

Stow on the Wold Town Council



Stow Youth Centre, Fosseway,
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ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Following severe winter weather, access to key community facilities can be greatly reduced by snow and ice on roads and footpaths in the town. During these periods of severe weather, many residents can be prevented from leaving their homes to access local facilities which affect the quality of life of many and also impacts on the businesses providing services within the town too.

Many have asked why Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) or indeed, Stow Town Council (STC) did not clear all the roads/pathways in the town following the recent snowfall. GCC's first priority is to keep the main roads clear and operational. They **do not** treat footpaths for a number of reasons, namely resources, cost and simple impracticability. It would not be achievable to clear or grit all footpaths within all the Cotswolds communities when it snows – this would require resources on an enormous scale.

The same applies to the gritting and clearing of side roads. GCC have a secondary route list which means that certain key areas in the town will be gritted but only when the key routes have been treated. Incidentally, the square is on GCC's key route for precautionary salt treatment so they will always endeavour to keep the carriageway route through the square available for vehicular traffic. However, this does not include the parking areas.

GCC working with STC have an appointed Snow Plough Operator for the town and upon STC's instruction he will begin clearing key side roads in the town, for example, the parking areas in the square, around the Doctor's Surgery, Stow Primary School, access to Fire Station and so on.

STC has a limited volunteer resource it can call upon to help clear the footpaths, gritting footpaths and refilling the grit bins and hope that the community will pull together and offer some self help.

If each property/business owner could clear the footpath in front of their property and spread some grit, from one of the many grit bins in the town, this would help enormously.

Many people are concerned that if they clear a footpath and someone slips and injures themselves then they would be liable to potential prosecution. The government say that "You can clear snow and ice from pavements yourself. It's unlikely that you'll be sued or held responsible if someone is injured on a path or pavement if you've cleared it carefully".

How to clear snow and ice

- ✓ Do it early in the day – it's easier to move fresh, loose snow
- ✓ Don't use water – it might freeze and turn to black ice
- ✓ Use salt if possible – it will melt the ice or snow and stop it from refreezing overnight
- ✓ You can use ash and sand if you don't have salt – it will provide grip underfoot

- ✓ Pay extra attention when clearing steps and steep pathways – using more salt helps
- ✓ Think carefully about where you are going to place the snow – make sure it does not block a footpath or someone's access to their drive

There are many grit bins around the town so if clearing public highways do help yourself. However, please note that this salt must not be used on private land. Anyone found doing so could face prosecution. If you find the bin empty please call Stow Town Council on 01451 832 585 and give the location and STC will endeavour to get it filled up as quickly as possible.

Finally, as mentioned earlier STC has very limited resources so if you are willing to help to help clear snow or to help if any emergency occurs in the town then please call 01451 832 585 or email info@stowonthewold-tc.gov.uk to register your details.

Thank you for your help and co operation.