

## Members Winter Maintenance Briefing Session

## Suggestions Revisions to Existing Winter Maintenance Plan

Respondent	Details of Suggestion	Salt Bin	Gritting	Snow Clearance	Suggestion, Comment or Policy Amendment	Added to Policy Yes/No
Cllr Laing	Poor or no responses given to residents when requests for salt bins are made	✓			Suggestion	
Cllr Lewis	Can we extend Principal route to include The Square & Thistle as the Police use this area for Emergency Calls		✓		Suggestion	
Cllr Womphrey	Can we extend gritting of secondary areas to include pavements / carriageway at School Crossing Patrol locations		✓	✓	Policy Amendment	
Cllr Rix	<p>1. There should be a complete review of the number of salt bins we have and the places they are put out.</p> <p>2. Members should be informed of the ward locations of the bins and how many each ward has.</p> <p>3. Members should be made aware of the number of bins that the villages pay for out of their precept the cost per bin and how and if the money is collected.</p> <p>4. Members we should be made aware of how many bins the villages have they do not pay for. Are all the bins put out in line with the criterion laid down by SBC, if not can we have a list of the bins and wards that have bins that do not meet the criterion.</p> <p>5. If bins in wards do not meet the criterion do you intend to remove them in future?</p> <p>I would make the following request for consideration.</p> <p>1. That salt bins be put into Bowesfield and Oxbridge primary schools for the road sweeper to be able to salt round the perimeter of the school the bins should be locked and only the sweeper have the key.</p> <p>2. That a bin with grit be placed on Marlborough rd at the side of the railway bridge for the sweeper to grit the bridge as it is a main route to Oxbridge school and Ropner park once again to be locked and only the sweeper to have the key.</p> <p>3. That Marlborough Rd be salted as a primary route once again the main access to the school and Ropner park.</p>	✓			Policy Amendment	

Cllr Cains	If a resident clears snow from outside their property and someone then falls, who is liable for insurance claims? Similarly residents have threatened to sue the Council for not clearing the pavements - do we know if this has been successful - I understand that there could be a counterclaim of contributory negligence if pedestrians are not wearing suitable footwear etc.			✓	Question	Advice to be given. Council required to what is reasonably practicable. Clearing all pavement Reasonably practicable
	A resident who has a sibling who works in North Tees A&E raised the question of how much has been the cost to the NHS of fractures. I understand that one Health Authority gave £20M to the local Council to give an enhanced gritting service.		✓		Comment	
	Should our WM leaflet give advice on walking on icy surfaces? e.g. pedestrians wearing cleats or woollen socks over their footwear.				Suggestion	
	I appreciate that people in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance cannot be asked to help with snow clearance (reapplying would be a nightmare) but has anyone actually <b>asked</b> the Probation Service if the Community Payback team could be utilised? What about the Kirklevington prisoners?	✓			Comment	
	At the meeting I asked for the salt bin siting criteria to be refined/expanded, at the moment any of them is open to challenge as none of them is measurable				Policy Amendment	Yes
	The science of salt vs. ice needs to be spelled out. My residents seem to think that one application will lead to a permanent snow/ice removal.		✓		Suggestion	Web-site?
	The only copy of the Winter Maintenance leaflet I have seen is on the SBC web - has a hard copy been sent to Members?		✓		Question	
	The web page (and your question) talks about extra salting/bins where there are elderly residents - someone needs to stress that one old lady in a street of young healthy families needs to rely on her neighbours - not the Council.				Comment	
Are there lessons to be learned for Scandinavian Countries? A resident complained that she was watching the TV advert telling				Question Comment		

