Winter Weather

In good time for the winter weather, residents are reminded of the arrangements that will be in place to tackle any winter weather in Andoversford this year.

As usual, GCC Highways will arrange for the main A roads in the village to be gritted and cleared of snow, as and when necessary – please note that this does not include Station Road. A small stock of grit is held by the Parish Council. This grit is NOT to be used on private land, and residents should make their own winter provision in this respect ahead of winter, as general suppliers often run out of stocks during prolonged spells of bad weather.

Contrary to many people's understandings there are no laws which prevent you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your homes or from public areas. However, it's obvious that this should be done responsibly and with due care for yourself and for others.

The grit bins around the village will be filled by GCC ahead of the winter months but, thereafter, the Parish Council will be responsible for restocking them. Our stocks are limited, and these must therefore only be used for spreading grit on PUBLIC footpaths and pavements. Residents are asked to respect this and not take grit from these bins for use on their own land, and to notify the Parish Council if they notice any of the bins are empty so they can be re-stocked. If bad weather arrives, we'd also ask residents to help any vulnerable neighbours and do what they can to ensure they have help with path clearing, or delivering shopping etc, wherever possible. There is a wider and general community benefit which will result from residents getting together to tackle the clearing of snow and ice for their own immediate area, in addition to looking out for and helping vulnerable neighbours.

ADVICE TO INDIVIDUALS REGARDING CLEARANCE OF SNOW AND ICE

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.

- 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

- 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. Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. If you use warm 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. 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. Don't 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. 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 roads, 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 if your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around
- Be careful of walking pets on pavements or roads that have been salted/gritted as this can be dangerous to them.