

AXBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL COLD WEATHER POLICY – ADOPTED MAY 2010

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 Town Council will ensure a stock of grit sufficient to treat key points in the road infrastructure within the town. At least nine 20kg bags or equivalent are recommended.

The stock of grit will be stored at Townsend Farm, with the kind permission of the owner Mr Lukins.

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 severe weather is anticipated, supplies of grit will be moved from storage and deposited at the roadside at three key points within Axbridge:

- Townsend (top of Houlgate Way)
- The end of Cheddar Road (near by-pass, but not easily visible from the by-pass)
- Chestnut Avenue

The Coordinator will request that local volunteers move the supplies as necessary, but will not be directly responsible for the physical transportation, distribution or spreading of grit.

The grit will 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, but will respond to a request from a Town Councillor to distribute grit. Confirmation by at least one other Town Councillor will be required before the grit is distributed.

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.

END