

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HHH

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
MARCH 2025

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER



**ESSEX HIGHWAYS
RAPID RESPONSE
TO FIX CHELMSFORD
VOID**

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE
AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

I am pleased to inform you that Essex Highways is now gearing up to deliver you year two of the Members' Highways Initiative. Year one of the programme has been very successful in delivering even more road and pavement repairs in your districts and giving you the power to inform the team of your priorities.

We confirmed in this year's budget that funding for the programme would continue in 2025/26 and crews began delivering this year's works on Monday 7 April. To support this year's works the MHI team have updated the guidance that supports you in reporting the issues you want repaired, and this is accompanied by some new 'how to' videos on using the members highways portal to submit works and the types of works the team is looking for.

Thank you again for engaging in this programme and helping to deliver even more highway repairs for our residents. I look forward to seeing this excellent work continue over the next 12 months.

Best wishes

Tom



ROUTINE REPAIRS:

March 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.



Potholes: 1232



Pavements:
613



Drains cleared:
7613



Streetlights:
1325

MEMBER HIGHWAY INITIATIVE

High Level Report: April 3 2025

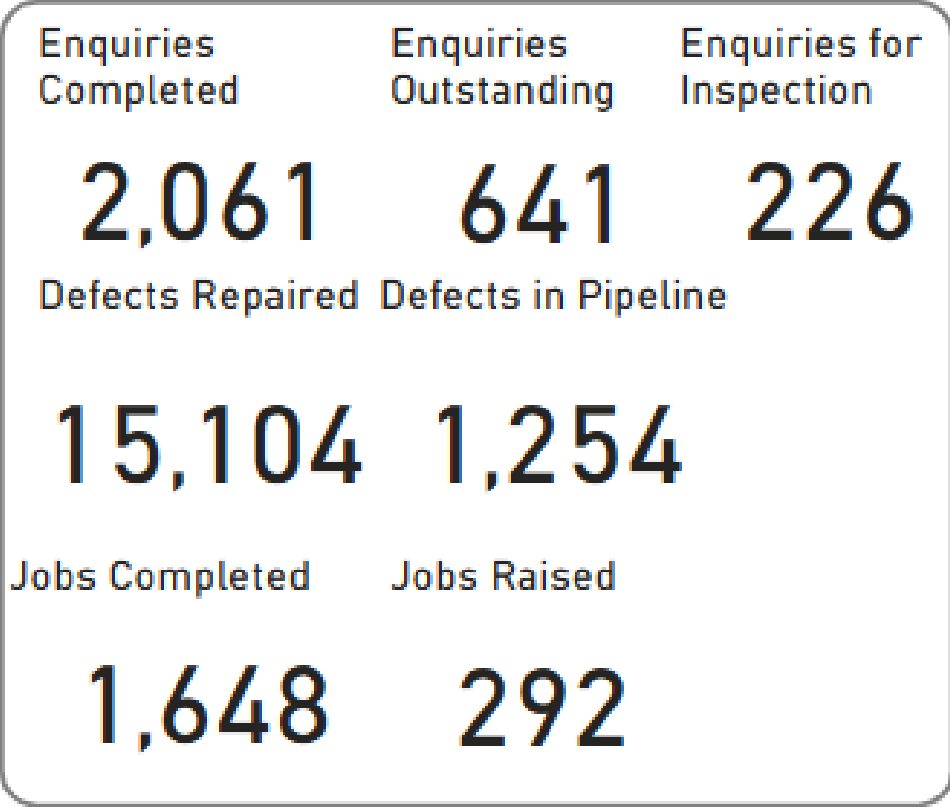
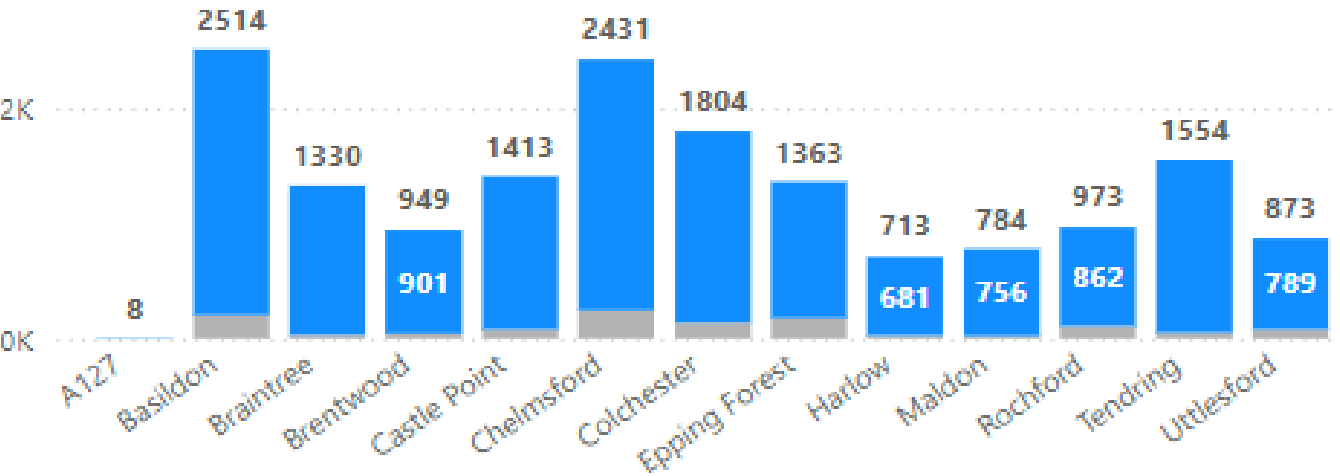


