

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HHH

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

**HISTORIC CULVERT
BENEFITS FROM
INNOVATIVE
ENGINEERING**

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM

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

2025 was another incredibly busy year and one in which we achieved some excellent things thanks to our implementation of programmes such as the Member Highway Initiative (MHI). I am a staunch supporter of anything that improves our infrastructure in Essex and MHI has helped us make a big difference across the county. I am delighted that £300,000 will be invested in repairing damage, through the MHI, caused by the winter weather on the roads across Essex.

I'd like to thank our Essex Highways teams for their support, professionalism, creativity, agility, flexibility and 'can-do' attitude that they bring to providing essential services to the county. Enjoy a well-earned rest over the holiday period, but please also think of our colleagues who will be out on the network keeping the county moving during this time.

I hope that you and your family enjoyed healthy, peaceful, safe and happy holidays.

Best wishes
Tom



ROUTINE REPAIRS: November 2025

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.



FOOTWAYS:
567



POTHOLES:
906



**STREET
LIGHTS:**
1,335



**GULLIES
CLEANSED:**
18,292



MEMBER HIGHWAY INITIATIVE

High Level Report: 16 December 2025

Request Status



Triage Result

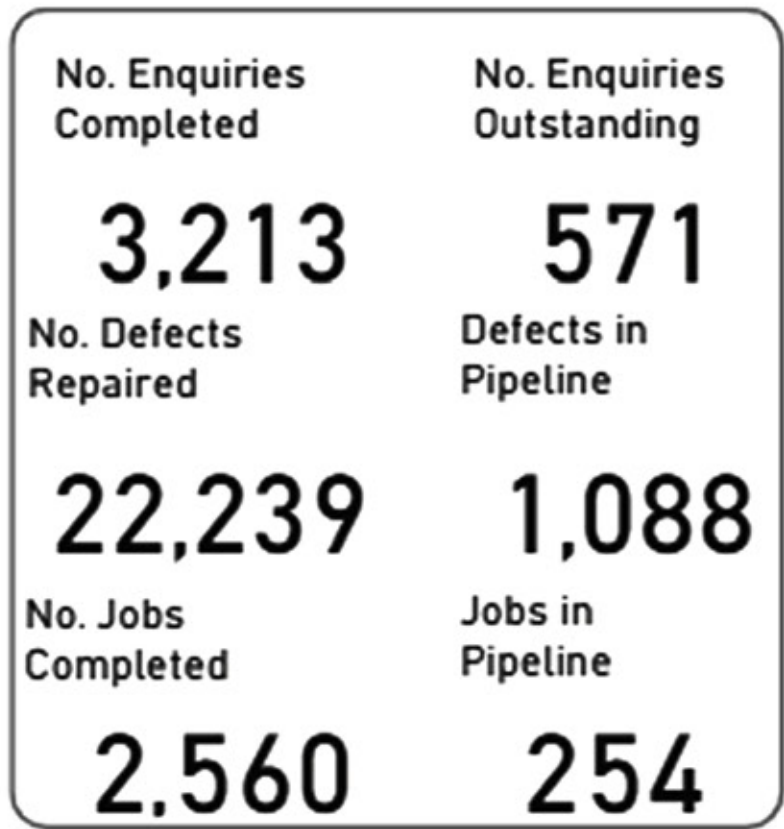
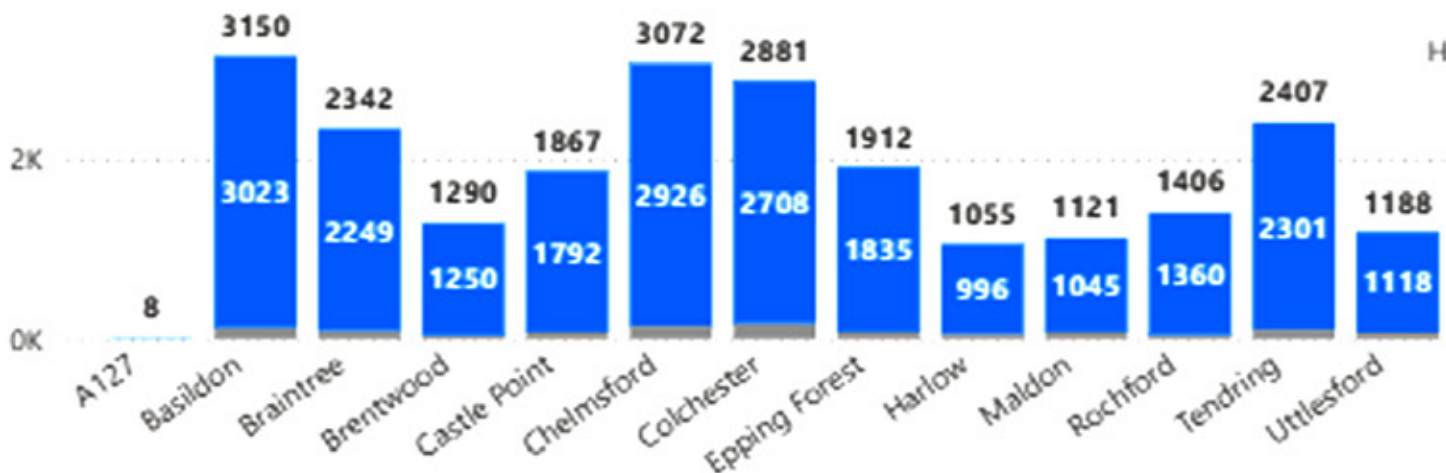
RAG assessment of difficulty of scheduling Member request.



