

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HHH

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
AUGUST 2025

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

**62,036 DRAINS
CLEARED AS
WINTER PREP
CONTINUES**

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE
AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Welcome to this latest issue of Highways Highlights. It's the time of year where preparation for Winter Service is in full swing as we ready ourselves for the colder, darker months.

As you will find out from this edition, we've been urging local landowners to cut vegetation to help us with drainage, while our gully cleansing crews have been hard at work to mitigate the risks of flooding by clearing as many drains as possible.

Our gritter drivers have been put through their paces with specialist driver training before they carry out some dry runs on their gritting routes.

There is the usual Members Highway Initiative update, plus the chance to view a short video that I shot recently in Chelmsford, offering a little more detail on that.

As ever, there is plenty going in Highways and I hope you find this edition of Highways Highlights of interest.

Best wishes,
Tom



ROUTINE REPAIRS: August 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:
704



POTHOLES:
900



**STREET
LIGHTS:**
1,084



**GULLIES
CLEANSED:**
14,000

MEMBER HIGHWAY INITIATIVE

High Level Report: 19 September 2025

Request Status



Triage Result

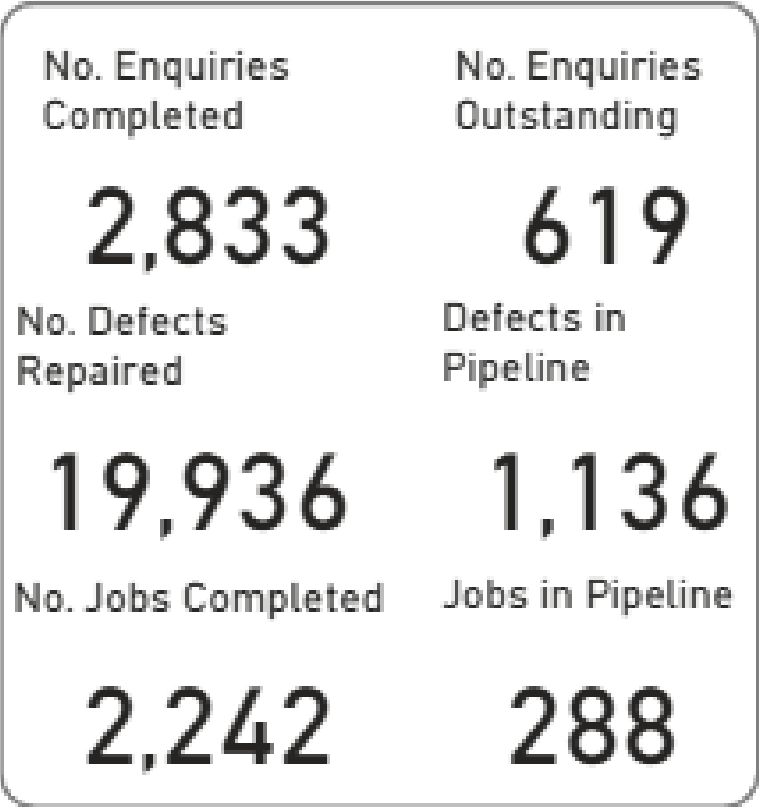
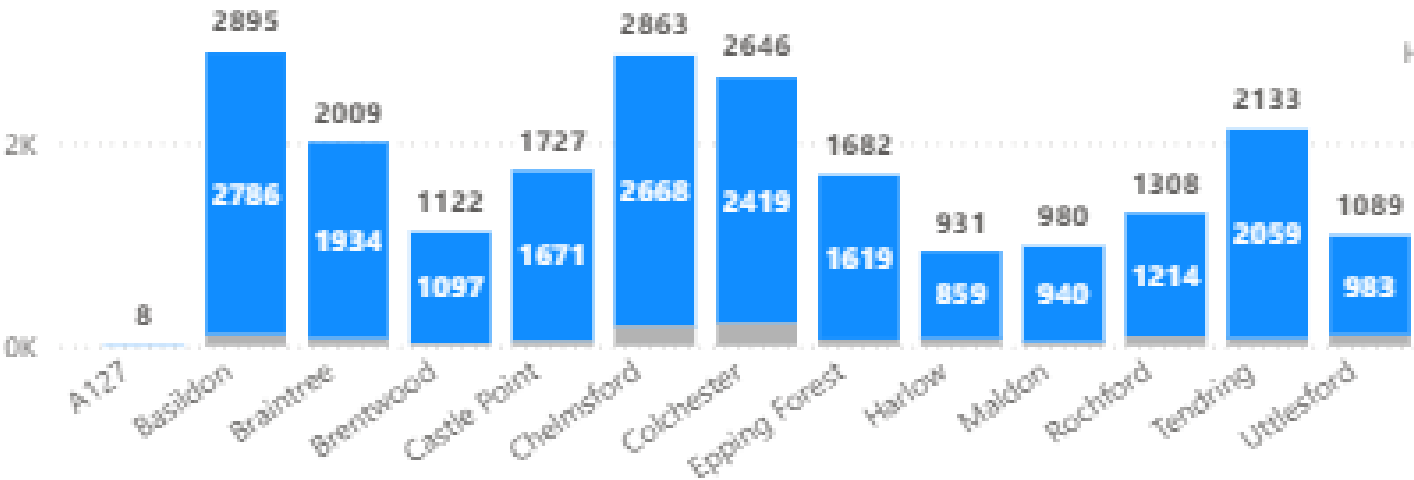
RAG assessment of difficulty of scheduling Member request.



