

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SNOW WARDEN SCHEME

Information for Town and Parish Councils



Did you join our Winter Service Scheme for 2014/15?

Preparations for winter 2015/16 have begun and expressions of interest from Town/Parish Councils wishing to work with the County Council during periods of extreme weather/snow conditions are being sought.

87 Town and Parish Councils signed up to take part in our Snow Warden Scheme last year volunteering to help clear snow and ice from pavements and footpaths, or by simply telling us about conditions in the community.

Whilst we don't yet know what weather this winter will bring, we're hoping even more Town and Parish Councils will volunteer this year.

57.5 tonnes of grit were delivered to Town and Parish Councils, a total of 2,875 bags each containing 20 kg of grit, this is enough to treat 34 full-size football pitches.

What do Snow Wardens do?

- Help deal with potential heavy snow fall and ice between October and April.
- Report the latest local area conditions during wintry conditions using the County Council's website.
- Report situations that affect vulnerable residents, such as the elderly or infirm.
- Co-ordinate volunteers to clear snow and distribute grit.
- Report empty grit bins.

Snow Warden Scheme

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In return, Derbyshire County Council will provide:

- A free delivery of up to a tonne of palletted 20kg bags of salt for each Town and Parish Council participating in the scheme.
- Training for Snow Wardens and volunteers along with advice and guidance as required covering safe operations for the clearance of snow and ice from pavements and footpaths including access to a resource of useful information to help you plan for severe weather conditions.
- A website facility to report snow clearing activities in your community and to notify the Council of any problems/issues in your local area.
- Early notification of severe weather affecting your area utilising the Council's specifically adapted Met Office weather reports.

Public Liability

Town and Parish Councils who agree to clear local paths (and occasional roads) as part of the County Council's Snow Warden Scheme should confirm with their insurers that they are undertaking this activity. One of the largest Parish Council insurers, Zurich Municipal, has confirmed that this type of activity will be covered under its Town and Parish Council liability policies for no extra charge.

As Highways liability responsibilities are non-delegable, it is very unlikely that claims for any losses would be pursued by a claimant directly or by the County Council by way of proceedings seeking an indemnity or contribution against a Town or Parish Council unless the volunteering body had acted recklessly or negligently insofar as they failed to follow relevant guidance. If you act reasonably and follow the guidance for snow clearance this should not happen.

Just follow the simple steps set out in the Government's Snow Code which can be found at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/snow

Town and Parish Councils will be asked to agree a plan of the proposed gritting areas, along with reporting any activity undertaken using the snow warden reporting form on the website.

For further information contact:

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