

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

HHH

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS
JANUARY 2025

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

ESSEX RESIDENTS NAME OUR NEW GRITTERS

COMMENT

COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

I've had a lot of fun following the gritter naming competition on Essex Highways social media channels. The names suggested and selected by the public are superb, and a credit to the creative minds of our Essex residents! I look forward to seeing the newly named vehicles out and about, keeping our roads safe this winter and future ones. The gritters highlight a very important part of Essex Highways' winter service, and they have been busy over the last few weeks as we've experienced much colder weather. My thanks to the teams who closely monitor and track the weather to make decisions on how the service needs to respond, and to those diligently going out at 2pm and 2am to salt the roads when the colder temperatures hit to keep Essex moving.

As we know this time of year really takes its toll on our roads and while much of the work Essex Highways has carried out in the last few months will help stave off winter related damage, there will be other parts of the road network that suffer. I'm pleased, then, that we've been able to make extra crews available to you through the Members' Highways Initiative to help repair winter damage in your divisions, and I hope you can take advantage of these extra crews when they're in your area. As always, please be reminded the emergency numbers for you and residents to use when bad weather hits the county are at the back of this edition of Highways Highlights.

Many Thanks,
Cllr Tom Cunningham



ROUTINE REPAIRS: DECEMBER 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: 1422



**Pavements:
870**



**Drains cleared:
9506**



**Streetlights:
1319**

ROUTINE REPAIRS: January 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: 1922



**Pavements:
651**



**Drains cleared:
8712**



**Streetlights:
1313**

MEMBER HIGHWAY INITIATIVE

High Level Report: February 10 2025

Request Status



Triage Result

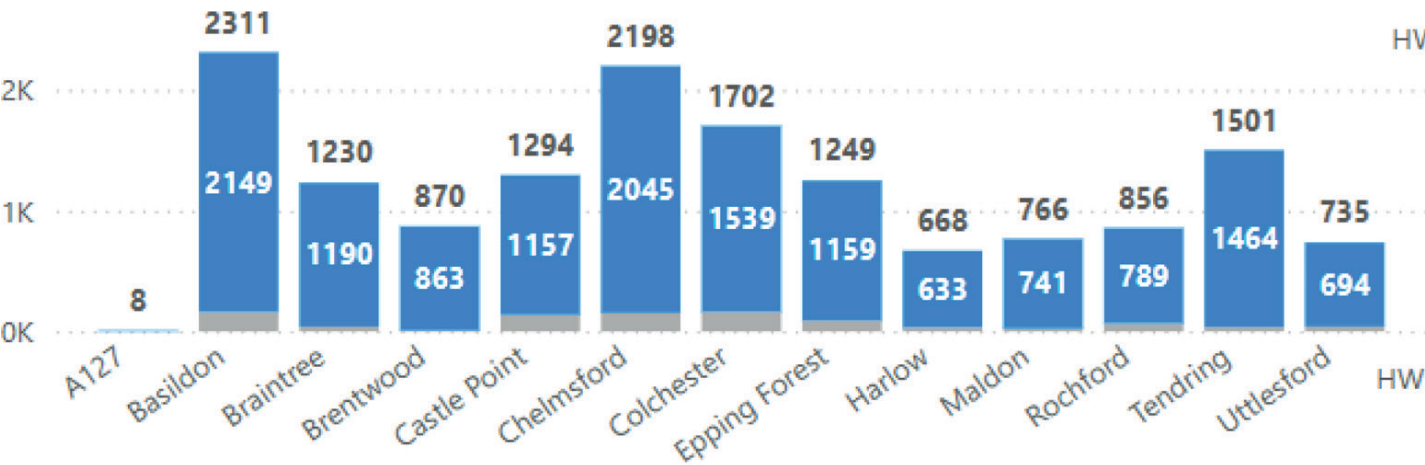
RAG assessment of difficulty of scheduling Member request.



