

APPENDIX A	
Consultee	Representation
BARKESTONE, PLUNGAR & REDMILE	<p>Your letter of 4th March requesting feedback on gritting was presented to our council meeting on 9th March. Please see below the comment that was agreed.</p> <p>It was agreed that there is no MBC gritting in the parish. LCC was generally good and salt bins were restocked during the prolonged spell of snow and ice. Some roads should be added to gritting route especially Granby Lane Plungar and Whatton Road Redmile both in conjunction with Notts. County Council as these are main routes from the Vale to Nottingham.</p>
BOTTESFORD	<p>Comment from Councillor Wright :</p> <p>At last wks PC mtg I did ask the council to respond to your letter, with no adverse comment coming from that request, suggest they were also satisfied.</p>
BROUGHTON & OLD DALBY	<p>Re your letter of 4th March our main problems were the lack of gritting. We appreciate that you can't do every where but do think that more use could be made of grit bins. These would be particularly useful on Paradise Lane/Church Lane, the bottom of Wood Hill and Hawthorn Close.</p> <p>In Ab Kettleby we had a serious problem in that Holwell that wasn't gritted and again residents would be happy to have a couple of grit bins to do the work themselves.</p>
BUCKMINSTER	<p>Most roads were treacherous and the Parish Council's view is that this winter probably overwhelmed the Council's capacity to ensure a comprehensive response to the conditions. It appeared that bus routes were gritted regularly although the response to the first snows was slow. Consequently, the main streets in both Buckminster and Sewstern were generally clear. However, it appeared that no priority was given to the B676 which was a surprise as it is the main HGV route from Melton Mowbray to the A1.</p> <p>Back street in Buckminster and other roads off the main streets were very hazardous.</p>

**BURTON &
DALBY**

Parish Councillors have made the following comments for your consideration:

1. It is on record that Cross Lane and New Road in Burton Lazars were not gritted until representations were made to the management, in this case Mr M Sheldrake. Though the gritting crews stated that the grit had been applied this was not the case.
2. The Customer Service function is too remote in these urgent cases and responses are not forthcoming within a reasonable timescale.
3. A survey of grit bins should be carried out across the borough now in readiness for next winter.
4. The attention paid to minor roads in extreme conditions is very poor and Councillors suggest reverting to the payment of local farmers to clear these routes at such times.
5. Melton Mowbray Town Centre was a disaster this year, winter 2009/10. The paths remained un-gritted throughout, except where shop keepers used their initiative, and the roads into town, especially Burton Hill were similarly given scant attention. This situation needs a better response next year.

Though not occupying sheltered housing there are many parishioners who are frail and a number of falls in public areas were reported to us along with requests for grit bins.

Councillors trust this information is of assistance to your review and that it will enable improvements to be made before onset of the 2010/11 winter.

**CROXTON
KERRIAL**

Dear Mr Evans,

I write further to your letter dated 4th March 2010 regarding the Overview and Scrutiny: Winter Gritting Procedure.

I have been asked to raise a number of points by the Parish Council in relation to specific concerns within the village of Croxton Kerrial and general comments regarding the gritting procedure as perceived by local residents:

1. The removal of a grit bin from the junction of Church Lane and Middle Street, Croxton Kerrial.

This grit bin was removed without the knowledge of the Parish Council. The Parish Council have never received an explanation as to why this bin was removed.

The removal of this bin left the village in a very precarious position during, what has been, a very severe winter. There were a number of complaints from local residents in relation to the lack of gritting during the severe and prolonged weather conditions that we experienced. The perception was that the consideration for residents safety was not put to the forefront when the decision was taken to remove this bin.

2. The A607 between Croxton Kerrial and Waltham on the Wolds was not gritted adequately during the winter.

This left the road impassable on many occasions and hazardous for many users. The A607 from Croxton Kerrial to Grantham was always passable which led the Parish Council and local residents to deduce that Lincolnshire County Council were gritting on a more regular basis.

3. Comments were received from local residents that they did not witness any of the side roads within the village being gritted during the winter.

This included Thorpes Lane, Church Lane, The Nook, The Stackyard etc. These roads were still being used by a large volume of traffic on a daily basis. There were occasions when residents were unable to access these road or leave their homes because of the lack of gritting.

It would be helpful if you could address in detail the specific points listed above.

I understand that new grit bins can be purchased at a cost of £230 each. Could you please advise me if all grit bins must be purchased by the Parish Council. Alternatively explain the procedure for the purchase and allocation of these bins. For example is each village allocated a number of grit bins based on the number of electors per village and then any additional must be purchased separately.

