

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HHH

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
APRIL / MAY 2025

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

HIGHWAYS WORKS PERMITS - A BRIEF GUIDE

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE
AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

In this month's edition of Highways Highlights I want to draw your attention to the feature on page 9, called 'Did You Know?'. This is a new section spearheaded by Cllr Laureen Shaw to help breakdown some of the complex processes around how Essex Highways makes certain decisions and prioritises work.

This month the focus is on the permit scheme, and how the service works with utility companies to agree their works, how works are monitored and inspected, and the powers we have to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.

I hope this content will help make breakdown how the highways service works, and arms you with bitesize information you can use to help reassure your residents.

Best wishes,

Tom



ROUTINE REPAIRS:

April 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:
520



POTHOLES:
946



**STREET
LIGHTS:**
1,325



**GULLIES
CLEANSED:**
10,411

ROUTINE REPAIRS:

May 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:
532



POTHOLES:
1158



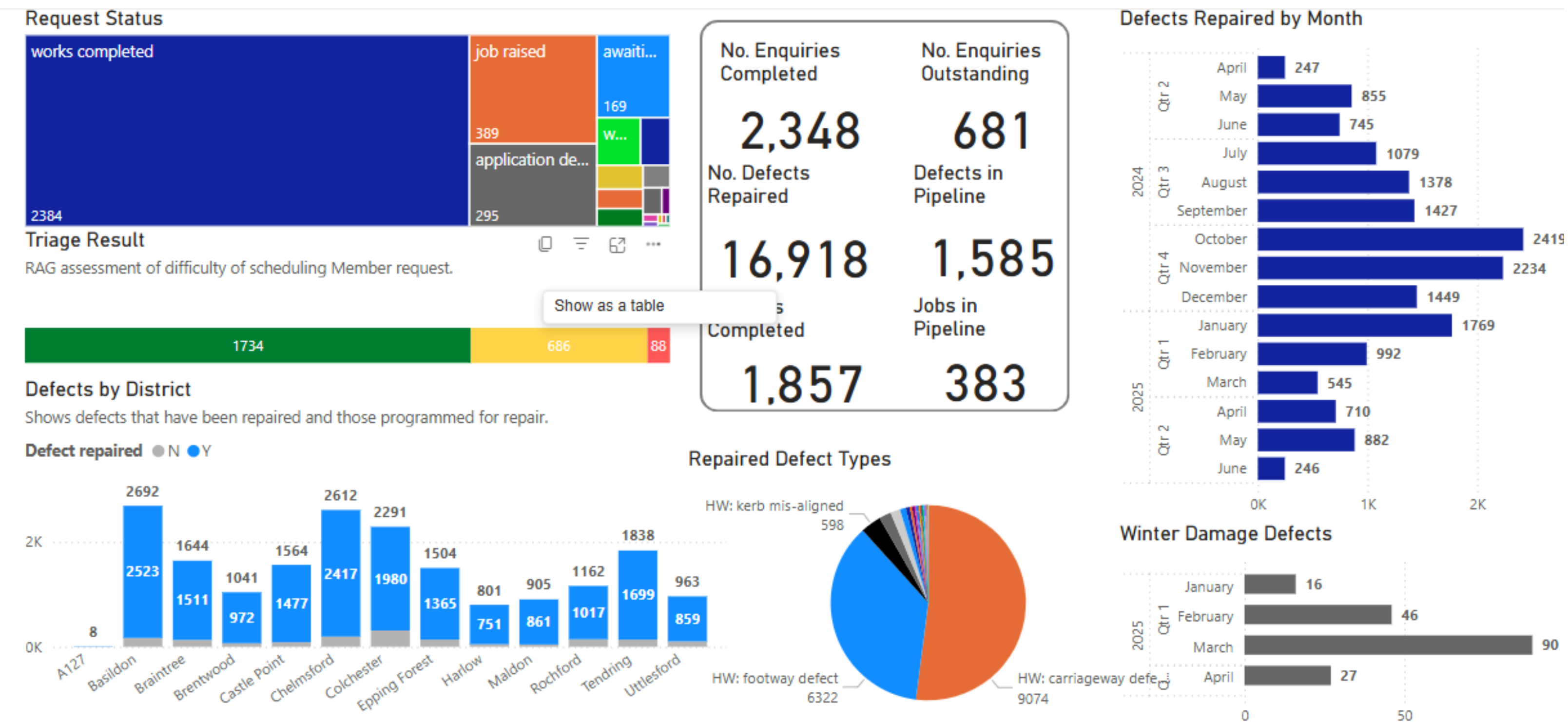
**STREET
LIGHTS:**
1,152



**GULLIES
CLEANSED:**
11,424

MEMBER HIGHWAY INITIATIVE

High Level Report: June 9 2025





**WINTER SERVICE 24/25 WRAPPED UP IN APRIL
A BIG THANKS TO ALL OUR CREWS!**

ONGOING HIGHWAYS INVESTMENT SEES 15,000 EXTRA REPAIRS WITH MORE TO COME

More than 15,000 extra road and pavement repairs have been done across Essex in the past year through the Members' Highways Initiative (MHI).