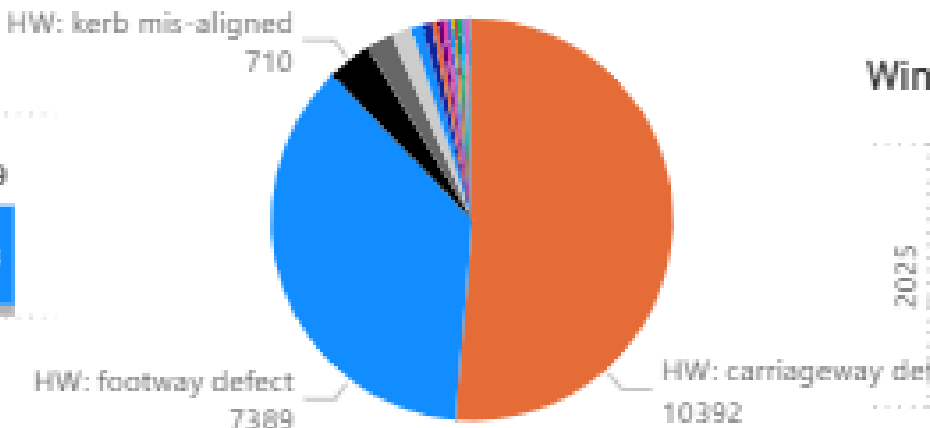
Defects by District

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

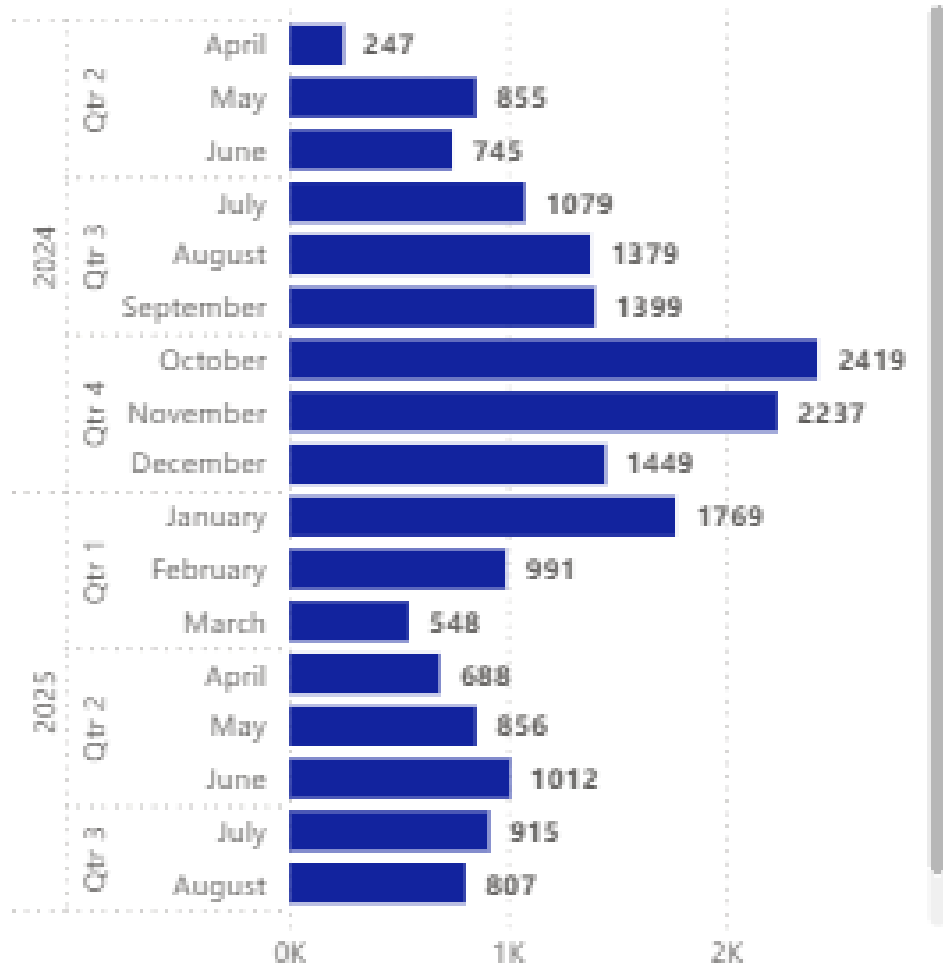
Defect repaired ● N ● Y



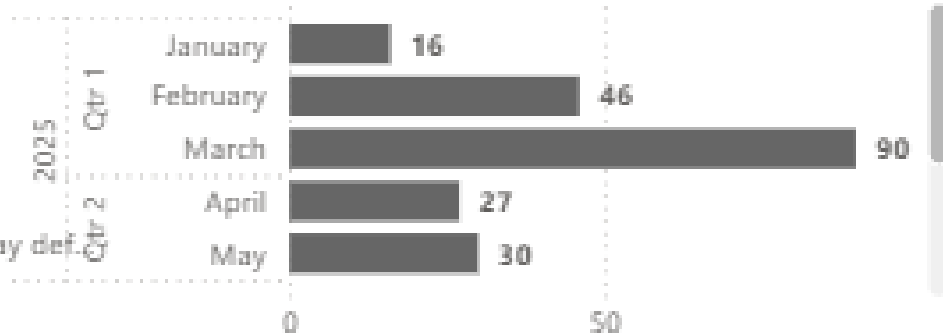
Repaired Defect Types



Defects Repaired by Month



Winter Damage Defects



COUNCILLOR CUNNINGHAM - MHI UPDATE



62,036 DRAINS CLEARED AS WINTER PREP CONTINUES

A total of 62,036 drains have been cleared across Essex between 1 April and 29 August as highways crews prepare for the harsh winter weather.

Essex Highways routinely clears blocked drains to prevent flooding, which can pose significant risks to road users and pedestrians.

Extra funding from the £8 million Priority One programme has allowed Essex Highways to add two drain-clearing crews across the county this year, which will continue into next year.

Essex Highways will also be running four jetting units across the county to carry out works on a weekly basis over the coming months. These works will include:

- High-pressure washing
- Investigative works such as

CCTV surveys

- Council member enquiries
- Emergency works

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council, said: “We are working tirelessly to ensure our roads and drainage systems are ready for whatever the seasons bring.

“Our highways crews are already out in force to keep Essex moving by addressing issues before they can escalate into serious problems, directly contributing to a safer, greener and healthier Essex for all.”

Essex Highways encourages residents to report any blocked drains or flooding concerns using the online Tell Us tool.



A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a green tractor with a yellow PTO shaft and a red light, cutting grass in a field. The tractor is moving from left to right, and the grass is being cut into clumps. The background is a soft-focus green field.

LANDOWNERS URGED TO CUT VEGETATION NOW BIRD NESTING SEASON IS OVER

Landowners are being reminded that trees, hedges, ditches and other vegetation close to highways needs to be maintained with summer drawing to a close.

Overgrown vegetation can prevent roads and paths from being safe when wetter weather and shorter days draw near, blocking paths and restricting clear view of the highway. Grass cut in wet conditions can also lead to clumps being deposited by lawnmowers onto highways. Therefore, grass cutting is ideally carried out when the weather is drier.