Lastly, please provide the Parish council with details of your intended gritting procedure, routes, frequency and contingency planning for 2010/2011. This would enable the Parish Council to assess if there were any areas or specific roads which have been omitted. Any omissions could then be advised to Melton Borough Council with any recommendations for inclusion. This will ensure we do not have a repeat of the problems experienced by residents this winter.

I look forward to your response.

EATON	<p>As we are all aware this winter was considerably more severe than for a number of years and certainly difficulties were encountered within the Parish of Eaton. On several days residents were unable to leave the village of Eaton by road as no gritting had taken place at all, and which ever way you went out you had to go up and incline which made it impossible.</p> <p>Similarly in Eastwell village very limited gritting had taken place and the road from Eastwell to Stathern was not used for nearly a week as it was impassable, and Stathern is where the nearest local shop is.</p> <p>The school buses to both Eaton and Eastwell did not run on various days during the worst of the weather, and in general the gritting process around the area appeared to be haphazard and spasmodic to say the least.</p> <p>With regard to grit bins in hindsight it would have been really useful if there had been some located on the roads in and out of the villages, this of course based on them being able to be restocked regularly. The Parish Council intends to review the situation regarding grit bins before next winter in conjunction with the Highways Department, who I believe are happy to supply the salt/grit, providing Parish Councils pay for the bins.</p> <p>With regard to the town centre it is fair to say that the ability to walk around safely was extremely limited, as again very limited and haphazard gritting had taken place on the main paths in the town. Those residents from the Parish that did venture into Melton found it very difficult to walk around and commented that more effort should have been put in to keeping things moving. I think as a final comment from the Parish it would be COULD HAVE DONE BETTER, COULD HAVE DONE MORE.</p>
KNOSSINGTON	<p>The Councillors feel that overall, the gritting lorries did a good job, considering the severity of the winter. They accept that the maintenance team have to prioritise which roads to keep open and in general it was possible to get in and out of the villages. However, they do feel that the one mile stretch of road between Knossington and Cold Overton should be gritted. This is a bus route and it was particularly dangerous on occasions. At present there are no grit bins in either village.</p>
HOBY WITH ROTHERBY	<p>The Main Streets through Ragdale and Hoby were on the gritting routes and these roads were drivable with care every day. Indeed most days they were clear of ice and snow by mid morning depending upon the amount of traffic that had gone through the villages. Rotherby is not on a gritting route and two exit routes out of the village are hills and residents did have difficulty. I walked through Rotherby in early January and Main Street was just a sheet of very thick ice that was impossible to walk along. Brooksby Road Hoby was not gritted between Mill Lane and the junction with Main Street, and again because of the hill residents experience difficulties. The Brooksby end between the A607 and the level crossing was gritted.</p> <p>The Parish Council is considering buying grit bins for these two locations. However, Main Street Rotherby and Brooksby Road Hoby are school bus routes and the Parish Council has written to Mike Sheldrake at highways asking if, in view of this, they can be added to the gritting routes.</p> <p>We have very few side roads and we do not expect to have these gritted.</p> <p>In summary, the Parish Council was very grateful that our villages remained on the gritting program even when supplies ran low; we kept moving (with the exceptions outlined above) and given that the County had other more major routes to worry about, feel that we had a good service.</p>

STATHERN	<p>Dear Paul</p> <p>I have just read your letter addressed to Parish Councils dated 4th March and requesting feedback by the end of March. As most Parish Councils meet only once per month and agendas have to be issued two weeks prior to those meetings then I think this timetable unreasonable. Stathern council met on 3rd March and 7th April.</p> <p>That said I would like to give you my personal input, as a Parish Councilor, regarding the Winter Gritting procedure.</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate that major routes must be gritted first, it did seem a inordinately long time before there was any gritting within the Vale. At no time was there gritting of the main pedestrian route to the local primary school which on several days was almost impassable.</p> <p>Grit piles are supposed to be made available on certain routes such as Tofts Hill (which is a minor route but providing the only access to the local cemetery), but there was insufficient grit and the small amount left was frozen solid as it is not in any bin. Note - this was not used by local residents for personal use, there was simply insufficient provided at the beginning of the winter.</p> <p>I think major roads through villages should receive higher priority, especially where difficulties can be anticipated (Mill Hill for example).</p> <p>I also appreciate that this winter was particularly challenging.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Jackie Collins Stathern Parish Council councilor - note these are my own opinions not those of the council as a whole.</p>
WALTHAM ON THE WOLDS & THORPE ARNOLD	<p>Minute 251/09-10 Winter gritting overview and scrutiny. The views of the Parish Council were that the recent gritting of the A607 and the main road/bus routes was by and large satisfactory. However, footpaths were thought to be in need of gritting and the Council was minded to consider the purchase of a hand propelled gritter for future use provided salt would be made available by LCC for this purpose.</p>
WYMONDHAM & EDMONDTHORPE	

Egerton Ward

The main roads Nottingham Road, Asfordby Road and Welby Lane (our boundary roads) were well gritted and seemed to have caused no major problems - Welby Lane one suspects is gritted for the military at the Defense Animal Centre but handy for me as I live there. These roads were very tricky and as most of them are on a slope it did cause severe problems but they are side roads and one understands the priorities of the County.