The MHI gives every Essex County Councillor a dedicated Essex Highways crew. Councillors can prioritise local highways issues that matter most to residents.

In the 2024 to 2025 financial year 15,104 repairs were completed through the programme. This is on top of regular maintenance repairs. The works have included:

- 8,000 carriageway defect repairs, such as potholes and surface damage
- 6,000 footway repairs, including kerbs and paving issues
- Replacing or repairing bollards, signs, pedestrian guard rails and surface covers.

The initiative runs alongside other works, including Essex Highways core maintenance schedule, and last year's extra £25 million Priority One resurfacing programme.

The MHI is now fully funded and continuing into the 2025/26 financial year. Local councillors and Essex Highways teams are already working together on new rounds of repairs. These will improve the safety of roads and pavements and keep Essex moving.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council said: "The results speak for themselves, with over 15,000 extra repairs this year alone.. This work is helping us build a safer, greener and healthier Essex. The initiative will continue - our teams are already out delivering real results for residents."



‘PRIORITY ONE’ SUCCESS AS TARGETED PROGRAMME SEES OVER 400,000 SQUARE METRES OF ROAD RESURFACING

Priority One, the £25 million investment made by Essex County Council into targeted highway maintenance finished this month. 128 additional roads were resurfaced – a total of 400,000 square metres.

The 8-month programme was the largest ever additional highways investment made by the council, with the funds used to deliver additional schemes across all 12 Essex districts. It was also used to tackle vegetation clearance, drainage repair, signage improvements and new lining.

Councillor Mark Platt, Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport at Essex County

Council and lead for the Priority One programme said, “I am delighted with the positive impact made through the Priority One programme. We delivered over 120 road resurfacing schemes across all areas of our county, and targeted the areas we were told were most frustrating for residents.

“We know how our local communities look and feel is important - the state of the highway matters to people.”

Additional investment in road maintenance will continue in 2025/26, on top of the usual highways repair programme carried out over the course of the year.

More information on the Priority One programme [here](#)



5,000 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS TO ROLL OUT ACROSS ESSEX



More than 5,000 electric vehicle charging sockets will be installed across Essex with millions of pounds awarded in government funding.

Essex County Council will receive £8.3 million from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund to complete installations in different locations over the coming months. The fund supports local authorities in England to work with the charge point industry to improve the roll-out and commercialisation of local charging infrastructure.

It follows earlier funding in March which has already seen more than 60 electric vehicle charging sockets installed in locations chosen by Essex residents. Chargers are live in Chelmsford and Colchester and currently being installed in Epping, Saffron Walden, Harwich and Canvey Island.

The latest LEVI funding will be used to install charging points across a mix of on street and off-street locations, in both urban and rural areas, to minimise gaps in the network. The council will now work closely with city, district and borough partners to assess viable locations and bring commercial suppliers onboard. Essex residents are also asked to suggest locations for the electric chargers to be installed by visiting www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/driving/electric-car

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, said: “We are committed to giving residents a choice in how they travel. Charging points will help more residents switch to an electric car where possible, particularly those who may not have access to off-street parking.”



HIGHWAYS WORKS PERMITS - A BRIEF GUIDE



In Essex there is a Permit Scheme that applies to all streets which are maintained by Essex County Council (ECC).

This means any organisation wanting to carry out works on these roads, including Essex Highways or utility companies, need to apply for a permit. The permit team in Essex Highways carefully considers each application and the impact any traffic management, such as road closures or temporary traffic lights, might have on travel in the area.

Essex Highways works closely with utility companies, including regular meetings to review performance and discuss any issues. If there is an urgent issue that requires a road closure or other traffic management to protect public safety, a permit does not need to be requested before the works are carried out.

