

# HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS | JUNE 2023



## RIDE LONDON RETURNS TO ESSEX

ECC TO PARTNER WITH FORD RIDELONDON UNTIL 2026 TURN TO PAGE THREE

SAFER/GREENER/HEALTHIER

# COMMENT

## COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT

### CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

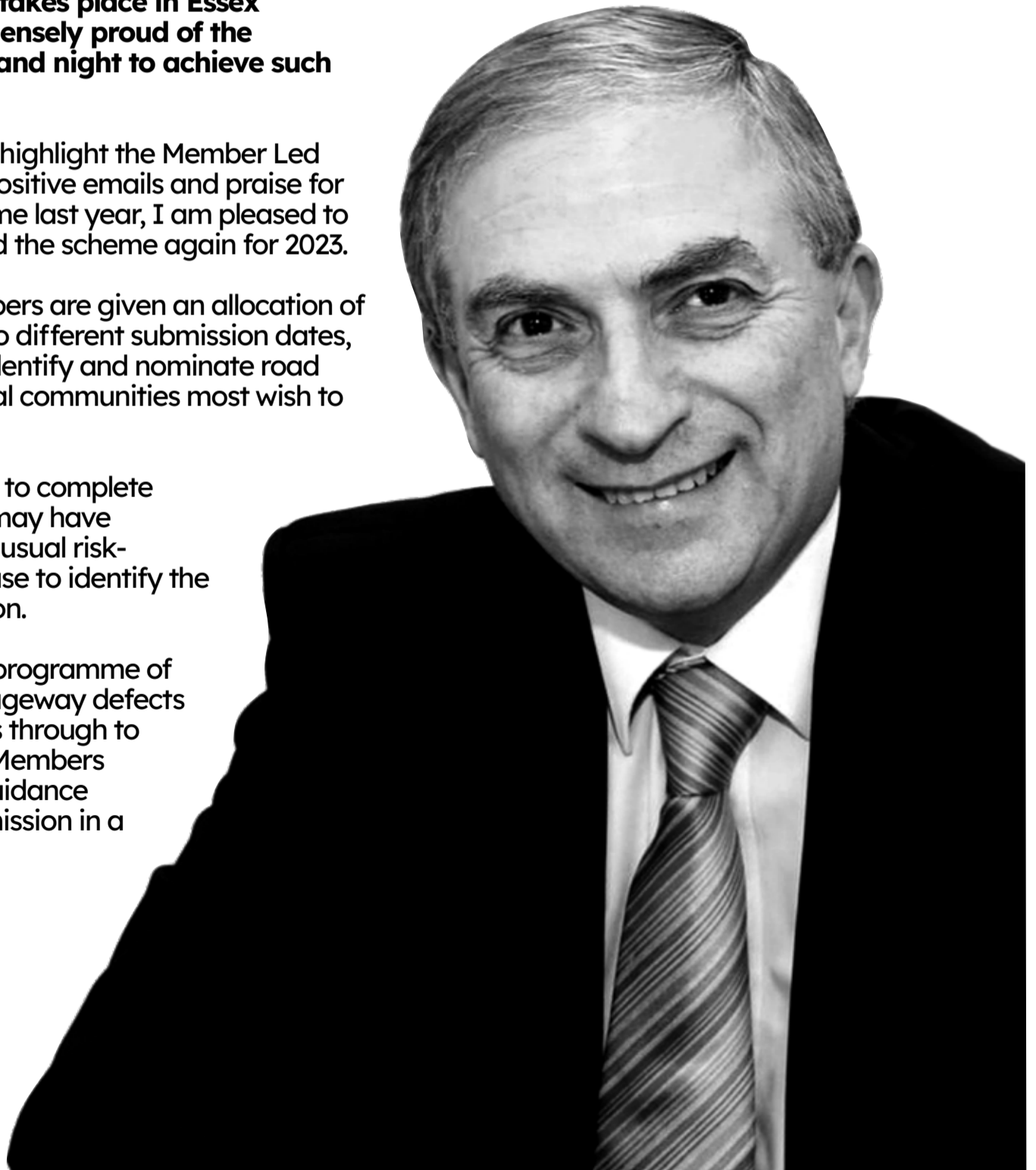
**Another edition of fantastic stories that highlight the extensive array of work that takes place in Essex Highways. I am always immensely proud of the teams who are working day and night to achieve such wonderful things in Essex.**

I wanted to take a moment to highlight the Member Led Pothole Scheme. After many positive emails and praise for the Member Led Pothole scheme last year, I am pleased to announce that I have launched the scheme again for 2023.

