

HIGHWAYS HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS | OCTOBER 2022



COMMENT

COUNCILLOR LEE SCOTT

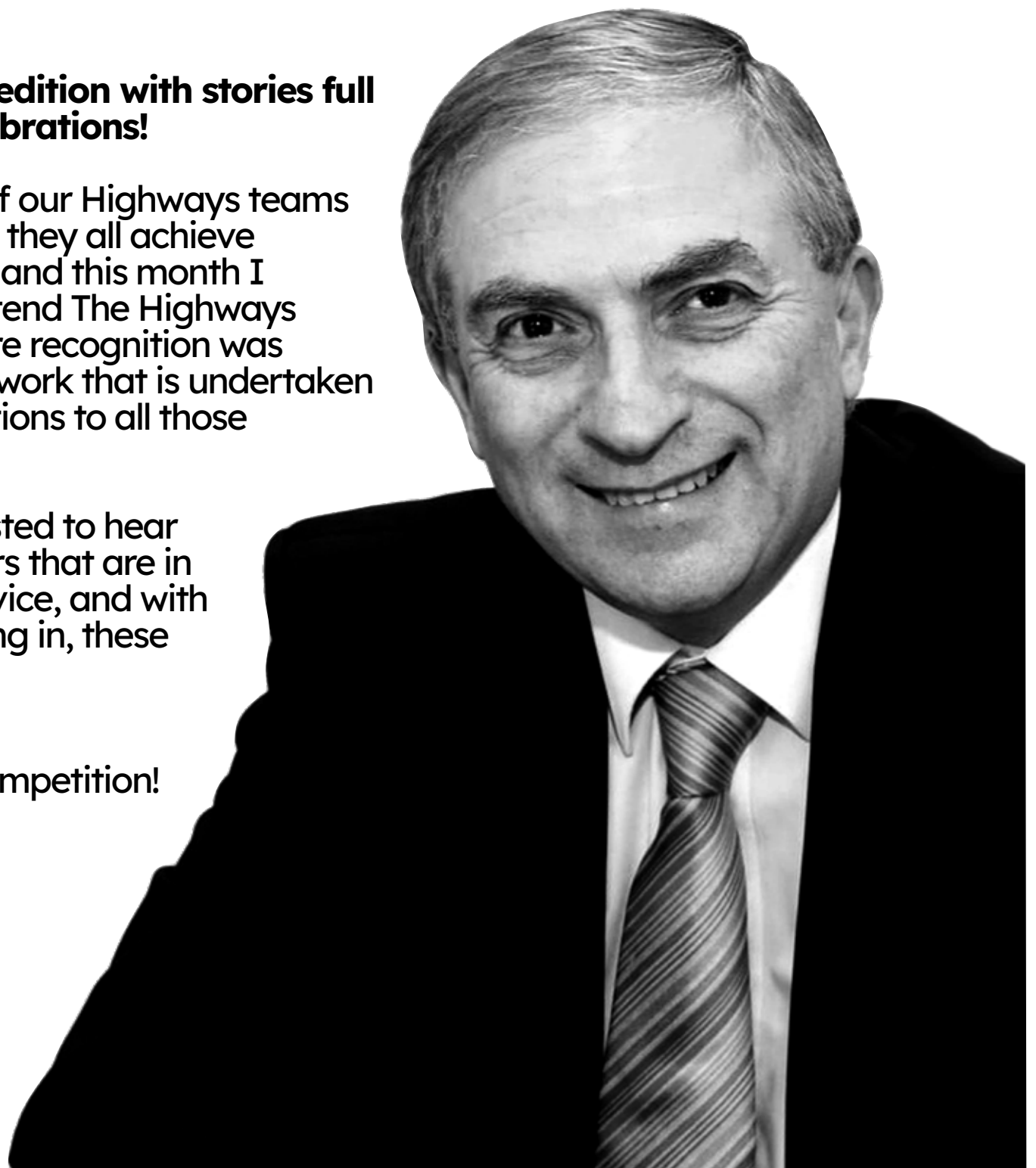
CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

I welcome you to this edition with stories full of good news and celebrations!

I am always so proud of our Highways teams and the amazing things they all achieve throughout the County, and this month I was lucky enough to attend The Highways Magazine Awards, where recognition was given to the innovative work that is undertaken every day – congratulations to all those involved.

I have also been interested to hear all about the new gritters that are in place for the winter service, and with the cold weather drawing in, these will be invaluable.

Make sure to take part in our gritter naming competition!



HIGHLY COMMENDED. TWICE!

