



Winter Maintenance Plan

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Date of Approval of Version 1:	January 2015
Date of Review:	November 2015
Date of Review:	January 2016
Date of Review:	April 2016
Date of Review:	April 2018
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Date of Review.	It is due for review not later than 4 years from its last review

1. The Plan

Purpose of the Plan

- 1.1 To identify the services to be provided by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and Fairfield Parish Council (FPC) when snow and ice cause danger or disruption and for FPC to provide, where possible, supplemental services to those provided by CBC

Communications

- 1.2 The Parish Council will receive, via email, information regarding a pre-snow event and advising when the Maintenance Plan should be implemented, and an indication given as to the likelihood of a prolonged snow event.
- 1.3 Decision about gritting will be issued by CBC on email & Twitter.

FPC

katrina.henshaw@fairfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Local resources co-ordinator during adverse weather –

Barrie Dack – barrie.dack@fairfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Nick Andrews – nick.andrews@fairfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Daily decision updates co-ordinator

As above

- 1.4 Residents can sign up to receive regular emails / tweets or view updates at:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

Local Gritting Coverage

- 1.5 CBC will cover Hitchin Road and the first section of Dickens Boulevard, up to and including the roundabout junction with Bronte Avenue.
- 1.6 FPC will arrange gritting within Fairfield for all adopted roads, currently
- Bronte Avenue
 - Stephenson Walk
 - Dickens Boulevard
 - Nightingale Way
 - Fleming Drive
 - Paxton Drive
 - Faraday Gardens
 - Earnshaw Drive
 - Edison Way

Further Information

- 1.7 The CBC website provides further information and their Volunteer Health and Safety Brief is included as Appendix A

The Snow Code

- 1.8 The Snow Code is advice issued by the Department for Transport on clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside your home or public spaces to prevent slips and falls. Follow the snow code to clear snow and ice safely. The snow code contains tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces.
- 1.9 Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively. And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully.
- 1.10 Clear the snow and ice early in the day - it's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. So if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.

Preventing slips

- 1.11 Pay extra attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas. Use salt or sand - not water.
- 1.12 Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery.
- 1.13 You can melt snow or prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Do not use the salt found in salting bins - this will be needed to keep the roads clear. Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may damage them.
- 1.14 If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt but will provide good grip underfoot. Take care where you move the snow. When you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

Offer to clear your neighbours' paths

- 1.15 If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, try contacting their relatives or friends, or if necessary, contact us.

Appendix A – Central Bedfordshire Council Volunteer Health and Safety Brief

All snow clearing volunteers should take note and receive a copy of the following advice when clearing snow from the highway.

Anyone clearing snow on behalf of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) would be covered under the terms of Bedfordshire and Luton Emergency Volunteers Partnership (BLEVEC) policy providing volunteers have registered with BLEVEC, their Town or Parish Council, and read and understood the following health and safety points.

Anyone clearing snow from outside their own property or someone else's property would only be liable for an accident if their efforts actually made the pavement less safe than it was with the snow and ice undisturbed and as a result somebody is injured.

Volunteers spreading salt for clearing snow from the highway at times of severe weather should:

- Wear a high visibility long sleeved vest or jacket. A vest can be worn over normal clothing. A jacket can be worn in place of a normal coat.
- Wear warm clothing and stout footwear which will provide a good grip. If possible, use slip-on snow and ice spikes that fit over your shoes. Physical work will warm up the body so be prepared to shed layers, but remember that your body will quickly cool down once you cease working.
- Ensure that someone is aware that you have gone out to carry out this work and how long you intend to be there for. Work in pairs where possible. Remember also to advise that person of your return.
- Assess the location before commencing work. Do not attempt to work if you feel conditions would make this unsafe - for example, if visibility is poor, traffic flows are too high or conditions are so severe that you would be placing yourself at risk of falling or extreme cold.
- Always be aware of approaching traffic. Remember the conditions may mean that traffic will have difficulty stopping. Try to work in pairs so that someone can observe the traffic.
- Use the grit sparingly and thinly. Spread a small amount on a shovel and sprinkle gently. The material in the grit bins is a mixture of salt and grit. The salt will help to speed up the process of thawing snow and ice. The grit is intended to provide grip on the surface of compacted snow or ice.
- When spreading salt/grit on the pavements it is better to remove most of the snow and then spread the salt/grit mixture.
- If shovelling snow, use a shovel with the widest blade available. Make a line down the middle of your path first so you have a safe surface to walk on. Then you can simply shovel the snow from the centre to the sides.
- Care should be taken to avoid blocking access points to properties, driveways, paths (especially at pedestrian crossings and drains). The cleared snow should be deposited in the verge or areas that are not used by vehicles.

- Use salt or sand – not water. If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery. If salt is not available from the grit bins, you can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square meter you can clear should work. But avoid spreading on plants or grass.
- Do not be put off clearing paths because you are afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves.
- Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways – you might need to use more salt on these areas.
- Clear the snow or ice early in the day. It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has been packed together from people walking on it. So, if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.