

Our Ref: SS/1177/TS  
8 October 2015

Environment and Economy  
Highways and Transportation  
Highways South  
Municipal Buildings, West Street  
Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8QR  
Tel: 01522 782070 Fax: 01205 314572  
Email: LCCHighwaysSouth@lincolnshire.gov.uk

To All Parish Councils

This matter is being dealt with by: Highways South Business Support Team on the above telephone number.

Dear Parish Council

### **SELF-HELP AND MUTUAL AID IN TIMES OF SEVERE WINTER WEATHER (SNOW)**

As the County Council has now started to deliver Winter Maintenance Service this year, I write to you with respect to the above.

The County Council's physical and financial resources are fully committed to provide the agreed service as published within the Winter Maintenance Plan, which can be accessed at <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/road-management-and-maintenance/maintenance-services/maintenance-programme/>

The Gritting Routes for 2014-15 and Gritting Frequently Asked Questions information is also available on the County Council's website at <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/road-management-and-maintenance/maintenance-services/gritting-and-snow-clearance/>. The Gritting Routes for 2015-16 will be loaded onto the website early November 2015.

Currently, supplies of salt/grit are distributed around local communities by way of some 1900 grit bins at set locations.

The County Council's Winter Maintenance Service resources are primarily used for treating the priority routes (about 1/3 of the entire highway network) to ensure that they remain open to traffic. There is very little spare capacity to deal with the remaining highway network.

Any additional local treatment requirements need to be delivered by self-help and mutual aid from within the local communities. I wish to explore the potential of making 1 tonne pre-packed salt bags available for treating key local highway routes not covered by our Winter Maintenance Service.

If you wish to consider participation in this programme of self-help and mutual aid, it is desirable to achieve a co-ordinated response, in order that information can be relayed to the multi-agency Emergency Control Centre. This will help to ensure that there is no duplication of effort when deploying emergency services, highways and other resources and that members of the local communities know what to expect in this situation.

It is therefore advised that your community, with help and guidance from Highways Officers who can assist with the provision of plans etc., devise a priority network of footways and / or carriageways that it is intended to clear and treat in the event of severe weather. In our experience it is much more effective and less resource intensive to have pre-planned treatment areas, particularly in the first 24 to 48 hours of a severe weather event.

We would also advise that you consider the nomination of a "Snow Warden" to be the principal point of contact for Highways Officers in the preparation of your local priorities and for the dissemination of information such as advanced forecasts of severe weather.

We will soon be checking the status of Grit Bins in your area to ensure that they are serviced in readiness for the Winter season. However, it would really help us if your Snow Warden were able to have a look at them now and let us know what condition they are in for our appropriate action.

An advice leaflet, (extracted from the Winter Maintenance Plan), is attached giving some basic guidance to everyone engaged in snow clearance, who may wish to clear snow from minor roads and footways. If you wish to participate in this programme, then please contact the divisional highways office at the above address. This will help us to commence discussions about your priority treatment network, potential salt bag supplies and their storage locations.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully



**Satish Shah**  
**Network Manager South**

Enclosure: Advice Leaflet