The major problem of the side roads were at the junctions where cars had to stop to join traffic and here with a little icy snow it proved difficult to get going again and this was especially true with the junctions to Stavely Road (Rudbeck, Dorothy and West Avenue). The Crescent also proved problematic due to its steepness and the need to stop for oncoming traffic. A suggestion would be that these junctions would be ideal spots for sand/salt/grit bins so that the junctions at least could be eased and traffic kept flowing.

The pavements were generally bad but again one understands the priorities.

The one real area of pavement complaint was in the Town Centre. There the pavements in the pedestrian area were lethal. I was in town most days and I saw several people slip each time and I myself fell on one occasion. There seemed to be nothing done there at all especially by the Mall, Wilkinsons and Argos. The Market Place was a little better but could still be treacherous. This may have had an impact on shopping numbers and it did look bad as I visited other towns in the area at the time and their main shopping pavements were clear.

The Car Parks in town did not seem to have been gritted much as on several occasions I could not see the white lines to park my vehicle due to the thickness of the snow and ice, this applied to both Wilton Road and St Marys where I usually park. One expects the problem whilst it is snowing but my observations were the next day when no snow was falling and for some days afterwards.

The gritting of sheltered housing areas seemed well done and again the only problem was when these areas intersect with non-sheltered areas.

I wonder if localised support could be mustered for the pavements? WE supply the grit and the residents supply the labour.

Bad weather is bad weather but I have lived in eastern Europe in the winter and the snow is heavier there but we do seem to experience major problems here where there it is usually business as usual even after the heaviest fall.

we don't have enough to make specialised equipment worthwhile but when we get it we do seem to grind to a halt.

	<p>Many apologies for the lateness of my response and the possibility that it's too late for the Hinckley initiative. However, I thought it still worth responding on behalf of both Egerton and RAGE.</p> <p>Egerton was very badly affected during the adverse winter weather this year. There are some well known trouble spots which were particularly troublesome, even dangerous for many days. Local buses changed routes due to Sysonby St (particularly the Sysonby St/Staveley Rd junction) being particularly bad, effectively confining many of our older, more vulnerable, residents to their homes for lengthy periods. Very little 'gritting' was done at all by LCC and where it was observed caused confusion/consternation, as there was no obvious reason. On the plus side I understand MBC did a pretty good job at Douglas Jane Close.</p> <p>I'm pleased that this initiative is being pursued and can tell you that RAGE were not happy, received many complaints and are considering ways of ensuring that a future poor winter would not prove as troublesome.</p> <p>Hope this proves useful.</p>
Bottesford Ward	<p>In response to your recent letter, I received no Parish complains re LCC gritting. Bottesford PC does have their own handyman that grits the main footpaths, Library Ent, Doctors etc. So based on the fact no one contacted me direct would suggest people were satisfied with the situation</p>
Old Dalby Ward	<p>I know I am in a position of probably having a better understanding of LCC gritting than some due to Joes involvement but I do think it is important to recognize not just the areas of improvement but the standard of service the county did enjoy in what was the hardest winter for 30 years. Leicestershire salt management must have been some of the best in the country, we had stock to a level that other authorities couldn't have dreamed about!</p> <p>Obviously priorities have to be set which means roads and villages will be left out or spread less frequently. The one area worthy of mention in my ward is Holwell. To move in or out of Holwell means hills have to be negotiated, they were not on a priority routing and life was made quite difficult for some residents, I believe LCC will be putting them on a priority route for next year and would like to ensure that when Hinckley feed back to LCC that Holwell is mentioned.</p> <p>Please can you confirm that Hinckley will be feeding back to MBC what they put forward to LCC and the actions and results that come through as it is obviously taking valuable resource from MBC to comply with their request and I am not clear what the benefit is to us.</p>