Defects by District

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

Defect repaired ● N ● Y



No. Enquiries Completed

1,829

No. Defects Repaired

13,996

No. Jobs Completed

1,454

No. Enquiries Outstanding

648

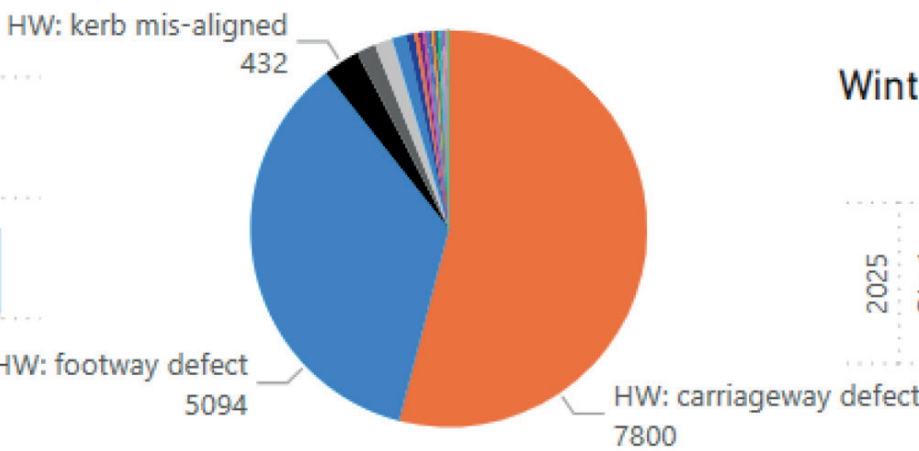
Defects in Pipeline

957

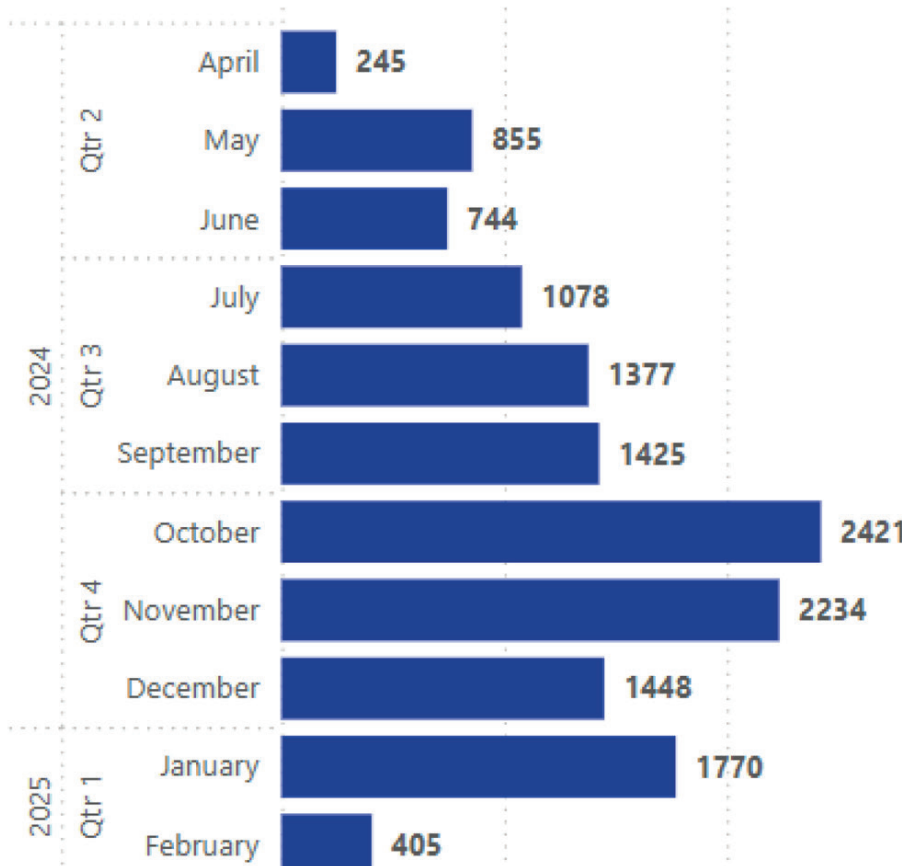
Jobs in Pipeline

261

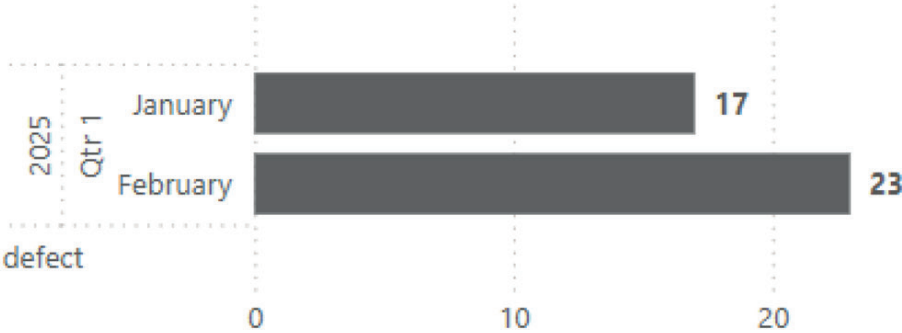
Repaired Defect Types



Defects Repaired by Month



Winter Damage Defects



ADDITIONAL WINTER REPAIR CREWS LAUNCHED ACROSS ESSEX



Essex Highways has launched dedicated winter repair crews to tackle potholes and road surface damage caused by winter conditions.

Funded by Essex County Council through additional investment into the Members Highways Initiative (MHI) last year, these teams are set to start working across Essex until April. The crews, based in the north and south of the county, will prioritise issues flagged by local Essex County Councillors and address issues to improve safety for residents and road users.

If no issues are flagged by Councillors in their areas, the winter crews will proactively work through existing road defects to maximise repair efforts across the county.

The winter repair crews supplement Essex Highways' existing maintenance activities, including additional repairs carried out from the Priority One and Members Highways Initiative repairs.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council said: "Winter weather takes a serious toll on our roads, but we are committed to ensuring residents can travel safely and confidently.

"These dedicated winter crews will mean we can act quicker on issues flagged by councillors this winter to make Essex a Safer, Greener, and Healthier place to be."

More information [here](#)

STACEY SNOWLAMAN, GRITCHARD OSMAN AND FATIMA GRITSPREAD JOIN THE WINTER GRITTER FLEET

Hundreds of name suggestions From Essex residents have resulted in memorable names for 25 gritting lorries in the Essex Highways winter fleet.

