

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 18 September 2023

Title: Winter Preparations

Contact Officer: Operations Manager

Background

At this time each year, the Town Council considers requests for additional salt bins. Salt bins are paid for by town and parish councils and installed by Oxfordshire County Council during the autumn following the assessment of the request.

The County Council also refills existing salt bins once, annually during summer on request. The Town Council can then apply for gritting salt at no cost from the county council to refill bins. However, in the previous two years, 1000kg has been delivered and less than 1/3 has been redistributed.

Current Situation

The Town Council has received one request so far this year for grit bins to be installed on Kingfisher Meadow. A resident has brought to the attention of the Town council that the developers have removed the grit bins that were in place as they plan to be finished before the winter.

The roads in this development are particularly steep, the request refers to keeping the entrance and exit safe during the winter.

Members are asked to consider if there are any areas in their wards where a bin is a necessity. There are grit bins in place on the majority of council-owned sites and the Town Council retains a quantity of gritting salt for staff to spread.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- The cost to the Town Council for requesting the installation of a salt bin is £250 + VAT.
- The Council maintains an annual budget of £500 for grit bins.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Members are invited to note the report and request for 2 salt bins to be installed at Kingfisher Meadow.