

additional papers 1

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tue 8 Nov  
2011  
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2  
Town Hall  
Redditch



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# Access to Information - Your Rights

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Your main rights are set out below:-

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- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
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**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact  
J Bayley and Michael Craggs  
Overview and Scrutiny Support Officers**

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# Welcome to today's meeting.

## Guidance for the Public

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### **Agenda Papers**

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

### **Chair**

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Committee Support Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

### **Running Order**

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

**Refreshments** : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

### **Decisions**

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

### **Members of the Public**

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

### **Special Arrangements**

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Committee Support Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

### **Further Information**

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### **Fire/ Emergency instructions**

**If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.**

**If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.**

**Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.**

**Do Not use lifts.**

**Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.**

**The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.**

# Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

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DO I HAVE A "PERSONAL INTEREST" ?

- Where the item relates or is likely to affect your **registered interests** (what you have declared on the formal Register of Interests)

**OR**

- Where a decision in relation to the item might reasonably be regarded as affecting **your own** well-being or financial position, or that of your **family**, or your **close associates** more than most other people affected by the issue,

you have a personal interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare the existence, and nature, of your interest and stay**

- The declaration must relate to specific business being decided - a general scattergun approach is not needed
- **Exception** - where interest arises only because of your membership of another **public body**, there is no need to declare unless you **speak** on the matter.
- You **can vote** on the matter.

IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST" ?

In general only if:-

- It is a personal interest **and**
- The item affects your **financial position** (or conveys other benefits), or the position of your **family, close associates** or bodies through which you have a **registered interest** (or relates to the exercise of **regulatory functions** in relation to these groups)

**and**

- A member of public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably believe the interest was likely to **prejudice** your judgement of the public interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare and Withdraw**

BUT you may make representations to the meeting before withdrawing, **if** the public have similar rights (such as the right to speak at Planning Committee).



# Overview and Scrutiny

Tuesday, 8th November, 2011  
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

## Committee

### Agenda

#### Membership:

Cllrs: Phil Mould (Chair) Bill Hartnett  
Mark Shurmer (Vice-Chair) Gay Hopkins  
Peter Anderson Brenda Quinney  
Andrew Brazier Alan Mason  
Simon Chalk Luke Stephens  
Andrew Fry

#### 13. Sustainable Community Strategy - Monitoring Update Report

(Pages 1 - 6)

H Broughton - Redditch Partnership Manager

To receive a monitoring report regarding the Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy.

The following reports should be considered in relation to this item:

- Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy – Executive Summary;
- Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy – Overview and Scrutiny Six Monthly Review;
- Raising Educational Achievement and Aspirations Action Plan - 03/11/2011;
- Health and Well-Being Action Plan; and
- Area of Highest Need Action Plan.

(Area of Highest Need Action Plan attached).

**(Various Wards);**

#### 14. Gritting and Snow Clearance - Redditch Borough Council Approach - Pre-Scrutiny

(Pages 7 - 14)

G Revans, Head of Environmental Services,  
Head of Environment

To pre-scrutinise the content of a report concerning Redditch Borough Council's proposed contribution to gritting and snow clearance arrangements during inclement weather.

(Report attached)

**All Wards;**



### Winning Winyates (Areas of Highest Need) Action Plan

Redditch Partnership Issue:	Winyates Area of Highest Need Project								
<b>Key Deliverable:</b>	To secure the Winyates Centre residential areas, improve the physical appearance of the area and to enhance community activity.								
<b>Key Issues:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the 2007 Indices of Deprivation, the area around Winyates Centre is within the most 10% deprived areas in the country. This area is the most deprived area in Redditch, and the sixth most deprived in Worcestershire.</li> <li>Within Winyates Centre, the stairways leading from the commercial public spaces of the centre to the residential flats above are unsecured. As such, there is a high level of anti-social behaviour in and around the residential flats and the Centre in general.</li> <li>Currently, there is very little community activity which takes place in the Winyates area.</li> </ul>								
Key Actions to Tackle Key Issues:	Project	Key Actions	Completion Date	Lead Partner (s)	Resources	Measures of Success	Progress to date		
	1. Winyates Healthy Eating Project (A two phase project. Phase one – production of a cookbook.	Phase One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure funding for the project.</li> <li>Establishing a Steering Group.</li> </ul>	All by March 2011	RBC - Liz Williams / Helen Broughton Worcestershire PCT - Debbie Baker-Price	To be confirmed	The effective engagement of schools and community groups including intergeneration work between Arrow Vale High School and Ipsley Middle school.  Establishment of infrastructure to facilitate community engagement leading whilst addressing the public health agenda for	Recipes have been tested and cookery book is now in the process of being produced.  A launch event will take place in December. There has been slight slippage with this project and it is envisaged that Phase One will be completed by the end of December 2011.		

