
Agenda Item:	Winter Preparations
Meeting Date:	Monday, 23 rd September 2024
Contact Officer:	Operations Manager

The purpose of this report is to inform councillors of the Winter preparations Witney Town Council makes.

Background

At this time of year, the town council considers requests for additional salt bins. Salt bins are paid for by the Town Council 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 will then refill any bins over the winter before and after frost is predicted. This comes at no cost to the Town Council as the County Council will deliver gritting salt at no cost. However, for the past 3 years, this salt has been discarded, due to prolonged storage hardening the salt.

Current Situation

There was a request in 2023 for a bin to be installed on Kingfisher Meadow, however, this was rejected by the developer. Members are asked to consider if there are any areas in their wards which require grit bins. A list of bins in Witney is provided from OCC's online report management system (Appendix A).

The Town Council retains a small quantity of gritting salt to spread over areas of high risk on council-owned sites. There are also gritting bins located at all council-owned sites.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

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.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Financial implications

- The cost to the Town Council for requesting the installation of a grit bin is £250.00 not including VAT
- The Town Council maintains an annual budget of £500.00 for grit bins.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report