

Quedgeley Town Council Adverse Weather Plan

This adverse weather plan, sets out what the Town Council will do during adverse weather with a focus on winter maintenance.

Quedgeley Town Council has responsibility for the following external areas:

- Quedgeley Community Centre Car Park
Hours of occupation (All day – 08:00 – 22:00hrs)
Approximate daily users - 150
- Waterwells Car Park
Hours of occupation (Evenings from about 18:00-22:00hrs)
Approximate daily users - 150
- Kingsway Pavilion Car Park
Hours of occupation – Sporadic usage
Approximate daily users - 100
- Kingsway Community Centre (directly outside the door only)
Hours of occupation (All day – 08:00 – 22:00hrs)
Approximate daily users - couple hundred daily.
- Goosebay Drive allotments car parking Unknown
- St James Churchyard Unknown
- Druids Oak Play Park Unknown
- Woolstorp Play Park Unknown
- Bristol Road Rec Play Park Unknown

Car parks are open in line with the building opening hours. The council currently does not provide grit bins. The council car parks are not pay and display car parks, with parking provided free.

Gritting of the pathway to the front and rear of the town council main office is the responsibility of the landlord JLL.

A risk assessment has been written for each premises that includes slips, trips and falls.

Local and national weather forecasts are checked by Town Council staff during winter.

User groups are given the choice of whether to use council buildings during winter if heating fails.

If the Town Council receives reports of dangerous slipping, the following action will take place:

The Town Council will post on our facebook and the council website regarding weather warnings that affect the locality. The Town Council will call the user groups of buildings to warn them of any reported issues.

The Town Council currently employ 10 staff (4 office staff, 3 cleaning staff and 3 litter pickers). No full time staff are employed by the Town Council. One self-employed handy man is contracted by the council to support with works.

The approximate cost to the Council of gritting the above areas is:

- Salt £10 per bag – at least 15 Bags required per premises £150 x 3 premises = £450 x 2 per day (AM and PM) = £900 X 5 days £4500.
- Hourly rate of contractor = £15.45. Time to grit and regrit (AM and PM) £30.90, x 3 places x 5 days per week £463.50.

At present, it is not deemed to be reasonably practicable that the council grit external areas, given:

- There is a lack of resources to grit if there is snow and a refreeze once grit has been applied. No car parks are manned by council staff.
- The then expectation by users and members of the public that there will be an expectation to provide gritting.

The council have considered:

- The likelihood that someone may be injured.

The risk of ice in cold weather is an obvious danger.

- Seriousness of the injury that may incur.
Injury from a slip could be either trivial or serious.
- The social value of the activity which gives rise to the risk.
The town councils car parks are open during the hours the buildings are opened. The key holders open the car parks. If gritting was required, the council would likely close car parks in periods of adverse weather, which would therefore lose a valuable social amenity. This would cause considerable inconvenience to local residents and visitors.
- The cost of preventative measures. Are too high a burden that the council should have to grit all car parks by hand. This would involve significant use of staff and resources and are disproportionate and expensive in relation to the overall level of risk. This would also divert resources away from the council which are more required elsewhere.
- There is also generally no duty to protect against obvious danger.
Car parks would either need to be manned or regularly gritted which would be very difficult to manage. Gritting would need to be done by hand which would use significant resource that was disproportionate to the risk.

Relevant Legislation

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
Occupiers Liability Act 1957, Section 2(2)

Relevant Civil Case Law

Tomlinson v Congleton Borough Council [2003]
Yew v Gloucestershire County Council (2013)
Cook v Swansea City Council [2017]
Cairns v Dundee City Council [2017]
Goodes v East Sussex [2000]
Webster v Cannox Chase []
Pajak v Bath & North East Somerset Council []