However, in the event of emergency utility works, such as a gas leak or burst water main, the utility company can inform us as late as two hours after the work has started. A permit is still required, but Essex Highways can't refuse it. It can be a challenge to coordinate these unplanned works around other works already underway, such as nearby road maintenance or existing highway improvement works.

Our officers may allow more time for emergency works where this enables a piece of infrastructure, such as new piping, to be replaced instead of just a repair, so the company doesn't need to return to the site again later.

The Essex Highways permit team inspect all works to ensure they are being carried out in line with the conditions of the permit. This includes not running over the agreed end date.



If conditions are breached there is a penalty of up to £120, and a fine of up to £500 if no permit is requested at all. There are also rules in place to prevent utility companies from digging up roads which have been recently and significantly repaired, such as resurfacing.

We let utility companies know of these works in advance so they can plan any works they might need to carry out in the area before Essex Highways crews begin their work. During the course of the restriction works can only be carried out with Essex Highways' permission and in certain circumstances.

More information on the Permit Scheme can be found [here](#)



School pupils were given an exciting glimpse into potential career opportunities in construction with guided tours of two major transport infrastructure projects in Chelmsford.

Groups of year 9 pupils from The Boswells School visited the new Beaulieu Park Station, which will be the first new railway station on the Great Eastern Main Line in more than 100 years when it opens later this year, as well as the site of the first section of Chelmsford North East Bypass (section 1A).

The site visits formed part of Essex County Council's Building a Lasting Legacy programme and were organised through Jacobs, which designed the bypass scheme and provided specialist rail advice to ECC in developing and designing the new station. Jacobs also worked closely with ECC, through the Essex Highways partnership, to help secure funding for both projects.

The main contractors for the construction of the two projects, J. Murphy and Sons (Beaulieu Park Station) and Octavius Infrastructure (section 1A of the Chelmsford North East Bypass) managed the tours. Pupils were given a behind-the-scenes look at the construction work which has been completed so far, including the new station building and a bridge which will span the new bypass. The contractors also shared the various pathways into the construction industry, introduced some of their early careers staff and provided opportunities for questions

PUPILS ENJOY TOURS OF TWO KEY TRANSPORT SCHEMES AS PART OF NEW CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE



Olly Smith, Head of Design and Technology at The Boswells School said, “The experience gave the students a great insight into a much-misunderstood area of construction - civil engineering. All staff were absolutely brilliant and very informative.”

Councillor Tony Ball, Essex County Council’s Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability, said: “Building a Lasting Legacy is a fantastic initiative that will open doors for many young people in Essex and we are excited to be involved. Students who may never have considered a career in construction now have the chance to explore the industry and gain valuable skills for their future. It was great to see Jacobs and Ringway Jacobs support the programme by arranging for the students to be welcomed onto site and helping to facilitate the activity days. I thank Jacobs, J. Murphy & Sons and Octavius Infrastructure for their work in putting this together.”

Building a Lasting Legacy is a new initiative spearheaded by Morgan Sindall Construction and Essex County Council. The five-year programme was launched earlier this year and aims to introduce young people to career opportunities in construction, engineering and infrastructure. Essex Highways, which is a collaboration between Essex County Council and Ringway Jacobs, along with its shareholders Jacobs and Eurovia, has signed up to support the initiative. The Chelmsford North East Bypass and new Beaulieu Park Station will provide important infrastructure to support planned housing and economic growth to the north of Chelmsford.

The transformational road and rail upgrade will bring long-awaited improvements to Chelmsford’s transport network and help relieve congestion on local roads in and around the city, ease pressure on Chelmsford Railway Station and provide easier access to the A12 for people travelling from Braintree and surrounding areas.



CLARIFICATION ON A120–A133 LINK ROAD REQUIREMENT IN GARDEN COMMUNITY PLAN

Following recent false suggestions that an amendment removing the requirement for the A120-A133 link road will be proposed as part of the Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community Development Plan Document, Colchester City Council has issued the following clarification: A Colchester City Council spokesperson said: “We wish to clarify that there is no proposed amendment to the Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community that removes the requirement for the A120–A133 link road. Any suggestion to the contrary is incorrect.

“The council is being asked on 9 June to decide whether to adopt the DPD in the form modified by the independent Planning Inspector. These modifications are not optional and arise from the statutory examination process. The vote is therefore a binary one: adopt or do not adopt. It is important to note that adopting the DPD does not grant planning permission. Instead, it sets the policies against which future applications will be assessed. These include a clear stipulation – retained in Policy GC7 – that planning consent for development cannot be granted until the link road has both secured planning permission and has a full funding commitment.