Most trees and hedges by roads are on privately owned land. Owners can include district councils, parish councils, housing associations, farmers and homeowners. Landowners are responsible for maintaining foliage on their land, even if it is close to a road or pavement. They have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent risk. Overgrown vegetation can restrict paths, reduce sight, and cause floods when ditches and drains become clogged.

Now bird nesting season is over, landowners should carry out work such as:

- Removing overhanging branches that obscure the view of the road
- Removing overhanging branches that lower the road's clearance for tall vehicles, such as double-decker school buses
- Trimming or removing trees that are in danger of falling onto the pavement or road
- Removing overgrown shrubs that block lighting or traffic signs
- Removing trenches on private property to prevent flooding when it rains

Essex Highways' £25 million Priority One programme of highways maintenance included 582 vegetation clearances during the summer. Councillor Tom Cunningham, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport, said: "It is paramount that landowners maintain vegetation on their own properties to help ensure clear visibility on our roads and footpaths for pedestrians and road users alike.

"We appreciate the cooperation of landowners in carrying out these essential maintenance tasks. They play a crucial role in creating a safer, greener and healthier Essex, while helping to enhance the pride we all have in our great county."



GRITTER DRIVERS READY FOR WHATEVER THE WEATHER BRINGS THIS WINTER



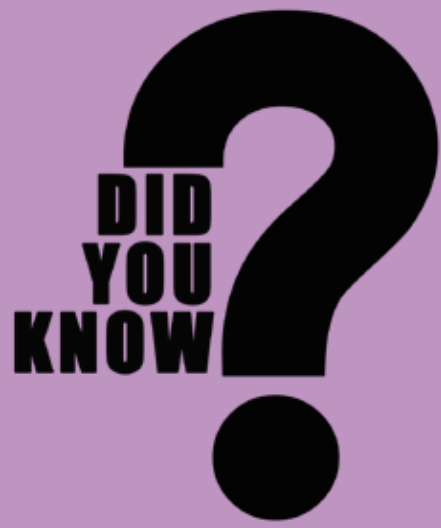
Ringway Jacobs' winter maintenance operatives began preparation in June and August, participating in Winter Driving Skid Pan training, provided by R3 Training at Thruxton Race Circuit, Hampshire. The training is considered vital for all winter maintenance operatives as it teaches them new skills and the chance to polish up on current ones.

The course includes classroom - based learning as well as practical demonstrations. Attendees participate in

fitting the plough, vehicle checks, skid pan control, driving and much more. The course carries with it a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC) accreditation.

Robbie Jamieson, Area Highways Manager, said: "It was good to see our drivers at the wheel and putting themselves through their paces in readiness for the winter months. I recommend this to all drivers, not just those within the winter maintenance industry."





THE TEAMS THAT CARRY OUT WINTER GRITTING ARE THE SAME THAT MAINTAIN THE NETWORK ALL YEAR-ROUND

At Essex Highways, the dedicated teams who keep our roads safe and accessible in winter by gritting are the same people working hard throughout the rest of the year to maintain and fix our 5100 miles of highway network.

To deal with the harsh winter weather, our teams take on different responsibilities. The winter service teams begin their duties at any time the weather conditions require which can include in the early hours to apply salt and grit to the county's roads.

This approach helps to slow ice formation and improve road safety for all users during the coldest months. During the winter season,

our teams treat over 2000 miles of road in Essex, which is roughly 40% of our road network. During 2024/25, our teams gritted a total of 136,045 miles of road in total.

Once winter passes, our teams will continue their regular responsibilities, such as patching our roads, cleaning highway drains, repairing street furniture and filling in potholes.

The commitment and adaptability of our teams ensures that the safety and reliability of Essex highways network throughout all seasons is maintained.

Find out more about our winter service [here](#).



CANVEY ISLAND - SURFACING IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS

Work has officially begun to upgrade the road surface on B1014 High Street/Point Road in Canvey Island to carry out much needed improvements. A section between Wall Road roundabout and Park Lane is already complete, marking a strong start to the project.

Our work includes resurfacing, removing and renewing of the road surface, joint sealing repairs, and adjustments to manholes and gullies, as well as gully cleaning to clear any blocked gullies where necessary.

