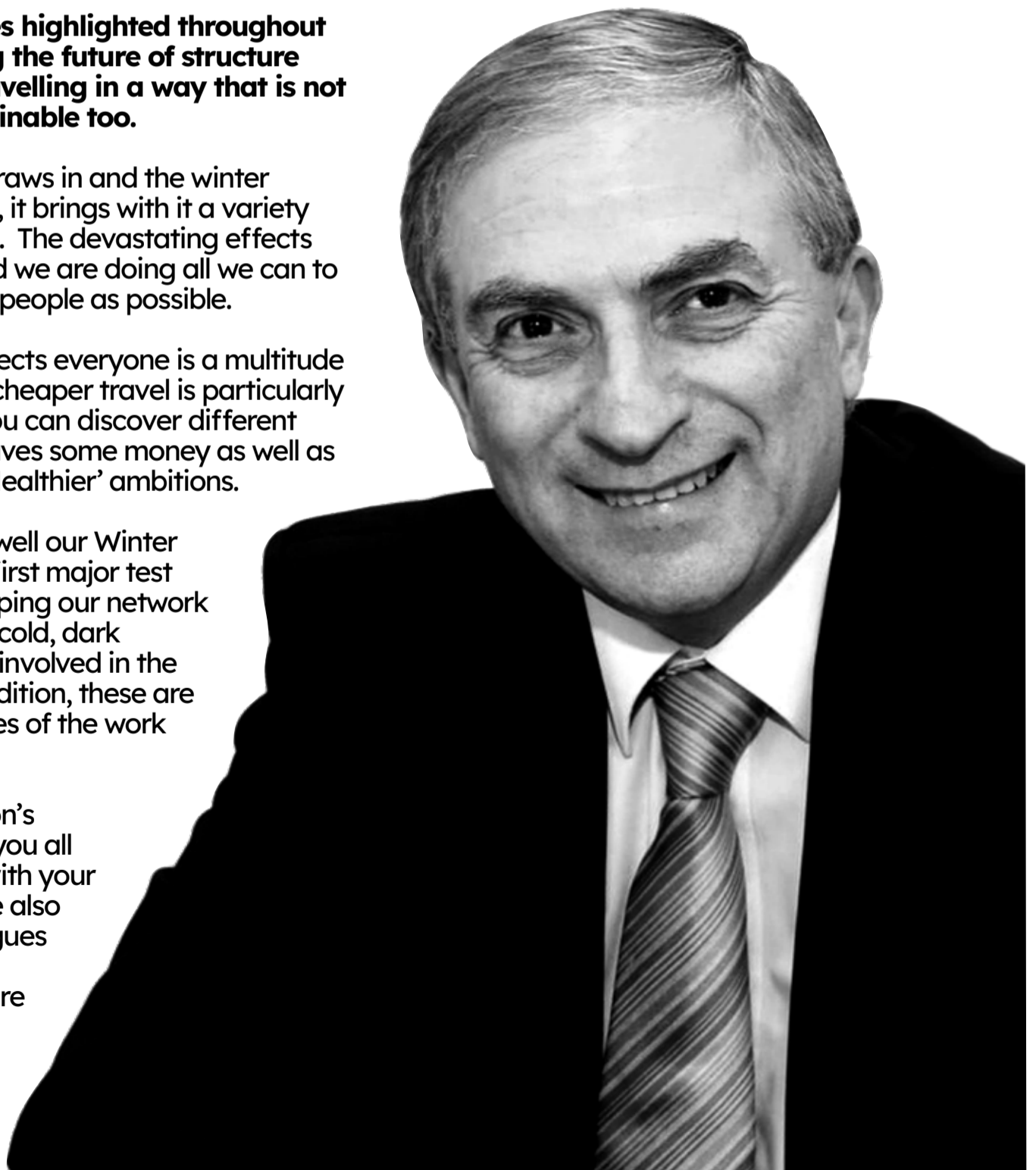
There are some key messages highlighted throughout this month's edition including the future of structure inspections, flooding, and travelling in a way that is not only cheaper, but more sustainable too.

As the cold and wet weather draws in and the winter service starts to get in full flow, it brings with it a variety of pressures including flooding. The devastating effects of flooding are well known, and we are doing all we can to ensure that this affects as few people as possible.

