

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HHHH

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

**WHATEVER
THE WEATHER**

**WE RESPOND TO
STORM DARRAGH**

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE
AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

We've seen in the last few weeks some of the seasonal weather we've been expecting. And inevitably it's had an impact on our roads and pavements. I'm pleased to say that Essex Highways crews responded quickly to calls of fallen trees and some incidents of flooding. When Storm Darragh hit Essex at the beginning of December, crews responded to 301 emergency calls on 79 tree issues and 222 flooding issues.

Essex Highways has been carrying out works throughout the year to minimise the disruption of adverse weather, including the cleaning of more than 24,000 drains. A big thank you to the crews for their hard work throughout the year, and in particular for those working when the emergency calls came in the weekend before last.

I'd like to remind you all again that at the back of each edition of Highways Highlights all the out of hours emergency numbers for highways are listed should you need them.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for working with me this year to help improve the condition of our roads and improve travel for our residents. I hope you all have a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Though not as badly affected as some parts of the country, Storm Darragh still made its presence known in Essex over the weekend of 7/8 December. We received 301 emergency calls over the the two days. We send special thanks to Island Roads call centre, standby officers, teams, & Philip Liverton Ltd for clearing trees and debris from Essex's roads. Our crews continued to clear debris on Monday 9 December. Whatever the weather, it's reassuring to know that Essex Highways has the resources and expertise to respond to situations like Storm Darragh and keep the network moving for residents.



ROUTINE REPAIRS: November 2024

Please note: All drains on main roads are cleaned at least once a year over a two-year cycle. Drains on local roads are programmed for cleaning on a district by district basis.



Potholes: 2254



**Pavements:
942**



**Drains cleared:
9994**



**Streetlights:
1228**

MEMBER HIGHWAY INITIATIVE

High Level Report: December 5 2024

Request Status



Triage Result

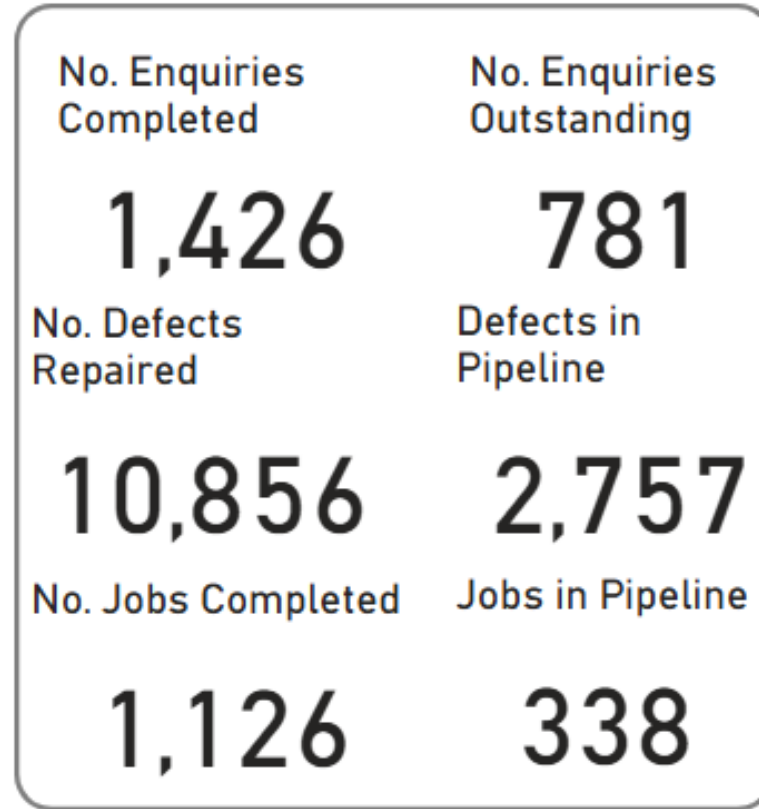
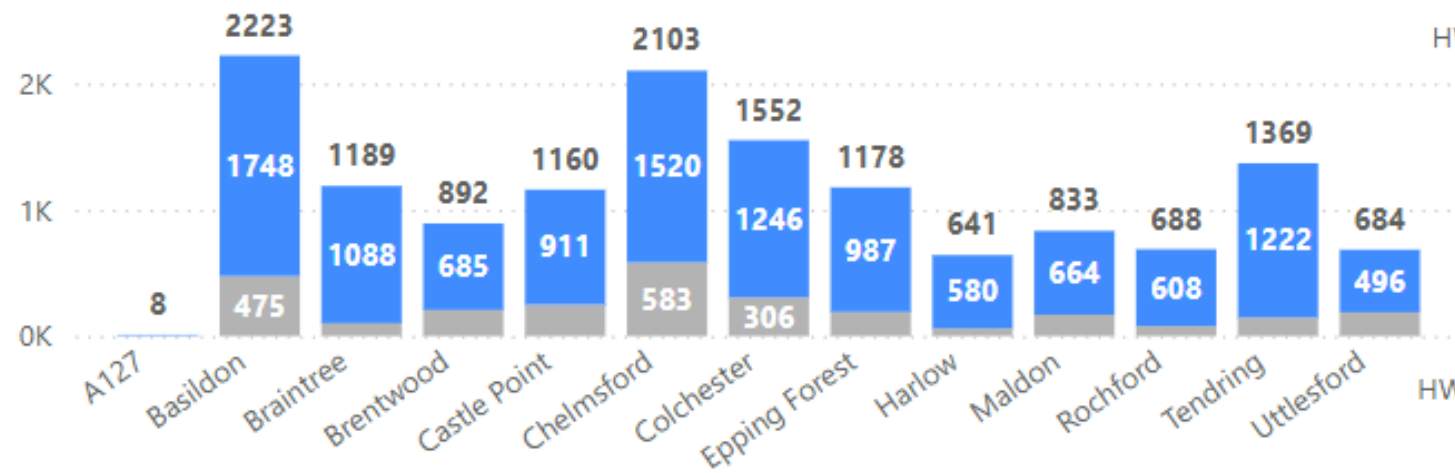
RAG assessment of difficulty of scheduling Member request.



