

News

Communications Unit

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Changes to grit bins for the coming winter

North Yorkshire County Council is making changes to the supply of grit bins and grit heaps in Richmondshire, Harrogate, Scarborough and Ryedale to bring them into line with the rest of the county.

The highways authority introduced changes for the supply of grit bins a few years ago and these have been applied in Craven, Selby and Hambleton. The changes, now being introduced in the remaining four districts, are intended to create consistency across the county.

Grit bins are provided for members of the public to treat roads and footpaths in areas that are not on a priority gritting route, or in specific locations, such as outside schools.

The county council, which is in the middle of a £170m savings programme, reviewed the supply of grit bins and introduced criteria so they remain only in places which provide the greatest benefit to the local and travelling public. The criteria include factors such as the severity of bends; gradient of the road; traffic levels and pedestrian use and whether the area is already a priority road gritting route. They will be applied across the remaining districts.

Currently North Yorkshire has at least five times the provision of grit bins and heaps compared to other local authorities so any reduction as a result of these changes will still leave a service which is far in excess of that provided nationally.

“We want to make sure that our supply of grit bins and heaps is consistent across the county” said County Councillor Don Mackenzie, North Yorkshire’s Executive Member for Highways. “North Yorkshire has a gold standard winter maintenance programme and these changes, though making savings, ensure that grit bins remain in those places where they are most needed. Moreover we have a track record in working with communities that want to enhance further the local gritting operation”.

The authority is sending letters out to parish councils across the four districts during the course of the next few weeks explaining that grit bins that do not meet the criteria have been identified for removal. However, parish councils will have opportunity to keep the bin and pay an annual maintenance fee of £75, which will see it filled twice over the course of the winter.

This can be arranged as part of the council’s winter partnership scheme, which allows parish councils to support an enhanced level of maintenance by bringing together volunteers who are willing to clear snow and treat roads and footpaths.

The support offered includes advice and guidance and advance notification of severe weather using a specialist forecasting service.

This winter partnership scheme has proved popular with communities in other areas of the county, where the number of grit bins has previously been reduced. Residents in Riccall, near Selby, set up their own 'snow patrol' in 2011 after severe and prolonged winter conditions meant that many people were cut off from local services as they did not feel confident walking on the icy footpaths. Volunteers were able to respond quickly to any inclement weather, clearing snow and gritting footpaths.

Parish councils can also buy extra grit bins for £50 plus a £75 annual charge for two refills. More details can be found on the gritting pages of our website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/gritting .

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**North Yorkshire
County Council**



**North Yorkshire
County Council**

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Date: 27th August 2015

Dear Parish / Town Clerk

WINTER SERVICE - GRIT BINS AND HEAPS REVIEW

Grit bin and grit heap provision is an essential element of the County Council's winter service and these will be provided/replenished by 1st November each year in readiness for winter.

The County Council introduced an assessment for the provision of grit bins and heaps maintained by the County Council and this facility will generally only be provided if the scoring criteria is met. The County Council's Highways Officers have assessed existing bins and heaps within their area to ensure they meet the assessment criteria. This has resulted in some NYCC bins or heaps being identified for removal. At the bottom of this letter is the list of locations that meet the criteria and any provision which scores less than 100 (as per the criteria detailed on the attached assessment form) will be removed. Should this be the case, the Parish Council has the opportunity to keep the bin and pay the annual maintenance fee (see information below). Please confirm by email within 28 days of the date on this letter. If we do not receive a response, the grit bin/heap will be removed.

In general, grit bins are provided in urban areas and heaps provided in rural areas. However, over recent years heaps in many environmentally sensitive rural areas have been replaced with bins.

Grit bins or heaps are generally spaced a minimum of 40 metres apart on steep hills and sharp bends. A grit bin will also be provided at the main entrance to each school which is not on a Priority 1 treatment route.