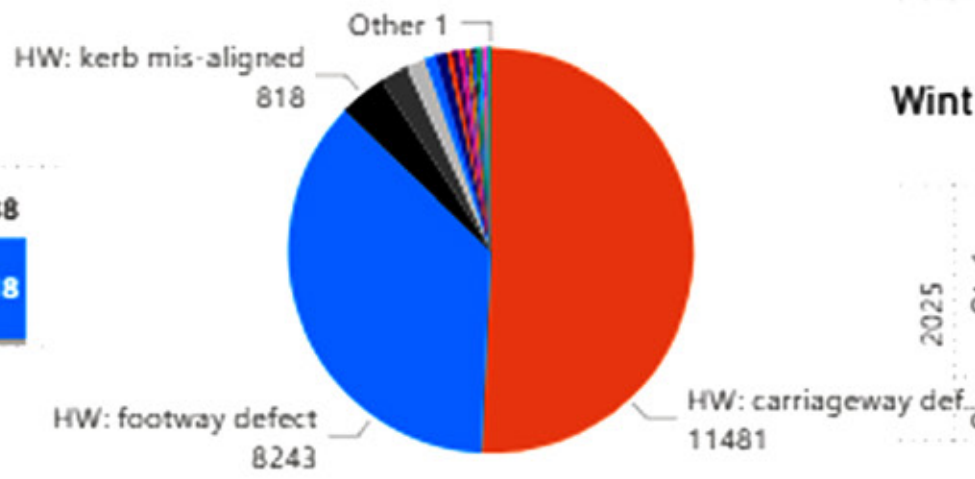
Defects by District

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

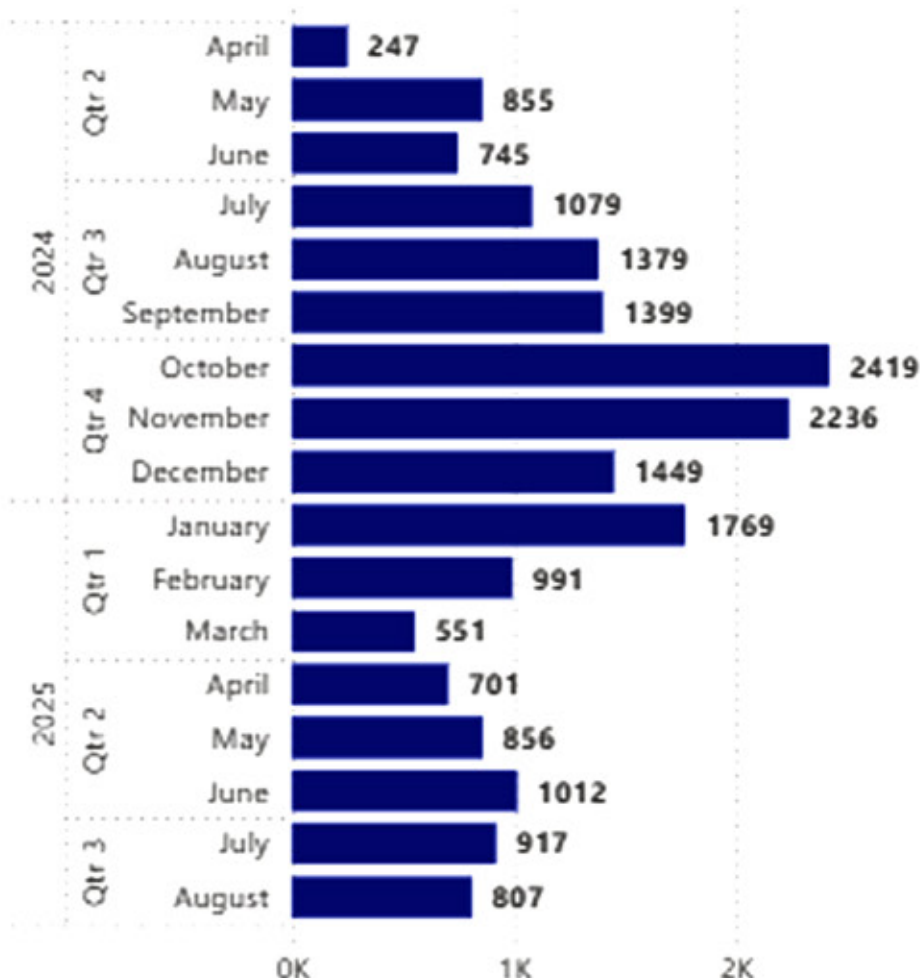
Defect repaired ● N ● Y



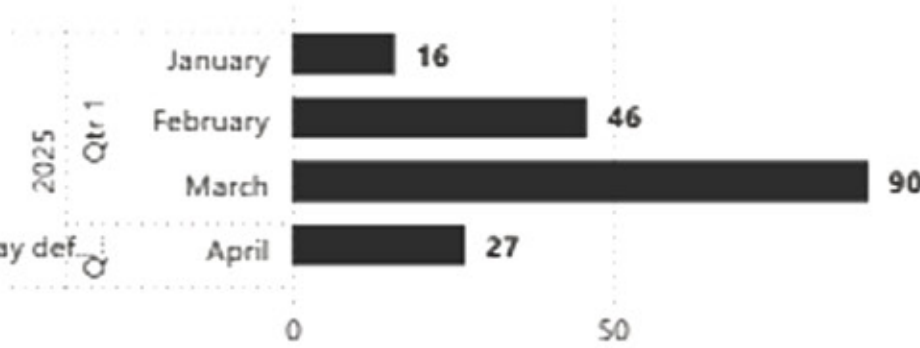
Repaired Defect Types



Defects Repaired



Winter Damage Defects



£300,000 will be invested in repairing damage caused by the winter weather on the roads across Essex. Roads are more likely to become damaged over winter due to rain, ice and snow causing cracks on the surface. The investment will help keep the roads safe in inclement weather.

The repairs will be carried out through the Members' Highways Initiative, with two dedicated crews carrying out repairs between January and March. The works will take place alongside routine maintenance delivered by Essex Highways crews and will help ensure priority issues are dealt with when crews are also managing other winter works, such as gritting.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport said: "Essex is winter ready, and by bolstering our crews we can make sure the roads around the county remain safe as we travel. The funding being invested in winter repairs gives Essex County Councillors the power to take responsibility and act quickly on issues of concern. This means winter damage is repaired before it puts anyone at risk. I'm pleased to be working with my county councillor colleagues to make our roads safer this winter."

£300K WINTER DAMAGE REPAIR PLAN LAUNCHED THROUGH MEMBERS' HIGHWAYS INITIATIVE



As cold and wet weather approaches, we want to remind Essex residents of our services to tackle problems affecting the highway.

