

## Snow Problem

Posted by Ernhw Ltd - 17 Jan 2018 11:19

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From Cllr Macdonalds Facebook Page

Cllr David Macdonald. - Independent

57 mins · Busby ·

I have just written to the roads team and am awaiting their response.

I copied in the following people to this email

Director of Environment.

Deputy Chief Executive

Chief Executive.

Here is that letter to them on the behalf of Ward 4 residents.

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Good morning.

Re: Gritting/Road clearing Ward 4

I would appreciate if you could meet with the gritting team to discuss this.

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What went wrong?

Clearly the strategy employed yesterday to clear A and B roads within the ward failed. The entire length of the roadway from Eastwood toll all the way to the border with South Lanarkshire past Busby was neither cleared of snow or gritted and that was at 7:00pm last night. I cannot be certain about Clarkston Rd but the traffic was at a complete standstill. So much so that many people reported journey times from Muirend to Busby of 2-3 hours.

Traffic was jammed from Eastwood toll to Busby and journey times reported from the toll to Busby were 90 minutes.

In Busby I assisted with my 4x4 and towed 8 different vehicles stranded on the main roadway. Cars were stranded everywhere. Buses lost traction and were left stranded blocking one side of Main Street. I notified ring and report to get the message to the roads team. One bus was stranded for 2 hours and I along with 6 residents took it upon ourselves to create a contraflow on the other side of the roadway to keep the flow of traffic moving slowly from Sheddens to South Lanarkshire in each direction. The Police were thankful for the assistance when they appeared. Wardens would have been helpful to assist with traffic control. Cones to direct traffic. There was absolutely no council presence.

It is clear to everybody from yesterday's events how hideously unprepared ERC are in dealing with what can only be described as a moderate snowfall. 5-7cm in 12 hours is not a lot.

Why are we so ill prepared? Is it staffing issues? Is it equipment issues? Overall budget issues? Was rationing of salt being employed? Did the planning strategy fail?

We knew this snow was on its way 7 days prior. ERC knew this.

The entire time I was out yesterday from around 4pm - 10pm the first time I finally saw a gritter was 9:30pm. Not a single snowplough. If gritters and ploughs would have hit these roads at 3-4pm this would have been totally avoidable. The reason the snow lay on the road is because there was no salt to melt it when it hit. Had there been properly salted roads then none of this would have happened.

I understand residential C roads cannot be serviced but A and B roads must be serviced at all times. There can never be a situation whereby this is ignored.

Residents want to go forward and know these roads are going to be serviced in accordance with the council's legal obligation to do so. People have to get to work. Children have to get to school. People have to get to and from hospitals and doctors appointments.

Please don't let the people of East Renfrewshire down. Take ownership of this problem and come up with a much better strategy because what happened yesterday was nothing short of a complete failure.

East Renfrewshire Council Tax payers are not receiving the services expected to a satisfactory standard. This must not continue.

As a final thought and I hope the Director of Environment will consider this. ERC should have a roads emergency team on standby to deal with directing traffic and manning manual contraflow. That would have assisted enormously last night. A standby team of ERC employees made up of mid level and senior level management. The public need to see this council and it's officers taking ownership of problems like we experienced yesterday. Not directing from a desk or through a phone. But rather, out there on a roadway in a Hi-viz jacket doing something effective. If I can do it on a voluntary basis on a councillor allowance then the highest paid people in the department can certainly do it. ERC need to be far more proactive and be seen to be on the ground taking control.

I look forward to your response.

Regards,

Cllr. David Macdonald

Independent

Ward 4.

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## **Black Ice and Snow - Gritting and salt Problems**

Posted by RM64 - 05 Nov 2019 11:24

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Lets hope for a 'mild' winter and 'fit and able' Councillors to 'to find their nearest public grit bin and use it to treat areas.....' !!

Published The Extra On Line -

By Dawn Renton

Published: 08:25 Friday 01 November 2019

East Renfrewshire Council is well prepared for winter

East Renfrewshire Council has 4,500 tonnes of salt ready to treat roads across the authority over the coming winter months.

When the temperature drops, our teams will be out and about on more than 190 miles of priority routes helping to keep residents and visitors safe and ensure as little disruption as possible.

A total of 339 public grit bins, including 17 larger community bins, have also been replenished which will allow residents to access grit for their local roads and pavements.

This is particularly important during prolonged cold spells when the council's roads service needs to focus its resources on keeping main routes open and moving across the area.

Environment Convener, Councillor Alan Lafferty, said: "I am pleased to reassure East Renfrewshire residents that our roads team is ready and equipped for the upcoming winter months. Staff are on standby to treat roads in advance of, and during, any bouts of freezing weather.

"I would also encourage residents, who are fit and able, to find their nearest public grit bin and use it to treat areas not included in our priority routes, such as your driveway or pavement outside your house or outside any elderly neighbours or family member's homes.

"You can find out where your nearest grit bin is by visiting our website and throughout the winter months, our social media channels will provide regular updates on what we are doing."

