



Winter Management Plan 2022- 2023

1. Introduction

This Plan provides information to residents about how Ashurst Wood Village Council (AWVC) works with other authorities and organisations to prepare for and respond to severe weather in the village. The main objectives of the Plan are to maintain access in and out of the village for essential services, such as buses, emergency vehicles, delivery vehicles; and to ensure that people can move around safely as much as possible.

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) is responsible for salting and gritting roads and pavements, however officers have to prioritise where to direct resources when the weather deteriorates. AWVC acts as a liaison between residents and WSSCC, provides grit bins and employs a part-time handyman. It encourages residents to volunteer to help with ice and snow clearance.

The Plan is reviewed every year.

2. Road Gritting and Snow Clearance by WSSCC within Ashurst Wood

WSSCC sends gritters to roads which are on the Winter Service Network. Its objective is to keep as much of the Network as safe and free flowing as possible by undertaking precautionary salting. The main priority is to keep the main A and B roads open, keep bus routes clear, and maintain access to large establishments such as hospitals and secondary schools.

Roads which are not on the routes will not be gritted.

Once snow falls, and if conditions deteriorate, WSSCC's objective is to focus on a reduced network known as the Winter Resilient Network. Ploughing will normally begin when snow reaches a depth of 50mm.

A map showing the gritting and ploughing routes in Ashurst Wood can be seen at Appendix 1.

The following roads are on a WSSCC gritting route:

- The A22
- Wall Hill/Hammerwood Road bus route
- Maypole Road, from the County boundary to Hammerwood Road
- Hammerwood Road, from the War Memorial to Maypole Road
- Woods Hill Lane

Priority will be given to gritting the A22 and other major roads. The A22 is the only road in Ashurst Wood which will be ploughed in the event of snow.

3. Agreements with Local Contractors

WSSCC will contract with local farmers or contractors to carry out precautionary gritting, and/or clear snow, from local roads which have been identified by the parish or town councils and agreed by WSSCC. The local contractor will be paid at an agreed hourly rate,

once instructions have been received from WSCC. In order to enter into a contract with WSCC, a contractor must have their own Public Liability Insurance.

In recent years, there has been an agreement with a local contractor, under which snow was cleared from designated roads in Ashurst Wood. There is currently no local agreement, therefore there will be no additional gritting or snow clearing beyond that carried out by WSCC as set out above. AWVC will endeavour to find a local contractor for future years, and will also investigate the possibility of making its own arrangements with a contractor, subject to adequate insurance being in place.

4. Pavement gritting and snow clearance

WSCC does not grit or clear snow from pavements. Pavements in Ashurst Wood are not gritted unless by hand from AWPC grit bins (or incidentally from road gritting).

AWVC will provide a limited pavement clearing service. The first priority will be the pavements in School Lane from the junction with Hammerwood Road to the Chapel Lane junction. Other pavements will then be prioritised by the Clerk/Handyman and treated by the Handyman or by volunteers.

Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) provides equipment to enable local volunteers to clear ice and snow from pavements.

In addition, all residents will be encouraged to clear snow from pavements outside their properties and to apply salt/grit to the cleared surface. Supplies from the salt/grit bins may be used for this purpose, but not for private paths and driveways.

5. Grit Bins

AWVC provides 16 grit bins around the village, as listed in Appendix 2. Additional reserve supplies of grit are held at the Village Centre and on private land in Hammerwood Road.

AWVC carries out an audit of the bins each summer. During October, WSCC replenishes the grit in the bins and the reserve supply and will not normally provide any further supplies of grit during the season.

AWVC will arrange for bins to be topped up from the reserve supply when necessary.

The grit is provided for use on the public highways and pavements. It is not for use on private roads or drives – residents should purchase grit themselves for their own use. AWVC will consider making grit available for bins on private roads if they are also part of the public footpath network, on a case-by-case basis and subject to adequate supplies being available.

Small shovels are provided in each grit bin and instructions for use are on the top of the bin. Grit should be applied sparingly as a little goes a long way. Any snow should be cleared first.

