

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL LOCAL WINTER MANAGEMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

EPPC does not have a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with snow and ice (except around our own property) and although we do not have the resources to make a commitment to provide a snow clearing service we will endeavour to assist where practicable. This plan has been created to clarify what can be expected from EPPC.

LEGAL ADVICE

People have been hesitant to clear snow because of fears of litigation if someone should slip on the treated area. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Occupiers' Liability Act 1984 place responsibility on the employer to maintain access to premises in a safe condition. Although an employer can be held liable for 'failing to act reasonably' to prevent accidents pedestrians also have a responsibility to take care. The prospects of a person who volunteers to clear snow from a pavement being successfully sued for damages by a person who subsequently slips on the cleared area and is injured are very small.

The snow code – tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces

Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively. And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully.

Clear the snow and ice early in the day

It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. If possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing.

Preventing slips

Pay extra attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways – you might need to use more salt on these areas

Use salt or sand - not water

Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and slippery. You can melt snow or prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Don't use the salt found in salting bins – this will be needed to keep the roads clear. Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may damage them. If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt, but will provide good grip underfoot.

Take care where you move the snow

When shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

Offer to clear your neighbours' paths

If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in

the cold weather. If you're worried about them, try contacting their relatives or friends, or if necessary the local council.

WHERE GRITTING WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

During periods of severe/persistent frost, ice or snow the Parish Council will **ENDEAVOUR** to treat the following locations where the public have access;

- Entrances to the Parish Office and the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham
- Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road, East Peckham (main walkway from car park)
- Path to the Primary School via the Playing Fields

Our janitor will endeavour to grit/clear snow on arrival on site. Priority will be given to the pathway across the playing fields to the Primary School and entrances to the Jubilee Hall and parish office. Where possible gritting will be carried out on a daily priority basis. It should be noted that in extreme weather conditions where transport is difficult or dangerous it may not be possible to treat the above named locations as it may be difficult to reach the locations. It is also to be noted that in very low temperatures the effectiveness of salt is significantly reduced.

PROPERTY OR LAND WHICH WILL NOT BE GRITTED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Playing Field Allotment site – not a priority area
- Orchard Road Post Office – responsibility of landowner
- The Village Centre - responsibility of landowner/tenant
- Bus shelters – owned by EPPC at various locations in the Parish – access may be difficult in severe weather therefore gritting cannot be guaranteed

Personal Protective Equipment

EPPC will ensure the caretaker has appropriate PPE to do this to include hi-vis, waterproofs and boots.

RISK ASSESSMENT

EPPC has completed a Risk Assessment for snow and ice clearance activities which is reviewed annually.

ROLE OF KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

1. To carry out such precautionary salting and snow clearing, as far as reasonably possible, to keep the precautionary salting network free from ice and snow, permit the safe movement of vehicular traffic and pedestrians and minimise delays and accidents directly attributable to the adverse weather conditions.
2. Kent County Council Highways, Transportation & Waste (KCC HTW) takes its winter service responsibilities very seriously and is proactive as well as reactive to winter weather conditions. Winter service costs KCC in the region of £3.3m every winter and needs careful management to achieve safety for the travelling public and to be efficient. The Highways Operations teams in HTW work to ensure that the winter service standards and decisions made are consistent across the whole county. HTW prepares an annual Winter Service policy and plan which are used to determine actions that will be taken to manage its winter service operations.

ROLE OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. The Local Winter Service Plan for the Tonbridge and Malling District is a working document which will evolve and be revised as necessary throughout the year. This document complements the KCC Winter Service Policy and Plan 2017/8; the Policy is available on the KCC website.

2. Arrangements have again been put in place whereby labour from the Borough Council can be used during snow days. Additionally HTW will supply a quantity of a salt to the Borough Council to use on the highway network. The details are contained in the plan which enhances the work that HTW will continue to do in providing a countywide winter service. The local plan comes into effect when a snow emergency is declared that affects the district of Tonbridge and Malling
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/transportand-highways-policies/winter-service-policy>
3. Pavement clearance
Areas for clearing pavements have been identified in the local plan. These are the areas where local knowledge has indicated that people are concerned and would most like to be kept clear when there is snow and ice.
4. Farmers
The work that our contracted farmers have done in recent years is greatly appreciated and has made a big difference in keeping rural areas clear on snow days. Again this year farmers will have predetermined local routes and will use their own tractor and KCC ploughs for clearing snow. The ploughs supplied are serviced by KCC each year. Each farmer will have plans detailing the roads that that they are responsible for ploughing. When snow reaches a depth of 50mm on roads in their areas the farmers will commence ploughing notifying KCC as agreed in their contract. A list of farmers and their contact details can be found in the local plan, (although some personal information will not be available via this report or the website due to Data Protection legislation)

Reviewed November 2017/kb
Local Winter Management Plan Nov 2017