Triage Result
RAG assessment of difficulty of scheduling Member request.

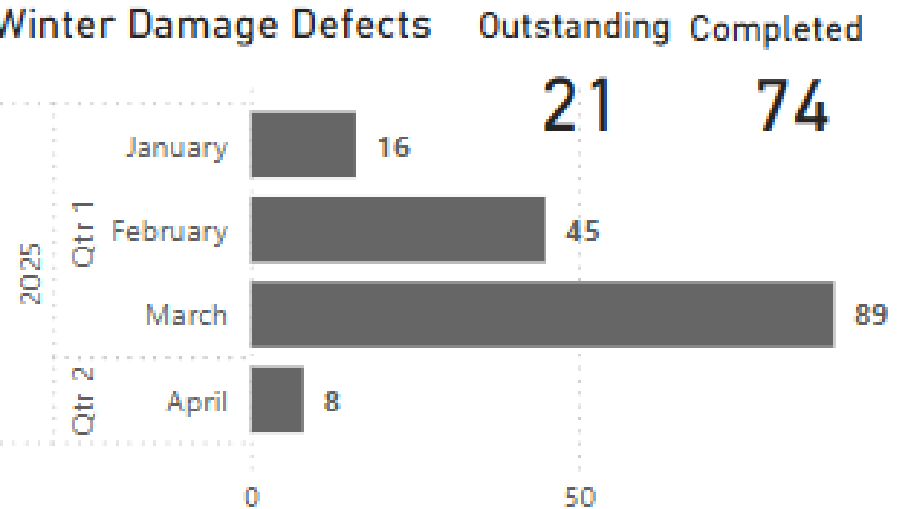
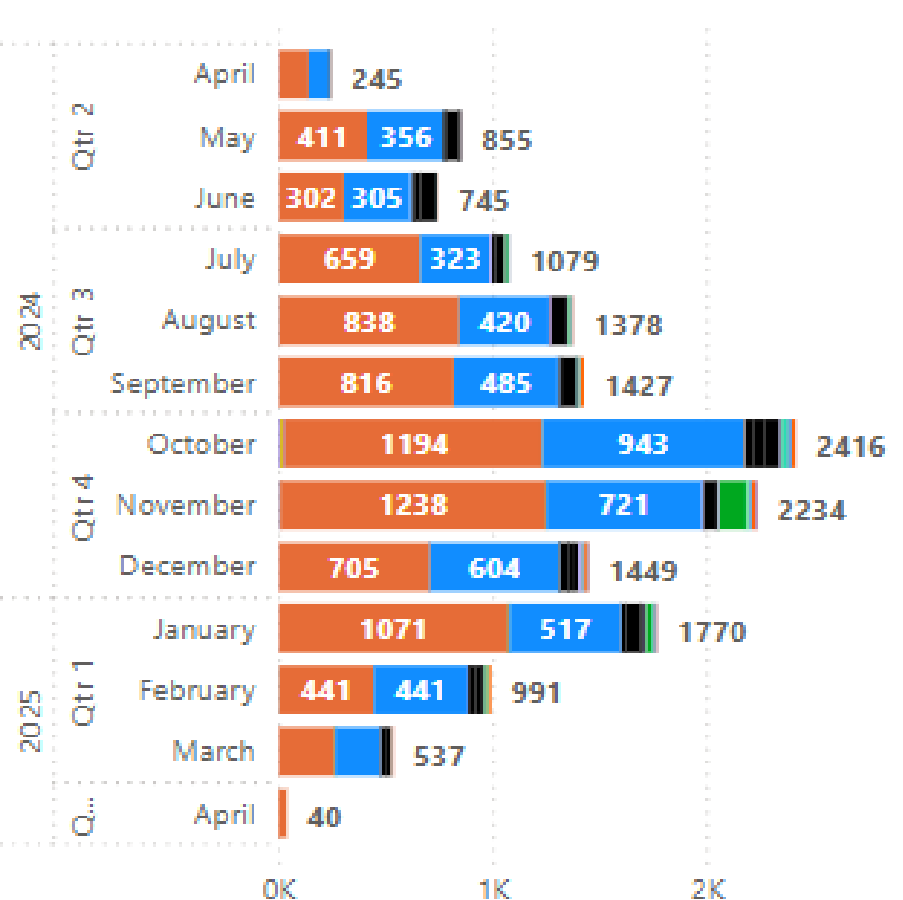
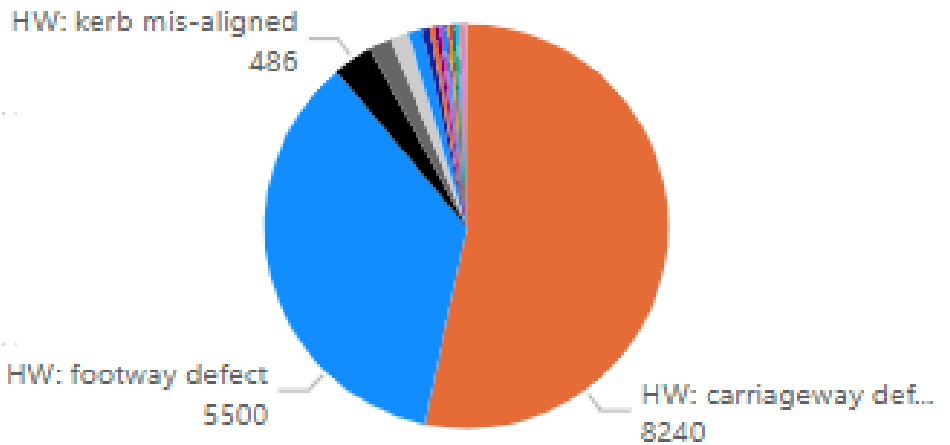


