

Ready for Winter: salt storage now at record capacity

The salt storage facilities run by Bath & North East Somerset Council are now at record capacity in preparation for another tough winter on the area's roads. Some 2,300 tonnes is ready for spreading by the Council's nine-strong fleet of gritting vehicles when temperatures plunge.

Over 38% of the road network is salted by the Council – this totals 261 miles of highway and is 8% higher than the national average. An extra 20 grit bins have been added to local communities bringing the total across the district to over 400.

Councillor Roger Symonds (Lib-Dem, Combe Down), Cabinet Member for Transport, said, "For the past few months, Bath & North East Somerset Council has been busy preparing for a harsh winter. Our increased salt storage means our gritting on prioritised routes can continue for longer which could prove invaluable if there are breakdowns in the national salt supply chain which all local councils are dependent on."

"We will also shortly be releasing details about the Council's Snow Warden Scheme, the initiative encouraging people to volunteer to help clear snow and ice the Council can't get to, which is one of the first schemes of its kind in the country."

A substantial amount of information is available on the Council's website - www.bathnes.gov.uk/severeweatherganda - about the approach to dealing with severe winter weather on highways and pavements. This includes Government guidance on householders clearing snow and ice outside their home.

Kelvin Packer, Council Service Manager for Highways and Parking, said, "The weather forecast will be monitored 24 hours a day using real time data from two weather stations. We also obtain detailed forecasts from a specialist supplier of weather information about the likely effect on road conditions. The Council is well prepared to ensure our priority routes are gritted so that people can get around the road network as safely as possible."

During any severe winter weather the Council provides regular updates about the status of its services on www.twitter.com/bathnes

The public can also play their part in helping the Council to manage the road network during severe weather. They can report any problems on:

Web: www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit

Email: councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk

Text SMS: 07797 806545

Call: 01225 39 40 41 during working hours

In an emergency call 01225 477477.