

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

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Winter Precautions – Gritting Policy

Norfolk County Council Highways Department has overall responsibility for gritting all roads. Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council accepts no liability or responsibility for gritting highways within in the parish of Wells-next-the-Sea

Section 41(1A) of the Highways Act 1980, requires the relevant Highways Authority to ensure that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice. It is not an absolute duty; it is one subject to what is reasonably practicable. Norfolk County Council Highways Department is the relevant highways authority for Wells-next-the-Sea

However, during adverse winter weather Norfolk County Council Highways resources are focused on keeping the strategic carriageway network running, with priority being given to main roads, bus routes, schools, and routes with emergency services such as hospitals, doctors, fire and ambulance.

Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council operates a winter gritting programme in support of Norfolk County Council Highways. The Town Council will endeavour to help the highways authority by providing additional gritting for some footpaths and other pedestrian routes, but only after a significant covering of snow and only if the resources are available. The decision to grit will be taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairmen or other councillors.

The Highways Authority is responsible for providing grit and filling grit bins. Gritting can only be undertaken if grit is available.

The map below shows the priority one route in red. The priority one route includes the main shopping area and the most direct route from areas where residential housing is located. Priority one routes will be gritted first when possible. Priority two routes shown on the map in blue will be done as resources allow.

In addition the map shows the location of Grit Bins. Grit bins are provided for pavements, dangerous road junctions or very steep slopes; they are NOT to be used for personal driveways.

If there are other areas where urgent spreading is needed the Town Council will if possible try to help. Requests for this action are to be directed towards the Town Clerk.

There will be no gritting on private land owned by the Town Council with the exception of the Market Lane cemetery where the roadways will be gritted in line with priority two routes.

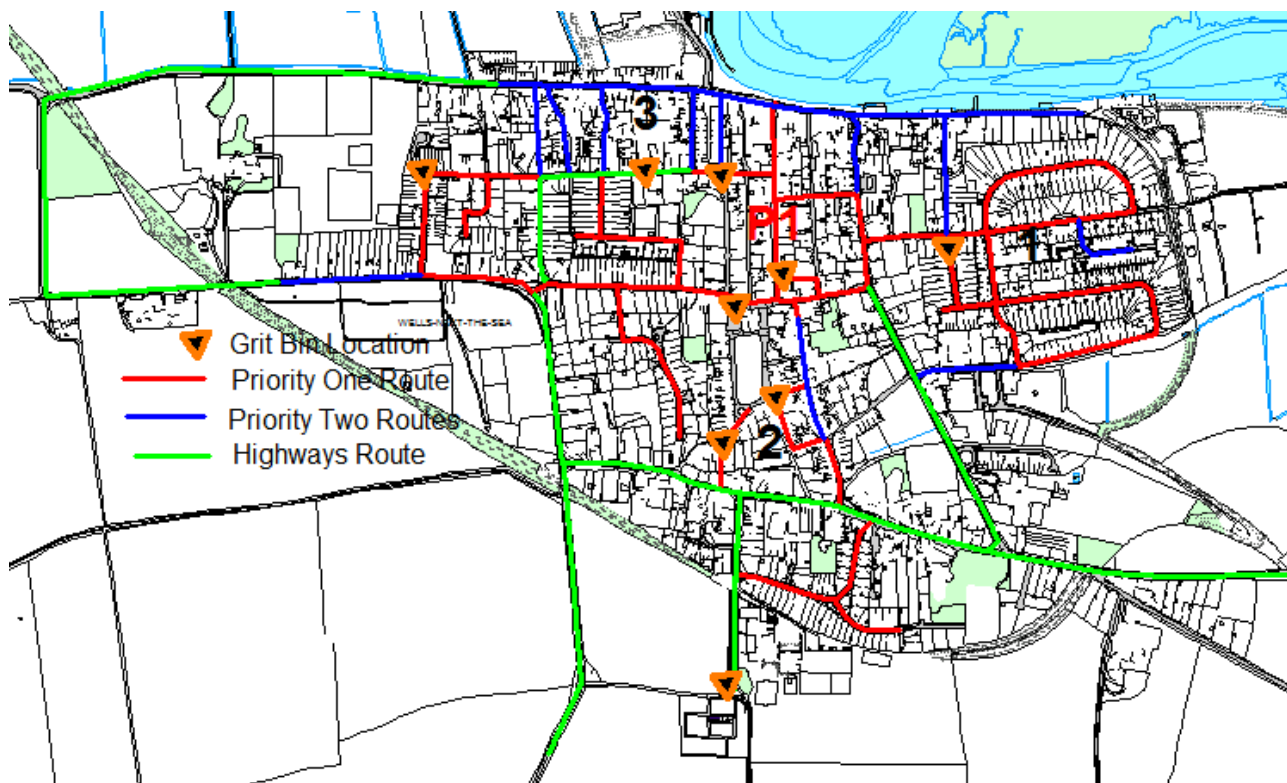
Other public spaces not owned by the town council, such as car parks and the quayside, remain the responsibility of the relevant authority.

If the severe weather continues and there are further significant amounts of snow the Town Council will endeavour to continue gritting subject to the availability of resources.



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Map: Gritting Plan



Operating Procedures

Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council has two pedestrian operated grit spreaders available for gritting. Using the grit from grit bins located about the town one or two operatives will follow the gritting plan detailed above. The red route should be completed first followed by the blue route if time and resources allow. The blue route has been divided into three sectors. The main roads are gritted by highways. Only pavements will be gritted with the exception of parts of Staithe Street and some of the narrow yards where no pavements exist.

There will be no snow clearance or activities other than grit spreading under this plan.

Where operatives are volunteers or employed by the council they will be insured by the town council. Contractors will need their own public liability insurance.

All operatives will be familiar with the plan and equipment. Gritting is strenuous work and all operatives need to be physically capable of the task. Suitable protection should be worn against the elements and high visibility clothing at all times. Gritting will only be done during the hours of daylight and will not be carried out in adverse weather.

If handling heavy objects or equipment manual handling techniques should be adhered to at all times.

Adopted by Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council Monday 2 December 2013



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