Defects by District
Shows defects that have been repaired and those programmed for repair.

Defect repaired ● N ● Y



Repaired Defect Types



MEMBER'S HIGHWAYS INITIATIVE RELAUNCH 2025-26

Launched last year, the Members' Highways Initiative (MHI) has been a great success with more than 8000 additional carriageway defects repaired, as well as an additional 6000 footway defects (pavements and kerbs) repaired on top of the standard works schedules.

This year we're launching more support to help you submit suggested works. These include:

A new guidance document to help you submit a week's worth of work for your delivery window.

Some 'How to' video guides:

Video with guidance on using the members portal

Video on submitting an MHI enquiry

Video on using the members update page

There will be continued use of the **Member Pothole inbox**, enabling you to contact the team and deal with MHI enquiries instead of Member Enquiries. memberpothole@essexhighways.org

Please remember that the MHI is for you to submit priority requests in your division following your own evaluation of political/ sensitive issues in your ward. An over-submission of enquiries can lead to your priorities not being dealt with in a timely manner.

Requests that are not your priorities for your delivery windows throughout the year should be submitted under the **'Tell Us'** function on Essex Highways website. These can then be resolved by other teams within Essex Highways.

**'MORE THAN
8000 ADDITIONAL
CARRIAGEWAY REPAIRS
AND AN ADDITIONAL
6000 FOOTWAY DEFECTS
WERE COMPLETED
LAST YEAR'**



Essex Highways Selected Work

If no submissions are made by your deadline, the MHI team will select work from outstanding defects in your area. You will receive notifications of the chosen sites on your portal and via email.