For further information on how prepared the council is for winter, including where to find grit bins and our priority routes, click here -

[www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/winterprep](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/winterprep)

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## Re: Snow and Black Ice - Salting and Gritting Problem

Posted by RM64 - 20 Jan 2020 10:02

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Saturday 18/1/2020.

It would appear there was a widespread problem with Black Ice on pavements, car parks etc.

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## Black Ice and Snow - Gritting and salt Problems

Posted by RM64 - 20 Jan 2020 11:48

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----- Original Message -----

Sent: Sunday, 19 Jan, 2020 At 10:07

Subject: Eastwood Park/Leisure Centre - Black Ice - treacherous and dangerous - Saturday 18/1/2020

Attended Gym at Eastwood Park 08:50 - 10:10 Saturday morning 18 January 2020.

There were Leisure Centre staff? advising traffic at the entrance from the main road warning of treacherous and dangerous conditions with sheet ice & black ice on the roads, in the car parks and surrounding pavements.

Indeed they were correct. It was very treacherous and dangerous !

Myself and many others were slipping and sliding all over the place.

There was no evidence of gritting and salting having taken place.

Can you clarify what the problem was with the lack of gritting and salting the roads, the car parks and surrounding pavements in the park.

The Centre Staff said they had contacted the Council.

Please clarify the time when the Council were advised about the black ice and the time when the area was eventually gritted and salted.

You will be aware that this lack of gritting and salting has been raised as a problem for the last 5-6 years.

Your help with this matter will be appreciated.

Thanks

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## **Black Ice and Snow - Gritting and salt Problems**

Posted by RM64 - 20 Jan 2020 11:56

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Reply from Cllr Stewart Miller -

----- Original Message -----

From: &quot;Miller, Stewart (Cllr)&quot;;

Sent: Sunday, 19 Jan, 2020 At 12:43

Subject: Re: Eastwood Park/Leisure Centre - Black Ice - treacherous and dangerous - Saturday 18/1/2020

Dear Sir

Thank you for your correspondence and I will pass it on to the relevant officers

Regards

Stewart

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## **Black Ice and Snow - Gritting and salt Problems**

Posted by RM64 - 20 Jan 2020 12:06

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Reply from Cllr(and Convener for Environment) Alan Lafferty -

----- Original Message -----

From: "Lafferty, A (Cllr)"

Sent: Sunday, 19 Jan, 2020 At 14:20

Subject: RE: Eastwood Park/Leisure Centre - Black Ice - treacherous and dangerous - Saturday 18/1/2020

The information below is available on the Council Website.

Priority gritting routes

Find out how we prioritise which roads get gritted first.

Our staff work 24 hours on standby during the winter.

We get road updates from a specialist forecasting service at least three times a day. Roadside sensors also send information to help check road conditions.

This helps us decide what action to take.

## Roads

Roads priority gritting routes

### Priority 1

Strategic and main traffic routes

A77 Fenwick Road

A77 Ayr Road

A727 Busby to Spiersbridge

A736 Glasgow Road to Lochlibo Road

B769 Stewarton Road

B767 Busby to Eaglesham

### Priority 2

One access route to fire stations

Major bus routes

School bus routes notified by SPT (may not include the full route)

### Priority 3

Other B class roads

### Priority 4

Local employment areas such as industrial estates



Priority 5

C class roads and unclassified public roads

Priority 6

Access to isolated homes

Priority 7

Prospective public roads

Priority 8

Private roads

During normal winter weather, we grit priority 1 to 3 routes and some priority 4 and 5 routes. We'll grit these routes on first and second runs.

During severe winter weather we may need to concentrate on priority 1 and 2 routes.

We'll grit other routes if the severe weather continues and other priority routes stay clear.

Online map of gritted roads

Pavements and paths

Pavement gritting priorities

Priority 1

Shopping areas

Priority 2

Areas used by many people - such as train station entrances

Priority 3

Steep hills in housing areas, old people's homes and sheltered housing

Priority 4

One pavement along the front of each school

We grit pavements once all priority routes are deemed safe and clear and if we have the resource to do so.

Contact

Email:

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Cllr Alan Lafferty

Labour & Co-operative Member Ward 4

Convener for Environment

East Renfrewshire Council

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**Black Ice and Snow - Gritting and salt Problems**

Posted by RM64 - 20 Jan 2020 12:10

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----- Original Message -----

To: "Lafferty, A (Cllr)"

Sent: Sunday, 19 Jan, 2020 At 16:14

Subject: RE: Eastwood Park/Leisure Centre - Black Ice - treacherous and dangerous - Saturday 18/1/2020

Hi Alan

Systems/priorities can be changed. Is that not what Councillors do for their constituents?

What use is this system when it doesn't actually help your constituents when they need it?

Maybe you can suggest how this situation can be avoided in the future.

As it is a public facility and you always know your constituents will be accessing/using the facilities why can't this be added as a priority?

I would request that you help your constituents and raise this at the first appropriate opportunity.

As a senior constituent and trying to keep fit by attending the gym it's ironic that I have to take evasive action to avoid breaking a leg and/or dislocating a hip to get there and any injury to myself is viewed as not a priority.

Again, your help will be appreciated.

Thanks

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