

Service Bulletin

Tuesday 11 October 2016

Ardleigh depot officially opened



The guests gather for a commemorative photo following the official opening of Ardleigh depot.

Celebrating Essex County Council's (ECC) latest investment in Highways Service infrastructure, Cllr John Aldridge, Chairman, ECC, officially opened Essex Highways' newest depot on Thursday 6 October. The result of extensive rebuilding and improvements to an old salt store location, Ardleigh provides a modern, functional home to Highways employees in North Essex and replaces an older facility at Thorrington.

In his opening address, Cllr Aldridge said: "Our focus is on what works best, and improving the infrastructure is fundamental to driving corporate efficiencies. This long-term collaborative partnership is an example of how, through innovation, we are delivering prosperity to Essex. The opening of this facility is a demonstration of our commitment and ambition."

Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr Eddie Johnson, said: "It is gratifying to see that we are investing in the depots and facilities that are vital in supporting the work that we do. This new depot reflects the ambition we have for the network itself – it is modern, well equipped and with all the correct safety measures in place."

Mark Rowe, Service Director, Essex Highways, paid tribute to Project Manager Julie Martyn and her team: "Without the efforts, expertise and dedication of Julie and her team, we wouldn't be here today, opening such an impressive facility in such esteemed company."

Cllr Aldridge then officially opened Ardleigh depot before guests, including Cllr Tim Barrott, Chairman, Ardleigh Parish Council, Cllr Giancarlo Guglielmi, ECC Member for Tendring Rural West and Deputy Leader of Tendring District Council, and Andrew Cook, Director of Environment and Economy. The guests then enjoyed a site tour led by Julie Martyn (and later a rather delicious chocolate and Guinness cake, baked by Julie especially for the occasion!). Ardleigh depot will become fully operational over the next few weeks, housing both office staff and highways operatives.



Left: Julie Martyn leads the site tour. Below left: The guests discuss winter gritting operations. Below right: Cllr Eddie Johnson, Julie Martyn and Cllr Aldridge cut the cake baked by Julie for the opening of Arleigh depot.