The cost of living crisis also affects everyone is a multitude of ways and our article about cheaper travel is particularly appealing with this in mind. You can discover different ways of getting around that saves some money as well as following our 'Safer, Greener, Healthier' ambitions.

I am very pleased to see how well our Winter Service crews dealt with their first major test this year. I thank them for keeping our network safe and moving during these cold, dark months. I also thank all of you involved in the work featured in this months edition, these are some really important examples of the work that we do.

Finally, I'd like to extend Season's Greetings to you all and hope you all get to enjoy some downtime with your families and loved ones. Please also spare a thought for our colleagues who will be working over the holiday period, helping to ensure that our network is safe and functional.





OUR GRITTERS ARE GO!

The weekend of 10/11 December saw the first significant snowfall of 2022 and our Gritters were ready to go.

Winter service had begun on 24 October and Essex Highways' salt barns were full, the gritter drivers had memorised their routes and our decision makers were ready to analyse the road temperature forecasts to see if, where and when our gritters were required.

Temperatures began to drop noticeably in mid-November and the gritter lorries had their first trip out on 20 November. However, last weekend we were out at least twice a day, gritting established routes in preparation for the snow that arrived on Sunday afternoon (11 December). Last week alone, our Ardleigh depot had laid 770 tonnes of salt covering 5375 miles of roads which equated to 676 man hours.

During the following week, Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways

Maintenance and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council, was interviewed by BBC Essex about our work to keep the county safe and moving. He also took the opportunity to thank the Gritter drivers for all their hard work so far keeping Essex's roads open and clear.

It's important to note that our drivers are the same operatives who repair the potholes, jet drains and maintain the network throughout the year, so they are extremely busy during the colder months.

Don't forget that National Highways, not Essex Highways, grit the A12, A120, M11 and M25 in Essex. If you want to refresh your own memory of roads we grit, please have a look at our gritting routes map online. Daily updates as and when winter decisions are made are posted on our twitter page @EssexHighways

All other winter related information is available online.



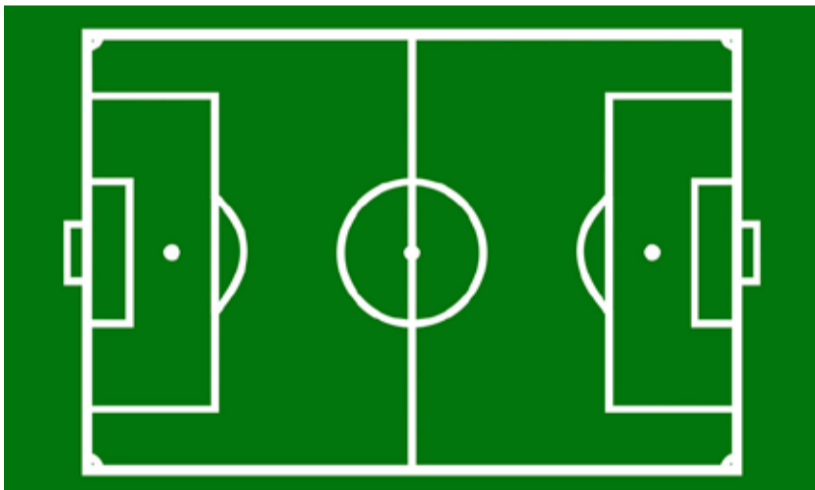


GREAT COVERAGE

Although some road surfacing is completed all year round, it is very weather dependent. Therefore, our major resurfacing programme begins with the new financial year and warmer weather from April.

Now that the nights are truly longer and darker and we've all forgotten what sunshine feels like, our resurfacing programme is all but over. So, we thought we'd give you a roundup of all the resurfacing work we have completed between April and October.

We've attended 141 sites and resurfaced 1,054,258 metres squared of road, which is the same as...



147 FOOTBALL
PITCHES

807,000
BATH TOWELS

63,000
STANDARD
CAR PARK
SPACES



SURFACING TECHNIQUES

Surface dressing is used where the surface is in reasonably good condition, but needs sealing to stop water ingress which can last up to ten years. We can cover a large area very quickly at relatively low cost. We use surface dressing on most of our surfacing programme.