Siding

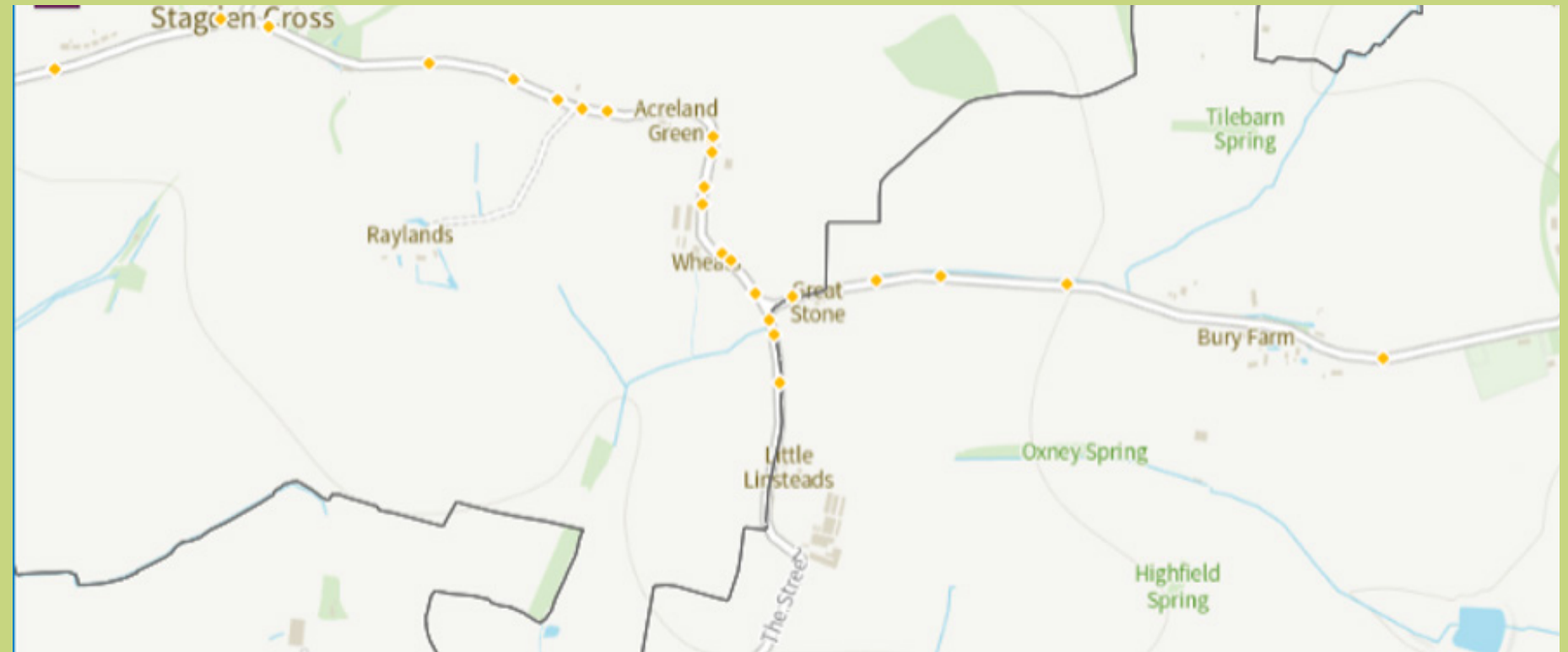
This year, footway siding issues can be dealt with within your MHI delivery windows. Requests should target safety issues in your division, for example: school routes.

Footways that have been narrowed by grass, vegetation and debris can be cleared by the MHI team to allow better pedestrian use. Once the clearance has been completed, an assessment of the footway may need to be undertaken and any defects identified for your future delivery windows. The submissions will be via the MHI update page.

Vegetation/Enforcement

You are able to submit enquiries via the Members' Update Page to our enforcement team regarding issues of private vegetation or flooding of private ditches affecting the public highway.

Cases will be assessed by the team and you will be notified of the end-to-end process which will be visible on the Members' Update Page.



ESSEX HIGHWAYS MOUNTS RAPID RESPONSE TO FIX CHELMSFORD VOID

Essex Highways was called into action in central Chelmsford on Saturday 29 March, following a lorry getting stuck in a carriageway void that appeared in New London Road.