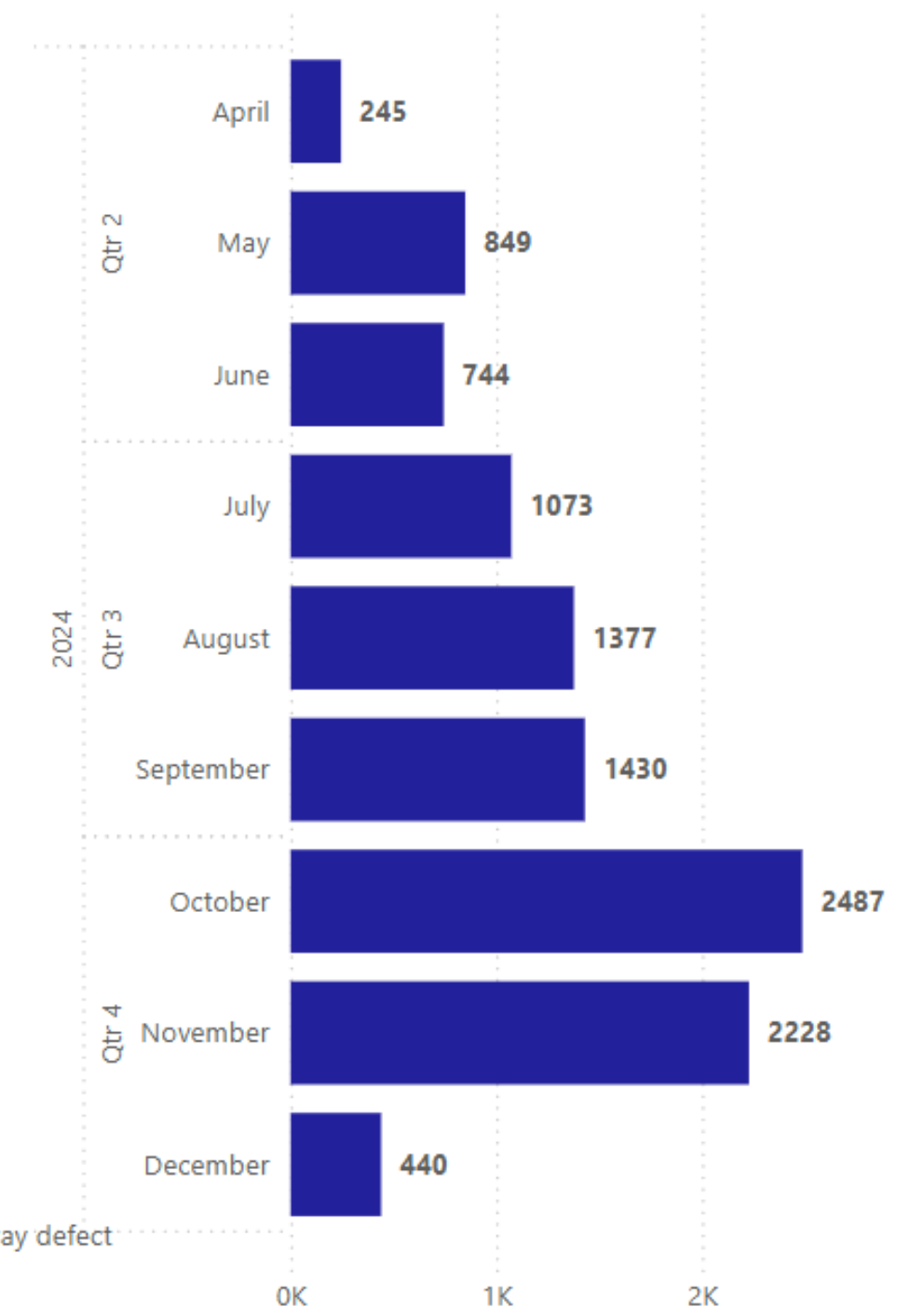
Defects by District

Shows defects that have been repaired and those programmed for repair.

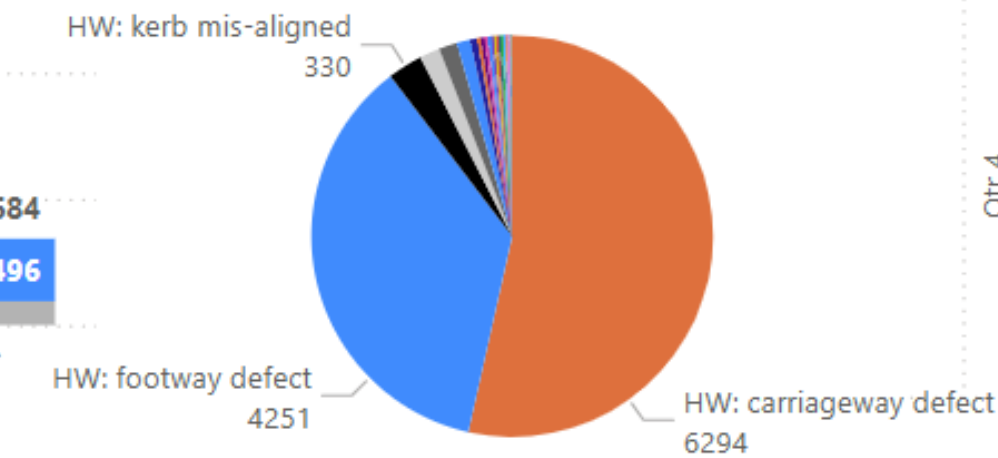
Defect repaired ● N ● Y



Defects Repaired by Month



Repaired Defect Types



The Members' Highways Initiative enables Essex County Councillors to identify road and pavement issues which matter most to residents in their divisions.

This has included pothole and pavement repairs, kerbs installations, sign replacements and refreshing white carriageway lines.

Launched in April, the Members' Highways Initiative sees each County Councillor have an Essex Highways crew carry out their prioritised works around every eight weeks.

In November, 9,406 repairs across the county, in addition to routine works by Essex Highways,

had been completed since April as a result of the initiative which is being delivered alongside Priority One, the new resurfacing programme funded by £25 million of further investment.

Councillor Mark Platt, Lead Member on Priority One works at Essex County Council, said: "The Members' Highways Initiative empowers County Councillors to identify and tackle what matters most to their local residents, while contributing to a safer, greener and healthier Essex for all.

"I'm pleased to have received positive feedback from colleagues who have received improvements in their divisions so far."



Thousands of additional road repairs have been carried out across Essex following funding for an innovative technique.

Jet patching fills road defects, such as potholes, with an asphalt emulsion to prevent damage and deterioration from moisture. The Jet Patcher quickly blows away debris and fills defects at speeds of up to 100km/h, reducing disruption to traffic and the need for road closures.

