



WENDOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Address: The Clock Tower, High Street, Wendover,
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Winter Policy

Introduction

The Parish Council does not have a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with ice and snow (except around their own property) and although we do not have the resources to make a commitment to provide a snow clearing service the Parish Council will endeavor to assist where practicable. This plan has been created to clarify what can be expected from the Parish Council.

Legal Advice

People have been hesitant to clear snow because of fears of litigation if someone should slip on the area. The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and Occupiers' Liability Act 1984 place responsibility on the employer to maintain access to premises in a safe condition. Although an employer can be held liable for 'failing to act reasonably' to prevent accidents pedestrians also have a responsibility to take care.

An extract from the Governments web site states: 'Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully'.

Top Tips

Clear the Snow and 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.

Clear and Prevent Slips

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

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 melt snow or 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 damage them.

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



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Take Care Where You Move the Snow

When you're shoveling 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 center of the path to the sides.

Offer to Clear Your Neighbours Path

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, try contacting their relatives or friends.

Leaf Fall

Leaf fall at this time of year can be as hazardous as snow and ice if not cleared from pathways. Clear the leaves early before they freeze and cause a slip hazard.

Where Gritting will be carried out by the Parish Council

During periods of severe / persistent frost, ice or snow the Parish Council will endeavor to treat the following locations where public have access:

- Manor Waste
- Railway Station Side of Pound Street from Dobbins Lane to the Shoulder of Mutton.

Ground staff will endeavor to grit / clear snow on arrival on site. It should be noted that in extreme weather conditions where transport is difficult or dangerous it may not be possible to treat the above locations as staff themselves may have difficulty in reaching the locations. It is also to be noted that in very low temperatures the effectiveness of salt is significantly reduced.

Buckinghamshire Council

For more advice and details on the wider county responsibilities please refer to the Buckinghamshire Council website.

Document History

Approved and Adopted by Full Council	4/12/2018	(Version 1)
Reviewed by Full Council	07/12/2021	