All Essex County Council Members are given an allocation of 36 potholes separated over two different submission dates, giving Members a chance to identify and nominate road defects that they and their local communities most wish to see repaired.

This scheme enables Members to complete additional repairs locally that may have otherwise fallen outside of the usual risk-assessed, asset-led policy we use to identify the works requiring urgent attention.

Our intent is to begin a rolling programme of repairing the nominated carriageway defects from 26 June and continue this through to the end of the year. I urge all Members to ensure that they read the guidance carefully, and make their submission in a timely manner.



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# FORD RIDELONDON TO PARTNER WITH ESSEX UNTIL 2026



**Essex County Council announced on Tuesday 4 July a three-year agreement to host Ford RideLondon. The agreement will see the world's greatest festival of cycling return to Essex for the next three years (2024 to 2026 inclusive).**

This includes hosting the Ford RideLondon-Essex mass participation events as well as two stages of the Ford RideLondon Classique, part of the professional UCI Women's WorldTour, the highest level of female racing in the world.

As a direct benefit of the partnership, Essex has to date been awarded £1.75 million in funding from the London Marathon Foundation (the parent charity of event organisers London Marathon Events) to inspire physical activity and promote active travel.

The funding, managed by Active Essex, has already supported more than 15,000 residents to take part in funded activities since May 2022. With additional grants now available to county-wide organisations via Active Essex, this number is set to increase substantially.

The continuation of the partnership means that Essex will remain one of the London Marathon Foundation's core funding areas for the next three years.

Cllr Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "Following two successful years of Ford RideLondon in Essex, I am delighted that our county will continue to partner until 2026.

"The event has been a learning experience and each year we've improved at being hosts. We have expanded resident engagement sessions

and opened new channels of communication for any foreseeable problems.

"The Ford RideLondon Classique brings world-class sport to the county while the Ford RideLondon-Essex mass participation rides raise millions of pounds for good causes each year. Both the professional races and the inspirational challenge rides have received great support from all the Essex communities involved.

"The events bring thousands of people to the county every year and showcase our beautiful county on both the national and international stage. We very much look forward to this event improving even further in the coming years."

Hosting Ford RideLondon is part of the County Council's Everyone's Essex: a plan for levelling up the county which aims to help people keep healthy and active and promotes active travel as part of the move towards net zero.



# HELPING TO MAKE THINGS ‘CLICK’

If you want to find out information about Essex Highways, you can always find it on one of our web-based methods. There is a lot to choose from, so we thought we'd recap all the places you can find us:

- **Your quickest, most extensive resource is our website.** A few minutes invested in navigating the menu or using the search function can save hours of time! You can be updated on our latest news, find out how to apply for things and view our Highways Information map, which is a rich resource, showing everything from the highway's boundaries, through our Public Rights of Way, to forward capital programmes of work we are planning to do over the coming year.

