

Fulking Parish Council Winter Plan 2018-2019 (Draft)

This plan outlines what resources and actions Fulking Parish Council will deploy in conjunction with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to maintain access to and from Fulking during the winter.

West Sussex County Council is responsible for all highways in West Sussex except the A23 and A27 which are managed by the Highways Agency. WSCC produces a "Winter Service Plan" (link below) which outlines their policies and actions to be taken.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/winter-service/>

A key part of their winter plan is the "precautionary salting networks" where the road surface will be treated based on the forecast for the area and the priority of the road. West Sussex is divided into three forecast areas to reflect the diverse weather conditions often experienced across the county.

Fulking lies within the "Inland Domain" forecast area and the main street from Poynings through Fulking to Edburton is a Priority 3 road in the precautionary salting network. Clappers Lane is not part of the network.

Although Fulking is part of the salting network, because it is a Priority 3 road, resources may be allocated by WSCC to the higher priority routes if there are severe conditions or a shortfall in resources e.g grit and gritters. This means that the road may not be treated in extreme conditions and snow ploughs may not be sent to clear the road.

Fulking Parish Council has purchased a number of grit bins for use by local residents to supplement the activities of WSCC and details of these are contained within this plan. In addition in extreme weather conditions WSCC will authorise and pay local farmers under their "Community Winter Offer" to clear local roads and the details for Fulking are also included within this plan.

1. Communication

Local Contact for Fulking

Parish Clerk
Name Trevor Parsons
Email parishclerk@fulking.net
Tel 07767 422733

WSCC Highways Contact

Southern Area Office – Winter Service Duty Manager
Tel 01243 642105

2. Daily Decision Report and Gritter Twitter feed

Every day around noon WSCC receives a 24-hour weather forecast together with road temperature sensor data. They use this information to help decide on what action to take including activating the precautionary salting networks.

The Daily Decision report will normally be issued by WSCC between 1 October and 31st April and can be viewed on Twitter with the following hashtag: #grittertwitter AND from: @WSHighways

The Daily Decision report will still be issued to Parish Clerks via email. It details which parts of the 'Precautionary network' are to be treated and includes weather forecasts for all regions within West Sussex.

The Daily Decision is to be emailed to the Fulking Parish Clerk at parishclerk@fulking.net

3. Actions to be taken in severe winter conditions:

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will discuss and agree actions in the following areas:

- a) **Farmer Snow Clearance** (also see section 7 below)
WSCC use set criteria to decide whether they will fund snow clearance by local farmers. It is intended as a response to significant weather events only. If WSCC decide to authorise they will email the Fulking Parish Clerk and our agreed local farmer.

The Parish Clerk will advise the Chairman and Vice Chairman if Farmer snow clearance has been approved by WSCC.

If WSCC have not approved snow clearance and following discussions between the Chairman, Vice Chairman and other Councillors, it is considered necessary, FPC may agree to fund snow clearance from its own resources.

The Chairman or Vice Chairman will contact the relevant parties to action the snow clearance.

- b) **Supplemental Gritting** (also see sections 4 & 5 below)
Residents will be encouraged to undertake supplemental gritting to local paths/highways, especially those which have been identified as problem areas below. A copy of the Snow Code issued by the Department of Transport offers useful advice and is shown below.

Supplemental gritting can be carried out by anybody in the local area and please do not assume that this is somebody else's duty to spread the grit. The grit bins are unlocked to allow access.

- c) **4 X 4 Volunteers** (also see section 6 below)
Decide if 4 X 4 volunteers are needed (e.g. to get medication or food basics for local residents) and alert volunteers.

4. Road Problem Areas

The following areas have been identified as likely to cause problems in icy and snowy conditions:

- a) Hill running west from Shepherd & Dog pub in The Street to Perching Manor Farmhouse in Edburton Road.
Problem: hill, bend and surface water commonly accumulates.
- b) Hill running up east from Shepherd & Dog pub to Primrose Cottage in The Street.
Problem: hill and tight bend.
- c) Southern end of Clappers Lane towards junction with The Street
Problem: hill and tight bend

- d) Corner in Clappers Lane adjacent to Lower Kent's
Problem: water accumulates
- e) Bridge over stream in Clappers Lane close to Knowle House
Problem: water accumulates
- f) Hill running south from Sunnyacres in Clappers Lane.
Problem: hill.
- g) Hill running north from Badgerwood Stables in Clappers Lane.
Problem: hill.
- h) Junction of northern end of Clappers Lane starting from junction with Holmbush Lane running to junction with Henfield A281 road.
Problem: hill and junction to busy road.