The Highways Magazine Awards were held in London on 19 October, where, we are pleased to say, the service achieved recognition for two of its recent innovations. In the Best Use of New Technology Award category, Essex Highways and Ringway Jacobs were Highly Commended for our submission on The use of Roads AI for highways safety inspections. This uses clever AI software to accurately gather highway defect data. In the Site Safety Initiative Award category, Essex Highways, Ringway Jacobs and Eurovia were Highly Commended for our collaboration in using Drone Technology for Surveying Structures.



NEW GRITTERS, NEWER TECHNOLOGY, BETTER SAFETY FEATURES

THIS YEAR'S WINTER SERVICE WILL
BENEFIT FROM INVESTMENT IN FLEET

By mid-November, Essex Highways will have 15 new gritters working on the network, each bringing the benefits of newer technology and safety features into service.

The new gritters have a number of operational and safety upgrades which are designed not only to target and maximise the sections of the road network that need the most treatments, but to also ensure the safety of our drivers and members of the public too.

The trucks feature improved visibility thanks to state-of-the-art driver aids such as vehicle

mirrors and 360° camera system and sensors. This enables our drivers to know exactly what is around them and where at all times.

Gritting and ploughing operations are managed by a single touch screen control box in the cab. The flow rate and spread of de-icing solutions can be controlled through the unit, while gritting routes and sections of each route requiring treatment can be pre-programmed.

This ensures that resources such as rock salt can be maximised and that waste is kept to minimum making each gritting run as efficient as it can be.



DAF TRAINING FOR OUR GRITTER DRIVERS

The new gritters are based on DAF XF trucks and the company provided some training to Essex Highways drivers on 28 September, with a focus on regeneration and the vehicle's 'dif lock'.

DAF driver trainers Ron Smith and Mark Wiggins held a classroom session at Essex Highways' Springfield depot covering these subjects, before taking attendees through some of the features on the new vehicles.

Each truck is equipped with a closed filter which is designed to collect the soot produced by the engine. To keep the filter clean the collected soot must be burnt. This process, called "Regeneration", occurs when there is sufficient temperature in the DPF to burn the collected soot. It is integral to the smooth running of the vehicle as failure to do so can cause engine seizure and a very costly repair bill.

A differential lock (dif lock) is a mechanical component used in vehicles, designed to lock both wheels on an axle together as if on a common shaft. This forces both wheels to turn in unison, regardless of the traction (or lack of) available to either wheel individually.

Ron and Mark explained the practicalities of dif lock use operationally and also explained some of the potential pitfalls that can arise through either mis-use or not following correct procedure, such as twisted axles - again, another costly and time consuming problem to rectify.

Our drivers found the session informative, interesting, providing them with the ideal introduction to their new vehicles, prior to taking them out on pre-winter service dry runs.



COMPETITION!

NAME OUR NEW GRITTERS

We are just over three weeks into this year's winter service, and we have some good news and some great news. The good news is that we have **15 new gritters on our fleet this year.** The great news is that the people of Essex get name them!

HOW TO ENTER

The competition will be running over on our twitter page (@Essex Highways) and this is how you enter:

Step 1: Follow Essex Highways on Twitter

Step 2: Comment on one of our Name the Gritter posts with your name suggestion (make sure you start your tweet with #NameEssexGritter22).

Step 3: Wait to hear if your name has been chosen.



THE RULES

- The name you come up with should either have a connection with Essex or Winter... preferably both.
- Try and be original with your name.
- Please do NOT submit anything rude or offensive.
- You have exactly a month to submit your name choice. The competition begins on 8 November and runs until 8 December.
- Once submitted, all names will be put forward to our selection panel before final judging
- The final decision on whether a name is acceptable or not rests solely with Essex County Council.
- Winners will be announced in early January.
- The winning names will be displayed on the Gritter.
- There is also an option to include the full name of the person who came up with the gritter's name. If your gritter name is chosen, we will direct message you to see if you would like your name included also.
- If one of the winning names is put forward by multiple people, the winner will be the first person that submitted the name.

Good Luck!

THESE NAMES ARE TAKEN!

There are eight existing gritters that were named back in 2016 still in service. These are:

GRITTY GORDON
BIG G
GUSTAV
EDWARD
GRITTY MCGRIT FACE
GRIT NOTLEY
GRITTY GRITTY BANG BANG
VOLDERGRIT

RUBBISH!

