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## **SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **LOCAL WINTER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOMPTING 2023/24**

This Local Winter Management Plan has been produced to complement and supplement the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Winter Management Plan.

The Parish Council does not have any statutory duty to prepare for and deal with snow and ice, but are in a good position to work with WSCC and draw attention to local needs and also to convey information and advice to the community. This Plan sets out what the community can expect from WSCC in respect of the public highway and what the Parish council has put in place so that residents can be better prepared to help themselves. It is intended the Local Management Plan will be consistent with and form part of Sompting Parish Council's Emergency Plan and will be reviewed annually.

#### **Main Action**

Prior to the winter season, WSCC will replenish local salt bins at various locations in Sompting where they are identified as less than 75% full as identified through the local audit undertaken by the Parish Council :

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Highview o/s no. 16                      | Keyholder – Mrs Picket                   |
| 2) Valley Road junction with Steepdown Road | Open to the public                       |
| 3) Halewick Lane junction with Howard Road  | Open to the public                       |
| 4) Harriet Johnson Centre                   | for use by the Parish Council's car park |

Sompting residents can self - help by spreading the salt across the highway. This is best done as a preventative measure before snowfall or ice formation.

WSCC will **NOT** refill bins during the winter period.

Please note that salt provided by WSCC is for use on public roads and public footpaths **only**.

Local Co-ordinator(s) – to receive information from WSCC, notify councillors and publish information on website and public noticeboards where possible :

Name : Carol Stephenson Clerk  
Tel No : 07813 484857  
Email : [clerk@sompting.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sompting.org.uk)

Sue Tubb Assistant Clerk  
01903 208824  
[assistantclerk@sompting.org.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@sompting.org.uk)

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## **WSSC HIGHWAYS COMMITMENT 2023/24**

### **WSSC Highways undertakes to do the following:**

- Monitor the daily forecast provided by our weather forecast provider between October and April and take appropriate actions. Issue a daily decision to all interested parties via **@WSHighways**.
- Treat the Winter Service Network – 42% of the county's 4,000km road network. For a map showing West Sussex County Council's Winter Service Network and Winter Resilient Network Salting Routes visit – <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/road-maintenance/winter-service/gritting-routes/>
- Purchase and store at our five depots at least 8,000 tons of de-icing road salt during the summer months when prices are advantageous.
- Liaise with the Government's "Salt Cell" and actively participate in mutual aid with adjacent Highway Authorities.
- Maintain a fleet of 20 gritters (bulk spreaders) between October and April.
- Issue a **pre-snow trigger email** in the event of a significant weather event to advise communities when to activate the Local Farmer and Contractor Agreement for WSSC funded activities.

### **WSSC Highways does not undertake any of the following:**

- Treat any roads not identified as part of the Winter Service Network.
- Hand treat footways / cycleways / precincts as a precautionary exercise.
- Treat private, 3rd party or non-highway land.
- Refill salt bins or replace Hippo Bags during the winter period free of charge.
- Deliver salt bins or hippo bags once winter has started free of charge.
- Fund farmers to clear roads that have not been identified in the agreed Local Winter Plan, or clearance has been undertaken without consent to activate from WSSC.

### **Precautionary Salting Network – Carriageways**

There are 4,000 km of roads within West Sussex, 1,600km of which meet the criteria of inclusion and forms the network which is treated in advance of adverse weather.

The Precautionary salting network for carriageways of the County Strategic Network (as defined in the Local Transport Plan for West Sussex), District distributors and other key routes. The Precautionary Network identifies the routes that WSSC will treat as required.

The Precautionary salting network is divided into Priority 1,2 and 3 roads.

**Priority 1 (P1)** - Ice and snow: Strategic (main) A roads and access roads to emergency services, except the trunk roads A27, A23 and M23 which are the responsibility of Highways England.

**Priority (P2)** - Ice and snow: The remainder of the A and B road network.

**Priority (P3)** - Ice only: Other important roads as defined or meet the criteria in Annex A of the Winter Service Plan 2016-2018.