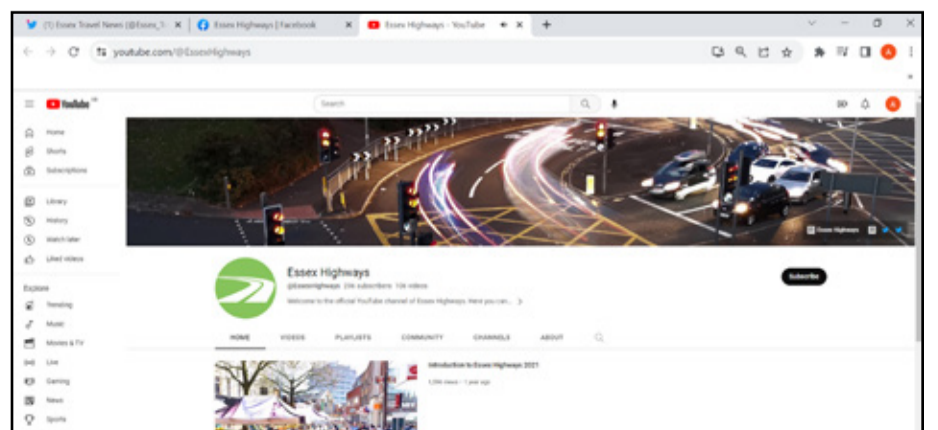
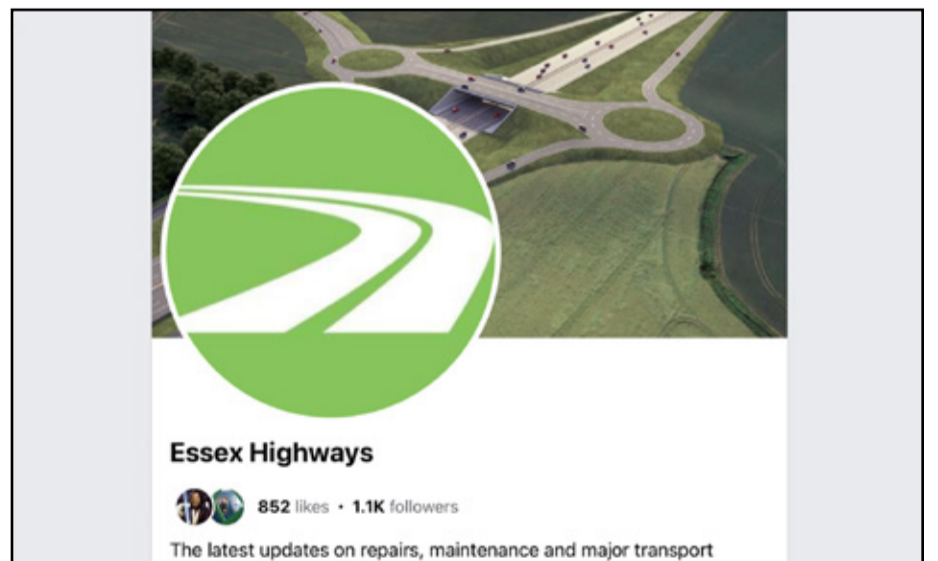
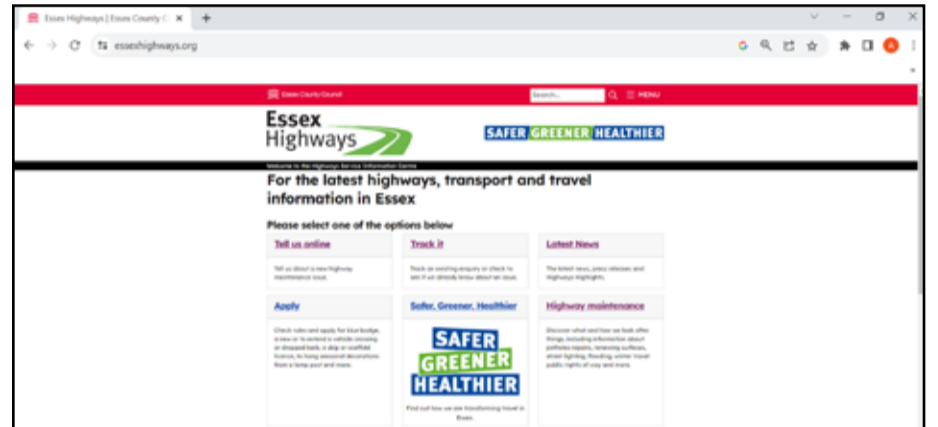
Our website should also be the **first place you go to 'tell us' about any highways problems** you are having and then **'track' the status of that issue** once it's been reported.

- We have two main Twitter accounts that provide useful information: **@Essexhighways** – for general service and industry information Monday to Friday, including advance notice of selected works; useful information from highways-related organisations; and photos showing our works underway or completed.

**@Essex\_Travel** – this provides real-time travel/congestion updates Mondays to Saturdays

- **We also have a brand-new Facebook account**, which provides general service and industry information Monday to Friday, including advance notice of selected works; useful information from highways-related organisations; and photos showing our works underway or completed. In addition to this, it also contains updates and public engagement on our major infrastructure projects.

- **On our Essex Highways YouTube account**, we post footage from past works and information videos from time to time. EssexHighways



- If you want to find out **about current or future planned works, the one.network website** will be your best friend.

It's an interactive map that allows you to search a specific location and enables you to find more details covering planned and ongoing works by Essex Highways, utility companies and developers. It will also show official diversions where relevant too.

- **Member Enquiries:** If you can't find the answer online, or it's a more complex local issue, County Members (only) can email the Member Enquiries team at County Hall as your officer researchers, they will find what information is available.