Essex County Council allocated £3 million towards jet patching in June and a further £185,000 in August. This has resulted in over 7,000 repairs to date, contributing to safer and more reliable roads for Essex residents and road users. Repairs have been carried out across all 12 Essex districts including rural and local roads. They help address issues which matter most to residents and ensure pride of place in communities.

JET PATCHING GIVES ESSEX ROAD REPAIRS A MAJOR BOOST



The funding comes from £37 million allocated by the council on top of the normal highways budget for 2024/25. £12 million has gone towards additional repairs and £25 million towards Priority One works, which includes road resurfacing, vegetation clearance, drain clearing and repainting white lines.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, said: “This year’s jet patching programme has been a great success, delivering thousands of repairs across Essex’s road network in record time.

“By investing in innovative and efficient methods like jet patching, we are ensuring Essex residents benefit from safer, smoother roads with minimal disruption to their daily lives. This contributes to creating a safer, greener and healthier Essex for all.”



PRIORITY ONE PROGRAMME IMPROVING THE ESSEX NETWORK

Our recently announced £25million Priority One campaign is helping us get more crews out on the road to tackle the issues that matter.

The investment being made will see up to 200 additional resurfacing schemes across the county, as well as works to tidy up vegetation, clear drains and improve signage.

In recent days, we were in Buckhurst Hill and Great Notley delivering schemes to tackle road issues that we know frustrate you. Here's a selection of images from these works.



THIS PAGE: BUCKHURST HILL



THIS PAGE: GREAT NOTLEY



Plans to transform a vital gateway in Chelmsford were approved on Friday 22 November. Essex County Council's proposed Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package includes a hamburger roundabout (a new roundabout with a road through the centre of it) at the city's Army and Navy junction. The £81 million package includes walking, cycling, bus and Park and Ride improvements to encourage safer, greener and healthier travel.

There will be bus priority measures and walking and cycling improvements at the junction, as well as on the approaches to and from the roundabout. The package will also see expansions of both the Sandon Park and Ride and Chelmer Valley Park and Ride sites.

In October last year, the Department for Transport (DfT) confirmed the outline business case for the project had been approved. It is being funded through the DfT's Major Road Network (MRN) programme.

Three separate planning applications have since been approved. These include one for the Army and Navy junction and one each for the Park and Ride expansions. The applications were approved by the development and regulation committee at a meeting today (Friday 22 November).



ARMY AND NAVY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PACKAGE APPROVED

Councillor Lesley Wagland OBE, Essex County Council's Deputy to the Deputy Leader with principal accountabilities on Major Infrastructure Projects and Freeports, said: "The Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package will deliver enormous benefits; improving journey times for buses, pedestrians, cyclists and general traffic, reducing delays and supporting economic growth in the area.

"It will also help provide better options for people to travel in and around the city, especially for shorter journeys where we want walking or cycling to be the natural choice.

"While we recognise the government has commissioned a review of all current and future Department for Transport-funded projects, we are as committed as ever to delivering this transformational scheme as soon as possible."

Based on the current programme, which assumes the necessary land needed for the project can be obtained through negotiations with the owners, construction is expected to start in 2027. It is expected to be completed in 2029. This will be subject to securing final funding and other processes and approvals.



RUGBY STAR HIGHLIGHTS POSITIVES OF PRE-DRINKS JOURNEY PLANNING

The Safer Essex Roads Partnership's (SERP) Festive Friend anti-drink drive campaign aims to lower unnecessary road death, due to drink driving.

Targeting men under 40, the concept is around how planning a journey ahead of Christmas celebrations, can make all the difference between a good night out, a police cell, or worse. The series of short films feature former England rugby player, James Haskell, who educates a group of young men on the importance of being a good mate and planning their journey home ahead of festive drinking. The campaigns illustrates the alternative transport options available to revellers, including the [TravelEssex App](#), which provides real time travel information, as well as taxi services, or asking a loved one for transport home after a night out.

An analysis of collision data shows that young men are sadly most affected by drink driving, with at least 258 men under the age 40 killed or seriously injured in drink driving crashes on Essex roads, over the last ten years. This campaign forms a strand of SERP's strive to [Vision Zero](#), the shared objective of no death or serious injury on Essex roads, by 2040.



