

Snow & Ice Clearance Plan

Bickington Parish Council

This document sets out how the Parish Council will coordinate local action during periods of snow and ice to support community safety.

1. Purpose and Scope

This Snow & Ice Clearance Plan sets out how Bickington Parish Council will coordinate local action during periods of snow and ice to help keep key community routes and spaces safe and accessible.

The plan supports, but does not replace, Devon County Council's Winter Service, which is responsible for treating the primary salting and main road network.

Local action under this plan focuses on parish-level footways, access routes and community priorities, where volunteer assistance can make a practical difference to safety and accessibility.

2. Activation of the Plan

The plan will be activated when both of the following apply:

- Heavy snowfall, freezing rain, or prolonged icy conditions are forecast or occurring; and
- It is assessed as safe for volunteers to operate.

3. Health, Safety and Liability

Key Principles

No one, including members of the public, should undertake snow or ice clearance if conditions present an unacceptable level of risk.

- The safety of volunteers and the public is paramount.
- Activity should be limited to locations that can be treated sensibly and safely.
- Suitable footwear, gloves, high-visibility clothing and appropriate tools must be used.
- Work should be avoided in poor visibility, on untreated main roads, or near fast-moving traffic.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Parish Council

The Parish Council will:

- Maintain and review this plan annually.
- Coordinate with Devon County Council Highways and the Snow Warden Scheme.
- Support Snow Wardens and volunteers with guidance and communications.

- Share appropriate updates with residents during significant weather events via Bickington Facebook page.

4.2 Snow Wardens

Snow Wardens will:

- Act as the local lead for parish winter response.
- Monitor weather forecasts and warnings.
- Check grit bins and parish salt stocks ahead of winter.
- Organise volunteers when action is required.
- Report issues to Devon County Council.

4.3 Volunteers will:

- Only carry out tasks when it is safe to do so.
- Clear snow and apply grit at agreed priority locations.
- Follow basic risk assessments and safety guidance.
- Inform the Snow Warden of hazards or support needs.

4.4 Residents are encouraged to:

- Clear snow responsibly from pavements immediately outside their homes.
- Assist neighbours where it is safe to do so.
- Understand that volunteer resources are limited.

5. Snow & Ice Clearance Priorities

These priorities will be applied proportionately, depending on conditions and available volunteers.

Priority Areas

- Access to community buildings – Village Hall
- Key pedestrian routes
 - Footpaths frequently used by older residents