



**OFFICER RESPONSE TO PETITIONER
LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)**

**GRITTING ON CHART LANE SOUTH
PETITION**

9 DECEMBER 2009

A petition signed by 800 residents was received from Councillor Burt on behalf of residents in Dorking, as follows:

We are appalled that the County Council intends to cease gritting Chart Lane South in order to save money. Two years ago, Neil Holland was critically injured and his son, Luke, killed due to sliding into an oncoming car as a result of the road at Abinger not being gritted.

The steep slope at the A24 end of Chart Lane South will cause cars to slide into oncoming traffic, and as each fatal accident costs the emergency services upwards of £100,000, this is a false economy.

In addition, buses will refuse to drive down the hill due to the dangerous conditions and residents of Chart Downs will be isolated, especially the elderly, infirm and those with young children.

We call upon Surrey County Council to reconsider this suggested action.

The Principal Asset Project Manager response:

Surrey County Council is committed to delivering a Winter Service in terms of both road safety and the economy. As a strategic road the A25 at Abinger remain on the Priority 1 salting network and had been treated in advance of the traffic incident.

The service has come under increasing pressure to meet both its statutory and local requirements and operate within the available budget. To comply with the legislation and changes in the network a comprehensive review of the service has been undertaken during 2009.

One of the key point identified during the review established that to achieve the old policy aspirations a considerable investment in resource and equipment would be required. By stream lining the precautionary salting network to align with Surrey Priority Network (SPN) a more effective delivery of service can be achieved within those areas.

As a result of the changes in policy a number of roads that had previously been included on the precautionary network including Chart Lane South have been removed due to their categorisation within the SPN. To cover this area a new priority 2 salting network has been introduced which will enhance the network coverage during periods of adverse weather.

Following Cabinet approval of the policy further consultation is taking place with the Chairs and Vice Chair of each of the Local Committees to explain the policy and prioritisation process that has taken place, and to consider any requests they might have for changes to the networks. Chart Lane South will be included in this process. Any requested changes which result in an increase in resource, will be required to be submitted to the Cabinet.

Until the consultation process has been completed with the local committees, for operational purposes precautionary salting will be undertaken on the proposed priority salting networks.