As a key route in and out of the city centre, Police were quickly on hand to close the road to help reduce the impact on road users and enable us to investigate and repair. The void was approximately two metres square by one metre deep but fortunately situated at the end of the bus lane, so was only really affecting the PSVs and taxis legally able to use this lane during set times (7 – 10am) and (4 – 7pm).

Our supply chain partner, North Herts Surfacing Ltd completed a successful reinstatement of the carriageway during the evening of Monday 31 March. Simon Butt, Operations Director, said: “I’d like to thank the quick and professional response provided by our Out Of Hours crew and supply Chain partners North Herts Surfacing Ltd, who dealt with this fairly unusual situation in a way that minimised disruption to traffic flow and the local community. A good job well done.”



2025 SURFACING PROGRAMME IS LIVE

Our 2025 surfacing programmes are now available on the Highways information map and resurfacing areas on our website.

[View this information](#)



Cllr Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, Essex County Council (ECC) and Tom Blackburne-Maze, Director of Highways and Transport, ECC recently went to see a new Grip cutting vehicle go through its paces in Bulmer, in the North of the Braintree District’.

Rural roads and lanes can often be affected by concentrations of surface water due to a combination of poor drainage, badly maintained or neglected ditches and the volumes of water that accumulate during periods of bad weather.

Essex Highways has identified rural locations that are notorious for seasonal flooding with a view to carry out Grip (or drainage channels) cutting in verges which helps high water levels naturally disperse into ditches, drains and surrounding landscape where it can be absorbed.

TWO TOMS GET TO GRIPS WITH NEW DRAINAGE CHANNEL CUTTING VEHICLE



Historically, the issue with Grip cutting has been the occurrences of service strikes by the machinery used to create the channels. Utility cables for broadband and other services are often laid and buried unfortunately close to the surface of verges and easily ripped out. This can cause all manner of inconvenience, expense and potential personal harm should gas or electric cabling or pipework be present.

However, the innovative Force One vehicle, as trialled by Essex Highways, removes the risks by cutting Grips via the use of intense jets of compressed air. This effective method clears a path in the verge to allow the egress of water but doesn't damage or remove any utility cables buried in the verge if they are present.

Use of the vehicle has so far helped to avoid more than 30 service strikes in the region while improving water drainage from many locations.



ESSEX HIGHWAYS SHORTLISTED FOR TRIO OF CIHT AWARDS



Essex Highways has been shortlisted for three awards in the 2025 Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) Awards.

The prestigious awards celebrate excellence and innovation within the highways, transport and infrastructure sector. The shortlisting is for the following categories:

CIHT Decarbonisation Award - for a project to improve an existing, weak culvert at Bridge Farm with a CIPP structural liner reducing carbon emissions by 75 per cent. This innovative approach minimised environmental impact and shortened the construction period from 16 weeks to two, and resulted in a solution that preserves