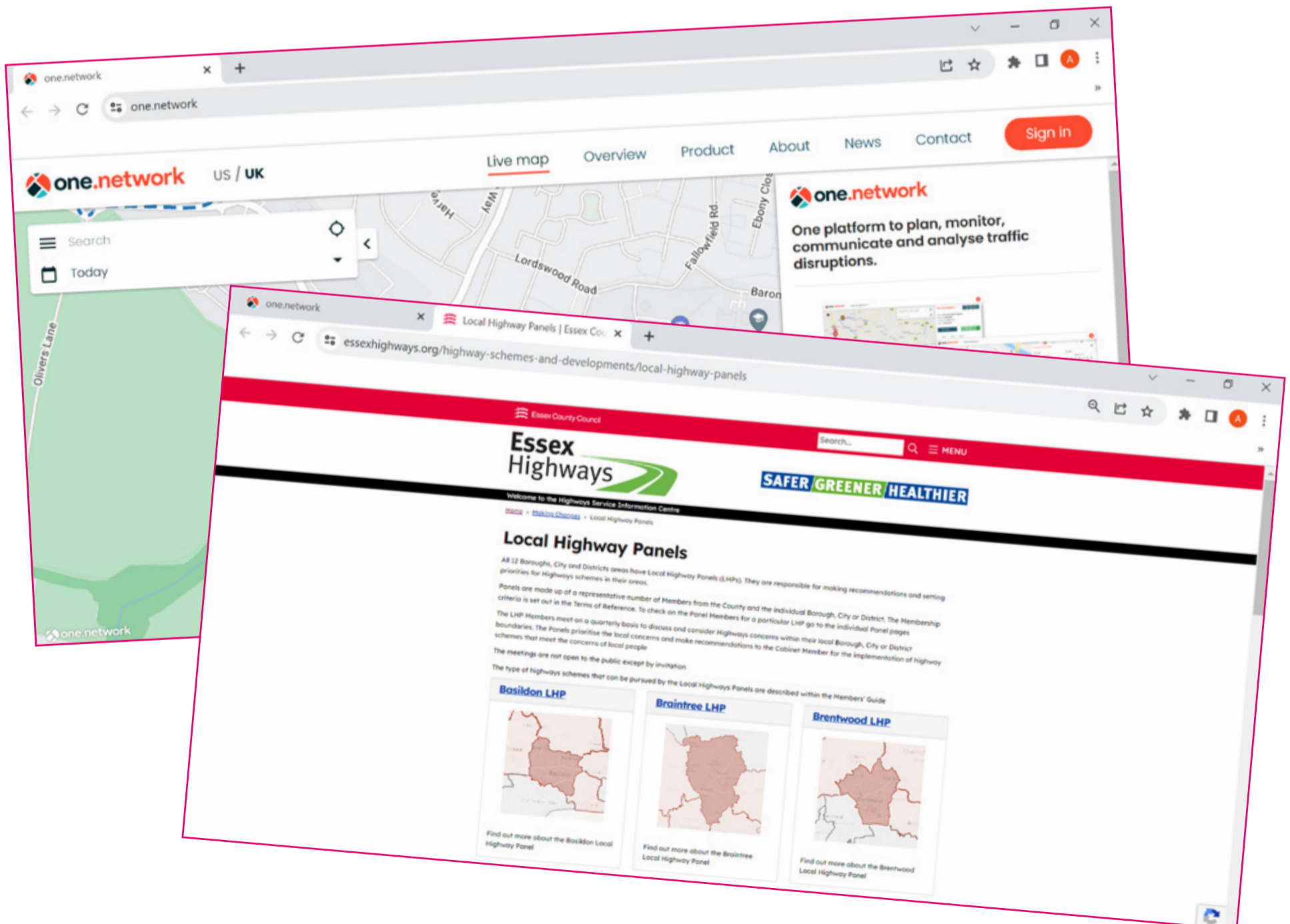
- Highways 'Buddy': A great ally inside the highways service are County Members' personal

'Relationship Leads' - also known as their 'buddy' highways officer - an experienced manager in Highways who can provide advice, or assistance to their paired county Member to help to resolve complex issues, where the usual channels have not so far worked.

The 'Buddy' system is about to be re-launched and details will be communicated very soon.

- **Local Highway Panel:** When someone locally calls for a highways improvement, a safety measure or has a concern about speeding, for example, then bringing the issue to your Local Highway Panel is a good way to get local issues considered for potential investment in changes.

