

# South Lanarkshire Council - Winter Resilience – Assistance to Communities

## Guidance Notes

In preparing for winter, South Lanarkshire Council is offering practical assistance to communities who wish to help clear snow and ice from footpaths in their areas.

The council treats numerous paths throughout winter, but we recognise that council actions alone won't clear every path and that communities may themselves be able to treat a more extensive local path network as suits local needs.

### **The council can offer the following assistance to community groups involved:**

1. Provision of salt, in grit bins in urban areas or in heaps in rural areas, at locations such as a car park or village square to be agreed with the community.
2. Provision of snow shovels, salt spreaders and wheelbarrows.
3. Provision of gloves and high-visibility clothing.
4. The council will provide access to and fund the cost of public liability and personal injury insurance covering winter resilience activities for any Community Council or other qualifying community group who take up this offer.

### **In return community groups are asked to:**

1. Nominate an individual to act as liaison person with South Lanarkshire Council, to manage the operation of the volunteer scheme and to place requests for salt and equipment.
2. Compile a list of volunteers willing to help clear snow and ice from footpaths.
3. Ensure volunteers complete any related training and maintain a record of same.
4. Prepare risk assessments that focus on the risks around the area(s) being treated and develop subsequent safety instruction sheet(s) used to brief all volunteers.
  - Risk assessments need to consider the hazards that exist in an activity and determine if they are significant enough to need some form of risk control. These risk controls then need to be made known to volunteers who should receive a face-to-face briefing and a written copy of their safety instructions.
  - Hazards associated with snow clearing can be influenced by the people involved and the environment. It is not possible to define all of these hazards but the following non-exhaustive list of hazards may be helpful in creating an appropriate risk assessment and community group safety guide. The hazards to be considered include:
    - Cold / wet weather including poor visibility.
    - Snow clearance effort/shovelling.
    - Gritting – physical damage to property.
    - Carrying of salt/grit (Manual handling).
    - Carrying of equipment (Manual handling).
    - Storage of salt/grit (environmental damage due to leaks).

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- Slips, trips & falls due to ice or compacted snow (carrying or not carrying materials/equipment, inappropriate footwear).
  - Traffic.
  - Also need to consider:
    - First aid provision, etc.
  - How to clean/maintain equipment and the disposal of waste products/materials.
5. Maintain equipment in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines.
  6. Identify and map a route of which paths it would intend to treat noting any equipment supplied must be used exclusively for treating those footpaths.
  7. Maintain a record of actions taken (i.e. areas treated, when and by whom) and make same available to the council if requested.
  8. Identify locations for salt storage locally.
  9. Decide how many grit bins, snow shovels, salt spreaders, high-visibility jackets, wheelbarrows and pairs of gloves (including sizes) required.
  10. Identify places to store any equipment provided (which may be at volunteers' homes).

Volunteers involved will need to provide their own warm clothing, appropriate footwear, transport and food and drink.

For the council to respond timeously it is important that arrangements, particularly the delivery of equipment and salt, are put in place before the onset of bad weather or in intervals between bad weather events. Response may be delayed if the request is made when snow has already fallen, and council resources have already been deployed to clear roads and footpaths.

If your community group wishes to take up this offer please complete the attached Winter Aid Application Form and return it by email.

**Colin Park**

**Head of Roads and Transportation**

**August 2021**