	<p>everyone how well Stockton was performing - when she wasn't able to drive out of her street due to the snow/ice. The Council should spend its money on essentials she said.</p> <p>Our son provides a press cutting service from Aberdeen and the latest batch was about their tackling of the Aberdeen snow clearing operations. I thought that our residents were vindictive but compared to Aberdonians they are pussycats.</p> <p>Some of the Scottish comments were:-</p> <p>Convicts had definitely been used to clear snow.</p> <p>Would refuse to pay their Council tax for the weeks when they were unable to drive.</p> <p>Some garages were selling "Path-Kleer" made by Apex Industrial Chemicals which works by releasing heat on contact with moisture. Cat litter too was being sold.</p> <p>The question was asked as to whether the Council had considered using Magnesium Chloride instead of Sodium Chloride - more expensive but effective down to -25C and needs only one application. I wondered how Ammonium Nitrate would compare in cost and effectiveness with salt. It is produced on Teesside and would have the extra benefit that it is less corrosive than salt and would fertilize the grass verges instead of killing them. ICI used to export Urea from Billingham to USA for spreading on roads during ice/snow periods.</p> <p>In Aberdeen the Leader of the Council + a few other Councillors went to the City Centre armed with shovels and helped the operatives to spread grit and clear snow. Some residents praised their efforts but others called it a gimmick.</p> <p>How bad would the situation have to be before non-essential staff were put on snow clearing duties?</p> <p>It looks as if the bad weather is over for the time being - but what emergency plans does the Council have if - worst case scenario it - had lasted 3 months? Such a long spell may have lead to no gas/electricity/water/food</p>				<p>Comment</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Question</p> <p>Question</p>	
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Cllr Lupton	Hartburn: - Salt bins to be sited at Dunedin Ave/Greens Lane corner and near to the water fountain on Hartburn Bank close to the Bowls Club, Harper Terrace bank and corner of Ellerton Road and Birkdale Road.	✓			Suggestion	
	Snow clearance to be undertaken as appropriate at the shops at Harper Parade/ Lyttleton Drive/Aiskew Grove. Snow clearance as appropriate at Emma Simpson Court. Snow clearance at bus stops and junctions as appropriate.			✓	Suggestion	
	General: - Review priority and secondary routes and determine a planned approach to deal with a heavy snow situation, reducing non-productive mileage and perhaps merging priority and secondary routes to provide quicker and responsive treatment. (Possible operation from two locations?).		✓		Policy Amendment	
	Determine optimum salt stock levels to deal with worst case scenario.		✓		Suggestion	
	Prepare plans for snow clearance and salting of major shopping areas with appropriate lists of employees and supervisors with movement to Ward priorities as identified by Members. Identify mechanical spreading options for salt distribution.		✓	✓	Suggestion	
	Identify all elderly facilities and prepare planned clearance schedules.			✓	Suggestion	
	Prepare schedule of existing resources and optimum requirements of machines and manpower to deal with worst case scenario. Investigate and contract with external suppliers who may have additional resources to call on.		✓	✓	Suggestion	
	Liase with Parks and Cemeteries to determine what is required to maintain services during heavy snow conditions.			✓	Suggestion	
	Liase with Education and schools to determine snow clearance requirements around and in schools to ensure they remain open during prolonged periods of heavy snow. Determine their emergency and contingency plans for the replacement of staff to ensure continuance of service.			✓	Suggestion	

