

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HELPFUL
TIPS AND
INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL
COUNCILLORS

‘MAKE SAFE’ REPAIRS: NOT PRETTY, BUT NECESSARY?

We are often criticised for doing quick, temporary, perhaps poor-looking “make safe” repairs on potholes and other road defects – but why do we do them?

A POTHOLE OR OTHER DEFECT MAY SUDDENLY APPEAR OR QUICKLY BECOME DANGEROUS

When councillors, members of the public and our inspectors identify and report potholes and other issues, we quickly assess them. The highest risk problems need to be dealt with urgently, for public safety.

For these most urgent repairs, usually we don’t have time to book a permit to close the road, order traffic management (cones, temporary traffic lights or barriers) and get together all the equipment and hot asphalt, so we must fix the pothole quickly with the cold material the call-out crew carries on their truck.

KEY DEADLINES

For the highest-risk potholes, once the inspector has submitted their online report, the on-call crew

will be notified. They aim to arrive on-site within two hours to carry out an urgent intervention.

For this type of necessarily unplanned works we are only allowed to close a road for 15 minutes in any one hour, and if a pothole is on a main road the crew have to be extremely careful with how they stop or control traffic to make the repair.

With other problems, all we can do on the spot is put cones, barriers and signs on site to warn drivers and other road users – for instance if there is a missing gulley or manhole cover.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

The on-call crew only carry a limited number of tools and materials in the response vehicle. For example they can only carry a small number of cones and signs, plus cold asphalt material to fill a pot-hole, which they can quickly fill in and tamp it down to make it safe for a temporary period.



WATCH
THE
VIDEO

[Continues >](#)



COMMENT COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT

**CABINET MEMBER FOR
HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE
AND SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT**

Welcome to our September edition which focuses on what we do to make our carriageways and pathways safe for all road users.

We showcase what we are doing in the short and long term to make our roads safer and reduce the number of deaths on our roads.

I will not be the only councillor who received emails from residents affected by the recent heavy rain and so I am pleased to be able to include in this edition the launch of the Make Rain Happy scheme which sees nature-based solutions deployed to manage an ongoing flooding issue in Canvey Island.

‘MAKE SAFE’ REPAIRS

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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After we have done a “make-safe” repair or guarding activity, our staff continue to monitor the condition of the intervention. This applies to pavement, pedestrian guard rail, drain covers and other issues too.

Depending on the nature and size of the risk and where budgets permit, it is then likely that a more permanent repair will be planned and scheduled for a future date when all the necessary permits, materials and equipment and specialist crew(s) are available. We are limited on the amount of repairs that we can fund so you may see some temporary repairs on the network for a prolonged period of time and this can be the case for pedestrian guard railing. If you spot a pothole or any other defect on roads we are responsible for, **PLEASE TELL US BY USING OUR REPORT IT TOOL ONLINE**



BETTER PRESENTED POTHOLE REPAIRS

Recent changes to our patching specification means that we can re-start using “overbanding” to neatly seal the edges of permanent, hot asphalt, pothole repairs.

This will help our permanent repairs look better. The materials now on the market are more skid-resistant (better for bicycles and motor-bikes) and offer better water-proofing than current techniques we use.

Our repair crews will start to use them over the coming months. Note though that our ‘make-safe’ repairs use cold materials, so they can’t use this technique (see front-page article).





Attending the launch event were Cllr Lee Scott, Andrew Cook, Director Highways and Transportation ECC, Cllr Lesley Wagland, Peter Massie, Head of Essex Highways Commissioning, ECC and Nicola Foster, Chair of SERP, flanked by members of the emergency services

VISION ZERO – WORKING TOWARDS NO PEOPLE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED ON ESSEX ROADS

How many people dying on the roads in Essex every year do you think is acceptable? 5? 20? 42? (42 is the actual number of people that died on our roads last year).

What if some of them were your family, your friends, neighbours, colleagues? When you think of it like this, isn't one person killed one too many? Human beings make mistakes, but is it right that, sometimes, even a small mistake means that someone will not be going home?

The Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) has just launched Vision Zero. Vision Zero is our ambition to have ZERO road deaths and serious injuries on roads in the Essex, Southend and Thurrock council areas by 2040.

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, attended the launch event. Cllr Scott said: "Every death on Essex roads is unacceptable, every death is a loved family member. Vision Zero is a challenging aspiration, but we must aim to stop avoidable road deaths in our county. Essex County Council will take every action it can to make Essex roads as safe as possible and we will work collaboratively with all our partners in SERP to make Vision Zero a reality."

We are looking forward to working with anyone and everyone who shares our vision of zero deaths and serious injuries on Essex roads. If you'd like to know more or want to contribute please contact us at saferessexroads@essexhighways.org



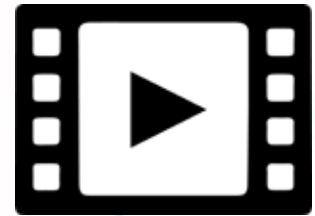
We all recognise the enormity of this challenge. To get to zero by 2040, we need to halve the current number of deaths and serious injuries by 2030 which we know will involve many changes and will require the commitment of all communities and organisations, as well as each individual road user.



We feel that the passion behind Vision Zero is captured by the impact of a thought-provoking film from The Transport Accident Commission Victoria (Australia) Towards Zero

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE](#)

NEW 'RAIN GARDEN' WILL HELP PREVENT FLOODING ON CANVEY ISLAND ROAD



WATCH COUNCILLOR SCOTT INTRODUCE THE RAIN GARDENS IN CANVEY ISLAND

Park Avenue, Canvey is the first road in Essex to have new "rain gardens" installed to help reduce the risk of local flooding. The launch event on Monday 27th September was attended by Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, Rebecca Harris MP and ECC Climate Change Tsar Cllr Peter Schwier. [LINK TO VIDEO IF AVAILABLE](#)

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport said:

"The area already looks much greener and is sure to be more resistant to flooding in this low-lying area in persistent rain. If this scheme works as it should, and if feedback from residents is positive, then this can become a model for other schemes elsewhere, as funds allow.

