

GREAT TORRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

SNOW PLAN **01 October 2020**

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1.0 Introduction

During periods of extreme weather Devon County Council's programme of winter service focusses on the major routes which carry the most traffic. Devon County Council has therefore established a Snow Warden Scheme through which they are able to provide advice, training and salt to local communities via a nominated Snow Warden who can be supported by a group of volunteers. This Snow Plan for Great Torrington has been developed to complement the winter service undertaken by Devon County Council and to document the scope of the activities the Great Torrington Snow Warden is responsible for within the town.

2.0 Responsibilities

2.1 Snow Warden

The Snow Warden works on behalf of the Town Council to deliver winter maintenance support in Great Torrington according to this Snow Plan. This includes:

- Ordering salt supplies
- Checking and reporting any problems with community grit bins to Devon County Council
- Keeping a register of local trained volunteers (as appropriate)
- Receiving and responding locally to weather alerts
- Organising and deploying volunteers to clear snow (as appropriate)
- Organising and deploying volunteers to spread salt when icy conditions are forecast (as appropriate)
- Encouraging responsible use of salt and help to minimise the abuse of salt within communities

The Snow Warden is nominated by the Town Council and is responsible to the Town Council for the activities outlined above. They must agree to work within the advice provided by Devon County Council and to work to the requirements within this Snow Plan. In addition, the Snow Warden must be registered on the Devon County Council Snow Warden database.

2.2 Snow Warden Volunteers

If required, a Snow Warden can appoint and train volunteers to assist with the winter maintenance support programme. The Snow Warden's Volunteers can do the following activities:

- Spreading salt
- Clearing snow
- Refilling grit bins and bags
- Reporting issues with grit bins and bags online

3.0 Contact Details

3.1 Snow Warden

Andy Smale: Great Torrington Town Council Technician

Telephone: 07970 460666

Email: andysmale1@outlook.com

3.2 Snow Warden Volunteer(s)

No volunteers at time of writing this plan

4.0 Scope

4.1 Areas covered by Snow Plan

The Snow Warden will be responsible for treating footpaths only.

The priority areas will be the main shopping area and the walking route to the medical centres.

Footpaths along the following roads will be included in this Snow Plan (please also see map in Appendix A):

- Whites Lane
- South Street
- High Street
- Fore Street
- Potacre Street
- Cornmarket Street
- Entrance to Castle Street at junction with Cornmarket Street
- Well Street (as far as New Road)
- New Road between Calf Street and Well Park Road
- Well Park Road
- Path between Well Park Flats
- New Street/Calf Street (between Whites Lane and New Road)

All Town Council owned bus shelters will be treated, although not necessarily the footpaths nearby.

Town Council resources will not be used on areas treated by Devon County Council as part of the defined salting network. Details of the county council's salting network can be found online at www.devon.gov.uk

4.2 Extenuating Circumstances

In the situation where there is a particularly bad snow event, i.e. snowing for days non-stop, which results in difficulties clearing the roads, the Town Council may agree for the Snow Warden to assist with clearing areas outside of the scope outlined in section 4.1. In this situation it is important for consultation to take place with Devon County Council either through the call centre (0345 155 1004) or by emailing the Neighbourhood Highways Officer with details of the additional clearance work to be undertaken, particularly if any clearance will be done on the carriageway.

5.0 Resources available

5.1 Salt

Devon County Council will provide up to five tonnes of salt free of charge to town councils who sign up to the Snow Warden Scheme. The Town Council must have arrangements in place to store the salt in a dry place, protected from watercourses. Salt supplies must be kept away from children and pets.

5.2 Tools and equipment

Devon County Council will supply Snow Wardens with a plastic shovel for the clearance of snow and ice.

5.3 Advice

Devon County Council's "Dos and Don'ts" recommendations (Appendix B) to be provided to the Snow Warden.