	Possible location in each Ward of lockable container of sufficient size to cater for residents willing to spread salt on pavements – this really could be a problem but would create good awareness and good will.	✓			Suggestion	
Cllr D Harrington + Cllr R Patterson + Cllr K Dixon	<p>Appreciate the work on the SBC website to give a daily update, if appropriate. Really easy to feed that info across to Twitter as this is a great source to generate a RSS feed for people who like just to pull certain information from websites.</p> <p>Could we make the <a href="#">Maps@Stockton</a> section showing the location of Salt Bins a bit easier to find on the SBC website.</p> <p>Get the positive messages out, not just news about gritting the roads. Messages out to say that the Bins/Recycling are still going ahead on schedule, unlike an area in Essex today that featured in the Daily Express. The Council cancelled the bin collections 2 weeks ago. It showed rubbish piled high and for the entire length of the street</p> <p>Lets work with the Private Owners, which we can identify, who own parades of shops (I am thinking of Mr Jagpal here) to encourage them to salt/clear privately owned shopping areas. Greenside at Lowfields has a high elderly population and the local One Stop to some folk is essential. Not if they can get to it.</p> <p>Not sure if you are looking at this in your review, but I hope someone picks it up. Stockton had very few school closures (Myton Park was the only actual full school closure I think). Can we get lists of closed establishments/details of other service problems such as delivery of Meals on Wheels, Mobile Library Bus etc also in the same place on the front page of the SBC website</p>	✓		✓	<p>Suggestion</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Question</p>	
Cllr S Fletcher	<p>We do not want any salt bins removing from present locations, and we do know that they have been invaluable in a number of places. We have had requests for one in the Poppy Lane area and one in the Buttercup Close area. Whilst these do not meet the current criteria, if that is altered we would want them to be considered</p> <p>Also could we suggest the placing of locked bins in some areas with local businesses holding the key? For instance there is a large area at the front of Elm Tree Centre? This area has to be walked over to reach the shops etc from the car park or footpath and was in a very</p>	✓			<p>Suggestion</p> <p>Suggestion</p>	

	<p>bad state after Christmas, and was not touched until a request was made. Understandably it was not going to be done until the main shopping centres were cleared. If this was agreed in principle then we could consult with the various businesses at the Centre as to who actually had the key and how the grit would be used.</p> <p><b>Elderly people areas.</b> See list below. However, unless there are arguments we have not heard yet, we wonder if it is worth clearing just the frontage of the properties, and there needs to be a way to get to a route that is walkable on, a bus stop or a shop.  Beech Court  Pine Court  Maple Court  The Larches  Cedar House  Lanark Close  Lauder House  Medina Close. (Police use salt bin for around Medina House itself and paths from it, but not the actual bungalows)  Maplin View  Madison Sq ditto  Woodborough Lane towards Sainsbury's  Linton Close – (but people need to get out to Felton Lane Marske Lane)  Norton and Malton Drive – but they are on secondary gritting route.</p> <p><b>Gritting routes</b> – Although it was agreed in 2008 that Leam Lane/Marske Lane/Felton Lane be added to the secondary gritting</p>			✓	Suggestion	
Cllr S Fletcher cont..	<p>route list they did not actually appear on the map as such. Jim Fiskien is now sorting this, but we wanted it to be mentioned here too to ensure that if there is a need before a full review, those roads are actually added to the routes.</p> <p><b>Contacts</b> – We need to have some contacts we can send messages to during such an episode – we did not want to bother those being operational but did need someone to pick up out of hours.</p> <p><b>Information</b> – A number of issues have been discussed with Cllr Lupton but front page of website to be fully updated on winter maintenance issues at beginning of winter and updated daily as now. We need to be copied into the e-mails that CFYA had to reply to people to help us to give accurate and helpful information to people</p>	✓			Policy Amendment	
					Suggestion	
					Suggestion	

	<p>contacting us. There need to be better relationships with media for reporting <b>facts</b>. Information could be given on where grit could be bought – maybe we could encourage neighbours to buy and share.</p> <p><b>Working with others.</b> Better thought needs to be given in advance of any emergency situation re use of community payback scheme and voluntary sector.</p> <p><b>The legal position</b> on people and businesses clearing snow from their frontages needs to be clarified, and the Council needs to produce a statement. We have been giving people with e-mail the following link, but that could be simplified and made more widely available. <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8443745.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8443745.stm</a></p> <p><b>Issues we would like an answer to when crisis has settled :</b> Clarity around who was allowed to get grit from the depot. Access to tracker information to prove gritters were out when people were adamant that they weren't (we are believing what officers have told us but unfortunately some of our constituents are not)</p> <p>Why was nobody apparently able to open the locked bins in car parks in central Stockton on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December?</p>				<p>Suggestion</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>Question</p>	
Cllr Gardner	<p>CFYA cleared areas around OAP homes although this should be extended to other main pedestrian areas</p> <p>Requested Salt Bin for Hartlepool Road (assessed by CFYA and it does not meet the criteria) sent subsequent e-mail back to Cllr Gardner asking if he wants to submit additional comments for a review of salt bin criteria.</p>	✓		✓	<p>Policy Amendment</p> <p>Comment</p>	
Cllr J Fletcher	<p>We do not want any removing from present locations, except for <i>Witham House</i> (about which I have corresponded separately with Richard Beddard) and we do know that they have been invaluable in a number of places. We have had requests for others, which we have already passed to CFYA. One has been rejected by him (<i>Cleveland Bay</i> area) as it does not meet the current criteria; if they are altered we would want it to be considered. The present rules do not provide any help for pedestrians on narrow, steep pavements alongside busy roads.</p> <p><b>Elderly people areas.</b> See list below. However, unless there are arguments we have not heard yet, we wonder if it is worth clearing</p>	✓		✓	<p>Comment</p> <p>Suggestion</p>	

