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Sent: 12 January 2010 11:49
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: GCC press release - Focussing on pavement salting
Attachments: _AVG certification_.txt

Importance: High

12th January 2010

Council focussing efforts on salt for pavements

Gloucestershire County Council is increasing the amount of salt available for gritting town centres and pavements.

The decision was taken to support local businesses and to encourage people to continue travelling into town centres.

The council has contacted the six district councils to inform them that more salt is available and to ask them to focus on town centre pavements to ensure people can access their shops.

We will be contacting Chambers of Commerce to ask for their help in treating footways.

In Gloucester and Cheltenham, the city and borough councils already treat the town centres on our behalf, but we have offered them additional salt and asked them to focus on shop fronts to improve this service.

The council is also trying to contact town and parish councils who aren't already helping us clear pavements to encourage them to do so.

Some parish and town councils collect the salt from our highways depots to ensure their local bins remain stocked and we would encourage others to follow suit.

People concerned about the legal implications of salting pavements themselves shouldn't worry.

The latest guidance from the Government's Cabinet Office says:

"We wouldn't expect courts to find individuals who clear pavements liable for injuries, provided this that is done in a reasonable manner."

To be able to provide the additional salt the council is using a mix of white salt and grit, which allows us to conserve our grit for treating the roads.

Cllr Stan Waddington, cabinet member for environment, said: "We know one of the biggest concerns people have at the moment is slippery pavements and town centres.

"It is not physically possible for us to treat the county's 1,500 miles of pavement ourselves but we are significantly increasing the amount of salt available to the district and parish councils to treat on our behalf.

"Working together we can help support our local businesses by improving access to town centres and encouraging people to visit.

"I would also ask residents to do their bit - we're still filling grit bins so please use this in your neighbourhood."

Snow is predicted for later today and tomorrow, but the forecast is improving for later in the week.

To keep the county moving, the council will continue to grit all A roads and a limited number of B roads – that carry 75% of county’s traffic, in line with Government guidance.

Snow plough wardens and farmers are also on standby in the more rural areas to help remove snow from the roads.

Driving conditions will remain to be hazardous so extreme caution should be taken when using your vehicle.

Motorists should continue to drive slowly at all times.

Notes to Editors

Primary Strategic Network being gritted:

West Area

Road No.	Description
A417	Gloucester to M50
A48	A40 to southern county border (Chepstow)
A4136	West county border (Monmouth) to A40
B4228	A4136 to Chepstow via Coleford
B4234	A4136 to Lydney
A4151	Through Cinderford to A48
B4215	A40 to Newent
B4221	Newent to M50
B4226	Cinderford to Coleford
A466	West border (Monmouth) to Bigsweir
B4632	Winchcombe to Toddington
B4077	Toddington to A46

Central Area

Road No.	Description
A38	Gloucester to South Gloucestershire border
A38	Gloucester to Worcestershire border
A438	Ashchurch, Tewkesbury to M5
A419	Stroud to M5
A419	Stroud to Cirencester
A46	Stroud to Cheltenham
A46	Stroud to South Gloucestershire border
A4019	A38 to Cheltenham
A4135	A46 via Dursley to A38
Various	Gloucester City/Cheltenham Borough (as existing published Key Routes)
A435	Cheltenham to A46
A4173	Pitchcombe to Gloucester
B4058	Wotton-Under-Edge towards M5
B4632	Cheltenham to Winchcombe

East Area

Road No.	Description
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A429	Wilshire border to Warwickshire border
A40	Oxfordshire border to Cheltenham
A435	Cirencester to Cheltenham
A436	Air Balloon Roundabout to A40 (including A436 spur at Andoversford)
A436	A40 Andoversford to Bourton-on-the-Water
A433	South of Cirencester through Tetbury to A46 and Dunkirk
A4135/B4014	Wiltshire border through Tetbury to A46 Calcot Crossroads
A4135	A46 Calcot Crossroads to Dursley
A46	South Gloucestershire border to Stroud
A419	Cirencester to Stroud
A417	Cirencester to Lechlade
A361	Lechlade to Oxfordshire border
A424	Oxfordshire boundary to A44 at Troopers Lodge
A44	Warwickshire border (Fish Hill) through Moreton in Marsh to Oxfordshire border
A436	Stow on the Wold to Oxfordshire border

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