

AXBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL COLD WEATHER POLICY – ADOPTED MARCH 2013

This policy outlines the actions which the Town Council will undertake to counteract the effects of severe (cold) weather in the Axbridge.

These measures are intended to complement road gritting and salting carried out as a matter of course by Somerset County Council, and it is not the intention of the Town Council to replace services which are currently provided by other councils.

In the following text “grit” refers to the salt and grit provided by Somerset County Council to grit the road network.

A Coordinator will be nominated by the Town Council to act as the administrator of this policy. This will normally be the Town Clerk, although a deputy will be available to take the Clerk’s place when necessary. Whoever acts as Coordinator will ensure that a deputy is in place when they are not available.

Grit supplies

The bus route through Axbridge is part of Somerset’s Precautionary Salting Network. However, the Town Council will ensure a stock of grit sufficient to treat key points in the road infrastructure within the town at residents’ request. At least nine 20kg bags or equivalent are recommended.

The stock of grit will be stored at the Lengthsman’s property, with his kind permission.

The Town Council also provides grit bins at the bottom of Chestnut Avenue and opposite the bottom of Horn’s Lane on High Street/West Street, both of which will be filled by Somerset County Council.

The Coordinator will check the quantity of grit in stock in October/November, and any new supplies will be requested and picked up as necessary from Somerset County Council. The Coordinator will arrange transportation to Axbridge either by Somerset County Council or by local volunteers.

Distribution of grit

When supplies of grit are requested by residents, the Coordinator will gain the agreement of a Town Councillor, and request that local volunteers (including Town Councillors) move the supplies as necessary, but will not be directly responsible for the physical transportation, distribution or spreading of grit.

The grit will be put in place to be distributed by volunteers/residents as and when required, and is only to be spread on public highways/footways (i.e. not private land).

The Coordinator will not be responsible for monitoring weather conditions. When severe weather has passed, the Coordinator will request that volunteers move any remaining supplies back into storage.

Communication & Coordination

The Coordinator will be the Town Council's main point of contact, and will co-ordinate the supply and distribution of grit on behalf of the Town Council.

The October or November edition of the Oyez newsletter will contain details of the Town Council's role and emergency contact numbers for the Coordinator and Somerset County Council.

The Coordinator will verify emergency contact details for Somerset County Council (or equivalent body) before publication of Oyez.

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