5. Grit Bins and Bags

To help keep the local roads open several grit bins have been installed in strategic locations in the parish. A "grit audit" is undertaken once a year, usually in May/June by one of FPC Councillors and WSCC have agreed to top up those bins, which are showing less than 75%, by the end of October. In addition some Grit Bags are located at Perching Manor Farm to provide additional resources in case of need.

The grit bins are sited in the following locations:

1. The Street, junction with Stammers Hill - problem road area 4 (a) and (b)
2. The Street, junction with Clappers Lane - problem road area 4 (c)
3. Clappers Lane opposite Lower Kents - problem road area 4 (d)
4. Clappers Lane adjacent to bridge over stream – problem road area 4 (e)
5. Clappers Lane top of hill close to Sunnyacres - problem road area 4 (f)
6. Clappers Lane outside Furzefield – problem road area 4 (g)
7. Clappers Lane junction of Holmbush Lane - problem road area 4 (h)

6. 4x4 volunteers

As a small village, there is close contact between residents and owners of a number of 4x4 vehicles. There is an informal network of support. FPC will continue to review whether it will be necessary in the future to define a more formal system.

7. Local Farmer Snow Clearance – Contact Details

David Ellin at Perching Manor Farm is willing to clear snow from the roads in Fulking if required and authorised. (see Section 3a above). His contact details, a copy of his public liability insurance and a map of the roads to be cleared (shown in section 8) have been provided to WSCC for agreement.

Contact



Farm

B D Harris Farm Trust,
Perching Manor Farm, The Drove, Fulking, Henfield

8. Roads to be cleared (also see map below)

1. Main road through Fulking

From Edburton in the west to Poynings in the east

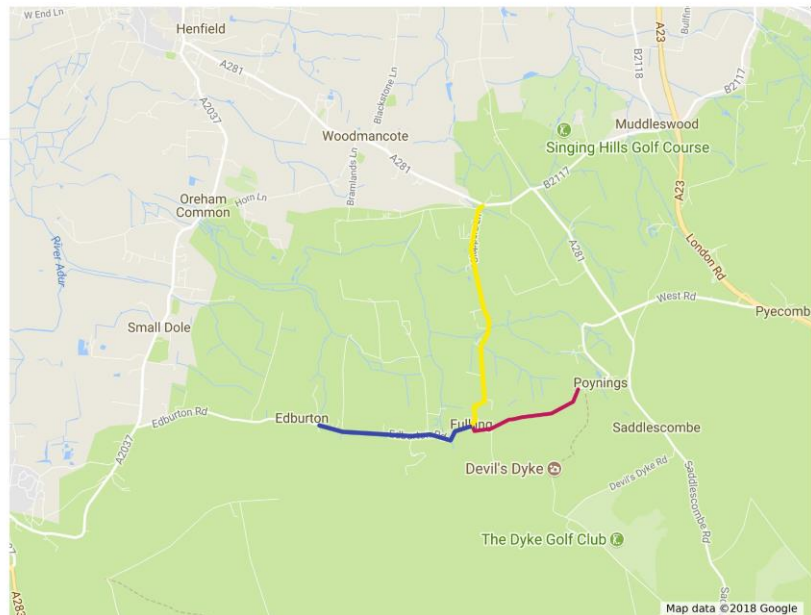
2. Clappers Lane

Running from the junction with the Street in Fulking at the southern end to the junction with the A281 Henfield Road at the northern end.

Fulking Parish Council Snow Clearance Map

Roads for Snow Clearance

-  Edburton Road
-  Clappers Lane
-  Poynings Road



THE SNOW CODE

CLEARING YOUR PATH OR DRIVEWAY

Clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside your home or public spaces can help prevent slips and falls. Here's some handy advice issued by the Department for Transport.

Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice from the [Department for Transport](#) below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively. And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully.

TRAVELLING IN SNOW AND SEVERE WEATHER

If you want to know about travelling in snow, we have advice about [driving in snow and other severe weather](#).

CLEAR THE SNOW AND ICE EARLY IN THE DAY

It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. So if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.

CLEAR AND PREVENT SLIPS

- Pay extra attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas.
- Use salt or sand - not water. If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery.
- You can melt snow or prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Don't use the salt found in salting bins - this will be needed to keep the roads clear unless your council advises otherwise. Please contact your local council for more advice.
- Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may damage them.
- If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt, but will provide good grip underfoot.

TAKE CARE WHERE YOU MOVE THE SNOW

When you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

OFFER TO CLEAR YOUR NEIGHBOURS' PATHS

If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, try contacting their relatives or friends, or if necessary the local council.

WINTER SERVICES FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

Your local council will provide many winter services such as clearing local roads and pavements in your area. For information about your council's winter service, check its website.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/winter-service/>

This Snow Code advice comes from the [Department for Transport](#).