



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORKSHOP TEAM B

Wednesday 26 May 2010 at 10am

Members Room, Phoenix House

Present :

Councillors E Holmes (Chairman)
N Slater, S Dungworth, C Chapman

Principal Policy Officer
Head of Street Scene & Environment

No.	Item
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Cumbers</p>
2.	<p>GRITTING</p> <p>Main purpose of the meeting was to review local circumstances arising from difficulties experienced during the winter of 2009/10 in relation to gritting. PPO noted that the workshop findings would be fed into a Scrutiny Panel to be convened by Leicestershire County Council.</p> <p>The difficulties of the severe weather experienced were noted as generally being extraordinary but possibly could become 'normal' in future years. The workshop felt that investing resources in gritting (and managing the approach to gritting) could possibly outweigh the costs of dealing with accidents (to all agencies including healthcare).</p> <p>The workshop felt that better advice is needed, particularly around the roles of different agencies/partners. It is not always clear whether the County Council are taking the lead. The District Council has a role but this is not always clear. The workshop also questioned whether individual landowners knew their responsibilities (Town Estate, Registered Social Landowners)?</p> <p>A 'plan' is needed to overcome severe weather in the future. The plan should clearly detail who is responsible for what actions. The workshop noted that not all parish councils had received the advice/assistance they wished to see. New gritting bins were seen as a priority for parish areas (if they want them) and for the town centre (Council car parks).</p> <p>Linkages between the agencies involved was raised as an issue. The role of Parish Snow Wardens was noted but Councillors questioned whether these were in place for all parishes. A similar scheme is also needed in the town – a role for the ward councillors?</p> <p>The Head of Street Scene and Environment was asked to prepare costings for the</p>

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	<p>District Council to maintain a stockpile of grit, and for new gritting bin locations and procurement. There are arrangements between the County and other Districts in Leicestershire where the County procures and stores the grit and the District uses its staff to spread the grit in certain locations. A similar arrangement for Melton was felt worth pursuing.</p> <p>Principal Policy Officer was asked to report the concerns of the Parishes and the workshop to the County Scrutiny Panel.</p>

Meeting finished at 10.40am