**DISCARDED REFUSE IS SOMETHING THAT
OUR VERGE CUTTING CREWS COULD
REALLY DO WITHOUT**

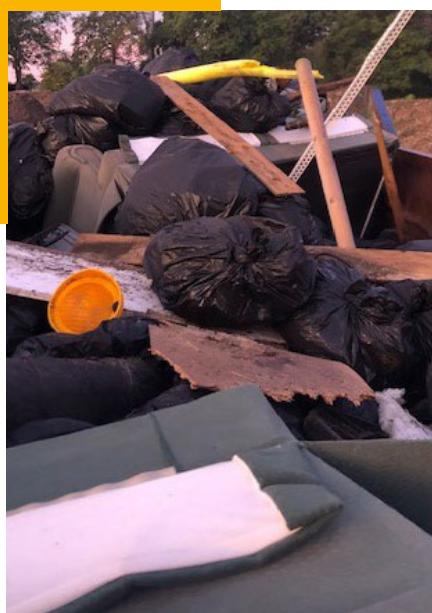
In the late Spring and Autumn months, we head out onto our road network to cut the grass on the highway verges.

This is something we normally do twice a year to allow us to ensure the safety of road users while also preserving protected plants and the natural environment. However, before we can begin cutting the verges, we first must clear any rubbish found within the area. Last month we tackled our high-speed roads and were shocked as to how many bags of rubbish we collected. Overall, we

collected 703 bags of rubbish from A13 (Basildon), A130 Canvey, A127, A1245, and A133 combined.

This is rubbish that has either been thrown out of the window, fallen from passing lorries or has been discarded elsewhere and moved by the wind. Having to collect rubbish prior to carrying out verge cutting adds time and cost to our already stretched resources.

Our message to everyone is... please keep Essex tidy by taking your rubbish home with you.





DESIGNING FOR THE 20%

Last month, we had an external subject matter expert deliver a workshop at Springfield Depot discussing ways in which we can ensure that we create considerate road works by designing all-inclusive traffic management.

Michael Barrett, Director/owner & Traffic safety & control officer at Urban Staff Solutions, presented on 'design for the 20%', which including methods to approach works that ensure community access is considered. He also provided practical demonstrations.

Michael's presentation highlighted how to utilise a 3-tier assessment and the importance of meeting local

communities in advance of works to better understand the community perspective and any special needs that may need to be catered for.

The social and medical model of disability, industry culture and process was then discussed before attendees headed to a nearby set of roadworks for a demonstration.

This site visit involved walking around the layout of the roadworks to identify where specific communities were likely to be impacted and ways to improve for the future. We plan to continue this collaboration and raise awareness across the organisation.

SAFER / GREENER / HEALTHIER

Transforming travel in Essex



The partnership between Safer Greener Healthier and walking/nature app GoJauntly goes from

strength to strength. We've achieved a reach of over 340k people since the beginning of the new year.

New to the app this month is a series of walking routes along the 30-mile stretch of the Thames Estuary Path taking in ancient churches and internationally important marshes. **Check out the routes here.**



ROUTINE REPAIRS DURING SEPTEMBER 2022

In September, we continued to repair carriageway and footway defects. When looking at these numbers, it is important to remember that repairs are prioritised by severity not by district, so numbers can vary considerably. Streetlights-fixed totals don't include the work being carried out in the LED upgrade programme.

DISTRICT	COUNTY ROUTES	LOCAL ROADS	PAVEMENT DEFECTS FIXED	DRAINS CLEARED	STREETLIGHTS FIXED
BASILDON	15	33	182	1889	197
BRAINTREE	12	40	32	0	85
BRENTWOOD	4	20	4	0	125
CASTLE POINT	11	27	2	0	118
CHELMSFORD	30	31	314	2584	95
COLCHESTER	22	49	65	0	498
EPPING FOREST	34	48	42	1879	82
HARLOW	12	26	3	1626	159
MALDON	8	16	53	0	68
ROCHFORD	7	20	39	0	77
TENDRING	21	19	21	2048	181
UTTLESFORD	42	21	11	604	106
TOTALS	218	350	768	10630	1792

KEEPING ESSEX SAFE AND MOVING IN WINTER



52 gritters and 104 drivers available 24/7



3.0 hours average to complete route treatment

40% of the network is treated each time

**18,000 tonnes of rock salt spread in an average winter (the same weight as 2571 bull elephants!)
13,000 tonnes (the same weight as 72 Blue whales!) kept in stock and regularly replenished**



120,000 miles of road treated, in an average season... (That's London to Sydney 11 times!)

DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT...

Sometimes, members of the public say it for us! A lady in St Mary's Road, Burnham recently emailed our sub-contractor, WH Roads, about footway reconstruction they are undertaking. She said:

"Good morning. I would just like to say how well your workmen are doing in our road and how clean and tidy they leave the road when they finish each day. They are making life as easy as possible for all the residents and it is really appreciated. Well done to them all."