Micro surfacing is a slightly more durable and more expensive process which places a thin layer of a completely new surface on the road.



It takes longer to cover a given area than surface dressing but is used where roads are busier, and the road needs more levelling off.

Machine resurfacing is where the existing surface is removed, and completely new depth of surface is laid as a replacement. It is a more expensive and slow process but is a great treatment to use in places where the road is badly worn and is required to take heavy traffic.



Insitu-recycling is only used in limited areas where the road is very badly out of shape. A very durable new surface can be laid, and logistics make it easier to re-use existing materials rather than bring in new stone. It is marginally more expensive treatment per area covered than resurfacing or other treatments."





FLOODING YOU WITH INFO

At this time of year, we can often experience heavy and prolonged rainfall which can then lead to highway flooding, which is potentially dangerous, inconvenient and can be damaging. Essex Highways is responsible for over 300,000 known drains and related assets.

To maintain these, we move around the county to carry out routine “cyclical” cleaning area by area, as well as performing “ad-hoc” responses to problems that have been reported us. This all helps to alleviate the effects that rainfall has on flooding.

However, it is important to remember that after a heavy downpour or prolonged build-up, it can take several hours for our highway drains to get rid of a large volume of water. This is because road drains must carry the water from the road to somewhere else such as ditches, utility-owned water systems or rivers. So, after heavy rain, please wait a few hours before you report flooding on the highway to us. If the drainage ditches near the road are blocked with silt, the water has nowhere to go. Equally, if you live near the

coast or tidal river and there is a high tide, the drains may even work in reverse. District councils clean the roads (including gully gratings with leaves on), which can slow the water into them but it is the responsibility of the landowner to clean out any ditches on their private property. Parish Councillors can often help liaise with landowners to bring about resolution when local flooding issues are identified.

We are only responsible for our own road drains around the county, so if the wider network of private and utility drainage in a village isn’t working properly or doesn’t have the capacity to cope with heavy, prolonged water flows, then it will make no difference if the road drains are cleared, as the water cannot escape. Our ability to manage our gullies, catchpits, channels, and pipes is increasing.

Drivers should not attempt to drive through significant floods as it is likely water will enter air intakes and stall engines leading to dangerous situations requiring rescue by stretched emergency services.

Even when the water is not deep, drivers should proceed very slowly to avoid aquaplaning collisions and to prevent soaking pedestrians and properties. Pedestrians too should not enter floodwater, as there may be hidden obstacles or even holes such as manhole covers that have ‘popped out’ due to water pressure.





SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

Transforming travel in Essex

TRAVEL CHEAPER!

A “Travel Cheaper” campaign has been launched by the Safer, Greener, Healthier team. Running for six weeks with the ads appearing on all the main social media platforms, the campaign includes tips and information about how cycling, walking, e-scooting and using public transport can help cut costs this winter.

Cycle to Work schemes, free adult and family cycle training, Park and Ride bus special offers, discount bus fares and the e-scooting UK Access Scheme (which offers 50 per cent discount for Blue Light card holders, students and Job Centre Plus card holders) are all featured. [More information here.](#)



Travel Cheaper

Discover e-scooters to get around for less



Travel Cheaper

Discover cycling to get around for less



ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING OCTOBER 2022

In October, 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.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	20	13	118	2201	221
BRAINTREE	44	30	17	0	64
BRENTWOOD	5	7	3	1382	111
CASTLE POINT	3	12	4	0	94
CHELMSFORD	26	19	48	2619	118
COLCHESTER	26	47	56	0	386
EPPING FOREST	19	35	45	361	96
HARLOW	0	16	61	0	208
MALDON	17	2	21	869	107
ROCHFORD	4	7	101	1191	86
TENDRING	20	23	15	0	360
UTTLESFORD	26	27	13	1748	86
TOTALS	210	228	502	10371	1937

CHOOSING BEGINS FOR THE FINAL FIFTEEN!

After being open for a month on Twitter, our Name the Gritter Competition is now closed.

We have 15 new gritters to name and received almost 200 names suggestions.

We are now going to narrow down our choices and once we have, will be asking for the help of the people of Essex to pick the final winning names via a series of polls that we'll be holding on our twitter feed throughout the rest of the month (@EssexHighways).

If you sent us a name suggestion, thank you for taking part and good luck!