A routine maintenance programme, reactive maintenance and winter service is in place to solve issues. If we receive a report of a blocked road due to flooding, the road will be assessed and closed if necessary. The type of works we carry out in harsh weather include:

- Gritting – salt is spread on 51 priority roads to keep them from freezing.
- Drain clearing – to prevent blocked drains from causing floods.
- Grip cutting – fired jets of compressed air creates space to allow water to flow into ditches and drains.

During 2024/25, Essex Highways gritted 136,045 miles of network and cleared 120,913 drains. If flooding from the highway or drainage doesn't clear within 24 hours, residents can report it using our Tell us tool. Landowners are responsible for the drainage on their land and have a duty to keep their ditches clear to lower the risk of flooding. We maintain roads and pavements in Essex, apart from Southend and Thurrock which are maintained by their councils.

HIGHWAYS PROCEDURES FOR FLOODING AND WINTER WEATHER



The gritters are typically out spreading between 1am and 3am to ensure highways are safe for use during peak travel hours, with priority routes taking around three hours to complete.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council, said: “With British weather being so changeable, it is vital our crews are ready and prepared for winter conditions to hit the county so residents can travel across it as safely as possible.

“Our crews work hard to keep priority routes usable, but residents must also take precautions and adjust how they drive in icy and snowy conditions to prevent the risk of accidents. By working together, we can ensure the roads in Essex stay as safe and accident-free as possible.”