The winning names attracted 9,769 votes collectively, with favourites 'CTRL SALT DELETE' and 'Snow Be Gone Kenobi' heading up a list of very creative suggestions. All 25 of the winning names will join the ranks of previously named lorries like PLOWIE, Colchester Gritty, and Gritty McGrit Face in keeping Essex's roads safe from ice and snow this winter

The competition attracted over 700 entries, with residents encouraged to submit names inspired by Essex, winter, and local celebrities. The chosen names will feature on the gritters as they travel across the county.



The gritters will be based at Springfield depot, as well as Essex's newest winter depot, Dunmow which became operational last year. Ahead of winter Essex Highways prepared by ensuring 24,000 drains were cleared across the county, and that all 51 gritting routes across Essex were up and running.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council said: "It's great to see so much community involvement in naming our gritters. By naming them, residents can connect more with our

winter operations which are critical to keeping Essex moving during winter months."

Full list of new names are:

CTRL SALT DELETE

Snow Be Gone Kenobi

Thaw Patrol

Gritasaurus Rex

BFG-Big Friendly Gritter

The Snowy Way is Essex

Fatima Gritspread

Ready Spready Go

Stacy Snowloman

Depeche Snowed

Buzz Iceclear

Olly Burrers

Snowmeo & Juliet

Dame Magritty Smith

Ploughzilla

Mr Plow

Thor

Gritchard Osman

The Batsnowbil

Sprinkle Sprinkle Little Salt

Sprinkle Bell

Snowy Essex

Canvey Iceland

Denise Van Out'en the cold

The Essex Exfoliator

All 59 gritter lorries in the Essex Highways fleet can be tracked in real-time



30KM OF ESSEX ROADS RESURFACED SINCE LAUNCH OF PRIORITY ONE PROGRAMME

Since the launch of the Priority One programme our crews have worked throughout the autumn and winter to target the worst areas of deterioration, resulting in 30km of additional roads having been resurfaced by Essex Highways.