<p>Town Centre Manager</p>	<p>hello,</p> <p>on saturday the 19 december i went to melton town to do some christmas shopping on arriving at the bell center car park i was greeted with ice all over the car park, i paid my fee to park and went to the center and the roads and pavements were covered in ice after slipping and sliding our way around and buying a few objects i had spoken to a few of the stall holders about the icy conditions and was told that the council would not grit the pavements etc because they did not want people to sue them if they slipped on an ungritted part.</p> <p>i witnessed two people slip over myself both not young, one lady was hurt so badly that she was crying with pain i do not know wether an ambulance was called, at about midday i saw two traffic wardens and ask them about the lack of grit and they said that the council was on the way to girt, i would not be surprised if the people that slipped on the ice did not put a claim in any way, i would think that quite a few people slipped over that day.</p> <p>what is your policy on ice on roads and pedestrian areas, do you not have a duty of care to the public, after all this must be the busiest shopping day of the year, what have the market stall holders and shopkeepers said about the lack of salt put down, if it is true that you are worried about being sued then motorist have a right to claim if they slide of a road that is only partly gritted.</p> <p>kind regards</p>
<p>Town Centre Manager (comments from Shelagh Core)</p>	<p>I hope you're well. Please find attached herewith feedback from the MTCP, with regards the winter gritting and apologies for the delayed reply.</p> <p>As summarised in Lisa's attached e-mail to Management team, following our event on 20th December, the main issues were gritting responsibility. The pavements and roads during this period of December/January were treacherous, and there were incidents of people falling in the town centre, with ambulance call outs on a daily basis. When we were approached by businesses and visitors, etc as to the responsibility for gritting, it was unclear as to who was responsible for the town centre pavements, car parks, Market Place gritting. It would be helpful if this was clarified, so that we can in turn, contact the relevant parties for gritting.</p> <p>Main town centre streets from Nottingham Street to Sherrard Street were treacherous, even more so the side streets like King Street, Windsor Street etc</p> <p>Ahead of next year, we will need a clear policy in terms of responsibility, key contact persons and emergency procedures, such as gritting bins etc.</p>
	<p>As daft as it sounds I cannot really comment as I went from the house to work and back again only stopping at Tesco! This doesn't really allow me to say whether anywhere was or wasn't gritted. The main road seemed ok and I wouldn't expect the Council to grit Lag Lane Thorpe Arnold where I live as it is really a small side road leading to a gated road and so not a main road.</p> <p>I do think some people are quick to pass judgement when others are doing their best.and at the end of the day there is only so much grit, so many gritting lorries and so many people to drive them.</p> <p>Sorry!</p>

	<p>I received calls from many members of the public on Saturday afternoon about the dangerous conditions. I spoke to the Town Estate and they put a bit out around some key areas with the grit they had available although Highways say they gritted at 7.30pm that evening.</p> <p>When I arrived in the town 7.30am Sunday morning for our Christmas Event, I risk assessed the town and it was obvious that the streets & market place were not safe for walking on. I managed to get Verdant, through the standby officer, to come down and salt the major areas so the event could go ahead without the risk of serious injuries. If this hadn't happened I would have cancelled the event due to dangerous conditions.</p> <p>However, after leaving the event yesterday afternoon St Mary's car park was lethal and still is today. The civic enforcement officers have confirmed that all MBC car parks are dangerous.</p> <p>I now have calls from the press to respond to, I have spoken to Harry and we are agreeing a statement from a town centre management point of view.</p> <p>It seems that MBC has a adhoc policy when it comes to ice on pavements and in public areas. You may remember that we had these issues last year as well. LCC Highways state that they have been gritting the town centre but this obviously has not been successful (I cannot get hold of Mike Sheldrake or Graham Hancock from LCC Highways for a comment)</p> <p>What is MBC's stand on this? Obviously we are trying to attract as many visitors to the town as possible, especially in the run up to Christmas, but then they are met with un-gritted car parks and pavements.</p> <p>Are the car parks going to be gritted and if not what will we be responsible for? I just need to know what MBC is responsible for before responding to any press enquiry.</p>
	<p>I think the council should seek out best practice elsewhere in the UK, looking in particular at grit bins and gritting of the town centre as a priority.</p>
	<p>My views are "what gritting?". Melton Mowbray relies on out side villages and towns being able to take that short trip into town to do there shopping or have a nice meal or drink. With the roads as winding and dangerous in dry weather the need to have a comprehensive gritting schedule in times of sub zero temperatures is a must. The roads through the town were only passable due to brave soles persevering with the dangerous conditions and continuing to drive through. I genuinely didn't think any grit had been put on the roads to and through Melton.</p>
	<p>I was not aware of any gritting within the town centre. Many of the pavements were treacherous and dangerous over a long period of time, which I am sure put a number of customers coming to the town centre. Considering the length of time that the snow and ice lay on the ground, I feel that efforts should have been made to grit the footpaths. The Chapel Street car park was also very bad, as was the area near the police station and the top of Windsor Street/King Street.</p> <p>Windsor Street itself was not gritted on a number of days, particularly w/c 11th January when the roads were terribly icy and the buses were having difficulty in stopping. Eventually I think the bus companies must have rung the council and it was eventually gritted on the Thursday of that week</p>