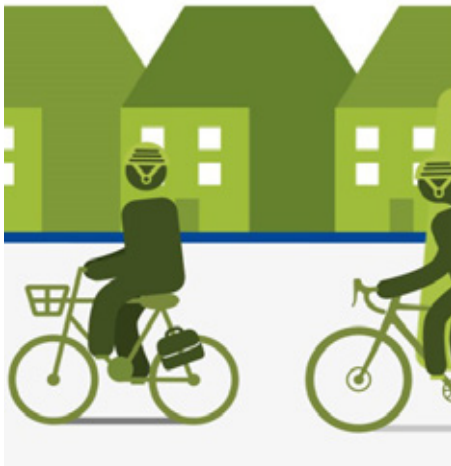
"Park Avenue happened to have the necessary land on the verges available, but we can adapt the model elsewhere. I love the fact that 1,300 plants and 30 trees have been planted here to make it very much environmentally friendly. This is a clever scheme, although it doesn't solve wider flooding problems, but it is a good start and I congratulate all the partners involved."

Road verges have been made into attractive rain gardens with drainage material, plants and soil that help retain water and allow it slowly to soak away. This holds surface water away from the road and people's homes. A "swale" (shallow, grassy channel) has been installed in the greenspace nearby which will also capture surface water from the highway. A wooden footbridge crosses the swale to maintain access to the greenspace during very wet periods.

Improvements have been made to parking with the addition of "X-grid" (grass grows between a concrete grid in the soil) permeable parking along the side of the road. Thirty native trees have been planted in the greenspace, and over 1,300 plants have been planted in the rain gardens.

SAFER GREENER HEALTHIER

Transforming travel in Essex



Almost three quarters (74%) of Essex residents support prioritising and increasing space for walking - while 66% support more space for cycling, according to the results of our recent Active Travel Fund survey.

On a county-wide level, traffic congestion, air pollution and road safety were top concerns. The six-week consultation ran from 27 May to 11 July and out of the 2,482 responses received:

- 86% of respondents said that they were concerned or very concerned about traffic congestion
- 80% of respondents said that they were concerned or very concerned about air pollution
- 86% of respondents said that they were concerned or very concerned about road safety

The consultation also sought feedback on five proposed schemes in Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester and Wickford. Responses were varied, reflecting the complexity of the proposals with support being expressed for schemes such as the introduction of school streets.

A decision on which elements of the five schemes will be taken forward is expected shortly.

STUDENTS DISCOVER MORE ABOUT CAREERS WITH ESSEX HIGHWAYS THANKS TO INTERACTIVE SCHOOL WORKSHOP

Members of the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package project team visited Moulsham High School in Chelmsford to host a careers workshop and explain the different roles involved in delivering major projects.

About 280 students across years 10 and 12 were involved in the sessions, which provided an insight into roles in transport planning, environment, engineering, stakeholder engagement and communications, and geographic information system, digital and visual media.

Students were also shown the options being considered as part of the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package and given the opportunity to identify their preferred junction option. The event was organised as part of the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package public consultation, which has now closed. The consultation focused on two junction options – a hamburger roundabout (a roundabout with a road through the centre of it) and separate T-junctions - together with a 350-space expansion of Sandon Park and Ride, a new Park and Ride site in Widford and a series of walking and cycling improvements.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation, which will support Essex County Council in identifying a preferred option and refining its proposals. More information about the project is available on the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package webpage.



ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING AUGUST 2021

In August we continued to clear out drains on local roads. Road drains are cleaned on an annual cycle, district by district. We also cleared 204 drains on the A127 in addition to the figures listed below. Streetlights-fixed totals don't include the work being carried out in the LED upgrade programme and are listed here as an addition.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	47	21	53	2063	257
BRAINTREE	39	32	14	1465	428
BRENTWOOD	18	18	117	0	597
CASTLE POINT	38	56	70	55	553
CHELMSFORD	32	55	32	1172	633
COLCHESTER	6	22	24	0	111
EPPING FOREST	6	7	17	1306	266
HARLOW	17	29	116	179	1206
MALDON	6	24	20	1650	267
ROCHFORD	24	15	20	316	277
TENDRING	39	15	11	0	359
UTTLESFORD	13	34	8	0	257
TOTALS	285	328	502	8206	5211

TRY OUT TWITTER FOR TRAVEL, TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY UPDATES



Twitter user? You should be – there are several twitter accounts very helpful to people living and working and therefore travelling in our great county. Why not follow one or all of them?:

[@essexhighways](https://twitter.com/essexhighways) for general Essex highways news, progress and information

[@Essex_Travel](https://twitter.com/Essex_Travel) for live Essex traffic updates from Monday to Saturday

[@SGH_Essex](https://twitter.com/SGH_Essex) for safer, greener, healthier travel developments and ideas in Essex

[@SERPCycling](https://twitter.com/SERPCycling) for bicycle safety training and [@SaferEssexRoads](https://twitter.com/SaferEssexRoads) for general Essex road safety matters.

For travel updates on the strategic roads in Essex like the A12, A120 and M11, follow [@highwaysEAST](https://twitter.com/highwaysEAST), and [@EPRoadsPolicing](https://twitter.com/EPRoadsPolicing) is good for roads enforcement news.

Last but not least, [@Essex_pt](https://twitter.com/Essex_pt) (Essex Passenger Transport) issues useful bus and other transport updates.