Some Town and Parish Councils have in the past paid for grit bins, even though the County Council's placement criteria have not been met. In these circumstances the bins will be retained and continue to be replenished subject to a £75 a year charge, which allows for two bin refills.

If the Town or Parish Council requires a new grit bin on the publicly maintainable highway in a location which does not meet the assessment criteria, the County Council will consider its provision subject to the following specification and conditions:

- Green (or yellow) bins with a capacity of approximately 200kg will be provided at a one-off cost of £50.
- A £75 charge will be levied each year to cover the cost of replenishment. This will include pre-season filling i.e. prior to 1st November, and a refill typically mid-season or, for example, after a significant snow event.
- A further charge may be levied if additional fills are required. The Highway Authority reserves the right to remove any bins, the contents of which are used "indiscriminately" or outside publicly maintainable highway limits.

Further information regarding winter maintenance including the County's priority routes can be found at;
www.northyorks.gov.uk/gritting



North Yorkshire County Council

APPENDIX I

ASSESSMENT FORM FOR PROVISION OF A SALT BIN / HEAP

Actual Location of Salt Bin	Date of Assessment	Assessed By:
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Characteristic	Severity	Standard Scores	Assessed Actual Score
(i) Gradient	Greater than 1 in 10	75	
	1 in 10 to 1 in 30	40	
	Less than 1 in 30	Nil	
(ii) Severity of Bend	Sharp	60	
	Moderate	25	
	Slight	Nil	
(iii) Close proximity to and falling towards and away from a junction	Heavily trafficked road	90	
	Moderately trafficked road	75	
	Lightly trafficked road	30	
	Not falling towards	Nil	
(iv) Assessed traffic density at peak times	Moderate	40	
	Light	Nil	
(v) Number of premises for which this is the only access	Over 50	30	
	20 – 50	20	
	0 – 20	Nil	
(vi) Pedestrian Movements	High	60	
	Moderate	25	
	Low	Nil	
(vii) Road Priority	Priority 1 route	- 300	
	Priority 2 route	Nil	
	Priority 3 route	20	
TOTAL			This needs to be over 100 to pass

Kirkbymoorside	Sleightholmedale	Bank – 8 bins bought by NYMNP – marked bins not filled	1	1
Kirkbymoorside	Westfields	Outside the school	1	
Kirkbymoorside	Feversham Drive	On bend outside No.11	1	
Kirkbymoorside	Town Farm Close	At junction	1	
Kirkbymoorside	Oxcroft	At junction with Old Road	1	
Kirkbymoorside	Poplar Avenue	Opposite No.16 & above junction with Beech Drive	2	
Kirkbymoorside	Springfield Lane	Outside No.4 and opposite Hill Rise	2	
Kirkbymoorside	Keld Head Orchard Road	On incline opposite junction to cul-de-sac.	1	
Kirkbymoorside	Keld Head Orchard cul-de-sac	Outside No. 5 & 42	2	
Kirkbymoorside	West Lund Lane		1	
Kirkbymoorside	West Pasture	Junctions with Westfields & Lime Chase, outside No. 41 & 50	4	
Kirkbymoorside	Shaw Drive	Near snicket/parking space	1	
Kirkbymoorside	Park Lane	Outside No.4, opposite Park House & opposite GW's	3	
Kirkbymoorside	Castlegate	Top & bottom of road	2	

Kirkbymoorside	Ryedale Crescent	Outside No.15	1	
Kirkbymoorside	Ings Lane Bridge	Junction with A170	1	
Kirkbymoorside	Manor Gardens	Above junction	1	
Kirkbymoorside	Hagg Road	Before the bend		1
Kirkbymoorside	Vivers Place	Wide footpath on bend	1	
Kirkbymoorside	U112	Douthwaite Dale (junction with C20)		1
Kirkdale	C59	Ford		6
Kirby Mills	A170 junction	Milestones Entrance	1	

*Please note the 1st column is bins and the 2nd is heaps.

Yours sincerely

Area Manager