

Partnership Committee

Date:	23 October 2014
Title:	WINTER MAINTENANCE PLANS
Purpose of the Report:	To describe possible enhancements to winter maintenance arrangements in Leighton-Linslade.
Contact Officer:	Sarah Hughes – Community Engagement Manager CBC

1. Background

- 1.1 The 2014/15 winter season began on 1st October for Central Bedfordshire Council's Winter Maintenance Plan (WMP). This report outlines the Council's highway salting plans for 2014/15 and considers how the Town Council might consider enhancing those arrangements which is consistent with its Salting Policy adopted by Council 27 January 2014.
- 1.2 A report was presented to the Partnership Committee at the October 2013 meeting which described a partnership model for maintaining Leightons roads and other amenity areas in periods of snow. Some of those concepts are brought forward in this report.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 embraced the national drive to shift power away from central government to local government, communities and individuals, resulting in more opportunities for communities to be more involved in how their neighbourhoods develop and who delivers services. This can be applied to local winter maintenance arrangements with the local authorities working together including local volunteer residents to keep their roads clear and communities moving during periods of snow and ice.

3. Central Bedfordshire Council – Winter Maintenance 2014/15

Winter Maintenance Plan

Our Winter Maintenance Plan is in its final review stage ready for launch end October. It will set out Central Bedfordshire's plans for keeping the roads and footways clear during the winter season. More information is also available on the Central Bedfordshire Council website.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads-safety-and-highways/gritting-and-snow/default.aspx>

Free salt bag scheme

As last year, CBC will deliver either one 1 tonne or a ½ tonne bag of road de-icing salt, free of charge, to any town or parish council that requests one. Importantly, CBC will do this not just for one month, but will offer a bag in each of the months of December, January and February if the parish or town council wishes.

Once the salt has been delivered CBC will have no further responsibility for it, or its use. Each bag will need to be signed for and kept on private land and each town or parish council will take responsibility for the salt which can be spread by local volunteers on minor roads and pavements that are not covered by our gritting routes.

This scheme gives town and parish councillors the opportunity to take responsibility for bags and identify local community volunteers to help spread the salt.

When considering where the salt bag or bags will be kept, the parish or town council will need to identify covered space where the driver will be able to stop directly adjacent to enable the bag to be craned off of the lorry safely. Furthermore the bags are open at the top and water will get in to them if they are not covered, brine will leak out of the bags and also cause the salt to solidify making it much more difficult to dig out and spread economically. It is therefore best to store bags on an impermeable surface and for them to be covered by a tarpaulin or similar.

CBC will not at any time in the future dispose of unused salt on a town or parish councils behalf. Rock salt is classed as hazardous waste and would be expensive to dispose of.

Community Salt Bin Scheme

Town and Parish Councils and Schools can place salt bins for use within their community either on or off the highway. These are in addition to those highway salt bins that are already maintained by CBC at strategic points on the highway network.

It is recognised that there are minor rural and residential roads, pedestrian areas and other community areas that are not routinely salted by CBC Highways. Also that there is sometimes strong community demand for these types of areas to be salted during times of bad ice and snow when CBC Highways are having to concentrate their resources on the busier roads and footways.

Requests for siting a salt bin should initially be made via the Highways Helpdesk on 0300 300 8049 or highways@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. The site for a bin will be considered by CBC, taking into account the fact

that the bin must not obstruct sight lines, that there must be sufficient space for the bin, and for safe salt replenishment.

Once this is checked the town or parish council can purchase a lockable salt bin and hold the key to the bin so as to be able to direct salting as they consider necessary, they should also monitor appropriate usage and check it is not used in private residences or businesses.

Topping up the bins can be done by the parish council with salt provided by us under the salt bag initiative or the bins can be filled separately but there is a charge of £94.23 for each fill for this 2014-2015 winter season. It should be noted that CBC Highways will not be able to guarantee refilling within two weeks of a request and that this may be longer during times of heavy ice or snow.

Lockable salt bins can be purchased from a number of suppliers for example

<http://www.csi-products.co.uk/grit-salt-bins>

Advice and Guidance

The Council also produces a guide, which is updated annually, on the safe clearing of snow and ice using the Governments Snow code. The new version will be available on the Councils website shortly and describes the role of the Central Bedfordshire Council, how Town and Parishes might be involved and the role of volunteers.

4. Partnership Model and enhancement

- 4.1 It is appreciated that keeping the Town Centre car parks free of snow and ice are a priority for the Town Council and would be a significant enhancement to what is carried out by Central Bedfordshire Council as described above.
- 4.2 Central Bedfordshire Council has already entered into arrangements with several parish councils (Caddington and Slip End operating together as an Action Zone and Kensworth Parish Council) using a Delegation Agreement which enables the parish council to undertake local winter maintenance (road salting) in a safe and legal manner. The Parish Councils prepare a Statement of Purpose to indicate their road salting arrangements and which roads are covered.
- 4.3 This arrangement has been in place for 3 years and works very well to keep local village (non priority) roads open and accessible during spells of snow and ice. A copy of the Delegation Agreement is attached in Appendix B.

