

GREAT WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

WINTER MAINTENANCE- CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

You may recall that last year the winter weather took us all by surprise and caused a great deal of disruption with snow, ice and freezing temperatures for a long period from early December.

Many enquiries were received regarding why this or that area had not been salted or cleared. Essex County Council has a rigid policy regarding their winter maintenance programme. For Great Waltham Parish the gritting lorries operate to spread salt on the B1008 between Essex Regiment Way and North End and beyond and the main road through Howe Street and Great Waltham from Warner's Farm roundabout to Ash Tree Corner. In addition the road from Pendon Hill Corner to Pleshey will receive treatment. This happens when the weather conditions require it. This represents the major routes and bus routes through the Parish so if the weather is bad then it is suggested that you leave the car at home and use the bus service.

This year for the first time the Parish Council has obtained, through Essex County Council, one tonne of rock salt in the form of 50 x 20kg bags. The salt provided can be used to spread on the footways through our villages. It could be used for such areas as South Street, where many mums and dads dropping children at the school have experienced difficulty in pulling away uphill in the icy conditions. Another area where regular complaints are made is the junction of Mashbury Road/Barrack Lane and Bury Lane where icy conditions are often experienced during winter. I am sure that we all have our own ideas for those extra areas to be attended to.

The Parish Council will be determining the areas of priority as far as Great Waltham Parish is concerned.

So, what now needs to be done?

- Identification of the areas which need to be attended to – please feel free to suggest areas for the Parish Council to consider. Obviously the constraints are the amount of rock salt which the Parish Council has obtained and the amount of volunteer labour available.
- Volunteers are required to come forward and be available so that when the poor weather conditions prevail, rock salt can be spread in an allocated area. Last year 10 people put their names forward. I would be grateful if they would confirm that they are still willing to be involved. Additional volunteers are vital to the success of the scheme.
- Volunteers will need to be informed regarding what needs to be done, and when to do it.

So if you were troubled or concerned by the experience of last winter and wish for better this winter then why not put your name forward - please contact **Peter Bradley, Clerk to Great Waltham Parish Council, The Old Fire Station, South Street, Great Waltham CM3 1DF. Telephone 01245 362638 or E Mail gtwalthampc@btinternet.com.**