

Newton St Cyres Parish Council Snow Plan

November 2025

The purpose of this Snow Plan is to describe the assistance that the Parish Council can undertake to support parishioners during periods of cold weather. The Snow Plan has been written with the support of Devon County Council.

It is **not** the role of the Parish Council to maintain all roads within the Parish free of snow and ice. **Parishioners must exercise their own judgement and take due care when using or clearing roads and paths during cold weather.**

Roads in the Parish gritted by Devon County Council

The A377 throughout the Parish and Station Road, as far as the Beer Engine Pub (to allow access to the station) are gritted by Devon County Council.

Grit Bins within the Parish

The following locations within the parish have a grit bin.

- The village green
- The entrance to Tytheing Close
- Court Orchard
- At the bend in Sand Down Lane
- The entrance to Kingfisher Close
- Halfway up Pump Street
- At the top end of New Estate
- Shute Cross

The contents of these bins are monitored by Snow Warden Volunteers and pre-agreed roads/paths are gritted when appropriate, as described below. The grit/salt is for use on public paths and roads rather than private property, except where paths need to be made safe for elderly residents.

Additionally, some volunteer households may store one or two bags of grit/salt to treat agreed paths/roads some distance from the grit bins.

There is a store of grit/salt on the Quicke's Home Farm. This can be accessed by contacting John Quicke or the farm manager. (needs checking)

The Snow Warden

The current Snow Warden for Newton St Cyres is:

Elizabeth Ouldrige, Parish Council lead for Community Resilience

Address: Kuredu, New Estate, Newton St Cyres, Exeter EX5 5AR

Email: lizouldridge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk

Phone: 07752 959845

The role of the Snow Warden is to

- Order salt/grit supplies from this website: [Salt Ordering - Devon Highways](#)
- Report any problems with community grit bins to DCC.
- Keep a register of local trained volunteers (see the list later in this document)
- Receive and respond locally to weather alerts (alerts will be received from the Met Office and communicated to the volunteer snow wardens via the Community Resilience WhatsApp group).
- Organise and deploy volunteers to clear snow through the WhatsApp group **if** this is deemed appropriate. The volunteers will be members of the Community Resilience Group.
- Organise and deploy volunteers through the WhatsApp group to spread salt when icy conditions are forecast. In this case, the volunteers will probably be the Snow Warden Volunteers, although other members of the Community Resilience Group may take part.
- Encourage the responsible use of salt and help to minimise the abuse of salt within communities.
- Maintain suitable links with Devon County Council.

Snow Warden Volunteers

- Snow wardens are volunteers. They can only help in the time they have available. They are not responsible for keeping the road network clear.
- There is a snow warden volunteer associated with each grit bin. (see below for list)
- The main role of the snow warden volunteer is as follows:
 - They should monitor the amount and quality of grit/salt in their bin to ensure it is ready for use. Should the bin be less than 75% full, then they should contact the Snow Warden via the WhatsApp so that it can be refilled.
 - If requested to do so, via the WhatsApp group, they should scatter grit on the pre-agreed areas around their bin.
 - The amount scattered should be kept to a minimum; about a tablespoon (small handful) / square metre. The method of scattering should be like sowing grass seed, aiming to get an even coverage.
 - If they have concerns about a vulnerable neighbour, they should inform the WhatsApp Group so that help can be arranged.
 - They may, **if they feel able and it is appropriate**, help to clear snow.
 - They should work carefully and safely following the guidelines at the end of this document.

The Grit Bin Areas (Contact nos.removed for publication on website)

Site	Volunteer and contact no.	Areas to be gritted
The village green	Jim Fuller	The footpaths around and to the old peoples' bungalows. The footpath to the main road.
The entrance to Tytheing Close	Andrew Hookway	Footpaths around Tytheing Close
Court Orchard (2 bins)	Marcus Iles	The footpaths around and to the old peoples' bungalows. The footpath to the main road.
At the bend in Sand Down Lane	Jane Hole	Junction of Sand Down Lane with Pump Street
The entrance to Kingfisher Close	Dave Rowell,	Footpaths and selected part of Kingfisher Close
Halfway up Pump Street	Dan Howarth	The steep slope on Pump street
At the top end of New Estate	Liz Ouldrige Emma Parkin	The slopes at the top and bottom of New Estate

Additional Grit Storage

Halses Graeme Barnell – bend and slope around Halses

Home Farm, Quicke's Estate also holds a reserve supply.

Working Safely

When working outside in cold conditions:

- Plan what you intend to do and keep others informed.
- Wear suitable clothing and PPE (warm, reflective etc)
- Tell people where you are going, how long you will be gone and if using a vehicle.
- Take a fully charged mobile phone, making regular WhatsApp reports on progress and safety.
- Check the weather forecast before you go out.
- Check that you are clearly visible on site and that it is safe to work there.
- Spread salt/grit according to recommended amounts

Do not:

- Wear all dark clothing – you need to be visible
- Try to achieve too much at once.
- Undertake heroic levels of work. Do what is well within your capacity. If in doubt, do not do it.
- Work in the dark without appropriate PPE.
- Work during severe weather – your safety is important.
- Spread grit/salt too heavily – supplies may be limited.
- Use water to treat ice or snow – as when it refreezes, it may make the problem worse.

Insurance Cover

Devon County Council has third party liability claims as a result of snow/ice clearance having been undertaken on the highway in accordance with their advice/training.

Devon County Council does not cover:

- Self-injury to Snow Wardens or volunteers – this is at their own risk (first party)
- Damage caused during snow clearance, manually or with machinery (second party)