**Read more about LHP procedures, budgets and technical issues online on the LHP webpages.**



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# COUNCILLOR SCOTT HOSTS PLATINUM MODESHIFT STARS

**Year 6 pupils and staff from Woodville Primary School in South Woodham Ferrars came into County Hall recently to talk to Councillor Scott and other members about their successes with active travel!**

The numbers of children walking, cycling or wheeling has steadily risen from 45% in 2012 to 92% at the last count in 2022. Along the way they've picked up a Platinum Accreditation with Modeshift STARS for having an outstanding travel plan as well as winning Modeshift STARS East of England Primary School of the Region.

Members enjoyed talking to the children and congratulated them on their fantastic achievements. Members will work with the panels in their districts to allocate funding to

the defects they prioritise. Additional crews have also been put in place to support our teams deliver maintenance and repairs across Essex.

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "The additional investment allocated to fixing Essex's roads is a clear commitment from Essex County Council to ensuring damage caused by the winter is repaired and roads are maintained. It's exciting the resurfacing programme is now underway and is being supported by additional crews secured to help with the volume of work required to repair roads the width and breadth of the county and increase the visibility of the service as these repairs are carried out."

# VEGETATION/VERGE CUTTING HAMPERED BY LITTER BUGS



**Did you know around 40 miles of roadside verges in Essex are designated as “Special Roadside Verges”? Essex Highways works with ECC Place Services, Essex Wildlife Trust and other partners to manage these important locations to conserve wildflower and other native species living there.**

As a result we carefully schedule when these areas get cut. Twice a year (in Spring and Autumn) we cut verges and central reservations on sections of our high-speed roads, including the A120, A130, A12, A133, A127 and A1245.

Sadly, in order to complete these tasks we often have to pick up tons of litter too, wasting a lot of time and money. Recently, our crews filled

583 bags of litter from stretches of the A127 (some of which pictured above) over just nine nights. This is a huge problem when we are proactively delivering a service while trying to manage resources cost-effectively.

We cut our other grass verges in late spring and autumn to keep safety sightlines clear in Uttlesford, Tendring, Epping Forest and Colchester council areas, with other councils in Essex organising their own cutting on our behalf. You can help too, by encouraging residents and businesses to look after their areas adjoining the highway, and by encouraging them to cut back their overhanging trees and shrubs. It all helps keep our roads looking good and safe to use.

# WINTER PREP? WE DON'T LET THINGS SLIDE!



**Ringway Jacobs' winter maintenance operatives recently convened for a day of Winter Driving Skid Pan training, provided by R3 Training at Thruxton Race Circuit, Hampshire.** The training is considered vital for all winter maintenance operatives as it teaches them new skills and the chance to polish up on current ones.

The course includes a classroom - based presentation as well as practical demonstrations. Attendees participate in fitting the plough, vehicle checks, skid pan control, driving and much more. This year the course has been given Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC) accreditation. It is an extremely professional and well run course and all of our operatives were positive in their feedback.