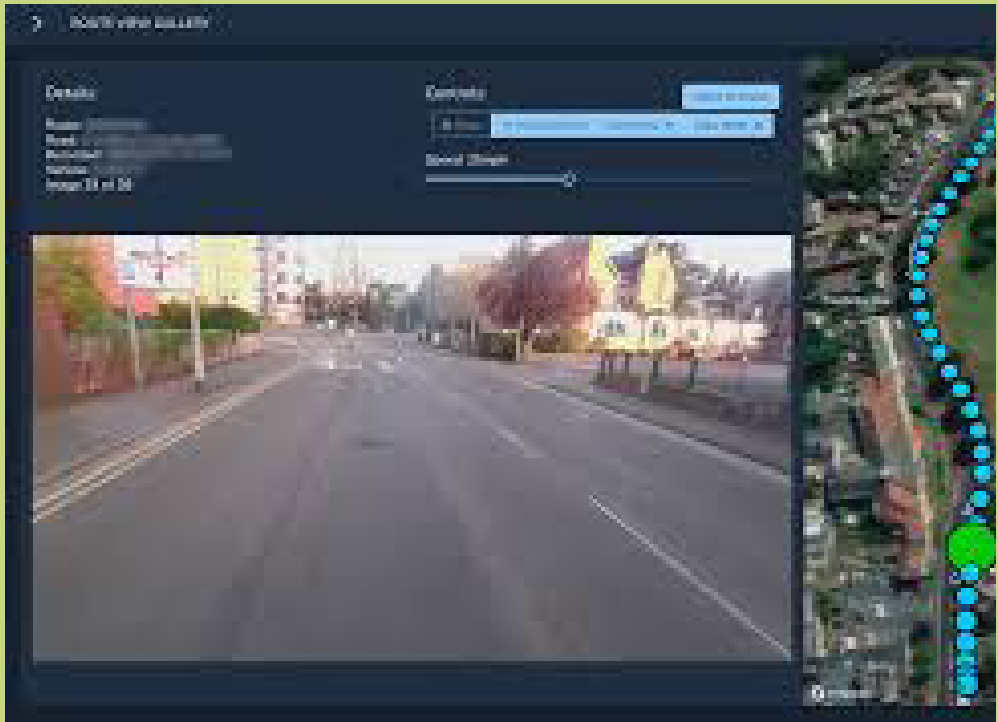


historic aesthetics and delivers long-term durability. Essex Highways is now implementing solutions away from typical standards across ten other projects.

CIHT Team of the Year Award - the Harlow Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) 9 scheme is a prime example of a truly collaborative and highly successful team approach across the company, partners and supply chain to deliver a £1.95m Active Travel Fund project one and a half months ahead of programme and four per cent under budget, all while managing a challenging programme and high partner expectations.

CIHT Technical and Digital Transformation Award - for an innovative approach taken to the adoption and development of Route Reports; an AI-based video inspection system which revolutionised our inspection process. The tool focused on efficiency and integration, resulting in substantial time and cost savings.

The shortlisting is a great honour and a testament to the hard work of our colleagues in Essex Highways. We are looking forward to the awards event at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London in June with our fingers crossed!



Photos: Previous page Wick-en Fen bridge. This page above left and right: Harlow LCWIP9 scheme and below, left: Route Reports

INAUGURAL BRIDGING THE GAP CONFERENCE A BIG SUCCESS

Ringway Jacobs (RJ) is part of a business family that can draw upon a wealth of expertise and passion.

Those attributes, along with a desire to share knowledge, know-how and the love of what the company does were drivers behind the inaugural Bridging the Gap Conference held last week.

The event featured key speakers from across RJ, Ringway and supply chain partners to encourage the sharing of best practices within bridge management.

The varied agenda covered a wide range of topics including asset management, sustainability, innovation and technical excellence. Speakers included RJ's Structures Technical Approval Lead Callum Gillett and Assistant Engineer Joe Gaskell.

There was an engaging Carbon Reduction in Bridges Workshop hosted by Principal Engineer Vasileios Papidimas and the event closed with a panel debate involving three structures specialists.



Callum said: “It was a brilliant day that had been a long time in the making. We covered everything from bridge failures to innovations, stone structures and carbon reduction, among lots more, across structures from long span mega structures to small community bridges.

“I’m so grateful to all the presenters for giving their time to present and share their expertise with our network - John Sunderland, Richard Fish, Joe Gaskell, Jonathan Rushton, Philip Reid and all innovation spotlights, Damian McGettrick, Madeline Clewett, Hamish Harvey,

Pierre Bidaud, Vasileios Papadimas, Nicola Head, Clive Woodruff.

“I’d also like to give special thanks to the presenters of the Graduates and Apprentices PechaKucha (a Japanese-originated presentation format where speakers show 20 images, each for 20 seconds, totaling 6 minutes and 40 seconds) competition, Eve Hounsell, Oliver L. and George Lovelock who gave three amazing presentations.

“This is the beginning of a very special network in the world of structures management and I’m so pleased to be a part of it.”



AROUND THE COUNTY

MERSEA ROAD SURFACING WORK COMPLETED

We're pleased to share that the recent machine surfacing on Mersea Rd, Colchester, was completed following the application of new road lining using high-quality Thermo-Plastic Line Marking materials.

Essex Highways thanks local residents for their patience and cooperation while these works were carried.