5.4 Training

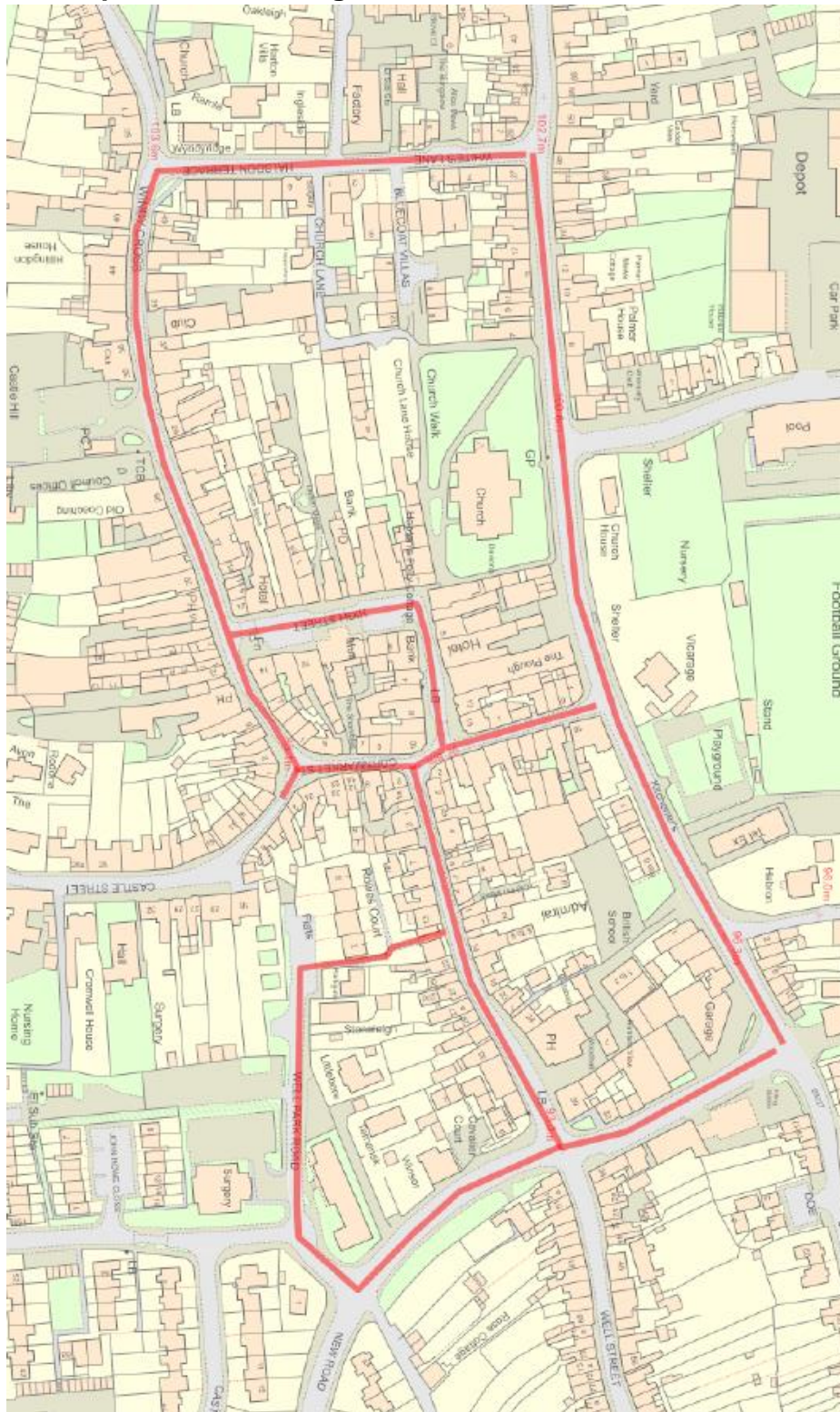
Devon County Council Snow Warden Training document (Appendix C) to be provided to the Snow Warden.

6.0 Supervision

Prior to undertaking Snow Warden duties, the Snow Warden should discuss action plan with the Town Clerk/Mayor.

7.0 Further information

More information on the Snow Warden Scheme can be found in the Community Snow Warden Pack supplied by Devon County Council at www.devon.gov.uk



Appendix B: Guidance for Snow Wardens



Guidance for Snow Wardens

Do...

- Plan your route
- Prioritise your actions
- Wear suitable clothing (warm, reflective etc)
- Tell people where you are going, how long you will be gone and the vehicle you are using
- Take food, drink and a fully charged mobile phone
- Make regular phone calls to report on progress and safety
- Check the weather forecast regularly
- Check that you are clearly visible on site
- Make sure that it is safe to work at every location you visit
- Spread salt/grit according to recommended amounts

Don't...

- Wear all dark clothing – you need to be visible
- Try to achieve too much at once
- Work in the dark
- Work during severe weather – your safety is important
- Spread grit/salt too heavily – supplies may be limited
- Use water to treat ice or snow – as when it refreezes, it may make the problem worse

Appendix C: Snow Warden Training



Snow Warden training

Safety guidance while undertaking duties

Working in adverse weather situations or working alone may put people in a vulnerable position; therefore it is essential that systems are put in place to reduce risks associated with carrying out Snow Warden duties.

Please consider the following information when planning your response to any weather situation.

Before starting

- Do you have suitable clothing and footwear for the conditions? It is advisable to have a reflective jacket or some light coloured outer wear.
- Ensure that someone knows where you are intending to go, what time you expect to return, what vehicle you will be using etc.
- If you think that you may be out for some time, consider setting up a regular 'phone in', say every hour, to report your progress and where you are going next.
- Check the weather forecast.

While working on site

- Assess the location and current situation with regard to what you're planning to do. Is it safe to work at that place?
- Think about traffic in the area, can you see / be seen?
- Set sensible targets. You may not be able to achieve anything of practical benefit so do not waste time and effort on the impossible.
- If working as part of a team agree the tasks and intended result so everyone knows what the target is.

General guidance

- In severe weather situations the best course of action maybe to do nothing until the main storm has passed. More benefit may be had by recording problems and planning a coordinated approach once the situation settles down.
- The available resources, i.e. grit bins, may not have sufficient stock to do everything at once so prioritise your actions.
- Make yourself aware of what Devon County Council and others may be doing in your area so that you do not duplicate work. The DCC website and local radio stations are good sources of information during severe weather.