The £25 million programme by Essex County Council began in October 2024, enabling additional crews and resources to fully resurface some of the most deteriorated roads. Priority One is in addition to existing maintenance budgets and

is the single largest investment the council has made into highways improvements. Over 50 repairs have been completed to date, ranging from town centre junctions to stretches of rural roads.



Councillor Mark Platt, Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council and lead for the Priority One programme, said: “The programme targets the areas and issues which we know frustrate local people.

This is on top of business-as-usual activities already underway. The additional funding allows us to get more crews out on the road in every borough, city and district in the county. Through Priority One funding we are fully resurfacing roads, not just patching issues.

This means closing roads, removing the old surfaces, repairing any defects and laying new surfaces.

“We will continue to ramp up the Priority One programme over the coming weeks, undertaking 10 to 15 schemes a week. We thank residents for their patience as this widespread resurfacing is carried out.”

Alongside resurfacing, the Priority One programme is also funding drainage clearance, new signage, road lining and hundreds of areas of vegetation clearance.

Councillor Platt added: “We know overgrown vegetation is a particular annoyance for people. It not only impacts accessibility and visibility – it can make our local communities feel untidy.

“Not only is the team working hard to clear areas the council is responsible for - we are also contacting and writing to landowners to ensure they meet their responsibility to clear any vegetation impeding footpaths.”

[More information here](#)



Repairs have included:

A104 Robin Hood Roundabout,
Loughton

Broadmayne Roundabout, Fryerns
Colchester Road – Eastways, Witham

Epping New Road, Epping Forest

Gardiners Lane, Basildon

High Road, Laindon

High Road, South Benfleet

High Street, Burnham-on-Crouch

Kenneth Road, Thundersley

Langford Road/Holloway Road,
Heybridge

Limebrook Way, Maldon

Link Road, Canvey Island

London Road, Great Notley

Maldon Road roundabout, Colchester

Paringdon Road, Harlow

Rectory Road, Pitsea

Regina Road, Eckersley Road,
Chelmsford

Ronald Road, Halstead

Rookery Road, Ingatestone

The Gladeway, Waltham Abbey

Tollgate Drive, Stanway

Underhill Road, South Benfleet

Victoria Road, Chelmsford





THIS PAGE: PARINGDON ROAD, HARLOW





AROUND THE COUNTY

HEYBRIDGE ROUNDABOUT WORKS

As part of the Westcombe Park development project in Heybridge, a new roundabout is being constructed next to Langford Road, just south of the old Langford rail bridge. This roundabout will connect to a new relief road, making it easier for drivers to bypass the centre of Heybridge by travelling between B1022 Broad Street Green and B1018 Langford Road, crossing Maypole Road.

Significant progress has already been made on building the relief road and roundabout. We anticipate the developer will be ready to carry out the final road connections to the roundabout in summer 2025. This will involve temporary traffic lights for about three weeks, followed by a full closure of Langford Road which is proposed from week commencing 21 July to early September, timed during the school holidays when traffic is usually lighter.

During this period, the contractors will realign Langford Road and remove the old road. The extensive earthworks required during this phase account for the length of the closure required.

Once the realignment has been completed Langford Road will reopen, and shortly after, the roundabout will be fully operational. This will provide access to the entire length of the new Heybridge Relief Road, named Jubilee Way (B1020). This new route from Broad Street Green to Langford Road is expected to greatly reduce the current traffic issues in Heybridge and Maldon, making travel smoother and more efficient for everyone. Please be advised that these arrangements are provisional, with details will be confirmed later in the programme.