These enhancements are designed to extend the life of the road, and create a smoother, more reliable journey for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

Please be mindful of temporary traffic management measures in place during construction which is expected to complete in early October 2025.

We appreciate your patience as we work to improve local infrastructure.



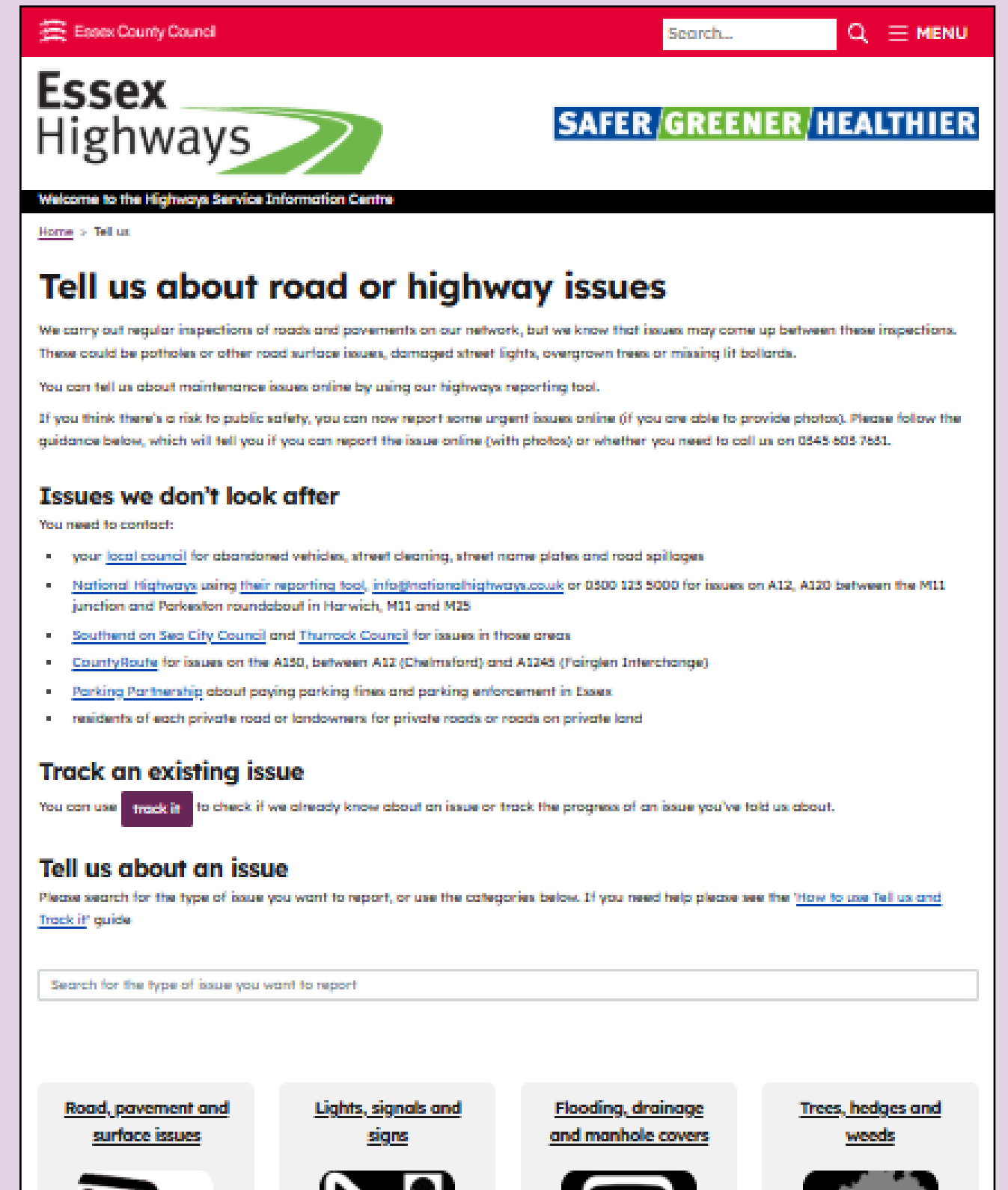
EASIER THAN EVER TO REPORT HIGHWAYS DEFECTS IN ESSEX

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...

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>