

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

As 2019 nears the end of the road, the sheer variety and scope of highways activity this year has been exceptional.

It's amazing when you stand back and consider everything that goes on in this service, which everyone depends on. Since January, Highways Highlights has covered topics focussing on critical service areas.

Whether it has been Member-led opportunities to request additional repairs to potholes or pavements, the introduction of devolution to parish and town councils, the extension of Essex Traffic Control Centre opening hours or one of the many technical innovations or process efficiencies we have trialled and introduced, each will improve services for road users in Essex.

We have also used video and social media more than ever this year to bring news and updates to you – so in that same vein, we have a video message from the Cabinet Infrastructure Team led by Cllr Kevin Bentley.



2019: A VERY BUSY YEAR





COMMENT COUNCILLOR KEVIN BENTLEY

**DEPUTY LEADER,
ESSEX COUNTY
COUNCIL
AND CABINET
MEMBER FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE**

What a year it has been!
The video enclosed in this magazine highlights some of the work Essex Highways has undertaken during the past months to bring real improvements and embrace new and emerging technologies in this sector.

I'd like to thank all Councillors at every level of local government in Essex as well as members of the public for reporting defects. We do get to them as fast as humanly possible and we do prioritise the most important defects first.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



STREETLIGHT DUPLICATION PROJECT

Essex Highways is now taking action to switch off some street lights where they perform no useful function and waste energy. For many years we have been over-lighting some areas.

These are simply duplicated lights in the same small area where, for example, a road was built and lit many years ago and then, at a later date, a separate footway or cycleway has been added nearby with further lighting independently designed. This means that we have ended up with two or more lights illuminating almost identical areas.

We now plan to switch off the small proportion of duplicates we identify.

Cllr Bentley said: "Our move will not greatly reduce light or affect safety.

It means that we will not be burning lights that are unnecessary and ensures we are doing all we can to reduce carbon emissions, helping with our climate change work.

"Each county councillor will be notified of lights to be switched off before we do so, in case there are any particular circumstances they are aware of. Safety will not be compromised."



With the Member-led footway repair programme now well under way, the highways engineers co-ordinating the works have been busy crunching the numbers as well as fixing the problems.

The good news is that by working efficiently, some additional capacity for further repairs has emerged. This means that County Members have been invited to add two further footway repair requests to their list for repairs to be considered, so long as their extra requests are submitted by the end of December.

Although we are now in the season of worst weather and holidays, work will continue right through to March.

TAKE TWO





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

Potholes fixed per district/city/borough in October 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, local) are different too, so a direct comparison is misleading.

All drains in Maldon District were finished last month. In November we have continued to clean drains on local roads in urban areas of Chelmsford. In Uttlesford, Braintree and Brentwood we are carrying out “risk based cleaning” – working on drains where we know from experience there is a higher risk of them being blocked with debris and flooding resulting. Total cleanse this month (October) across the County 17,272.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED
BASILDON	8	10	127	
BRAINTREE	13	22	20	12559
BRENTWOOD	3	10	26	
CASTLE POINT	2	6	10	
CHELMSFORD	8	40	32	1666
COLCHESTER	12	25	34	
EPPING FOREST	20	35	14	3047
HARLOW	6	34	2	
MALDON	22	16	22	
ROCHFORD	9	10	74	
TENDRING	7	13	13	
UTTLESFORD	16	34	11	
TOTALS	126	255	385	17272

NEW WINTER WEAPONS

Re-furbished salt barns, hyper-local “route-based forecasting” and a trial of Sat-Nav-linked automatic spreading make us even better prepared for freezing weather this year.

The automatic salting makes it more accurate, better adapted to different parts of the route, saves some salt and above all makes the work safer for the driver and other road users, as he can concentrate on driving without pressing any buttons and checking the spreading.



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM ESSEX HIGHWAYS

We'll be preparing the way for Santa's sleigh...

