

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Snow Plan for Wadhurst

Published by Wadhurst Parish Council November 2016

Whilst we have recently enjoyed some mild winters, we have also suffered heavy snow in previous years. To help us to be prepared for another possible bout of snow, we are reissuing an updated Parish snow plan.

Main roads

The ESCC Highways team advises that in severe weather, they focus on clearing and gritting A and B roads. For Wadhurst, this means the B2100 and B2099 and includes the High Street, Lower High Street, Durgates, Station Hill, Cousley Wood Road and Sparrow's Green. Where resources permit, they may also treat priority C roads, according to their criteria but we should not rely on this.

Smaller roads and pavements

Since ESCC will not clear and grit C roads and pavements, we need to make plans locally to make it happen. The Parish Council helps to co-ordinate snow clearance on the main pavement routes (see below) but we need residents and business owners to play their part. This means safely clearing and gritting roads and pavements around your own property as well as helping vulnerable neighbours with their access routes (see 'Grit Bins List' below).

For pavements in the High Street, Sparrow's Green and Durgates, the Parish Council has purchased a grit spreader and push-along mini-snow ploughs. Volunteers from Uplands and the Fire Service have already offered to clear sections of pavement between the Greyhound and the Commemoration Hall and from the Co-op to the junction with the High Street.

If you can help with pavement clearing, other than around your own property, please contact the clerk (01892 783442 – clerk@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk) with details. We are also looking for owners of 4x4 vehicles to register their interest in helping to reach outlying areas in the village when access is difficult. Again, please contact the clerk.

Grit Bins List

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) has installed a number of grit bins and tubes to hold salt and grit over the last 10+ years. These are, in the main, located at strategic points on main access roads around the parish. Policy changes 5-7 years ago in ESCC meant that they ceased to provide new bins; however, they continue to replenish the bins that they own. The following locations have ESCC-owned grit bins and tubes installed:

Brinkers Lane Junction Church Settle Lane - Tube
Snape Lane 50m West of Orchard Cottage - Tube
Wenbans Lane 70m from Riseden Road Junction - Tube
Wenbans Lane 150m from Riseden Road Junction - Tube
Wenbans Lane Opposite Upper Wenbans - Tube
Wenbans Lane Adjacent to Wenbans House - Bin
Washwell Lane Outside Playing Field - Bin
Riseden Road 200m from Tidebrook Road Junction - Bin
Buckhurst Lane 150m from B2099 Junction - Tube
Buckhurst Lane Adjacent to Partridge Lane - Tube
Fairglen Road Junction with B2100 – Yellow Bin
Tapsells Lane 150m from B2099 Junction - Tube
Stone Cross Road Outside Chiltern - Bin
Buckland Hill 30m East of Buckland Hill Farm - Tube
Tree Oaks Lane Opposite Tappington Grange - Tube
Tree Oaks Lane 50m from Old Station Road - Bin
Osmers Hill Opposite No 8 Osmers Hill - Tube

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Osmers Hill Opposite No 10 Osmers Hill - Tube
Deepdene Outside No 19 Deepdene - Bin
Jonas Lane Outside St Helier - Bin
Jonas Lane Junction Jonas Drive – Bin
Jonas Lane Junction Bankside - Yellow Bin
Jonas Lane next to Holly Bank and opposite October House - Bin
Queens Cottages Opposite No 39 - Bin (Queens Cottages Next to 79?)
Western Road Junction Old Station Road - Bin

In addition Wealden District Council has installed a number of grit bins that are the responsibility of Wadhurst Housing Association:

Courthope Avenue at Junction with Watts Close - Bin
Queens Cottages Next to No 93 Opposite No 50 - Bin
Snape View Opposite No 13 (outside Fazan Court) - Bin
Snape View Outside No 16
Snape View (at back door of Fazan Court – Yellow Bin
Holmesdale Close between No. 16 and No. 17)

Since the change in ESCC policy, WPC implemented a new Grit Bins Policy whereby it will meet the cost of installing a new bin where local residents agree to provide and replenish the salt/grit required.

