
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	19TH AUGUST 2004	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PAUL EVANS (EXTN. 5764)	DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee reports\environmental & development\19-aug04\grit bins comm july 04.doc
SUBJECT:	PROVISION OF GRIT BINS ON THE ADOPTED HIGHWAY	REF: PE
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS 01

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 To seek Members' views regarding Derbyshire County Council's new policy for the provision of grit bins on the adopted highway.

2.0 Detail

2.1 Derbyshire County Council introduced a new policy last January regarding the provision of grit bins on the adopted highway. There had been no consultation with South Derbyshire prior to its introduction.

2.2 The new policy allows borough / district / parish councils to make requests to the County Council each year for the provision of new grit bins on the adopted highway.

2.3 The cost of the initial provision, siting and filling of the bin is funded by the County Council.

2.4 Future maintenance, refilling and replacement of bins is at the expense and responsibility of the appropriate borough / district / parish council requesting the provision.

2.5 The County Council will prioritise requests for grit bins against the following criteria in regard to roads or footways not included on the precautionary salting network

- Locations with steep gradients, bad bends, drainage problems, exposed sites and difficult junctions.
- Locations used extensively by the elderly, infirm or very young.
- Rural roads providing access to isolated properties.
- Pedestrianised areas and other footways subject to heavy pedestrian use in town centres and busy shopping areas that are part of the highway.

- 2.6 On roads included on the precautionary salting network grit bins will not normally be provided except at locations where, in times of snow, queuing traffic may encounter problems, e.g. steep slopes leading to junctions.
- 2.7 Unsuccessful requests will be included in future years' prioritisation exercises.
- 2.8 Notification of six requests for additional grit bins has been received by the District Council since last January:

Swadlincote Woodlands, Swadlincote.
Bernard Street, Woodville.
Wye Dale, Church Gresley.
Gresley Wood Road, Swadlincote.
Bretby Hollow, Newhall. (not yet adopted).
The Close, Bladon House, Newton Solney. (not adopted).

None of the requests has yet been forwarded to the County Council.

The County Council scheme does not cover unadopted highways. Roads awaiting adoption will become eligible for the scheme only after the date of adoption.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The County Council's 2004/05 budget for the provision of grit bins in the South East region of the County (Amber Valley, Erewash and South Derbyshire) is £3,000. The intention is to divide the money equally between the three areas. South Derbyshire's allocation should provide for three or four grit bins.
- 3.2 The annual maintenance and refilling costs per grit bin would be in the region of £50. The cost of replacing a damaged bin would be £250.

4.0 Community Implications

- 4.1 The adequate provision of grit bins is important to the community in terms of safety and access during periods of ice and snow.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 It could be argued that highway safety is a County Council responsibility and, therefore, both the initial provision and subsequent maintenance costs of additional and necessary grit bins should be funded by the County Council. There would no doubt some debate about the definition of "necessary".
- 5.2 As the scheme stands, borough / district / parish councils need to consider the issue of the maintenance regime and who funds the costs.
- 5.3 Given the limited budget currently allocated by the County Council to South Derbyshire, the maintenance implications and funding are marginal. This would not be the case, however, if the number of additional grit bins continues to grow in future years and if the annual County Council allocation increases.