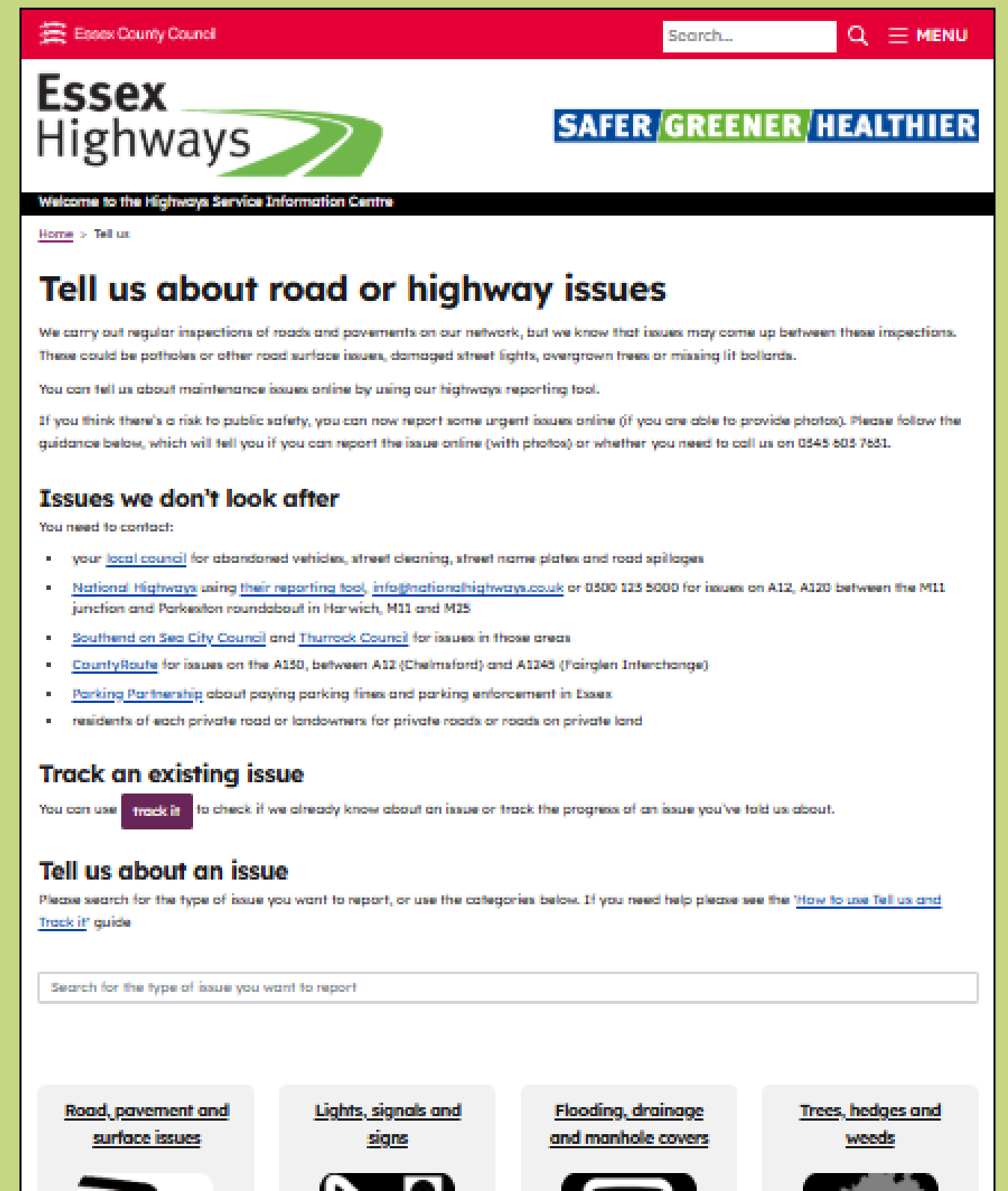
EASIER THAN EVER TO REPORT HIGHWAYS DEFECTS IN ESSEX

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.”



The screenshot displays the Essex County Council website's 'Essex Highways' section. The header includes the council's name, a search bar, and a menu icon. The main navigation bar features the 'Essex Highways' logo and the slogan 'SAFER GREENER HEALTHIER'. Below this, a black banner reads 'Welcome to the Highways Service Information Centre'. The page content is organized into sections: 'Tell us about road or highway issues', 'Issues we don't look after', 'Track an existing issue', and 'Tell us about an issue'. The 'Tell us about road or highway issues' section explains the regular inspection process and provides a link to the reporting tool. The 'Issues we don't look after' section lists various categories of issues not covered by the service, such as abandoned vehicles, street cleaning, and private roads. The 'Track an existing issue' section offers a 'track it' button to monitor report progress. The 'Tell us about an issue' section includes a search bar for issue types and a list of categories like 'Road, pavement and surface issues', 'Lights, signals and signs', 'Flooding, drainage and manhole covers', and 'Trees, hedges and weeds'.

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 7631.

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>