

# WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

## Snow Plan for Wadhurst

Published by Wadhurst Parish Council October 2021

Whilst our winters currently seem to bring more rain than snow, Wadhurst parish council wish to be prepared for the possibility of Heavy snow and freezing temperatures. Therefore, we have carried out an inspection of all parish Grit bins and tubes to ensure that residents can use those facilities provided. In addition, we are attaching links to East Sussex Highways gritting routes and helplines. For queries contact ([clerk@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk))

At the Full council meeting 14.10.2021, it was agreed that due to some confusion of ownership regarding Grit Bins and responsibilities, the Wadhurst Parish Council will provide additional bags of rock salt. This is for distribution to those bins upon our inspection that need refilling. If you are a local resident and require additional rock salt supply, please contact the clerk. There is also an additional gritbin to be installed at the Commemoration hall.

### Gritting Routes

East Sussex Highways give priority in severe weather to roads carrying the most traffic and the main routes between populated areas. There are two types of gritting routes:

Primary routes - These are regularly gritted during the winter. They consist of the most heavily used roads in the county including all A and B roads and about 75% of the C roads. These are normally treated when the road surface temperature falls close to or below freezing or when there is a forecast of snow.

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, however we cannot always rely on this and contingency plans with help from residents may be required.

Secondary routes - These are gritted when snow or severe icy conditions are forecast. They usually include the main link roads into villages, hamlets and urban estates as well as main roads to local hospitals. Priority is given to Hospitals, Fire, ambulance and police stations, Bus and Railway stations, Schools and main shopping areas.

Please visit the below link to East Sussex highways for your interactive gritting route map.

[East Sussex Gritting Routes - East Sussex Highways](#)

Smaller roads and pavements - Since ESCC will not clear and grit all 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 really need residents and business owners to help 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').

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.

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**If you can help with pavement clearing, other than around your own property, please contact the clerk 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. Any help is appreciated.**

[clerk@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk)

### 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:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
BRINKERS LANE JUNCTION CHURCH SETTLE LANE	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
SNAPE LANE 50M WEST OF ORCHARD COTTAGE	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
WENBANS LANE 70M FROM RISEDEN ROAD JUNCTION	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
WENBANS LANE 150M FROM RISEDEN ROAD JUNCTION	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
WENBANS LANE OPPOSITE UPPER WENBENS	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
WENBANS LANE ADJACENT TO WENBANS HOUSE	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
WASHWELL LANE OUTSIDE PLAYING FIELD	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
RISEDEN ROAD 200M FROM TIDEBROOK JUNCTION	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
BUCKHURST LANE 150M FROM B2099 JUNCTION	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
BUCKHURST LANE ADJACENT TO PARTRIDGE LANE	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
TAPSELLS LANE 150M FROM B2099 JUNCTION	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
STONE CROSS ROAD OUTSIDE CHILTERN	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
BUCKLAND HILL 30M EAST OF BUCKLAND HILL FARM	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
THREE OAKS LANE OPPOSITE TAPPINGTON GRANGE	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
THREE OAKS LANE 50M FROM OLD STATION ROAD	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
OSMERS HILL OPPOSITE NO 8 OSMERS HILL	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
OSMERS HILL OPPOSITE NO 10 OSMERS HILL	TUBE	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
DEEPEDENE OUTSIDE NO 19 DEEPEDENE	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
JONAS LANE OUSTSIDE ST HELIER	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
JONAS LANE JUNCTION JONAS DRIVE	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
JONAS LANE OPPOSITE OCTOBER HOUSE	BIN	OWNERSHIP UNKNOWN
JONAS LANE JUNCTION BANKSIDE	BIN	OWNERSHIP UNKNOWN
QUEENS COTTAGES OPPOSITENO 37 QUEESNS COTTAGES	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS
SPARROWS GREEN RECREATION GROUND	BIN	WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL
COMMEMORATION HALL		WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL
WESTERN ROAD JUNCTION OLD STATION ROAD	BIN	EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS

For help with refill requests and any issues with the Grit bins or gritting routes please contact East Sussex Highways using the following link:

[Gritting - Report an issue \(eastsussexhighways.com\)](https://www.eastsussexhighways.com) ,

[Gritbins - Report an issue \(eastsussexhighways.com\)](https://www.eastsussexhighways.com)

**If you think the issue is an emergency, please call on [0345 60 80 193](tel:03456080193)**

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

QUEENS COTTAGES NEXT TO 93 OPPOSITE 50	BIN	WADHURST HOUSING ASSOCIATION
COURTHOPE AVENUE AT JUNCTION OF WATTS CLOSE	BIN	WADHURST HOUSING ASSOCIATION
HOLMSEDALE CLOSE OPPOSITE NO 5 BETWEEN 16 & 17	BIN	WADHURST HOUSING ASSOCIATION
SNAPE VIEW AT BACK DOOR OF FAZAN COURT	BIN	WADHURST HOUSING ASSOCIATION
SNAPE VIEW OUTSIDE NO 16	BIN	WADHURST HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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.

The following bins have been installed either by WPC or local Residents (at their own cost) who remain responsible for their replenishment.

MAYFIELD PARK	BIN	RESIDENTS
TURNERS GREEN ROAD OPPOSITE CORNFIELDS	BIN	RESIDENTS
FAIRGLEN ROAD	BIN	RESIDENTS
WOODS GREEN OPPOSITE WYCK LANE (PRIVATE ROAD)	BIN	RESIDENTS
SACRED HEART	BIN	RESIDENTS
BALDOCK ROAD	BIN	RESIDENTS
WARDS CLOSE	BIN	RESIDENTS
WATTS CLOSE	BIN	RESIDENTS
BOCKING CLOSE	BIN	RESIDENTS
FULLER CLOSE	BIN	RESIDENTS
CASTLE WALK	BIN X2	RESIDENTS

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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 ([clerk@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wadhurst-pc.gov.uk)) if they wish to pursue this further:

BALACLAVA LANE
LITTLE PARK
PELL HILL
PRIMMERS
WHITEGATES LANE
FAIRCROUCH LANE
STYLES LANE

### **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

Published by Wadhurst Parish Council November 2016

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.

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 blow),
- 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        £328 – the cost of a grit bin, installation and first fill

Salt charges   £108 (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.

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## 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 neediest sites get priority:

- Difficult road junctions.
- Slopes.
- Acute bends.
- 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 highway's 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
<b>Vehicular Movement</b>			
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	

