

Cononley Parish Council

Snow Clearance and Grit Bin Provision Policy.

Adopted April 2013

(1) North Yorkshire County Council Highways is the main, statutory, provider of snow clearance / gritting and grit for Cononley, however this service is:

(a) restricted to those routes designated as priority 1,2 & 3, and

(b) Grit bin provision is subject to their published criteria. In recent years, grit bins have been removed from the village as failing to meet the minimum criteria, despite the Parish Council's vehement opposition.

The following routes are currently NYCC Priority 1 routes:

Cononley Lane Ends junction, through the village via Main Street, turning right onto Skipton Road and following the road through Woodside and Carleton.

These routes should be treated by 7.00am subject to changes in the forecast.

The following routes are currently NYCC Priority 2 routes:

Junction of Crosshills Road and Park Road (at the top of Lingah Hill) to the junction of Crosshills Road and Main Street,

Netherghyll Lane

Gritters will move onto Priority 2 routes once Priority 1 routes have been gritted NYCC aim to treat by 10.00am

The following routes are Priority 3 routes:

Crag Lane, Airedale Ings, Meadow Lane, Meadow Close, Meadowcroft, Sun Street & Gordon Terrace

Priority 3 routes will not normally receive treatment unless NYCC know that the freezing conditions are likely to persist for more than 72 hours.

Note that NYCC will only treat pavements during periods of heavy snowfall after the main carriageway routes have been cleared.

Experience has shown that with 9,000km of road, 4,400km of which are part of the Priority 1 and 2 routes, the 4,500km of Priority 3 routes are rarely (if ever) treated. In 2011 Meadow Lane froze for over a week and was extremely dangerous for both pedestrians and cars. The Parish Council has therefore decided to put into place a snow response, which will be carried out by the Lengthman Contractor.

Attached to this policy is a map showing the roads which the Council will endeavour to clear in periods of heavy snowfall, where that snowfall is expected to last for more than 48 hours and cause a disturbance to residents' lives or danger to the vulnerable.

The roads or footpaths to be cleared are divided into Parish Council Priority A, B & C.

Priority A routes are roads which are major routes through or in/out of the village, or heavily populated area and footpaths leading from / to the railway station and bus stops which will not otherwise be gritted – effectively Meadow Lane and the footpath between Xhills Road and Main Street..

Priority B routes are footpaths leading from/to the railway station and bus stops which are alongside NYCC Priority 1 highways routes but which have a heavy footfall, and Airedale Ings. Airedale Ings has been included for reasons of practicality and it is expected that this would be cleared / gritted after the footpath and just before Priority C routes.

Priority C routes are those routes which NYCC designate as Priority 3 routes and which are unlikely to receive attention from NYCC on a first day of heavy snowfall, but which account for reasonably populated areas of the village, plus smaller roads where the road is steep.

Note: the Council will not grit or clear private / unadopted roads or drives.

(2) Provision of Parish Council funded grit bins

Cononley Parish Council considers that the provision of grit bins is properly the responsibility of NYCC highways and will always apply to NYCC for central provision before considering a request to fund a bin from Council monies. Where NYCC consider that a request for a grit bin fails their published criteria, the Parish Council will consider funding a bin. Such bins cost the Council an initial charge of £50 for the bin and £75 for up to 400kg of delivered grit/salt each year (if purchased from NYCC). If more than 400kg is used in one year then the Parish Council has to refill the bin itself.

The Parish Council will not install bins on private roads or drives. It is no the Parish Council's policy to provide bins on the highway, neither does it have a statutory obligation to do so. The Council may, however, do so through discretionary powers. It may consider requests to install bins where there are a large number of elderly or otherwise vulnerable residents, or there is a steep footpath and there is no NYCC bin provided. The siting of any bins requires the agreement of NYCC Highways before installation, and the provision of grit will be monitored and evaluated each year. Grit bins whose contents are abused or removed for private use may be withdrawn.

Requests for grit bins must be made to the Clerk early in the autumn: the Council does not keep a stock and it may take some weeks to arrange if the Parish Council approves the request.