Location	Partner	Resources /Role / Scope
Priority Road Network	CBC Highways / Amey	Salt storage depot Free Salt Bag scheme Limited capacity to salt narrow roads and car parks.
Town / Village centres and car parks/ amenity areas	Town or Parish Council delegated by CBC Highways to provide a local gritting service.	Knows locality and risk areas Local capacity to store grit. A tonne or half tonne bag free salt supplied by CBC subject to availability. Grit bins
Residential areas inc footpaths	Local volunteers as part of a Community Emergency response team (CERT)	Grit bins Supply of salt/grit Ltd access to grit bins on un-adopted highways (If volunteers act as part of a CERT- they will be covered by BLLRF insurance) Guidance for volunteers

Volunteer involvement

Local residents with the help of their town / parish council can create Winter Salting Groups, ideally as part of a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Despite the misconception of liability, reassuringly, in Central Bedfordshire, if volunteers follow the advice below and are clearing snow in a safe and sensible manner as part of a co-ordinated volunteer scheme, they will be covered under Bedfordshire and Luton Emergency Volunteers Executive Partnership (BLEVEP) policy provided by Zurich.. To qualify under this scheme, volunteers must have registered with the BLEVEP Partnership, have read the Government's snow code and follow the Volunteer Health and Safety brief.

Town and Parish Councils can also help volunteers to identify storage points and how volunteers can access salting facilities and equipment.

**Report Author: Sarah Hughes
Community Engagement Manager
Central Bedfordshire Council**



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

WINTER SALT POLICY

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This document sets out the Town Council's policy in respect of winter salting.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Local Authority, Central Bedfordshire Council, has responsibility for salting of the public highways in Leighton-Linslade. This includes the High Street and pavements in the town centre.
- 2.2 The Town Council has responsibility for the majority of parks, play areas and pavilions in Leighton-Linslade (exceptions include amenity land and play areas at Appenine Way and open spaces such as Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and Linslade Wood).
- 2.3 The Town Council also has responsibility for the two cemeteries (Vandyke Road and Old Linslade Road) and two allotment sites (Alwins Field and Weston Avenue) within the Parish.

3. Snow and Ice

- 3.1 Central Bedfordshire Council will undertake preventative salting measures on just under half of the road network in Central Bedfordshire (A road and B roads prioritised first).
- 3.2 Central Bedfordshire Council will also undertake salting in priority areas such as the High Street.
- 3.3 Residents, businesses and schools are responsible for any snow and ice clearance measures undertaken on their own premises. Central Bedfordshire Council encourages responsible and sensible self-help measures for clearing snow and ice (guidelines available on its website).

4. Responsibilities of the Town Council

- 4.1 The Town Council will endeavour to ensure that adequate supplies of winter salt are kept in stock at all times.
- 4.2 The Town Council will undertake limited gritting of pathways and roadways to facilitate safe access to the White House, Pages Pavilion, Mentmore Pavilion, Astral Park Pavilion, Vandyke Cemetery and

Agenda Item No. 15

OldLinsladeCemetery. Salt bins will be located at each site.

4.3 The Town Council will not undertake any gritting measures at the two allotment sites as it will be assumed that allotment-holders will be unable to work on site in snowy and icy conditions.

4.4.1 The Town Council reserves the right to amend this policy at any time.

Adopted by Council 27 January 2014

Agenda Item No. 15

This Agreement may, without prejudice to the Local Government Act 1972 Section 101(4), be terminated at any time by either party's giving to the other not less than one months' notice in writing.

9 Variation

This Agreement may be varied from time to time by agreement between the parties.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Delegated Functions

The Functions of the Council under section 41 (1A) of the Highways Act 1980 but only insofar as such Functions relate to the footways and roads set out in the Parish Councils Winter Maintenance Service Plan (Appendix 1)

SECOND SCHEDULE

Conditions and restrictions affecting delegation

- 1 The Parish Councils may delegate the exercise of the Delegated Functions to any of its officers, volunteers and / or subcontractors who have complied with the Parish Councils' Statement of Purpose
- 2 The Parish Councils shall comply with their own Statement of Purpose at all times including but without prejudice to the generality to carry out gritting on the basis of priority roads or part or parts thereof in the parishes of XXXXXX
- 3 The Parish Councils shall confirm and ensure at all times that at least one of its winter maintenance operators must have successfully completed an accredited training course in winter maintenance and all other operators to have received appropriate training in winter maintenance and those 'trained' operators to sign themselves as having received informal training from the accredited operative and acknowledging their uncertified status
- 4 The Parish Councils shall ensure that their equipment is properly calibrated to spread salt at the appropriate rate.
- 5 The Parish Councils shall undertake to salt the footways and roads in accordance with their Statement of Purpose.
- 6 The Council will inform the Parish Councils about its gritting schedules.
- 7 The Parish Councils will at all times effect insurance with a substantial and reputable insurance office in respect of the carrying out of the Delegated Functions and provide the Council with a copy of the policy and evidence from the insurer that it is in force
8. The Parish Councils will ensure that local residents are kept informed as to the nature and frequency of the service to be delivered

IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have caused their respective Common Seals to be hereunto affixed the day and year first before written

The Common Seal of **CENTRAL**)
BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL was hereunto)
affixed in the presence of:-)

Authorised Signatory

The Common Seal of **XXXX PARISH COUNCIL**)
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:-)

Authorised Signatory

APPENDIX 1
Parish Councils' Statement of Purpose