“This wording supports, rather than undermines, the long-standing ‘infrastructure first’ principle that underpins the entire Garden Community approach. If the DPD were not adopted, it could delay or destabilise the entire project, potentially undermining the council’s leverage with both developers and central government at a crucial stage in funding discussions. Colchester City Council remains fully committed to securing early and complete delivery of the link road as a precondition for significant housing development. We also remain grateful for Sir Bernard Jenkin’s support in lobbying for essential infrastructure funding.”



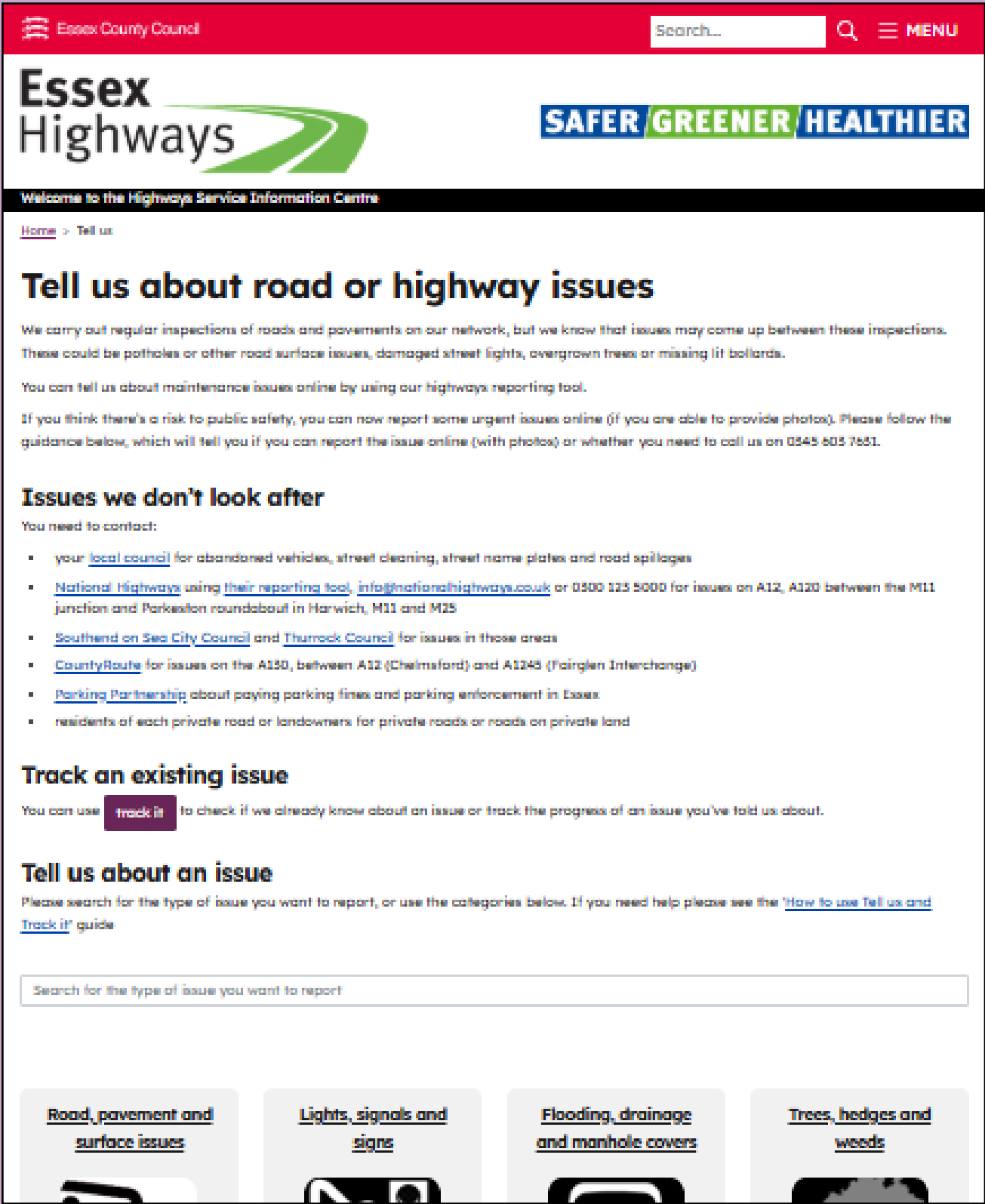
EASIER THAN EVER TO REPORT HIGHWAYS DEFECTS IN ESSEX

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>