Visit the [winter service page](#) for more information.



THE SAFER ESSEX ROADS PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES FESTIVE ANTI-DRINK-DRIVE CAMPAIGN

As the Christmas season began and celebrations increased across Essex, the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) releases a new festive safety message, “Don’t Bet on Drink Driving”, urging people to look after their friends and family, by stopping drink driving before it starts.

Using a bold gambling theme, it shows that driving after drinking is a risky gamble with everything to lose. It highlights a key risk for anyone who relies on their vehicles for work: a drink-driving conviction can mean instant loss of licence, loss of employment, seizure of tools or vehicles, and long-term financial impact.

A supporting part of the SERP’s ambition to deter drink driving over Christmas was Essex Police’s confidential “Help Us Help You” function, which allows the public to discreetly flag concerns about anyone they believe may be considering driving under the influence.

Additionally, bar staff, restaurant teams, and fellow revellers were asked to spot when someone is about to drink drive. The Report It function gives Essex Police live information, and they can intervene



 **SAFERESSEX**
roads partnership

where appropriate. Officers cannot be everywhere, but the public can. Will Cubbin, Partnership Manager at the SERP, said: “This time of year is all about looking out for one another. Our message is simple: if you think someone you care about is about to drive after drinking, don’t stay silent.

“Stepping in, or reporting it confidentially could save a life. It’s not about getting someone in trouble, it’s about keeping them, and everyone else, safe on the roads.”

In Essex, the scale of drink and drug driving harm is clear. Since January 2016, the county has recorded 1,503 injury collisions involving drink driving, including 33 fatal crashes and 593 serious injuries, and the Christmas period continues to bring a spike in arrests, with 1,556 in the last year.

Adam Pipe, Head of Roads Policing, added: “Every December, we see an increase in drink-driving related collisions across Essex, and sadly, the harm that follows. The consequences are devastating, for drivers, passengers,

and innocent people on our roads. Essex Police will continue to have a strong presence across the county throughout the festive period, identifying those that choose to drink drive. Drink driving will not be excusable, if you are stopped, you will face the consequences.”

“Don’t Bet on Drink Driving” reinforced one message across the Christmas period: if someone is about to make a dangerous choice, step in. If you can’t, report it quietly. You could save a life. If you believe someone is anyone is about to drink drive call 999.

If you believe someone is about to drive under the influence, you can report a drink or drug driver confidentially, visit: <https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/au/about-us/help-us-help-you/>.

For more information on “Don’t Bet on Drink Driving”, visit: www.saferessexroads.org/dont-bet-on-drink-driving.

Essex Highways Drug & Alcohol (D&A) Testers Hone Their Skills

With random Drug & Alcohol (D&A) testing across all offices starting in the New Year, tester practice sessions took place recently (w/c 8 December) to ensure everyone is confident in the process. Some of our testers had not undertaken a test since their initial training, and the sessions provided a good opportunity to hone their skills.

Laura Nessling volunteered to be tested at Tuesday’s session at Seax House, as did Dom Proud, Paul Butler, Jo Heynes and David Ardley later in the day at the Senior Management Team meeting.

Sessions followed on Wednesday and Thursday at Childerditch and Ardleigh, respectively, concluding Friday 12 December at Springfield.



COUNCILLOR CUNNINGHAM VISITS SPRINGFIELD DEPOT

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport visited Springfield depot on Wednesday 17 December. There, he met with members of the Essex Highways Communications team to shoot three short videos about Winter Service.

He then took the opportunity to tour the facility and offer festive greetings to staff, thanking them for their contributions towards ensuring our roads are clear and safe during winter months.

Councillor Cunningham said: “I enjoyed my visit immensely. The teams based at Springfield do a fantastic job - it was great to meet some of them, understand what they do and thank them for their hard work.”





AROUND THE COUNTY

HISTORIC CULVERT REFURBISHED BENEATH LOUGHTON HIGH STREET

The historic Traps Culvert in Loughton has been given a new lease of life thanks to innovative engineering works completed by Essex Highways.

The 150-year-old culvert had become damaged over time, with cracks, missing bricks and a utility intrusion running through, meaning repairs were essential.

The culvert sits directly under a busy high street, meaning traditional repair methods that involved excavating the road weren't possible. Essex Highways worked closely with specialist contractor iLine to develop a glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) liner to carry out the works without the need for excavation, meaning disruption was kept at a minimum.

The new liner is built to last at least 100 years and can support full highway traffic above. Essex Highways also worked closely with the Environment Agency to ensure the repairs wouldn't increase flood risks.



