

Aylsham Town Council Winter Management Policy

Aylsham Town Council does not have a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with snow and ice (except around their own property) and although we do not have the resources to make a commitment to provide a snow clearing service we will endeavour to assist where practicable. This plan has been created to clarify what can be expected from the Town Council.

The Town Council is not responsible for gritting roads or car parks including the carriageway of the Market Place.

WHERE GRITTING WILL/WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

During periods of severe/persistent frost, ice or snow the Town Council will ENDEAVOUR to treat the following locations where the public have access;

- Market Place
- Red Lion Street
- Church Footpaths
- Penfold Street
- Town Hall Loke

Ground staff will endeavour to grit/clear snow on arrival on site. Priority to be given to areas of special risk i.e. access to the public toilets, Market Place bus stops and entrance to the Town Hall and Drill Hall. Gritting and clearing to be carried out on a priority basis on a daily assessment.

If you feel your circumstances are such that you need assistance from the Town Council please contact us and if possible, we will endeavour to assist.

It should be noted that in extreme weather conditions where transport is difficult or dangerous it may not be possible to treat the above-named locations as staff themselves may have difficulty in reaching the locations. It is also to be noted that in very low temperatures the effectiveness of salt is significantly reduced.

Property or land owned by the Town Council which will NOT be gritted by the Town Council;

- All allotment sites
- Cemetery Driveway
- Outlying bus shelters

**Please note the Recreation Ground is not the responsibility of the Town Council
Car Parks are the responsibility of Broadland District Council**

PPE

The Town Council will ensure all Ground staff have appropriate PPE which will include hi-vis waterproofs and boots.

Grit Bins.

Grit bins are purchased by the Town Council and filled by Norfolk County Council free of charge at the commencement of each winter. Currently the bins are located in the following areas:

Road Name	Exact Location
Burgh Road Car Park	Next to entrance to Blofield Loke
Wade Close	Parking Circle
Hungate Street	Near Railway Bridge
Gas House Hill	Junction with Sir Williams Lane

When Aylsham Town Council receive requests for additional grit bins the location, cost and need are considered by the Town Council for recommendation

The grit bins are available for any parishioners to use, to make the footpaths or roads safer in icy weather. Please only take the minimum amount that is required as there is no guarantee when Norfolk County Council will be able to refill it again.

ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL AUTHORITY – Norfolk COUNTY COUNCIL - Website statement

We cannot grit all of Norfolk's 6,125 mile (9,857 km) road network because of the time it would take and the cost involved.

Priorities for gritting roads have been established on the basis of the route hierarchy and level of use. The main roads will be gritted before other routes. Our three hour gritting runs cover a total of approximately 2,200 miles (3,500 km) on A, B and some C class roads - commuter and major bus routes and as far as is possible one route into all villages. Some footways in the pedestrian areas of central King's Lynn, central Great Yarmouth and central Norwich are also treated as priority.

Highways England treats 143 miles of trunk roads including the A11 and A47.

[View the map of priority gritting routes](#)

Clearing your path or driveway - the snow code

Clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside your home or public spaces can help prevent slips and falls. Here's some handy advice issued by the Department for Transport. Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice from the Department for Transport below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively. And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully.

Clear the snow and 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.

Clear and prevent slips

- Pay extra attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas
- 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 melt snow or 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. Don't use the salt found in salting bins - this will be needed to keep the roads clear unless your council advises otherwise. Please contact your local council for more advice.
- Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may damage them
- If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt, but will provide good grip underfoot

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 neighbour's 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, try contacting their relatives or friends, or if necessary the local council.

This Snow Code advice comes from the [Department for Transport](#).

Adopted by Aylsham Town Council 16th December 2021
To be reviewed December 2023