

COMMUNITY WINTER ACTION PLAN

September 2024

Harescombe Parish Council in Partnership with Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department

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Background

Following severe winter weather, access to key community facilities can be greatly reduced by the snow and ice on roads and footways within the parish of Harescombe. During periods of severe weather, many residents can be prevented from leaving their homes to access local facilities which affects the quality of life of many residents and also affects businesses providing services within the parish.

Principles

During times of severe weather, such as snow, heavy icing or freezing rain, The Snow Warden from Harescombe Parish Council and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), will liaise with each other as to how best to support the community. GCC or the Snow Warden may call out a local Snow Plough Operator (SPO) to help make ungritted routes passable. GCC Highways provide strategically placed salt bins and parishioners may use salt from these bins, **at their own risk**, to help maintain highway access to their homes in areas which are not on the primary salting routes. **This salt is not to be used for anything other than public highway application.**

During these adverse weather situations, Gloucestershire County Council's resources are focused on keeping the strategic carriageway network running and so community assistance is warmly welcomed.

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Contacts

Snow Warden – Cllr. Paul Richards.

Gloucestershire County Council – Local Highways Manager 0800 514514

Location Details

GCC Highways have primary routes which they are responsible for gritting. Within Harescombe, the primary routes are Haresfield Lane and the A4173

Gritting beyond these extents may sometimes be appropriate and will be the result of discussions between Harescombe Parish Council and GCC.

Equipment/Materials

Gloucestershire County Council will provide a reserve stock of bagged salt to Harescombe Parish Council prior to the start of the winter season. The local stockpile is to be used to refill any depleted bins in the event that GCC Highways do not have resources immediately available to do so. GCC remain responsible for refilling salt bins, but in exceptional circumstances the parish council might top up at critical locations – dependent on volunteer or contractor availability.

Grit Bins

Gloucestershire County Council will endeavour to fill all grit bins prior to the start of the winter season, and the Snow Warden may also report to the Area Team if salt bins need refilling. In exceptional circumstances, Harescombe Parish Council may use their reserve supply of bagged salt in bins where they feel appropriate and when alerted by parishioners of salt bins with low stock.

Snow Plough Operator Tasking Process

The local Snow Warden receives a call from GCC Highways ahead of snowfall, warning them of a chance of snow. The Snow Warden should alert the Snow Plough Operator (SPO).

The Snow Warden and SPO will decide between them as to if, and when, the SPO should deploy. These individuals are best placed to make this decision as they are located within the community.

Before the SPO commences work, they shall call the GCC Highways Snow Desk on 01452 427172, to inform them that they are about to start snow clearance. The Snow Desk will log that an operator is

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at work. The SPO shall call the Snow Desk and local Snow Warden and update them when they have concluded. If they deploy for a long period of time, they should update the Snow Desk and local Snow Warden at agreed intervals to update with progress and welfare.

The SPO submits the payment claim to the Snow Warden for approval before it is sent by the Parish Clerk to GCC Highways for payment.

Health & Safety

A GCC risk assessment is attached which seeks to cover the risks and control measures associated with these activities.

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HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT									
Ref	Hazard	P	S	R	Response/Control Measure	P	S	R	*Output
	Exposure to the elements – severe cold or hypothermia	2	3	6	Adequate PPE including warm clothing to be worn. Fully charged mobile phone to be carried. Lone working control measures in place. CTC managers to check operatives out and in, and at regular intervals during severe weather conditions	1	2	2	
	Lone working – risk of injury, risk of attack by member of public	3	3	9	Person to ensure that someone knows of his or her location and approximate time of return. Person is fit to lone work. Work activity/area must be safe to be undertaken by one person. Lone worker is provided with means of communication to summon assistance in an emergency.	2	3	6	
	Maintenance of winter maintenance equipment – risk of malfunction of equipment	3	2	6	All equipment used for winter maintenance to be subject to regular maintenance. Prior to leaving depot, operator to undertake visual check of all functions associated with equipment.	2	2	4	
	Slips, trips and falls – during snow clearance, gritting footways or filling grit bins – injury to operative or other members of the public	3	3	9	Operative awareness. Appropriate footwear to be worn by operative carrying out work. Awareness of volume and location of pedestrian activity and extent of footway areas being occupied.	1	3	3	
	Manual handling – risk of injury during movement of equipment or materials	3	3	9	Operative awareness. Person is fit to undertake activities; work activity/area must be safe to be undertaken by one person or should be adjusted accordingly. Appropriate equipment should be used for moving or handling materials.	1	3	3	
	Traffic – risk of injury from passing traffic whilst carrying out activities	2	4	8	Operative awareness. Activities to be limited to pedestrian areas only.	1	4	4	

Persons involved in risk assessment

Name
Kath Haworth

Organisation
GCC

Date

P = probability (1 to 5) severity
S = severity (1 to 5)

R = risk = probability x severity

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Clearing Snow and Ice from Pavements Yourself

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Follow the snow code when clearing snow and ice safely.

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

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

If you clear snow and ice yourself, be careful - don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. But don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured.

Remember, people walking on snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively.

Clear the snow or 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. So 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 overnight.

Use salt or sand - not water

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 very slippery. You can 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 cause them damage.

If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.

Take care where you move the snow

When you're 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, contact your local council.

Source; Appendix 5 from GCC Highways Adverse Weather Plan.

Taken from the Snow Code at DirectGov website

<https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>