In 2012 and 2013 four new bins were installed by WPC in the following locations, following the request of local residents (who remain responsible for their replenishment). Note the Highway Grit Bin Assessment score from the Grit Bin Policy – available on the WPC website and App, shown in brackets:

Mayfield Park - Bin (215)
Turners Green Road - Bin (215)
Fairglen Rd/B2100 (Yellow Bin) (145)
Woods Green - Bin (130)

In addition, residents have installed their own bins at the following locations at their own cost and are responsible for their replenishment:

Sacred Heart - Yellow Bin (265)
Baldock Road - Bin (55)
Bocking Close - Bin (25)
Fuller Close - Bin (25)
Wards Close – Bin (25)
Castle Walk - 2 Bins

Expressions of interest for grit bins have also received from residents in the areas listed below; however, there has been no common agreement amongst residents to progress with the installation and commitment to replenish. Residents are invited to contact the Clerk if they wish to pursue this further:

Balaclava Lane (215)
Little Park (100)
Pell Hill (100)
Primmers (100)
Whitegates Lane (100)
Faircrouch Lane (35)
Styles Lane (25)

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The Snow Code

Tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces:

- 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. If you don't have 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.
- Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may cause them damage.
- Take care where you move the snow. Be careful not to 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.
- Pay extra attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas.
- Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to re-freeze. 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
- 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.
- For anyone unsure about the legal position concerning liability regarding snow clearing useful guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>.

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Grit Bin Policy

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There are two types of installation of grit bins.

- Firstly those which are considered **essential** for road safety on principal access routes within the Parish; and
- Secondly, those which are considered to be **supplementary**, specifically those within residential areas where requests for additional facilities are provided by local residents.

Grit bins will be placed in consultation with the local residents, WPC and ultimately with the East Sussex Highways Department who will do the provision and installation. Details of ESCC's activity: <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/roads/maintenance/saltingandgritting/gritbins.htm>

The policy that has been established by WPC is that the Council will support the provision of grit bins and meet the cost of purchase and installation where:

- There is an assessed need, as defined by the criteria established by East Sussex County Council' and applied across the county (see criteria below),
- Where the grit bin is **essential** for road safety and where there are no residents nearby to meet the costs, then (recognising that ESCC will no longer support new bins) WPC will consider installing and provisioning the bin on an annual basis, subject to availability of funds within the budget and the commitment of some persons(s) or local organisation to apply the salt as required.
- Where the grit bin is **supplementary** and the local residents have got together and agreed to share in the cost by meeting the initial and subsequent cost of the on-going consumables (i.e. at least annual replenishment of the bin).

On the basis that the above conditions met:

- If the bins are not used for two years, WPC reserves the right to have it removed and located elsewhere.
- WPC will only consider the installation of a limited number of grit bins (i.e. 4 or 5) each year and sites will be chosen from a list of existing requests that have been submitted to WPC.

WPC requires local residents to share in the costs, since past experience across the country has shown that without 'local' ownership salt is removed from bins and used by households to clear their own driveways.

Costs (subject to update to reflect present costs)

New bin £205 – the cost of a grit bin and installation

Salt charges £70 (approx.) for the first and each subsequent refill

The Parish Council meet the costs of the of a new grit bin. The salt cost reflects the ability of local residents being able to benefit from the bulk purchasing ability of East Sussex County Council.

Prices are set by the East Sussex Highways Department and set out on the above noted web link.

Site criteria

Salt is stored in waterproof containers to protect the salt from weathering and to help avoid contamination from seepage wherever bins are placed. WPC will only consider green grit bins as yellow ones are unsightly.

Sites will be chosen using a points-based system against the following set of criteria, ensuring that the most needy sites get priority:

- Difficult road junctions.
- Slopes.
- Acute bends.

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- Concentration of pedestrian commuter use.
- Not on a route already gritted by the County Council.
- Must be for use on the public highway (road and footway).
- The location shall not obstruct the passage of pedestrians, a minimum of 1.5m clearance on the footway is required.
- The location shall not obstruct sight lines.
- The location is not close to another grit bin location.
- The location is either within the boundary of the public road or can be sited on private land with the landowner's permission in a way to give safe uninterrupted access by residents.
- The location must be within easy access of the highways maintenance vehicles.

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Highway Grit Bin Assessment Form

Site name

Location

Requested by

Assessed by

District team area

Date

Characteristic	Severity	Points weighting	Points allocated
Vehicular Movement			
Is site on Priority One precautionary treatment route	Yes	—————→	Void location rejects application.
	No	—————→	
Is treatment area off priority one routes on which bin will be safely located	Yes	25	
Surface gradient	Less than 1:10	75	
	1:10 or over	Nil	
Difficult junction requiring precise timing to exit, or Within 25m of and falling towards junction with: -	(Exit traffic at peak times)	75	
	Moderate Traffic	30	
Bends on slope location with moderate traffic	Light traffic		
	Yes	25	
	No	Nil	

