

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL LOCAL WINTER MANAGEMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This plan has been created to clarify what can be expected from EPPC. EPPC has no statutory duties to prepare for and deal with snow and ice (except around our own property).

EPPC does not have the resources to make a commitment to provide a snow clearing service but we will endeavour to assist where we can.

WHERE GRITTING WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

During periods of severe/persistent frost, ice or snow EPPC 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)

Our janitor will endeavour to grit/clear snow on arrival on site. Priority will be given to the car park 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 locations mentioned above. It is also to be noted that in very low temperatures the effectiveness of salt is significantly reduced.

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. KCC takes its winter service responsibilities 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. KCC work to ensure that the winter service standards and decisions made are consistent across the whole county and its annual Winter Service policy and plan are used to determine actions that will be taken to manage its winter service operations.

ROLE OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. TMBC's Local Winter Service Plan complements the KCC Winter Service Policy.
2. Arrangements have been put in place whereby labour from TMBC can be used during snow days. Additionally, KCC will supply a quantity of a salt to TMBC for use on the highway network. TMBC's Local Winter Service Plan will come into effect when a snow emergency is declared that affects Tonbridge and Malling

Pavement clearance

Areas for clearing pavements have been identified in the Local Winter Service 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.

Farmers

Contracted farmers make a difference in keeping rural areas clear on snow days. Farmers have predetermined local routes and will use their own tractor and KCC ploughs for clearing snow. When snow reaches a depth of 50mm on roads in their areas the farmers will commence ploughing notifying KCC as agreed in their contract.

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.

LEGAL ADVICE

People have been hesitant to clear snow because of fears of litigation if someone should slip on the treated area. The prospect 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 is 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.

Clear the snow and ice early in the day

It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that's packed together. 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 attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways

Use salt or sand - not water

Don't make pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. If you use water to melt snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice which increases the risk of injuries as it's invisible and slippery. You can melt snow or prevent black ice by spreading salt on the area you have cleared. Don't use the salt found in salting bins – this will be needed to keep the roads clear. 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, 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 has difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property. 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 the community warden.

Reviewed October 2020/kb

Local Winter Management Plan October 2020