	<p>2. Phase Two – involves using the cookbook as a tool for community led healthy eating initiatives)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish links with local schools, community groups and traders.</li> <li>Production of cookbook.</li> <li>Event to launch cookbook.</li> </ul> <p>Phase Two:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase one will inform the key actions for Phase Two.</li> </ul>	<p>March 2012</p>	<p>RBC- Liz Williams / Richard Potter WCC</p>	<p>Health Improvement Fund / additional WCC monies.</p>	<p>Disadvantaged communities.</p>	
	<p>2. Active Winyates (formerly know as Urban Tracks)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a series of routes (of varying levels of difficulty) for walking and cycling around the Winyates area.</li> <li>Design local maps to show routes and encourage take up. Deliver to all households in local area.</li> </ul> <p>To be confirmed</p>	<p>All by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011</p>			<p>Increased numbers of adults taking part in sport / physical exercise</p> <p>Increased number of young people taking part in positive activities</p>	<p>Walking and Cycle routes implemented during May / June 2011.</p> <p>Official Active Winyates launch took place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011.</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver community based launch event for the project.</li> <li>• Design educational /recreational activities and community projects around the routes for local schools and the community to participate in.</li> </ul>		RBC – Pete Hill/Liz Williams	AoHN Fund/RBC Housing Capital	Successful implementation of scheme. Establishment of Residents Group to ensure long term sustainability of scheme.	Project completed on time.
3. Winyates Centre Security Project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To install hard wired video entry security systems to the Winyates centre Residential complex, alongside security measures to control entry to the landings.</li> </ul>	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2011		AoHN Project Fund	Establishment of Traders Group. Determine what improvements are needed.	Group has been established.
4. Winyates Centre Traders Project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Group, stabilise membership.</li> </ul>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012	Liz Williams			

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devise list of improvements based on consensus.</li> </ul>				<p>Long term sustainability of the group.</p> <p>Improvements to the commercial elements of the Centre.</p>	<p>Projects implemented by Traders Group so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of extra parking spaces at the Centre</li> <li>Fruit and Veg market stall and haberdashery stall now provided on a Wednesday morning at the Centre</li> <li>Autumn Festival and Making a Difference Day which took place on 28<sup>th</sup> October.</li> <li>Future planned events include a carol concert and Christmas Box scheme.</li> </ul>
	5. Investigate the possibility of establishing a work club within the AoHN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish viability of the scheme.</li> <li>Identify partners.</li> </ul>	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2011 Ongoing	Liz Williams/Job Centre Plus	AoHN funding				<p>A Work Club has now been established and the first intake has been through their six week course. From this group – one person got a job, two people have undertaken volunteering opportunities and one is undertaking a training course.</p>	
	6. Establish Local savings Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide good savings and loans facilities in the target area.</li> </ul>	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	Liz Williams/Credit Union/YMCA	To be identified			<p>Establishment of a variety of accessible schemes.</p> <p>Good take up by local residents.</p>	<p>This project had to be cancelled owing to the closure of Black Pear Credit Union in the town.</p>	

	<p>7. Development of local community development support activities within the local community centre.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish support activities for young people provided at local venue on a regular and sustainable basis.</li> </ul>	<p>31<sup>st</sup> March 2012</p>	<p>Liz Williams/RBC/YMCA</p>	<p>AoHN Funding</p>		<p>An activity programme for local children was provided by the YMCA in the Winyates Barn and various other locations in Winyates over the summer. The scheme is currently being evaluated and future sessions and future sessions discussed.</p>
	<p>8. Scoping of a project to be delivered in Winyates in partnership with Public Health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope a health related project to be delivered with funding received from Public Health funding.</li> </ul>	<p>No timeframes determined yet.</p>		<p>Public Health funds - £50,000</p>		<p>Meetings have taken place between RBC and Public Health to determine a project outline.</p> <p>The main aim of the project will be To develop and implement a progression and integration project aimed at reducing/preventing “risky behaviour” in 4-24 year olds, and improving both and health and well being, especially with reference to alcohol and substance misuse. This will raise aspiration, motivation and enhance the skills base in this population range in the Winyates Target area.</p> <p>Further meetings with partners are taking place to fully scope this project.</p>



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### **GRITTING AND SNOW CLEARANCE – REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL APPROACH**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Brandon Clayton – Housing, Local Environment and Health
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans – Head of Environmental Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Key Decision	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report details the Council's joint approach to gritting and snow clearance working with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and Bromsgrove District Council and proposes the Council's policy in relation to gritting and snow clearance on its own land. Members are asked to note the actions which resulted from the O&S Task and Finish Review and subsequent meetings with WCC. The report also provides Members with information on how gritting and snow clearance is carried out and also information on how disruptions to waste collection services are handled during bad weather events.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that**