**REAL MEN
HAVE A
PLAN
TO GET HOME AFTER
A FEW PINTS**

SAFERESSEX
roads partnership

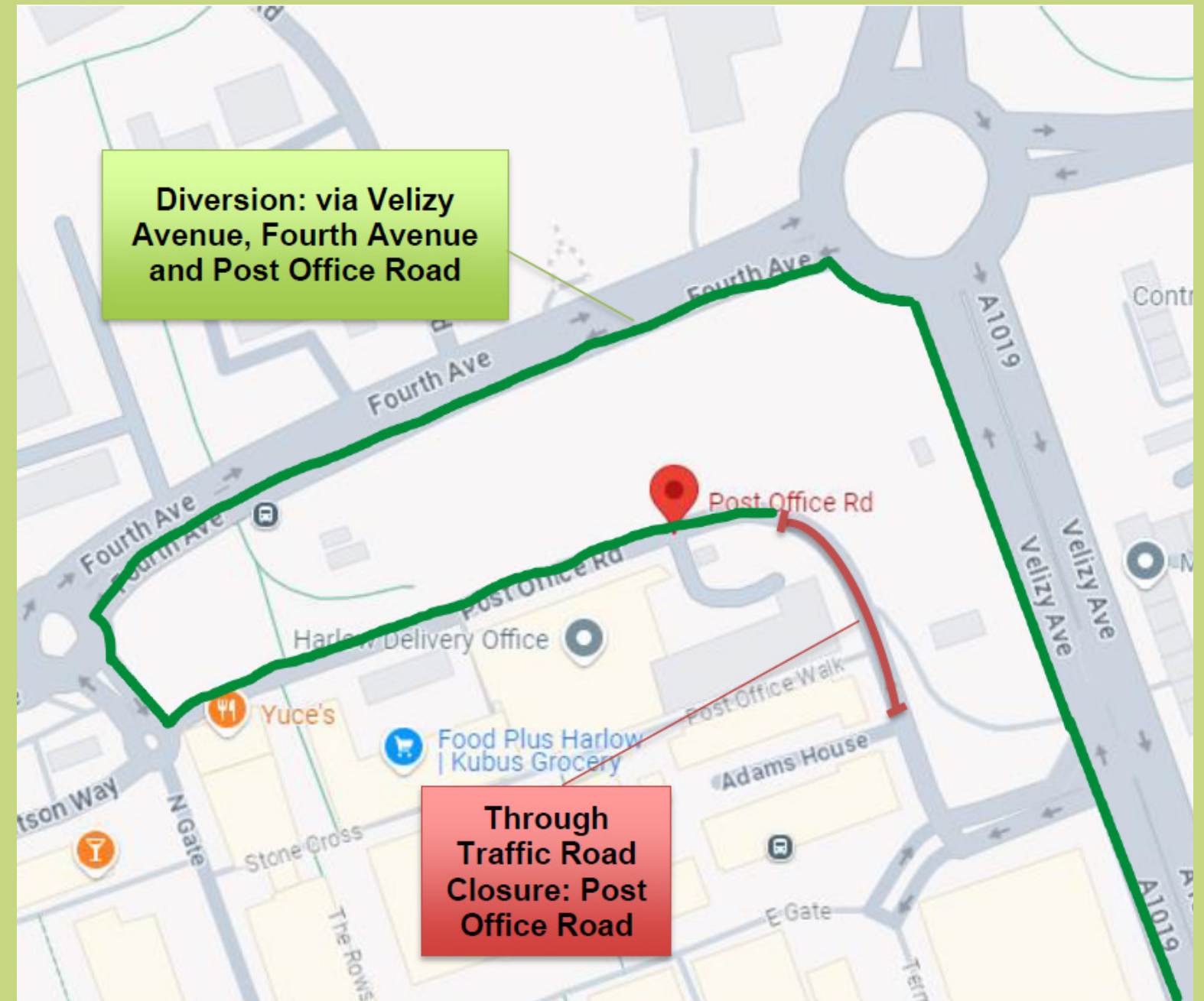


AROUND THE COUNTY

POST OFFICE ROAD, HARLOW, CLOSURE

As part of the Sustainable Transport Corridor works in Harlow, Post Office Road is closed for through traffic on the northern side of the Adams House junction from 2nd December 2024 until spring of 2025. Further updates and key dates relating to this road closure will follow in due course. A road closure is required to ensure both the safety of the public and work force. These works are weather dependent and dates may change subject to weather conditions.

