

Snow Wardens

Environment and Economy

County Highways Policy
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Dear Snow Wardens

Warwickshire Voluntary Snow Warden Scheme - 2010/11

As I'm sure you will remember, last winter we had a lot of snow and ice across the UK and this led to most local authorities having to concentrate on main roads, and not clearing quieter roads and pavements. We've already had our first spell of snow and ice, with more likely over the coming weeks, so how do we make sure we can still get around on foot safely?

As snow wardens you will endeavour to enlist help from your neighbours, and clear, pavements, drives and cul de sacs and in so doing greatly assist the local community and vulnerable people. This will let the council focus on it's priority routes used by 90 per cent of county's traffic. We will still grit the main routes, that's obviously our responsibility – but this is a practical way of getting resources to areas that are more isolated and will be based on your local knowledge as a priority to your community.

There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path, if you have cleared it carefully. Follow the attached snow code when clearing snow and ice safely

We thank you for volunteering to be a Snow Warden, your local input will be most appreciated during any severe weather spells.

Yours sincerely



Bryn Patefield
County Highways Policy Group

Winter Service

Warwickshire County Council Snow Warden Scheme

Snow Warden Scheme

The County Council have launch a trial network of voluntary Snow wardens appointed by the Parish/Town Councils, Housing Associations, Resident Groups or District Councils. Snow Warden Functions during severe weather will be:



- To provide information to the County Highways Team on the local situation during the period of severe weather conditions;
- To consult with the Area Teams on the local needs and determine jointly what local action to take , if necessary, to supplement the operation of the department. Priority will be given to busy footway areas and area outside shops and schools and steep areas agreed in advance;
- When conditions warrant it the Area Teams will sanction the treatment of agreed village / town footways from salt supplied from the existing grit bins or at agreed locations from additional sealed bags as resources allow;
- Any works undertaken will follow the suggested guidelines released late last week in the government Snow Code as highlighted below.

Government Snow Code

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public space.

If an accident did happen, it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you:

- are careful;
- use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before.

People using area affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

Tips and advice on clearing snow and ice:

1. Start Early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it;
2. Don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury;
3. Be a good neighbour - Some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property;
4. If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels;
5. make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on;
6. spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming – table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it;
7. pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients;
8. use the sun to your advantage – removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight;
9. if there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives.

Useful Contact Details

For **all** Winter Matters in Warwickshire Contact:

01926 412515

countyhighways@warwickshire.gov.uk

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/roads