- 1) the following policy be adopted with regards to gritting and snow clearance:**

**Redditch Borough Council will strive to keep the following areas clear of snow and ice and safe to use:**

- a) Crematorium and cemeteries to allow funerals to continue;**
- b) Redditch Borough Council staff car parks to ensure that there are suitable parking areas for council staff who are getting into work to provide essential services;**
- c) Key council sites like the Town Hall and district centres to assist local shops and businesses and enable residents to access services;**

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- d) **Gritting/snow clearance at other areas including Council sheltered accommodation will only be carried out subject to available resources; gritting/snow clearance at council owned sheltered accommodation will be to allow the Home Support Service access to residents;**
- 2) **the Council will not provide grit bins on any highway land but may provide grit bins on its own land to enable gritting to take place – e.g. at Leisure sites; and**
- 3) **further publicity is undertaken to ensure that residents are aware of how the Council will deal with gritting/snow clearance and what to do when bad weather affects their waste collection service; and**
- 4) **Officers purchase appropriate snow clearance and gritting equipment from within existing budgets.**

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

#### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 Gritting and snow clearance work is carried out using existing labour resources and an existing budget for purchase of rock salt which is purchased via Worcestershire County Council who have an effective procurement arrangement in place. Careful management of rock salt is needed to ensure that it is used effectively and lasts throughout the winter season.

#### **Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Redditch Borough Council has no responsibility for gritting or clearing snow from roads or footpaths, this falls to WCC as the Highways Authority. However, as an owner of land the Council needs to undertake reasonable endeavours to make that land safe.
- 3.3 Clare Flanagan has been consulted with regard to the legal implications.

#### **Service/Operational Implications**

- 3.4 Redditch Borough Council is not responsible for gritting roads and footpaths as this falls to WCC as the Highways Authority. The primary purpose of this report is to set out the Council's priorities in relation to gritting and snow clearance of Council land and the report recommends the adoption of the policy which outlines how the Council will approach gritting and snow clearance.

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- 3.5 Further to the O&S Task and Finish Review of gritting and snow clearance which was carried out in Spring 2011 and subsequent meetings, a number of actions have been carried forward. These include:
- i) Further improved communications between WCC and RBC regarding winter maintenance activities;
  - ii) Improved mapping of gritting route maps;
  - iii) Continued partnership working on salt supply and sharing of resources;
  - iv) Option of additional grit bins (see recommendation 2);
  - v) Sharing information on local contacts who may be able to assist with winter maintenance operations.
- 3.6 This report clarifies a number of issues in relation to gritting and snow clearance:
- a) Gritting Redditch Borough Council land – local policy;
  - b) Gritting of roads and paths;
  - c) Provision and filling of grit bins;
  - d) Partnership working with WCC and BDC;
  - e) Disruption to waste collection services.

**Gritting Redditch Borough Council land**

- 3.7 Carrying out gritting and snow clearance will always be subject to having available resources and in the first instance, operatives delivering services which cannot be delivered in snow and ice conditions – such as mechanical sweeping – will be diverted onto gritting and/or snow clearance. The table below summarises how resources are deployed onto gritting and snow clearance tasks:

<b>Type of weather event</b>	<b>Resource available</b>
Ice/frost	Mechanical sweeper drivers
Light snow	All cleansing operatives
Heavy snow	All cleansing, grounds maintenance, waste collection and housing operatives

- 3.8 The decision to undertake gritting and/or snow clearance is based on a number of factors including:

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- i) Information received via WCC;
  - ii) Local conditions/localities – e.g. crematorium site;
  - iii) Nature of the frost and prevailing weather conditions;
  - iv) Resources available;
  - v) Any previous gritting recently carried out (e.g. if was done the day before, may not need to be done again);
  - vi) Crews when on site will also make assessments about where gritting is needed – e.g. half a car park may have been thawed by the time they arrive there.
- 3.9 The Council treats a small number of areas either to allow safe passage of customers and visitors to key sites such as the Crematorium, to ensure that there are suitable parking areas for council staff who are getting into work to provide essential services or to carry out critical services like the Home Support Service.
- 3.10 It is recommended that the Council adopts a policy to clarify the gritting work that will be carried out:
- Crematorium and cemeteries to allow funerals to continue;
  - Redditch Borough Council staff car parks to ensure that there are suitable parking areas for council staff who are getting into work to provide essential services;
  - Key council sites like the Town Hall and district centres to assist local shops and businesses and enable residents to access services.
- 3.11 Gritting/snow clearance at other areas including Council sheltered accommodation and leisure sites will only be carried out subject to available resources; gritting/snow clearance at council owned sheltered accommodation will be to allow the Home Support Service access to residents.
- 3.12 Where gritting/snow clearance is carried out, this will be done to allow a sensible route for pedestrians and/or vehicles to access properties or facilities.
- 3.13 The Council is procuring specialist equipment to assist in gritting and snow clearance activities. This will be funded from within existing budgets.