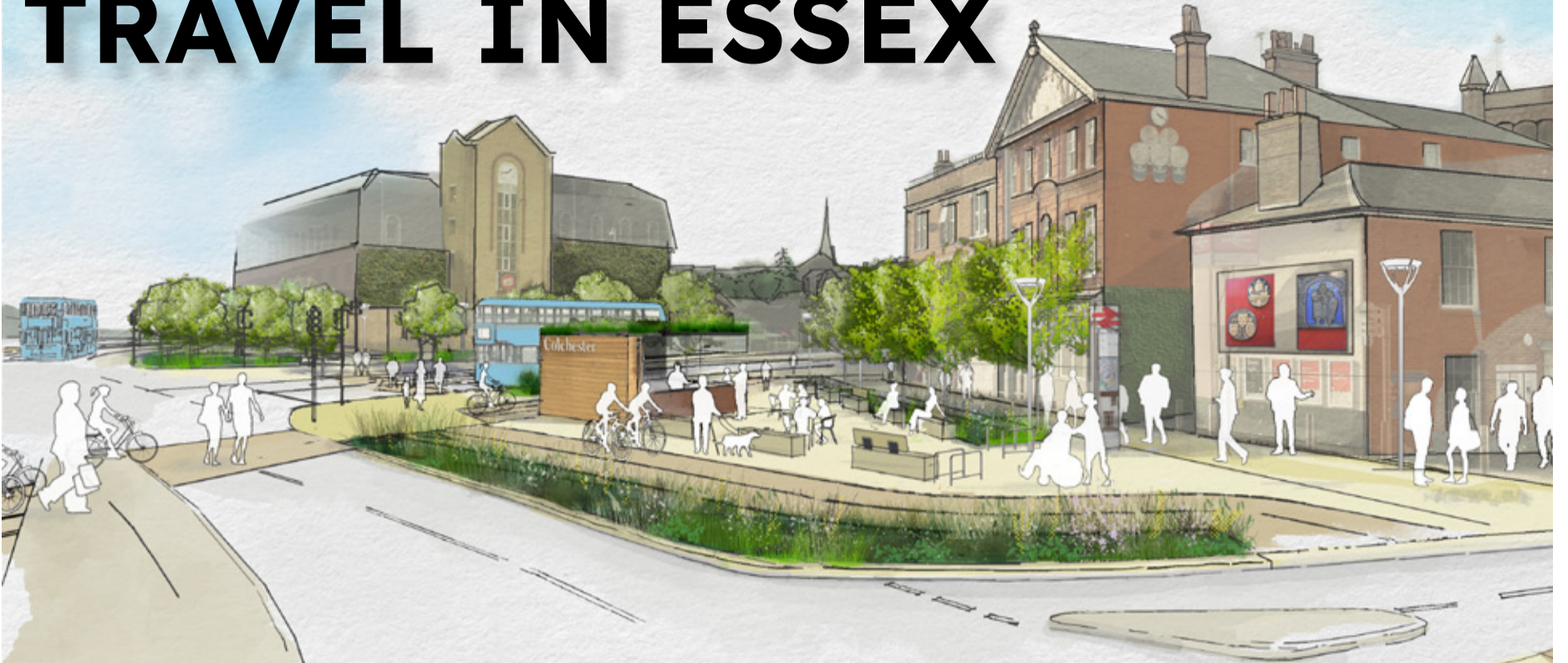
Aidan Fitzgerald, Assistant Operations Manager, said: "A good day spent in Thruxton on the skid pan training, it was good to see several new drivers at the wheel and getting to experience this for the first time. The team that delivers this training are a fantastic bunch of lads with a massive pool of experience and they make the whole day very enjoyable.

"This was my second time here, and I enjoyed every second of it and came away with some things to think about. Thanks to all of those at R3 Road Risk Reduction.

"I recommend this to all drivers, not just those within the winter maintenance industry. It's been good to have this refresher as it won't be long before gritting comes back around again this year!"



# HAVE YOUR SAY AND HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL IN ESSEX



A number of consultations which will help shape the future of travel in Essex have been launched in recent weeks.

Your views and feedback are important in helping to further develop the proposals and strategies, and we would welcome any comments you have.

A new countywide strategy - The Right Charger in the Right Place - looks at how the council can work with the private sector to ensure residents, businesses and visitors have access to a reliable, convenient and fairly priced network of electric vehicle charging points across the county. **Find out more.** You can also contact the project team directly by emailing: [electricvehiclestrategy@essexhighways.org](mailto:electricvehiclestrategy@essexhighways.org)

As part of the developing Colchester City Centre Masterplan, we are developing proposals for the regeneration of St Botolph's Circus (visualised at the top of the page). **Find out more about the proposals and have your say.** You can also contact the project team directly by emailing [stbotolphs@essexhighways.org](mailto:stbotolphs@essexhighways.org)

If you live, work or visit the Maldon district, we would like to hear your views on what the transport priorities of the future should be. Find out more at: [www.essexhighways.org/maldon-future-transport-strategy](http://www.essexhighways.org/maldon-future-transport-strategy). You can also contact the project team directly by emailing [activetravel@essexhighways.org](mailto:activetravel@essexhighways.org)



# ROUTINE REPAIRS: MAY 2023

In May 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	63	19	46	1371	184
BRAINTREE	89	58	13	1597	294
BRENTWOOD	69	21	6	1692	41
CASTLE POINT	20	12	3	1180	100
CHELMSFORD	34	41	57	-	65
COLCHESTER	72	103	8	-	285
EPPING FOREST	133	61	20	530	118
HARLOW	10	11	2	-	65
MALDON	21	15	6	-	59
ROCHFORD	25	10	7	1644	103
TENDRING	31	37	23	2383	74
UTTLESFORD	40	10	17	-	566
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>10,397</b>	<b>1,964</b>

