

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

FOCUS ON FOOTWAYS

With the Member-led pothole repair programme now wrapping up, (see page 2) our focus is turning to pavements, or 'footways' as engineers call them.

County Members recently received a letter from Cllr Kevin Bentley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, inviting them to once again liaise with their local communities, this time to identify locally important footway problems.

As the information comes in, we will carry out repairs alongside the other work we do fixing risk-assessed faults and delivering programmed capital works.

The funding is not unlimited so in the guidelines provided County Members have been asked to identify up to five specific footway or kerb defects in their Division.

This may be a mixture of specific 'spot defects' (i.e. a specific footway hole, broken, missing or damaged single kerbstone and so on) and/or limited 'length defects' i.e. problems which lie along a stretch of footway, kerbing or verge.

As work gets under way, we will tweet out pictures, so be sure to follow @essexhighways



COMMENT COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY



**Deputy Leader,
Essex County
Council and
Cabinet Member
for Infrastructure**

Summer is just around the corner which means you will see many of our crews working on the highways. I am now switching attention to repair local and estate roads as well as continuing to invest in larger infrastructure projects across Essex. I am also pleased to launch our footway repair scheme which I hope you and your residents will find useful. Please ensure you put forward your footways that most urgently need doing and please do pass this newsletter onto any residents' organisation or individuals who you think would find it helpful.

POTHOLE INITIATIVE DELIVERS THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL REPAIRS

Since introduction of the Member-led Local Pothole repair programme last autumn, we have fixed hundreds of the specific carriageway potholes reported through the programme.

We have also put forward some repairs for consideration in future capital programmes. Overall we have fixed more than 6000 defects, with work going on until June. Coupled with the regular repairs we deliver based on our safety-led priorities, and with the help of a mild winter, with your help we have significantly reduced the number of potholes on our Essex road network.



STRUCTURES: BRIDGES DON'T STAND STILL

You may not realise it as you use them every day, but like your home, the 1600 bridges (and subways, culverts, footbridges, retaining walls, dams, gantrys that we are responsible for) are flexing, eroding and the materials they're made of are continually deteriorating.

Bridges need regular inspection and periodic repairs or replacement, like every other asset on our network. Many bridges in Essex were built and may be largely unchanged for decades or even centuries – they were usually not built for the weight of modern traffic, so it's no surprise that Essex Highways engineers are often involved in projects to keep a bridge safe or improve it for the future.

Regular inspections are vital, but some bridges may suddenly crack or split one layer from another, as pressure and sub-soil movement becomes too great. This may not be visible from the road and so we need to explain to a sceptical travelling public why the work must be done. And sometimes a bridge will show evidence of sudden deterioration, which means we have to close it at short notice.

We will always offer appropriate, signed diversions, but

sometimes, particularly in rural areas with few alternative routes, official diversions will cause inconvenience to drivers. Essex Highways has improved the regular and ad hoc structures inspection regimes. We have pioneered innovative solutions, including the use of dry lining in smaller culverts and ways to strengthen bridges, (as shown under Salary Bridge, near the University in Colchester where grooves cut and steel cables installed under tension). This reinforcement avoided the otherwise inevitable major cost in money and traffic disruption of a full bridge replacement.



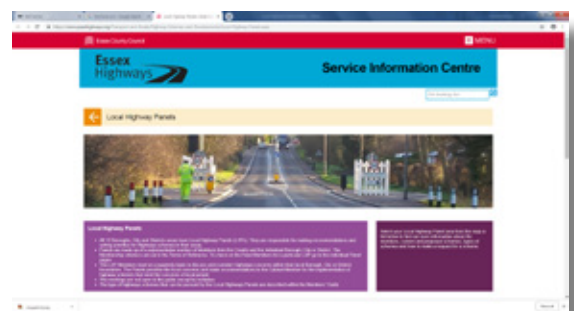
POTHOLES, PAVEMENTS AND DRAINS FIXED IN THE MONTH...

Please note: drainage clearance capital works not active during April, re-starts in May. The regular cyclical drain cleaning programme starts on local roads in Maldon and then Brentwood in May. Tending rural roads were completed at the end of April.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED
BASILDON	56	19	50	0
BRAINTREE	72	88	41	0
BRENTWOOD	17	32	45	2140
CASTLE POINT	44	13	23	0
CHELMSFORD	14	29	54	0
COLCHESTER	41	70	50	90
EPPING FOREST	89	65	169	0
HARLOW	20	27	134	0
MALDON	23	23	7	0
ROCHFORD	21	3	44	0
TENDRING	17	30	52	7833
UTTLESFORD	30	30	13	0
TOTALS	444	429	682	10063

LOCAL HIGHWAY PANELS MEMBERS GUIDES - KEEP UP TO DATE!

Did you know you can click on your area on the [Local Highway Panel web pages](#) to see all the Guides, including the latest updates: Winter, Quiet Lanes and Rangers Service. Guides are constantly being updated.



Missed an issue?
[Highways Highlights](#) back issues can be found [here](#)