

2023–24

Deddington Parish Council

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WINTER PLAN

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This explains what the community can expect from the principal authorities (Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council), and what the Parish Council has done so that we can help ourselves.

Role of principal authorities (OCC/CDC)

OCC: As the Highway Authority, OCC 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 services include:

- Delivering bags of salt and filling salt bins
- Providing advice and training
- Liaising with the other emergency services
- A full copy of the OCC Winter Service Policy is on OCC's [website](#)

CDC: 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 PC will encourage and facilitate self-help and liaise with other authorities and agencies. It does not have the resources or a statutory duty to provide a snow clearing service. However, it will:

- Inform OCC of any additional roads, car parks, pavements or cycleways that, on the basis of local knowledge, it is believed should be on the treatment route
- Arrange to have salt bins at agreed locations filled by OCC and liaise with OCC for replenishment of salt supplies
- Purchase equipment (salt spreaders, shovels, etc.)
- Enlist volunteer snow wardens to help keep priority footways in the village safe for pedestrians



Contacts

The lead co-ordinator of the Winter Plan is [Clive Snashall](#). He will work with co-ordinators in Clifton ([Mark Swadling](#) and [Allan Collins](#)); and Hempton ([Jonathan Watts](#) and [Alistair Swan](#)).

They will:

- Monitor the Daily Decision (OCC's daily assessment of the weather and highways conditions)
- Liaise with other snow wardens and local authorities

Priority areas for access

- Health Centre
- Primary School
- Pre-school
- Nursery

Sheltered/nursing/residential homes

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

Salt bin locations:

<i>Deddington</i>	The Grove Corner of High Street/Hudson Street Town Hall, Market Place Bullring by Castle House Outside Featherton House Mill Close Hempton Road, outside the village nursery Goose Green Windmill Centre The Grange
<i>Clifton</i>	Main road by bus stop
<i>Hempton</i>	Opposite Duns Tew Road By bus stop opposite St John's Way Outside church hall
<i>Private bins</i>	Fire Station Health Centre Primary School

These bins are filled by OCC each year on the understanding that the salt **is for use on public pavements, not on private property**. The Parish Council also has a number of salt spreaders to be used by the snow wardens. It is recommended that, where possible, these are used rather than a wheelbarrow and shovel as they use less salt.

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 a path if you have cleared it carefully.’

Guide to snow clearing and salt spreading

- Clear snow or ice in the morning. It's easier to move fresh, loose snow than packed trodden down snow – removing the top layer allows any sun to melt ice beneath.
- Don't use water to melt snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice which is invisible and very slippery. Instead 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 on the weather forecasts. 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.
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear and take care not to injure or over-exert yourself – shovelfuls of snow are heavy.
- Make sure a supply of salt is accessible before clearing snow. Spread salt on 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.

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