6. Advice on clearing snow and ice – The Snow Code

Clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside your home or public spaces can help prevent slips and falls. People walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. The Government advises that it is highly unlikely you will be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully. Follow the advice below:

- Clear snow and ice early in the day – it's easier to move fresh, loose snow
- Don't use water – it might re-freeze and turn to black ice
- On private land, you can use table or dishwasher salt, or ash or sand
- Pay extra attention when clearing steps or steep pathways, using extra salt if necessary
- When shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.
- Offer to help your neighbours if they are unable to do it themselves

7. Implementation of Winter Plan

Between 1st October and 30th April, WSCC will provide daily information using email and Twitter. The Village Clerk will be the point of contact and will co-ordinate arrangements with the Handyman and any local volunteers.

Volunteers will be given an induction and an equipment pack.

AWVC's Newsletter and website will include information and advice.

8. Resources in AWVC area

Human Resources:

- the AWVC Handyman
- volunteers

Static equipment:

- AWVC salt/grit bins (see Appendix 2)

Hand Tools:

- Five snow shovels
- Handyman has cold weather clothing and footwear
- Equipment packs (including hi viz jacket and hat) from MSDC for pavement clearance by volunteers
- Most village households have access to a shovel or spade.

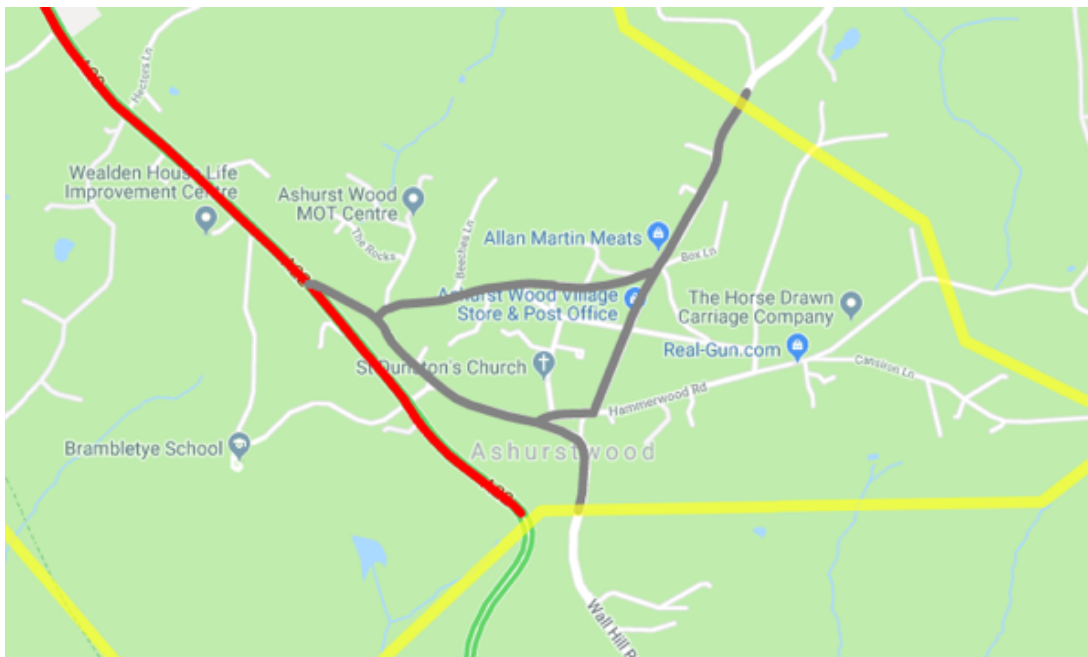
9. Contacts and useful information

AWVC Clerk: clerk@ashurstwood-vc.gov.uk 01342 823770

AWVC Chair: jenny.forbes@ashurstwood-vc.gov.uk
[WSCC Winter Service Policy 2022-2023](#)
[MSDC Severe Weather Plan](#)

