

THE PARISH BRIEFING



Rutland
County Council

Also available online at:
www.rutland.gov.uk

Tuesday 20th October 2015

GETTING READY FOR WINTER

Under the Highways Act, Rutland County Council is tasked with ensuring that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice. This same legislation acknowledges that it is not possible to treat the entire highway network or to keep treated parts completely clear at all times.

In order to carry out its statutory duty, the Council has developed a comprehensive Winter Maintenance Service which aims to allow the safe passage of vehicles and pedestrians on priority routes; mitigate delays due to winter weather; reduce damage to the highway network as a result of ice; and carry out all operations safely.



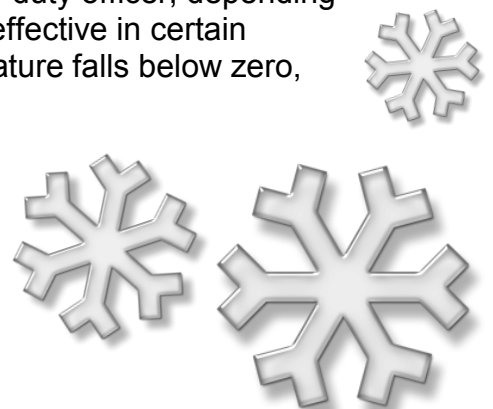
Gritting operations will be undertaken by our chosen contractor using their own vehicles. In addition, during extreme weather, street cleansing and grounds maintenance contractors will be used to clear snow from footways. Farmers will be contracted to clear snow from carriageways as directed. Our gritting routes cover major A and B roads, bus routes, designated access routes into most villages, main routes to GP surgeries, hospitals and schools.

During periods of extreme weather, treatment of additional locations will be determined by prioritising requests from the police and members of the public, provided that resources are available. The defined precautionary routes will always take priority and the target time for treatment of the network is four hours.

Footways do not normally receive a precautionary treatment. However, when snow is forecast, precautionary gritting will be carried out on the main footways in Oakham and Uppingham town centre areas only. Where resources are available, treatment of other footways will take place on a priority basis – for example, areas with high numbers of vulnerable residents.

Daily decisions on winter maintenance actions are made by our duty officer, depending on the weather forecast. It should be noted that gritting is only effective in certain conditions and will not necessarily take place when the temperature falls below zero, on a dry road surface, or when residual salt levels are sufficient to deal with the expected conditions.

Advice on winter services can be found at:
bit.ly/rutlandwinter Our Winter Gritting Routes can also be viewed online at: roadworks.org
If you have any queries regarding winter maintenance in Rutland, please contact: highways@rutland.gov.uk



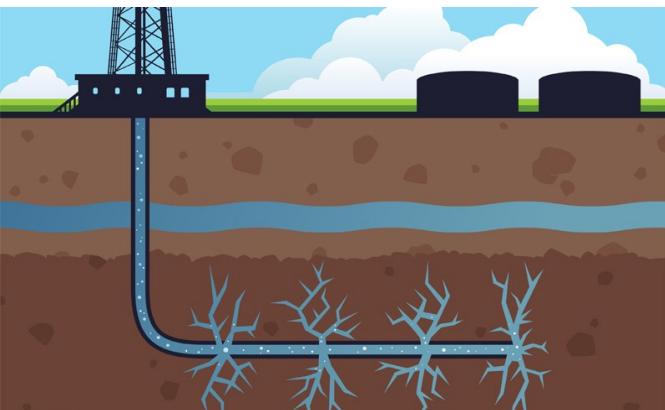
INFORMATION ON FRACKING

There are no potential fracking proposals in Rutland and the County is outside the currently licensed areas for fracking and the blocks of land identified by the government across the UK.

The County Council's Local Plan provides the local planning framework for development but does not currently have specific policies on fracking. There is however a range of government planning policy on fracking available which can be used by the Council in determining any planning applications for fracking.

There will be an opportunity to consider additional local plan policies to cover fracking, if these are needed, as part of the Council's Local Plan Review. However it is not clear at present as to what a specific local plan policy on fracking could say that would be different to national planning policy.

Further information about fracking is available on online: <http://bit.ly/1OFcy9B>



PARISH CLERK TRAINING



On 15th September, Rutland County Council joined forces with the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC) to deliver an informative session on ethical standards for Parish Clerks.

Although the session wasn't well attended, those who came enjoyed the event and provided excellent feedback. We would like to continue to work with LRALC to deliver relevant training for Members and Clerks so please look out for future events.

If anyone has a specific requirement for training, we will be happy to consider these.

For further information, please email Sue Bingham: sbingham@rutland.gov.uk or telephone 01572 758165.

LLR Prepared

LLR Prepared is the Local Resilience Forum for the policing area covering Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland and wants to encourage residents, communities and businesses to plan ahead in case of emergencies.

The Partnership has a range of advice, handy toolkits and templates on its website. To access this information and learn more about emergency planning, please visit: www.llrprepared.org.uk