The culvert before repairs were carried out

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council, said: “The refurbishment of Traps Culvert is a fantastic example of how we can protect vital infrastructure while minimising disruption to residents.

“The culvert may be hidden from view, but it plays a crucial role in managing water flow beneath one of Loughton’s busiest streets.

“Thanks to innovative engineering and strong collaboration between Essex Highways, iLine and the Environment Agency, we’ve delivered a long-lasting solution that will serve the town for generations to come, creating a safer, greener, healthier Essex.”



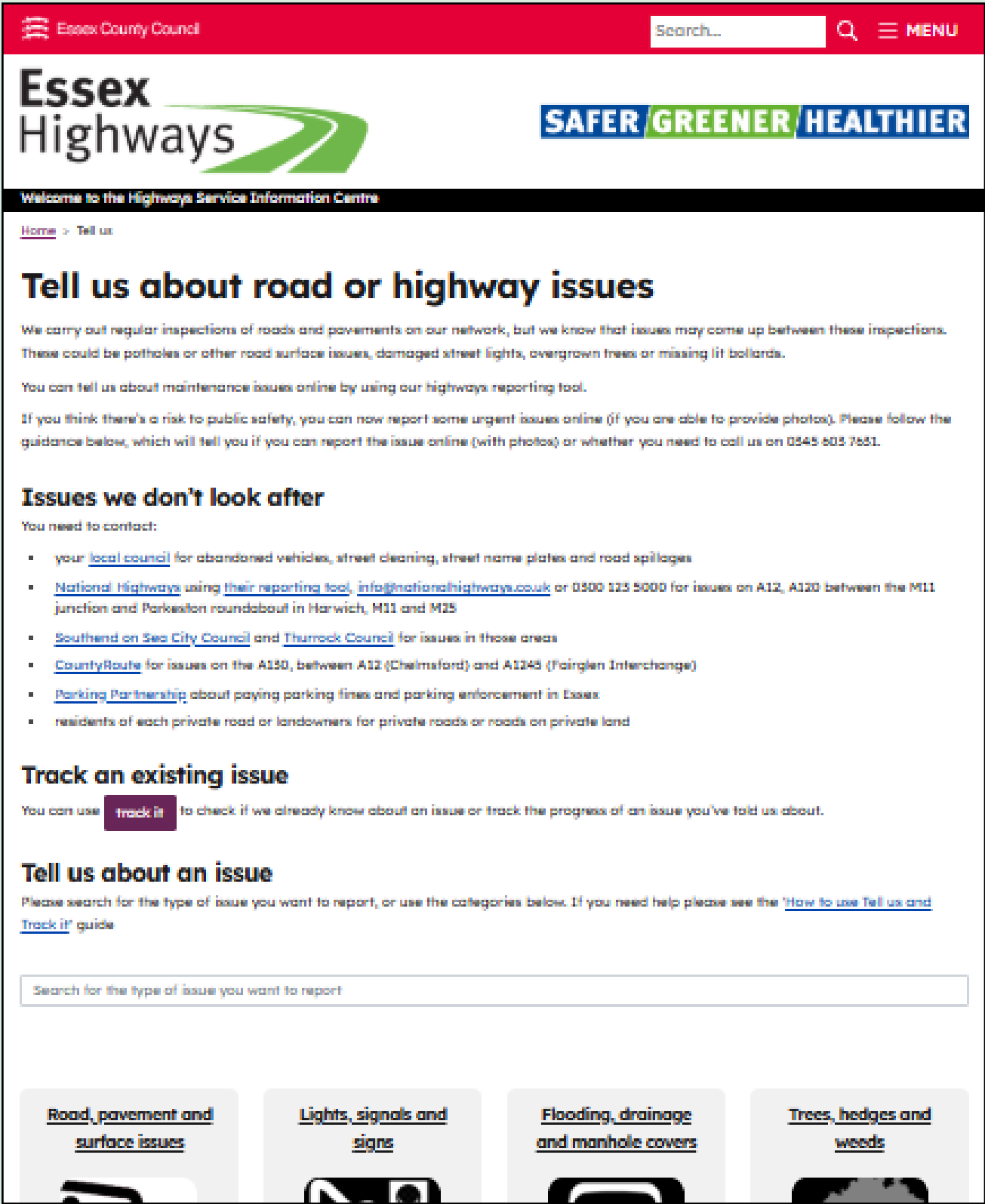
EASIER THAN EVER TO REPORT HIGHWAYS DEFECTS IN ESSEX

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.”



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>