

# Deddington's Winter Plan



The aim of this plan to clarify what the community can expect from the principal authorities and what measures the Parish Council has set in place so that we can be better prepared to help ourselves.

**First:** Do not be deterred from shifting snow yourself for fear of legal repercussions. According to the government website: "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."

## **Role of principal authorities (OCC/CDC)**

Oxfordshire County Council, as highways authority, has overall responsibility for snow and ice clearance on the public highways. Their priority is keeping the main roads and routes to essential services open throughout the county. OCC's service includes:

- Filling salt bins and delivering 1 ton bulk bags or smaller bags
- Providing advice and training
- Liaising with the other emergency services

District councils are not obliged to clear public highways, however Cherwell District Council will, in extreme circumstances, work with parish councils to clear snow and ice in agreed priority areas by redeploying their regular contractors. It is hoped that the main Deddington Market Square will be a priority for CDC.

## **Role of the Parish Council**

The parish council will encourage and facilitate self-help and liaise with other authorities and agencies. It does not have the resources nor a statutory duty to provide a snow clearing service, however it will:

- Inform OCC of any additional roads, car parks, pavements or cycleways that should be on the treatment route if possible
- Arrange to have salt bins at agreed locations filled by OCC
- Enroll volunteers to help keep priority footways in the village safe for pedestrians
- Purchase equipment as appropriate

Salt bins are located as follows:

### **Deddington**

- In The Grove
- High Street / Hudson Street junction
- Market Place by Town Hall
- Bullring by Castle House
- Outside Featherton House
- Mill Close
- Hempton Road, outside the village nursery
- Deddington Grange
- Goose Green
- Windmill Centre

### **Clifton**

- On main road by bus stop

### **Hempton**

- Opposite Duns Tew Road
- By bus stop opposite St John's Way
- Outside the Old Schoolroom

These bins are filled by OCC – on the understanding that it **is for use on public pavements, not on private property**. The Parish Council has four salt spreaders for use by snow wardens.

### **Guide to snow clearing and salt spreading:**

- **Do not use water to melt the snow**, it may refreeze and turn to black ice, invisible and very slippery. Spread salt on the area you have cleared – ordinary table or dishwasher salt is fine.
- **Use salt sparingly**. One tablespoon of salt is enough to treat a square metre. **Salt is most effective if laid shortly before snowfall**, so keep an eye out for weather forecasts. Salt spread on already fallen snow is salt wasted. Alternatives to salt are sand, soda crystals or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear and take care not to injure or overexert yourself. Lightweight plastic shovels are best used since shovelfuls of snow are heavy.
- Clear snow or ice in the morning. It's easier to move fresh, loose snow than packed snow people have trodden down - removing the top layer allows the sun to melt any ice beneath.
- Make sure a supply of salt is accessible before clearing snow and ice. Salt cleared areas immediately to prevent freezing.
- Pay particular attention to steps and steep slopes.
- Make a path down the centre of the area to be cleared. Shovel the snow to the sides but take care you don't block other people's paths or drains.
- Try to keep the salt in the bins dry – clear snow from the lids before opening or closing them. Return unused salt to the bin.

- Offer to clear your neighbours' path if they will have difficulty getting in and out of their home.
- Don't use salt from public bins on private paths and drives.

### **Contacts**

Clive Snashall will take the lead in co-ordinating resources (07761 828066, [clivesnashall.dpc@gmail.com](mailto:clivesnashall.dpc@gmail.com)).

The other members of the emergency team are:

- *In Deddington*: Helen Oldfield (07732 660004, [helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com](mailto:helenoldfield.dpc@gmail.com)) and Mary Robinson (07841 938439, [maryrobinson.dpc@gmail.com](mailto:maryrobinson.dpc@gmail.com))
- *In Clifton*: Mark Swadling (07795 265342, [markswadling.dpc@gmail.com](mailto:markswadling.dpc@gmail.com))
- *In Hempton*: Jonathan Watts (07818 697752, [jonathanwatts.dpc@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanwatts.dpc@gmail.com)) and Arash Fatemian (07500 930522, [ArashAli.Fatemian@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ArashAli.Fatemian@oxfordshire.gov.uk))
- The Parish Office at the Windmill Centre, Hempton Road: 01869 337447

They will:

- Monitor OCC's daily assessment of the weather and highways conditions
- Liaise with volunteers and local authorities
- Make decision on triggering the Emergency Plan procedure

### **Priority areas for access**

Deddington Health Centre  
Deddington Primary School and Pre School  
Deddington Nursery

### **Sheltered/nursing/residential homes**

Featherton House  
Holly Tree Cottages  
Hudson Court  
St Anne's at Clifton  
The Grove  
Almshouses

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