

Winter Event 2009/2010 – With Mole Valley Activities

1. After the winter event in February 2009 the Highways Service was asked to review its Winter Service Plan and this took place over the summer of 2009 with the final document going to Cabinet in September 2009.
2. The report reviewed the routes for treatment and the number/location of salt bins.
3. Winter service involves the treating the highway in order to:
 1. Prevent ice forming (known as precautionary salting;
 2. Melt ice and snow already formed (known as 'post salting');
 3. Removal of snow.
4. The defined period for winter service this financial year is October 23rd to April 9th, a twentyfour week period.
5. The County Council is responsible for all 'local roads', these are all public highways maintained through the public purse excluding those roads maintained by the Highway Agency: i.e. M25, M23 etc...
6. The highway network is divided into three categories for the purpose of winter, these are:
 1. Priority One:- approximately 37% of the highway network
 2. Priority Two:- approximately 13% of the highway network;
 3. Priority Three:- approximately 50% of the highway network.
7. The definition of the above priority roads can be seen in the Winter Service Plan which is on the County Council web site.
8. The Winter Service Plan also gives definitions for dividing the footway network into three categories.
9. There is no legal requirement to provide salt bins, though the County Council does recognise the 'self help' they can provide in appropriate locations with community assistance. Salt bins are not provided on Priority One routes.,

10. The County is divided into two areas for treatment: East and West.
The East is: Mole Valley, Spelthorne, Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge; the West is the remaining districts and boroughs.
11. The general decision making for whether the County Council 'grits' or not is taken by our two constructor partners through parameters laid down in the Winter Service Manual. The use of sophisticated weather prediction systems is key to the process as well daily contact with the meteorological office during events.
12. If there is 50mm of snow on the ground then the decision will be made 'locally' using the expertise of senior Surrey Highways staff to assist and or redirect limited resources if the supply of salt etc has been taken over by central government, as happened this year.
13. The fleet size for winter in the East is nineteen dedicated vehicles with three spare. In the West there are sixteen and two spares.
14. The current winter event started on the 17th December 2009 with cold temperatures and the first snow fall of any significance occurring very late that day. The East of the County put ploughs onto the vehicles in the early hours of the 18th December 2009 and ploughing took place on major / vulnerable routes that morning; the event continued until approximately 14th January 2010, but since then we have had regular gritting of the network.
15. During the event we have had two periods of freezing rain falling onto an already frozen surface causing chaos, these two events were not forecast and were of short duration but had a dramatic effect.
16. The worse phase of the winter event started on the 5th January 2010 and up to 300mm of snow fell in some areas with the mean being more in than 150mm.
17. At this time in early January 2010 there were concerns nationally with regards to the level of salt within the country for gritting. Some highway authorities had run out of salt and were unable to deal with the event. In order to conserve the Surrey salt stocks and be in line with national policy it was agreed by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Cllr Lake, and the Deputy Leader, Cllr Hodge, to reduce our gritting network to 'A' roads

only and key A & E hospitals. This policy was later extended to include 'isolated communities' that had no direct link to any 'A' road. This is still the current policy within the county due to the continuing national salt levels.

18. The following is a list of activities undertaken locally in Mole Valley over the more severe snow event:

- Heavy and significant snowfall overnight on 5th / 6th January.
- Accumulations of between 125mm (5 inches) and 200mm (8 inches) with drifting in places.
- Local crews mobilised from Beare Green Depot on Wednesday 6th January to carry out hand clearing and gritting in accordance with the County Councils Winter Service Plan (under local control).
- Additional resources were provided by Mole Valley District Council to assist in the operation of hand clearing and gritting in the town centre areas of Dorking and Leatherhead throughout the period. This was particularly valued and helped to achieve quicker response times in a number of areas.
- Officers worked with colleagues in the District Council to deploy resources where most needed. Community Highway officers directed operations on the ground and Highway Inspectors helped to assess areas of priority and when necessary, joined with the gritters to assist them when ploughing the main road network.
- Further resources were supplied by local contractors with additional pick up trucks, labour and tractors with snow ploughs.
- **Wednesday 6th January.** 6 gangs working in Dorking and Leatherhead town centres to hand clear and grit footways in the main shopping areas. 2 tractor snow ploughs clearing snow in rural areas of Coldharbour and Abinger and Beare Green.
- **Thursday 7th January.** 6 gangs hand clearing and gritting footways in: Dorking, West Street, South Street, Junction Road, London Road, links to station areas, Leatherhead, in and around the town centre, Bull Hill, Kingston Road and main pedestrian link routes. Ashtead shopping areas, Craddocks Parade, Barnett Wood Lane. Woodfield lane (c/way),

A24 subway access points, Pebble Hill (c/way). Tractor snow ploughs working in Capel and Newdigate areas.

