

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ITEM 7

TIDWORTH AREA BOARD
15 November 2010

ALLOCATION OF GRIT BINS

Purpose of the Report

To prioritise the location of new grit bins following requests from the town and parish councils.

Background

- The Council provides grit bins at suitable locations on minor roads not routinely treated with salt. The bins are filled with salt at the beginning of the winter season, and refilled periodically as the salt is used.
- Earlier this year the Council carried out a review of grit bins with the Parish and Town Councils to confirm the location and condition of the 983 existing bins. As a result 65 of the bins are now being repaired or replaced
- Following the severe weather last winter a large number of requests for additional bins were received. It is not feasible to meet the cost of providing and filling the 422 additional bins requested, but it would be possible to provide about 100 new bins.
- It is necessary to prioritise the provision of these bins which represent a 10% increase in bins across the county.
- It is proposed that each Area Board should have a 10% increase in the number of bins in their area.

Factors to consider when prioritising the allocation of grit bins

- Grit Bins are not provided on roads routinely treated by the Councils gritters.
- Salt must only be used on the highway. It is not for use on private drives or other property.
- The bins must be located so they do not obstruct the carriageway, footways or visibility.
- They are usually placed on highway land, but may be placed on private land with the owner's agreement.

- The final locations will have to be agreed by the area highway staff to ensure road safety.
- The Council will arrange for the bins to be installed.
- Arrangements will be made for them to be refilled, but in severe weather the gritting and clearing of snow from the main roads may have to take priority.
- The Council can provide Parish and Town Councils with 1 tonne bags of salt in order to speed up the refilling of grit bins provided they have suitable under cover storage and the capability to fill bins in their area.
- The agreed list of sites for the new Grit Bins should be provided to the area highway office as soon as possible so that the site can be inspected, and the bins installed and filled before the start of this winter.

Main Considerations

- Town and parish councils had notified Wiltshire Council of their requests for additional grit bins in the spring of 2010.
- A total of 18 requests were originally received and the area board has 4 grit bins to allocate.
- At the Tidworth Area Board meeting on 20 September 2010, town and parish councils were requested to review their requests and inform the Community Area Manager, by 18th October, of their first preferred location for one bin per area. X number of parishes and towns replied with an updated and reduced number of locations.
- Responses received from the town and parish councils can be seen on the spreadsheet at Appendix 1, which shows the number of existing bins, the original requests put forward in the spring of this year and the revised requests for one preferred site per area.

Recommendation

That the Area Board review the requests and make a decision on where the 4 grit bins should be allocated.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: Requests for and allocation of Grit Bins in the Tidworth Community Area