### **Partnership working with WCC and BDC**

- 3.14 Effective partnership working has developed between Redditch Borough Council, Worcestershire County Council and Bromsgrove



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District Council. During bad weather events, regular conference calls are held where information is shared with regards to weather conditions, priority work and resources available. The Council will continue to work in partnership with Worcestershire County Council and Bromsgrove District Council to co-ordinate the effective use of resources to enable gritting and snow clearance to take place at agreed prioritised locations.

### **Gritting of Roads and Paths**

- 3.15 WCC carry out gritting of primary and secondary routes when there is the risk of snow or ice forming on the roads and detailed gritting routes are shown on the WCC website. With limited resources and available finance it is essential that the Primary Network is treated first and the Secondary Network will be treated in severe weather conditions and only after the Primary Network has been successfully treated. It is not reasonably practicable to provide the service on all roads or to ensure all surfaces are kept free of ice or snow at all times, even on the treated parts of the network.
- 3.16 WCC do not generally treat footways as priority is always given to the road network. However, in prolonged periods of adverse conditions footways in town centres will be treated after the road network has been successfully treated.
- 3.17 Redditch Borough Council does not carry out gritting of any roads other than at the request of WCC. Redditch Borough Council treats a small number of areas (see section 3.9 above) and will also carry out gritting/snow clearance through agreement with WCC at identified sites which WCC own, as part of our partnership working to maximise resources during bad weather events.

### **Provision and filling of grit bins**

- 3.18 WCC provide grit bins at strategic points across the county and the locations are shown on plans which are available on the WCC website. In siting a bin, the County take into account various criteria such as proximity to a junction and gradient. During bad weather events, WCC may ask the council to fill grit bins as their resources may be deployed on other emergency works; these agreements are made on a day to day basis through regular conference calls. WCC make available additional salt supplies if the Council are asked to undertake any work on their behalf.
- 3.19 Due to the cost of providing and maintaining grit bins and a need to ensure consistency with the approach by WCC, Redditch Borough Council does not provide any grit bins on any WCC land (see

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recommendation). Grit bins may be provided at certain council owned sites – such as Forge Mill Museum – so that there is a ready supply of grit which on site staff can use as needed.

### **Disruption to Waste Collection Services**

- 3.20 An effective decision making and communications process has been put in place when waste collection services are disrupted by bad weather events. Operational teams will make decisions as to whether it is safe to make collections based on a number of factors. We rely on being able to get from and to locations using specialised vehicles. We must think of the safety of other road users, pedestrians and our own staff and make sure we do not put anyone at risk. Refuse vehicles can have a weight of up to 26 tonnes and they are much bigger than most household delivery vehicles. It is essential that we do not drive on roads when drivers make a judgement that is not safe to do so.
- 3.21 Once decisions are made, regular updates are issued at 08:00, 10:00 and 12:00 daily. Information is provided to Members, customer service advisors, the communications team and senior officers with alerts and information being posted on the website, phone lines and other social media like 'Facebook' and 'Twitter'. It is important to give out a clear and simple message – often this will be to leave out your bin until we have been to collect it. Last year this process proved to be very successful and bad weather Frequently Asked Questions are provided on the website.
- 3.22 Further publicity is planned to ensure that residents are aware of how the council will deal with gritting/snow clearance and what to do when bad weather affects their waste collection service.

### **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.23 There has been no public/stakeholder consultation or service sampling on this subject. However, when there are bad weather events of snow and ice, the Council will receive a large number of calls from residents and businesses. It is therefore important to have a clear approach to gritting and snow clearance and to provide as much information as possible through the Council's website. Frequently Asked Questions and information is available on the council's website and on the WCC website.
- 3.24 Direct.gov provides advice regarding clearing snow and ice from pavements as follows:

***“Prevent slips***

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*Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas. If you clear snow and ice yourself, be careful - don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. But don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have responsibility to be careful themselves. Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively."*

#### 4. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are two key risks associated with this issue:

Business risk – failure to carry out effective gritting/snow clearance at prioritised agreed locations will result in a loss of business and negative impact, both financial and reputation.

Social risk – failure to carry out effective gritting/snow clearance at prioritised agreed locations can have a negative impact on local residents and communities – e.g. access to local shops.

#### 5. APPENDICES

None.

#### 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

#### AUTHOR OF REPORT

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