Please note that there is no access for vehicles, including emergency vehicles, due to open excavations across the carriageway, but there is clearly signed diversion routes during these works. Please see the map detailing the closure location and diversion routes. A certain amount of inconvenience is inevitable with work of this type, and we greatly appreciate your patience while the works are being undertaken. These works will unavoidably create some noise, and we will endeavour to keep particularly noisy operations to within daylight hours. We apologise for any disturbance caused during this essential work and wish to assure you that we will undertake these works as efficiently and quickly as possible.



EASIER THAN EVER TO REPORT HIGHWAYS DEFECTS IN ESSEX

Residents and road users have more options when reporting road defects following a major update by Essex Highways. The update comes as users will no longer be able to raise issues via third-party sites, such as Fix My Street, from 1 January 2025 due to the lack of detail they provide inspectors.

The **‘Tell Us’ webpage** by Essex Highways has been tailored to capture all necessary information. This now includes different types of emergencies and if issues have worsened over time. **The ‘Track It’ webpage** lets users see the progress of reports, from inspection to repair, and whether similar issues have already been raised.

Issues logged through third-party platforms are often duplicates of reports already received via Tell Us, or unrelated to the roads managed by Essex Highways. By moving exclusively to Tell Us, Essex Highways can ensure the 50,000 reports received annually are managed in one place, resulting in a faster and more transparent process.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council, said: “We are committed to streamlined and efficient services throughout the council to provide value for residents, and our highways are no exception. By using Tell Us, residents can be confident their concerns are handled directly and that they will receive updates along the way.”

Essex County Council Search... MENU

Essex Highways SAFER GREENER HEALTHIER

Welcome to the Highways Service Information Centre

Home > Tell us

Tell us about road or highway issues

We carry out regular inspections of roads and pavements on our network, but we know that issues may come up between these inspections. These could be potholes or other road surface issues, damaged street lights, overgrown trees or missing lit bollards.

You can tell us about maintenance issues online by using our highways reporting tool.

If you think there's a risk to public safety, you can now report some urgent issues online (if you are able to provide photos). Please follow the guidance below, which will tell you if you can report the issue online (with photos) or whether you need to call us on 0345 603 7651.

Issues we don't look after

You need to contact:

- your [local council](#) for abandoned vehicles, street cleaning, street name plates and road spillages
- [National Highways](#) using [their reporting tool](#), info@nationalhighways.co.uk or 0300 123 5000 for issues on A12, A120 between the M11 junction and Parkeston roundabout in Harwich, M11 and M25
- [Southend on Sea City Council](#) and [Thurrock Council](#) for issues in those areas
- [CountyRoute](#) for issues on the A150, between A12 (Chelmsford) and A1245 (Fairgreen Interchange)
- [Parking Partnership](#) about paying parking fines and parking enforcement in Essex
- residents of each private road or landowners for private roads or roads on private land

Track an existing issue

You can use [track it](#) to check if we already know about an issue or track the progress of an issue you've told us about.

Tell us about an issue

Please search for the type of issue you want to report, or use the categories below. If you need help please see the [How to use Tell us and Track it](#) guide

Search for the type of issue you want to report

[Road, pavement and surface issues](#) [Lights, signals and signs](#) [Flooding, drainage and manhole covers](#) [Trees, hedges and weeds](#)

USEFUL CONTACTS

Whatever the weather, you never know when the unexpected might occur. Should there be instances of fallen trees, power outages, flooding etc, help and support can be found below:

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you think there's a risk to public safety, do not report it online, please call us immediately on 0345 603 7631 or if you have hearing problems you can use our text phone service on 0345 758 5592.

FALLEN TREES

To report a fallen tree that is obstructing a highway please contact Essex Highways:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/trees-hedges-and-weeds>

To report a fallen tree on a highway that is a risk to public safety call:
0345 603 7631

POWER CUTS

In the event of a power cut in your area, report to UK Power Networks by calling 0800 31 63 105 or simply 105. You can also report and check power cuts in your area at ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut

FLOODING

You can keep an eye on flood warnings here;

<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>

Essex County Council is the local flooding authority:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/floods-emergency-planning>