	<p>just the frontage of the properties, and there needs to be a way to get to a route that can be walked, a bus stop, mobile library, rent van or a shop.</p> <p>Millfield Close &amp; Esk Green (all)  Wear Crescent (bungalows near junction with Millfield Close)  Elmwood Road (bungalows near junction with Beechwood Road)  Abbeyfield Drive &amp; Butterfield Drive (adjacent to <i>Abbeyfield House</i>)  Sycamore Road (adjacent to bungalows)  Larch Crescent  Yarm Road (side of <i>Timothy Hackworth Court</i>)</p> <p>The above are OAP-designated accommodation, but I'm sure that there are other areas, esp. bungalows, which have a high % of OAPs, e.g., dead end of Grisedale Cres., N end of Grassholme Way, Poplar Road, Marion Ave., Aspen Road, Rowan Road, Formby Walk.</p>					
Cllr S Nelson	<p>Comments in response to Jim Fiskens email dated 15/1 re the trial inclusion of Millburn Crescent (Norton Hill) and the subsequent decision to remove it due to restricted vehicle access....</p> <p>Response - the online gritting map needs updating in the light of your email. Where you have these roads as Priority 1 the site has Chadburn as not being on the route at all. Brinkburn is down as a priority 2 not 1 and Swinburn is down as a priority 1 and 2.</p> <p>I think if decisions to remove roads from the priority lists are made these should be discussed/notified to/with ward councillors. Before roads are removed because of car parking I'd prefer to see some attempt to get car owners to park elsewhere. It may be that the problem cars are just a small minority for which the whole of the road suffers. Do we make any efforts to do this e.g. a standard notice put on the windscreen of each offending car? As ward councillors we would have considered putting out a leaflet informing residents of the problem.</p>		✓		Policy Amendment	
Cllr Sylvia Walmsley	<p>First of all I want to congratulate all your staff for doing a wonderful job and working long hours throughout the holiday period. The weather conditions were really extreme, but I feel that due to global warming they may become the norm.</p> <p>I feel the public should be "educated" as to the science of using salt</p>		✓		Suggestion	



	<p>on the roads, etc and that it is not just a case of sending the gritters out but that a lot of other conditions need to be met before the salt works. It would be a good idea to put an article on this in the next issue of Stockton News. Something like "Did You Know"...</p> <p>The prime complaints we received were mainly about pavements and secondary roads! I am not sure how the Council can remedy this apart from providing <u>many more</u> grit bins by lowering the criteria for their siting requirements and making clear to the public on the restrictions of the use of grit (i.e. for adopted highways/pavements, not for private drives! - perhaps a large sticker on the lid of every bin with warnings of prosecution for theft?).</p> <p>Areas Steve &amp; I received complaints about...</p> <p>Kinloss Walk/Close area - gradient leading up from Substation.  Eltham Crescent - sharp bend at opposite end to Sterling House  Junction of Watton Road/Heathrow  All the banks within the new Mandale Park Estate  Cornfield Road area  Brotton Road area  Beechwood Road area - especially those roads leading to pensioners bungalows</p>			✓	Suggestion	
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