Winter snow clearance and gritting

Gloucestershire Highways (GH) policy

County policy is now only to fill all approved grit bins before the winter season. When we are experiencing snow and prolonged periods of cold weather GH’s priority has to be to keep the gritters on the road to clear the strategic network. Unfortunately, GH does not have the resource to be able to refill grit bins during the season. With sensible use, a full grit bin should last through the winter.

New grit bins are not provided by GH, however bins can be provided by the local parish or town councils if the location is agreed in writing by GH. Bins shall only be located at strategic points on steeper inclines and on some tight bends or if there are significant levels of pedestrian usage. Grit bins will only be provided on key routes in exceptional circumstances. Grit bins on secondary routes may be provided at key locations if deemed appropriate and subject to the criteria.

Stroud Town Council (STC) policy

Recreation and Finance Committee (on 25.1.10) authorised the Clerk, in consultation with ward councillors, to purchase grit bins for residential areas, subject to agreement for siting and filling from the County Council. Since then, in response to requests from residents, over 25 new or replacement bins have been put in position at the Town Council’s expense. Around 8 further requests did not meet the GH criteria. Each winter further requests are received by the Town Council.

Residents often ask STC to refill the bins when the weather is bad but this is not something we can generally undertake to do. STC has arranged for a supply of grit to be provided for traders to use on the town centre footways; this is stored at Michael Gamble’s premises in Station Road. STC has purchased one subsidised hand-spreader from GH and is anticipating receipt of two more, including one for the use of town centre traders.

It has been agreed that the following are the priority areas for the Green Spaces team to clear and grit; however, it must be understood that, for a small team with limited specialist equipment, this will not always be possible.

- Direct through routes in Bank and Park Gardens
- The New Cemetery, especially if burials are planned
- From the end of Merrywalks footbridge to Bath Street
- Path at the side of the wall at the top of the High St
- Pavement at Bedford St toilets
- Hospital emergency entrance
- Other areas brought to our notice

Approved by Green Spaces Committee 4.2.14