

PUBLIC REALM DIVISION

Asset Management

Dulwich Community Council 24.01.11
Winter Service Update

www.southwark.gov.uk

Introduction:

This note is to provide an update on our preparations and delivery of winter service activities.

For this year's winter preparations, we have taken into consideration lessons learnt from reviews of the past two winter seasons and documents produced to help enhance London's resilience in severe winter weather. Particularly we have referred to '*Keep London Moving Through Severe Winter Weather*' published by the Gritting Panel Review Team and the '*Practical steps for London Highway Authorities*' a supplementary document drafted by the London Winter Service Review Steering Group. The key relevant recommendations from these documents incorporated in this winter's service planning are as follows;

- Participation in mutual aid and London Salt Cell (LSC)
- The development of the road resilience network
- Consideration of improvement in weather forecasting
- Self help
- Improved communication and coordination
- Identification of important footways

Southwark Service Areas & Roles:

- **Asset Management;** Preparation of the Winter Service Plan; gritting of carriageways; attending to service requests from members of the public/others and maintaining salt stock levels.
- **Southwark Cleaning;** Footway treatment on selected footways and Housing land
- **Emergency Planning & Resilience Team;** Co-ordination in relation to specific emergency situations.
- **Call Centre;** Managing and forwarding requests to Asset Management.

Winter Standby:

The standby period during which winter operations can be considered to apply is 15 November, 2010 to 30th April 2011.

Officers within Asset management have been assigned out of hours standby roles to receive incoming service requests

Winter Service Plan:

The Winter Service Plan sets out the process by which the Council manages its obligations during winter weather conditions. This document is reviewed and updated each year. The Plan for 2010-11 which is posted to the Council's website includes the following changes from the previous year:

- An increase in overall length of roads to be treated in order to accommodate the TfL (Transport for London) London Resilience Road Network within Southwark
- The introduction of a decision matrix based approach on the timing and type of treatment
- Updated contact lists
- The encouragement of self help by the replenishment of salt bins at existing locations
- Identification and mapping of all vulnerable sites where footways will be treated as a priority
- Supply of additional salt bins (more than 100% more)
- Set up of a dedicated e-mail system for receiving weather forecast which will be accessible to all involved in winter service delivery

Weather forecasting:

We rely on a dedicated weather forecasting service from Meteogroup. As part of the decision process on whether to treat we place particular reliance information provided by these forecasts, particularly predicted RST (Road Surface Temperature).

Separate forecasts are provided for the south (Crystal Palace Domain) and central areas (Urban Domain) of the borough and also those adjoining the Thames (Thames Domain) due to local micro climate conditions.

For this year's service, the forecast consists of;

- Morning summary (before 0800)
- 24 Hour forecasts (before 1300)
- Evening update (before 1900)
- Consultancy and monitoring
- Full access to RoadCast website including radar and satellite pictures
- Summer forecast (this is to forecast periods of intense rainfall)

Salt Stock:

Salt is stored at the Latona Road Depot. The capacity of which is approximately 1000 tonnes. At the start of the winter period a full stock was in storage with a provisional delivery date for a further 600 tonnes on two placed orders.

Following all winter service activities from the 15th November to date our current holding of stock is 306 tonnes. We have a further 140 tonnes being delivered over a five day period starting 24.01.11.

During this winter period Southwark have not shared salt stocks with any other Local Authority. Additionally, Southwark have never at any time sold stock.

Resilience Network:

This defines Southwark's section of the minimum road network within the GLA which are to be

kept opened at all times during severe winter weather to allow essential services to operate reliably and safely and to 'Keep London Moving'.

In severe weather there should be enough salt stock to allow this network to be gritted four times a day continuously for at least 6 days. Our current salt stock of approximately 306 tonnes will last the required 6 days by focusing services on the resilience network and without further replenishment.

Self Help in Clearing Footways

The DirectGov website has provided guidance on snow and ice clearance from footpaths (included below). This information is signposted from the council's own winter service web pages.

For the current winter the council has increased its borough wide stock of salt bins by more than doubling the available number.

The salt bins have been located where severe weather conditions may prevent access to essential services or affect particularly difficult sections of the Borough. As a self help facility, they will enable local or passing residents to treat the carriageway and footway within their locality.

Community Council	Salt Bins in 2009	Additional Salt Bins 2010	Total 2010
CC - Dulwich	32	26	58
CC - Camberwell	5	6	11
CC - Rotherhithe	8	5	13
CC - Nunhead & Peckham Rye	14	25	39
CC - Walworth	0	6	6
CC - Bermondsey	2	5	7
CC - Borough & Bankside	3	2	5
CC - Peckham	0	0	0
Total	64	75	139

Southwark Cleaning:

Footways

The treatment of footways is delivered by Southwark Cleaning and operational coverage and responses have been reviewed and implemented. This review was informed by the experience gained during last winter's cold spell and an updated listing has been prepared of vulnerable locations such as schools, transport hubs, medical facilities, elderly people's homes, shopping centres etc.

During the recent periods of inclement weather some street cleansing and estate cleaning operations were suspended and staff diverted to snow clearance and gritting duties. However due to the agreed scope of footway clearance and the amount of salt available litter picking operations are continued to keep the surplus staff productively employed.

Housing:

The Estates cleaning service has in place, measures to ensure gritting of the following within their areas:

- Ramps and slopes

- Exposed stairways.
- Access paths to and from sheltered housing units, shops, surgeries and housing offices.

Estate based operatives have also applied local knowledge for areas of treatment during the recent weather.

The Council Website:

In addition to general information on our winter service activities, mapping has been uploaded onto the Council's website showing the roads to be gritted, those to be gritted by TfL, position of salt bins, selected footways and vulnerable sites, e.g. clinics, crematoria and cemeteries and transport hubs.



Clearing snow and ice from pavements yourself – Direct Gov (Public Services website)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868

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 the path if you have cleared it carefully.

Follow the snow code when clearing snow and ice safely.

The snow code - tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces

Prevent slips

Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas.

If you clear snow and ice yourself, be careful - don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. But don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured.

Remember, people walking on snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively.

Clear the snow or 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.

Use salt or sand - not water

If you use 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 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.

Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may cause them damage.

If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.

Take care where you move the snow

When you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block 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 their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, contact your local council.