Photo courtesy of Countryside

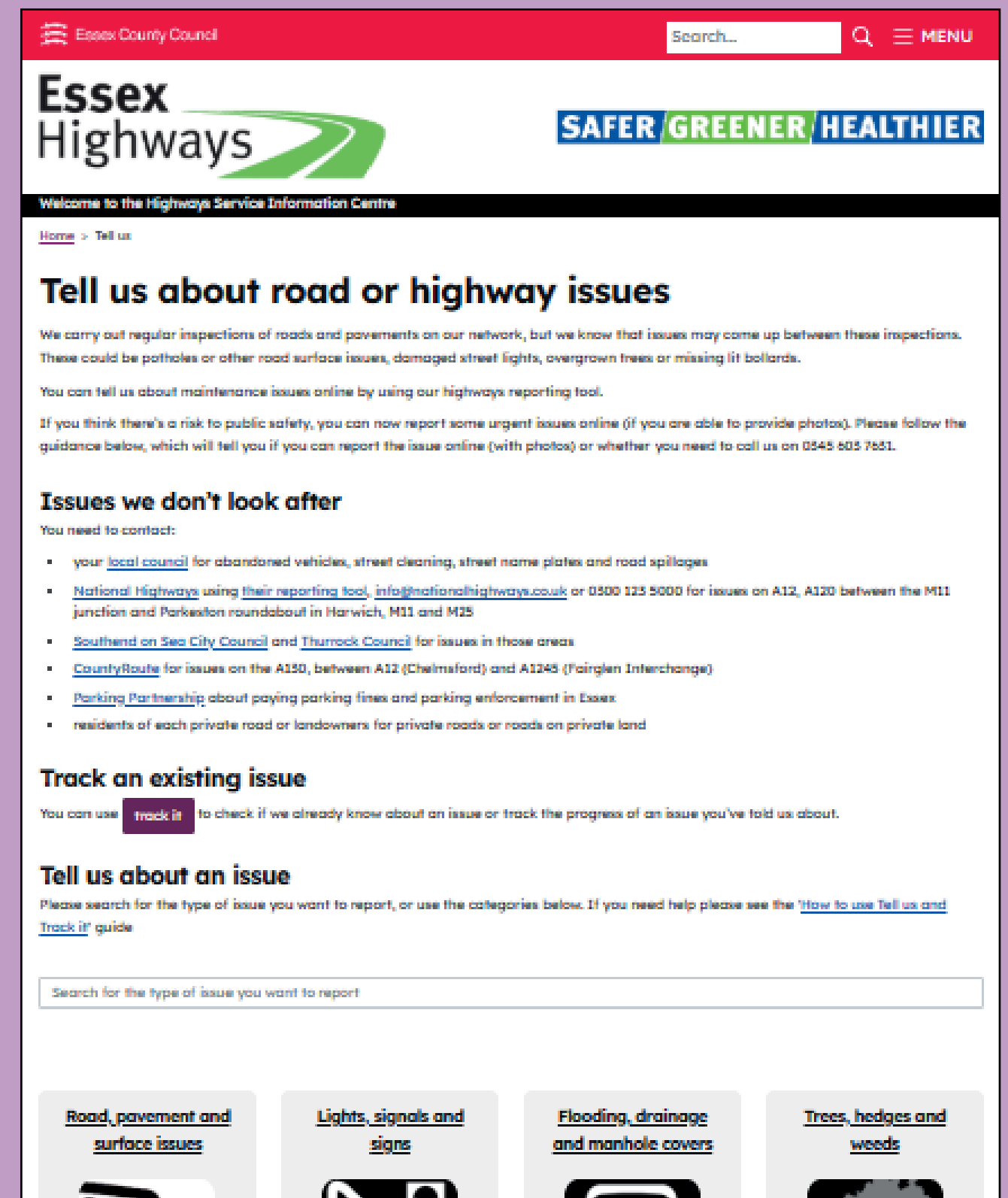
EASIER THAN EVER TO REPORT HIGHWAYS DEFECTS IN ESSEX

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 7551.

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 Parkston roundabout in Harwich, M11 and M25
- [Southend-on-Sea City Council](#) and [Thurrock Council](#) for issues in these areas
- [CountyRoute](#) for issues on the A130, between A12 (Chelmsford) and A1248 (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>