Appendix 1

WSCC Gritting Routes



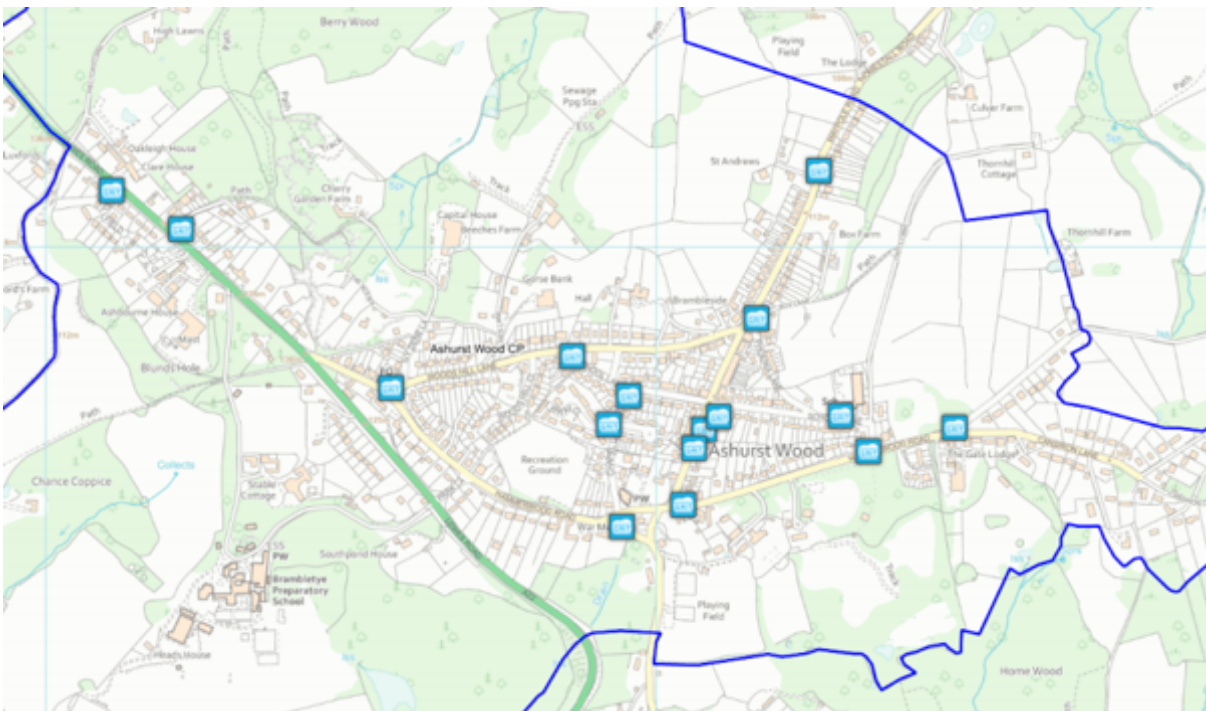
Village boundary shown in yellow.

Routes shown in red (the A22) will be treated for ice, frost and snow

Routes shown in grey will be treated for ice and frost only (see page 2)

Appendix 2 - Locations of salt/grit bins

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chapel Lane | junction with Wray Close |
| Hammerwood Road | junction with School Lane |
| Hammerwood Road | junction with Cansiron Lane |
| Maypole Road | Village Centre (large bin) |
| Maypole Road | Village Centre car park |
| Maypole Road | near number 114 |
| Maypole Road/Phoenix Lane | By Maypole Inn |
| Maypole Road | outside number 32 |
| Maypole Road | junction with Hammerwood Road |
| Wall Hill Road | by War Memorial |
| Woods Hill Lane | junction with Woods Hill Close |
| Woods Hill Lane | Junction with Hammerwood Rd |
| School Lane | Outside school entrance |
| School Lane | junction with Chapel Lane |
| Wellfield | junction with A22 |
| Windmill Lane | junction with A22 |
| Hammerwood Road | Chartin (bag) |



Grit bin locations