

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Finance and Policy																				
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 7.00pm	<b>LOCATION</b>	Congleton Town Hall																		
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	Jackie MacArthur, Deputy Chief Officer Communities and Marketing																				
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>22 Winter Gritting 2023/24</b>																				
<b>Background</b>	<p>In June 2021 Cheshire East Council made changes to its winter gritting routes based on the 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure' (WMHI) code of practice.</p> <p>This saw 33 roads in the Congleton area that were previously part of the gritting route removed from the programme, as they no longer achieved the minimum risk-based score. It also saw Longdown Road added to the programme for Congleton</p> <p>During the consultation, Congleton Town Council objected to the removal of these roads from the gritting program and believed that there were good reasons why these roads needed to continue to be treated.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council Highways has offered Town and Parish Councils across Cheshire East the opportunity to pay for top-up gritting for roads that Towns and Parishes would like to see added to the programme for their area, but which didn't meet the criteria under which Cheshire East will grit the roads. The deadline for signing up for winter 2022/23 was 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022. With Town Council budgets already set for this year, and the general informal steer from Councillors that road gritting is a Cheshire East responsibility, officers have not signed up to a three-year agreement.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council has asked if the Town Council would like to consider any 'top-up gritting' in 2023/24. If the Town Council would like to pay for top-up gritting, this would need to be built into the budget planning for 2023/24, which will be worked on over the summer. As winter gritting would be a significant cost, officers would like to understand the views of Town Councillors ahead of budget planning.</p>																				
<b>Updates</b>	<p>We understand around 10 of the 108 Town and Parish Councils in the Cheshire East area have agreed to pay for additional top-up gritting.</p> <p>The guidance given on the cost of the gritting is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fixed costs of £725 per kilometre per year</li> <li>• Operational costs of £8.47 per kilometre per gritting run</li> <li>• Average number of gritting runs to expect in an average year 65</li> </ul> <p>Taking three of the roads in Congleton the estimated cost of top-up gritting would be:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Padgbury Lane</b></td> <td style="width: 40%;">from Newcastle Rd to Sandbach Rd</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">1.17km</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£1492.39</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Fol Hollow</b></td> <td>Newcastle Road to 139 Waggs Road</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.72km</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£918</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Harvey Road</b></td> <td>No 1 – 95</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.81km</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£1033.20</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<b>Padgbury Lane</b>	from Newcastle Rd to Sandbach Rd	1.17km	£1492.39			<b>Fol Hollow</b>	Newcastle Road to 139 Waggs Road	0.72km	£918			<b>Harvey Road</b>	No 1 – 95	0.81km	£1033.20		
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**Updates**

The roads in Congleton cut from the winter gritting programme with the score given by Cheshire East Council are:

Bailey Crescent	0
Beatty Drive	0
Berkshire Drive	0
Brunswick Street	0
Buxton Old Road	0
Chapel Street	0
Coronation Road	0
Crossledge	0
Daisy Bank Drive	25
Daven Road	0
Davidson Avenue	25
Dixon Road	0
Fern Crescent	0
Forge Lane	25
Foster Road	25
Harvey Road	25
Havannah Lane	0
Highcroft Avenue	0
Kennet Drive	0
Kent Drive	0
Leigh Road	0
Moody Street	0
Padgbury Lane	0
Pirie Road	25
Somerset Close	0
Swaledale Ave	0
Thames Close	0
Under Rainow Rd	0
Waggs Street	0
Waggs Road	75
Walfield Road	0
Woolston Avenue	0

Officers have not worked out the cost of each individual road, but will do so if this is something that the Town Council wants to take to take forward.

<b>Financial considerations</b>	Cheshire East Highways is looking for Town and Parish Councils to sign a 3-year agreement which is subject to 3-5% increases per annum. Currently the offer from Cheshire East Council is for £725 per km of road, plus £8.47 per gritting trip, with the average being 65 per year.
<b>Environmental considerations</b>	Highways and winter gritting remain a Cheshire East Council (CEC) function and so the additional carbon footprint created by this activity should be addressed by Cheshire East Council. CEC is committed to working towards being carbon neutral by 2025.
<b>Equality and Inclusivity</b>	<p>Not gritting these roads will cause additional problems for our residents. Many of the roads are steep and the lack of gritting may make many people nervous about leaving their homes. Padgbury Lane is a main route to school for many people.</p> <p>Residents in Congleton have already paid for roads to be gritted.</p>
<b>Decision Requested</b>	<p>To consider the issue and to decide which course of action to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No action – Cheshire East Highways is responsible for gritting and the Town Council is not looking to finance additional gritting.</li> <li>or</li> <li>b) Approval to prepare a budget that includes top-up gritting on certain roads cut out of the programme by Cheshire East Council.</li> <li>or</li> <li>c) Approval to prepare a budget to re-instate all the routes that Cheshire East Council has cut due to them not requiring gritting under the Well Managed Highways Infrastructure.</li> </ul>