

WINTER PREPARATIONS

Since the exceptional cold of last winter one of the main concerns of the Parish Council has been to make sure, as far as possible, that we are well prepared for the approaching winter in case it proves to be as severe as the last. The measures taken so far include:

1. Signing up to the Devon County Council (DCC) Snow Warden scheme which will entitle the parish to about 4 tons of free salt from DCC, to be used as we in the parish think best. Cllr. Robbins has been appointed Parish Snow Warden and he will co-ordinate our efforts aided by the rest of the Emergency Planning Team.
His contact details are: tel: 880509; email: justin.robbins3@btopenworld.com.
2. Three new salt/ grit bins have been ordered from DCC to be sited at Yeo Park, Dunstone Green and Bowden Hill.
3. The employment of a contractor to store salt and spread it on roads that are not included in the DCC schedule: Torr Hill and the roads to Yeo Park and Dunstone, .

Clearly there is a limit to what DCC and the Parish Council can achieve and a successful response will depend on everyone who can help, helping others and themselves as much as possible. Here are some common sense measures:

- a) We suggest that in each road in the village a **Winter Volunteer** (please email name to Cllr. Robbins) is appointed who can keep some salt and organize his/ her neighbours so that they can be responsible for ensuring, as far as possible, that their road remains useable by traffic and pedestrians. And that elderly/ frail/ vulnerable residents are checked and helped as necessary
- b) It would help greatly if all householders were to assist, if they are able, by clearing snow away from the pavement and road in front of their houses. **Be assured that by helping in this way you will not become liable to insurance claims**
- c) It is recommended that snow should be cleared as soon as possible after it has fallen, certainly before it has been compacted by vehicles and feet. Then salt should be spread, to prevent ice forming, at the rate of 1 **tablespoonful per square metre** - more is wasteful and possibly harmful.
- d) Every household would find it to useful to obtain a **snow shovel**.
- e) **Ice gripping overshoes** are very effective and will enable you to walk safely and with confidence on ice and compacted snow - strongly recommended. There are several types on the market/ Internet, average cost seems to be about £20; money well spent if it prevents falls and fractures.
- f) If snow is forecast, and you have to drive somewhere, consider moving your car near to a main road which will be treated by DCC Highways Department and so kept clear. If you do this **park with consideration of other road users**.
- g) Roads to be gritted by DCC are the A379, the road to Newton Ferrers and the road to Smithaleigh
- h) Finally, keep in close touch through the **Yealmpton Parish Council website**, www.yealmpton-parishcouncil.org.uk where we will post up-to-date information about our plans and arrangements as they are adapted to cope with whatever the weather throws at us.
devon.gov.uk/winter_travel will also provide useful information/ advice.