[https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/9011/winter\\_maintenace\\_plan.pdf](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/9011/winter_maintenace_plan.pdf)

## **How WSCC decide when to send the gritters out and live twitter feed on the decision for today :**

Every day around noon, WSCC receives a 24-hour weather forecast for each area, together with road temperature sensor data. WSCC use this information to help them decide which of the following is required:

- **Action:** Gritting on any of the three areas across West Sussex, Sompting is in the Coastal area.
- **No action:** Temperatures show there is no need for gritters to go out.
- **Daily decision:** The daily decision is made by the Duty Manager at WSCC each day between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> April based on all available information and states which part of the Precautionary Network is to be treated and when.

## **Daily decision twitter feed :**

Follow WSCC on Twitter @WSHighways to see our daily decision on whether to send the gritters out.

Tweets about "#grittertwitter AND from:@WSHighways"

## **Advice for local residents on how to keep safe during the winter :**

Get ready for winter : further information and suggestions for the simple things you can do to help you and your family keep warm, healthy and safe through the cold weather – as well as saving you money see

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/dealing-with-extreme-weather/dealing-with-heavy-snow-and-ice/>

Current advice received from WSCC will be posted as and when received on the Council's website [www.sompting.org.uk](http://www.sompting.org.uk)

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## **During snow or ice :**

- Find the latest information on school closures in West Sussex [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)
- Check the forecast from the Met Office and watch out for severe weather warnings.
- Keep up to date with events by following WSCC news on Twitter and liking us on Facebook.
- Keep your mobile phone fully charged.
- Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are managing in the cold weather - if you are worried about them, you can contact West Sussex County Council 01243 777100.

### **a) Venturing out on foot**

- Put on sturdy footwear to avoid slips and trips - be particularly careful going up and down steps and pavements.
- Wear several layers of clothing and keep dry to prevent loss of body heat.
- Keep moving your arms and legs to help the blood circulate.
- Take a mobile phone with you in case you get into difficulties.

### **b) Venturing out by car**

- Avoid travel if possible - try to wait until the roads have been gritted before travelling and keep an eye on weather warnings.
- If you must travel, follow the AA's advice on the items you should have in your car.
- Extreme weather conditions and icy roads make driving more difficult. By following Government advice, you can help to make your journey safer and reduce delays for everyone.
- Refer to our winter service pages for information on snow gritting routes and our West Sussex Highways Twitter feed for daily decisions about gritting :  
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/road-maintenance/winter-service/gritting-routes/>
- See the winter driving advice from the RAC.

### **c) Getting trapped or stranded in your car**

- Wrap up warm and put a hat on - use newspapers, maps, and even removable car mats for added insulation.
- Put on as many layers of clothing as possible - multiple layers are better at keeping you insulated than a couple of thick layers.
- Keep your circulation going by clapping your hands and moving your arms and legs occasionally.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Stay in the car and do not leave it to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards - you could become disoriented and lost in drifting snow.
- Display a 'trouble' sign by hanging a brightly coloured cloth on the radio antenna and raising the bonnet.

- Run the engine for about 10 minutes each hour so you can use the heater and turn on the car's light.
- Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning by keeping the exhaust pipe clear of snow and opening a downwind window slightly for ventilation.
- Take turns sleeping if more than one person is in the car - huddle together for warmth.
- Clearing snow and ice
- There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully.

#### **d) Check the Government advice on clearing snow.**

- Put grit, sharp sand or salt on paths and driveways to lessen the risk of slipping on compacted snow.
- Bulk bags of salt will be left by us in key areas that have been identified by your parish council, with the expectation that the salt will be used before snow falls. This salt can be used by the community to assist in clearing public places.

### **Residents can sign up to British Red Cross app**

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Emergency-response/Emergency-app-landing>

### **Reporting of fallen trees or damage to public highway**

If anyone spots a fallen tree or damage to a public highway, please contact the West Sussex County Council Contact Centre on 01243 777100

Agreed by Sompting Parish Council on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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