- **Friday 8th January.** 6 gangs working to clear and grit footways outside shops in outlying communities and villages, including: Great Bookham, Fetcham, Charlwood, Betchworth, Brockham, North Holmwood, Westcott, Leatherhead (further link footways), Kingston Road, Plough roundabout shops area, Russ Hill (c/way). 3 tractor snow ploughs clearing roads in and around Newdigate, Beare Green, North Holmwood, West Humble, Mickleham areas.
- **Saturday 9th January.** Further heavy snow accumulations overnight. 4 gangs back to main shopping area in Dorking and Leatherhead to clear High Street footways again. Clearing footways in the vicinity of secondary schools in Dorking and Leatherhead in preparation for 'A' level students on Monday morning. 2 Tractor Snow ploughs clearing roads in Ockley and Walliswood areas.
- **Sunday 10th January.** Hand clearing footways in the vicinity of secondary schools in preparation for 'A' level students on Monday. Road routes to schools also gritted: Therfield School Leatherhead clearing Dilston Road carriageway and footways, Kingston Road (parts), Cleeve Road (part). Downsend School Leatherhead Clearing Grange Road and Leatherhead Road. Ashcombe School Dorking, clearing all footways around school entrances and coach drop off points on London Road, Ashcombe Road. The Priory School (and Powell-Corderoy). Clearing Hampstead lane, Longfield Road, Parts of West Bank, The Struggle, parts of South Street/ Vincent Lane. 2 tractor snow ploughs Capel area .
- **Monday 11th January.** 5 gangs clearing footways of snow, ice and gritting outside infant and junior schools throughout the District (see listing below). 2 tractor ploughs ploughing Priority 2 (P2) routes.

Swan Lane, Charlwood

Village School, Village Street Newdigate

Village School, Tapners Road, Leigh

Little Acorns, The Street, Betchworth
Brockham School, Wheelers Lane, Brockham
Scott Broadwood School. Junction of The Street & Vicarage Lane
Scott Broadwood School, School Lane
The Weald, Newdigate Road, Beare Green
St Martin's School, Pixham Lane, Dorking
Dorking Nursery, West Street, Dorking
Powell Corduroy, Longfield Road, Dorking
St John's Primary, Goodwyns Road, Dorking
St Paul's Road West,
St Joseph's Primary, Vincent Lane, Dorking
St Martin's School, Ranmore Road, Dorking
Starhurst, Chart Lane South
Abinger Common, Abinger Road
Westcott Infants, School Lane, Westcott
St Michael's Infants, School Lane, Mickleham
Howard Of Effingham, Lower Road, Effingham
St Lawrence Pimary School, Lower Road, Effingham
Eastwick Junior, Eastwick Drive, Bookham
Eastwick Infants, Eastwick Park Avenue
Polesden Lacey Infants, Oakdene Close, Bookham
Dawnay School, Griffin Way, Bookham
Fetcham Village Infants, School Lane, Fetcham
Oakfield Junior School, Bell Lane, Fetcham
St Andrews School & St Peter's Primary, Grange Road, Ashtead
West Ashtead Primary, Taleworth Road, Ashtead
Barnett Wood Lane School, Ashtead
St Giles School, Dene Road, Ashtead
Greville Primary School, Stonny Croft, Ashtead
Woodlands School & St Mary's C of E School, Forty Foot Road,
Leatherhead
St John's School
Leatherhead Trinity Primary, Woodville Road, Leatherhead
West Hill School, Kingston Road, Leatherhead

- **Tuesday 12th January.** 5 gangs clearing and gritting footways and further visits to expand school sites, Chart Downs Dorking, Goodwyns Dorking, The Street Charlwood, Barnett Wood Lane Ashtead. Hand grit carriageways, Ansti Lane, Broomhall Road, Friday Street, Sheephouse lane. 2 tractor snow ploughs in Brockham and Betchworth areas, Fetcham area, Kennel lane, Penrose Road, Cock Lane, Headley Road and Headley area, Wotton area, Sheephouse lane, Friday Street in conjunction with hand gangs to help clear trapped lorries.
- **Wednesday 13th January.** Further snowfall. 8 gangs hand clearing High Street areas in Dorking, Leatherhead, Ashtead and outlying villages again. 4 tractor snow ploughs working in pairs in Dorking Rural, Dorking Hills and Dorking and The Holmwoods areas. Thaw setting in and additional gangs and resources demobilised at end of working day.
- **Thursday 14th January.** Community pay back team clearing footways in Dorking, Beare Green and Capel areas under the direction of the Community Highways Officer. Resume normal working arrangements.