

TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – NOV. 2011

SEASONAL GREETINGS to everyone in Woodstock, We hope that residents will enjoy all the celebrations that traditionally go with the Festive Season and that traders will have the benefit of an uplift in their commercial fortunes.

Don't forget the usual MAYOR'S CAROLS event on Saturday 17th December at the Town Hall at 5 p.m. which will be an opportunity for young and old alike to celebrate Christmas with the Mayor leading you all in joyful singing of familiar carols. A special visitor is expected to add to the magic of the occasion.

SEVERE WINTER WEATHER

As might be considered appropriate for this time of year we are devoting the rest of this Newsletter exclusively to the subject of preparations for severe winter weather (just in case !). In August we made a bid for money from the Oxfordshire County Council Big Society Fund to contribute to the cost of providing suitable equipment/ materials and we described our rationale as under:

1.RATIONALE

“ The last two winters have produced severe weather conditions with snow/ice causing problems for residents, including some serious injuries, where roads and pavements have not been appropriately treated. It is impossible to predict what future winters will bring, but it is essential to be better prepared. It is recognised that although the County Council, as highway authority, is responsible for such treatment, it has to prioritise given the scale of the problem. The District Council has very limited manpower resources for this purpose. It is therefore accepted by the Town Council that a measure of community self-help is needed. It is accordingly proposed that the Council should recruit a task force for this purpose and determine the priority areas for treatment.

To equip this task force to undertake snow and ice clearance, it is considered that OCC Big Society Funding of £1,180 will be needed towards a total outlay of £2,360 made up as follows, with match funding from the Town Council.

	£
Purchase of 6 additional salt/grit bins	1500
“ “ 12 snow shovels	200
“ “ 2 wheelbarrows	50
“ “ 4 shovels	60
“ “ 2 salt spreaders	400
“ “ 1 ton salt and sacks for distribution	150
TOTAL	2,360
	END

It is pleasing to be able to report now that our bid for this money was completely successful and we are in the process of actually purchasing the necessary items to implement our plans.

2. ACTION PLAN

An outline plan for future action was formulated at a meeting with some 20 residents last year and refined more recently in close consultation with County Councillor Ian Hudspeth and the Head of Commercial and Environmental Services at the District Council. This collaboration is a good example of the partnership needed to solve such a difficult problem, a concrete example of the Big Society in operation, and in keeping with a petition signed by 300 residents presented to the Annual Town Meeting in March. The Town Council has listened and is delivering!

2.1. ACTION BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

a) The County Council will provide snow/ice clearance and salt/gritting treatment to the following roads in Woodstock:
A44 i.e. Oxford Road/Oxford Street/Manor Road

b) In addition to supplying salt/grit for this purpose to the existing bins at the following locations:

- Browns Lane steps (Oxford Street)
- Brook Hill (bottom of Union Street)
- Rectory Lane (near junction with Park Lane)

the County Council will provide and fill 6 extra salt bins to be located as under (top–up supplies will be a Town Council task).

- The Shambles (behind Town Hall)
- High Street (behind Crown Inn)
- Bear Close (at first bend in the road)
- Oxford Road (at junction with Cadogan Park)
- Barn Piece (Rosamund Drive concrete bunker)
- Rye Grass

N.B. the number of additional grit bins cannot be increased.

2.2. ACTION BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) The District Council will treat Hensington Road car park.
- b) The County Council have a policy of not gritting footpaths and the District Council will help out on footpaths with heavy usage, subject to manpower availability.

2.3. ACTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

- a) A task force of town volunteers has been recruited to assist with snow/ice clearance and salt/gritting treatment in accordance with the following priorities:

PRIORITY 1- Pedestrian route Community Centre-town centre
 (Salt will be stored at the Community Centre)
 High St/Market St/Park St/Park Lane(to surgery)
 Oxford St. pavements(High St-Upper Brook Hill)

PRIORITY 2 - Union St.,Bear Close,Cadogan Park Jcn./A44

PRIORITY 3 - Browns Lane/Chaucers Lane & Steps/Barn Piece

There has been discussion with Blenheim Estates in an effort to capitalise on their resources for dealing with these priority areas as well as the District Council. For those areas not listed under these priorities, a sheet is enclosed for the guidance of residents

b) Cllr. Brian Yoxall (or in his absence Cllr. Julian Cooper) will be responsible for liaising with the County and District Councils and Blenheim Estates in order to agree the efficient and safe organisation of the work.

c) The Town Council will have insurance provision to cater for the eventuality of a volunteer being injured during operations or a volunteer worker accidentally causing injury . Nobody need fear being sued unless by negligent action of actually worsening underfoot conditions.

d) The Town Council will maintain the privacy of workers on the project. Details of their names and addresses will not appear on the website but kept on confidential file and only retained whilst engaged on the project. If anyone wishes to volunteer for this work who has not already been contacted, please phone Cllrs. Brian Yoxall (Tel. 811630) or Julian Cooper (Tel 811519).

e) The Town Council will store salt at the Community Centre garage and arrange transport as necessary in sacks to the bins in the town after initial filling by the County Council. If anyone is able to assist with transport for this purpose, please contact us.

f) If anyone has any queries about a matter connected with severe weather conditions not covered in this publication, would they please contact one of the above-named councillors.

N.B. Please remember to check on the situation with elderly neighbours in times of adverse weather conditions.

Woodstock Town Council

