



BELPER TOWN COUNCIL

Working for the community

GRIT BIN POLICY & PROCEDURE

Belper Town Council (The Council) shall provide grit bins for self-help by members of the public for use **on public areas**.

The Use of Grit

Grit is another name for 'rock salt' and it helps keep roads safe by preventing them becoming icy; it works by lowering the temperature at which water freezes. It relies on pedestrian movement on pavements or the action of vehicle tyres to spread it over the road but it can get too cold for the salt to work. Below -5 degrees centigrade the effectiveness of grit is reduced and pavements/roads may still freeze. Rain or snow can wash the salt away leaving the area prone to re-icing, so salting ideally needs to take place after rain but before the water freezes.

Spreading the Grit

Safety is the most important factor:

- Only spread the grit when there are no vehicles or pedestrians about;
- Wear bright clothing to ensure that you can be seen easily;
- Don't assume that the road or footway is safe just because you have spread the grit;
- Look after the environment – use the minimum grit necessary. A shovel full of grit will be sufficient for 20-30sq.m. For maximum effect the grit should be spread in tyre tracks or on the main foot way used.

Legend & Rumour

There is a long-standing urban myth that if a person is injured as a result of slipping on a pavement cleared voluntarily, they will sue for damages. Providing the snow clearance is done carefully and the area is not left worse than it was before the clearance took place, it is extremely unlikely that any legal consequence will follow

Provision

The Council provides over 70 grit bins in the Parish. Bins are also provided by Futures Housing, Derbyshire County Council and Amber Valley Borough Council

Grit Bin Filling and Use

1. Residents should report empty grit bins by telephoning Derbyshire County Council. The contact details are on the plaque on each grit bin.
2. The Council does not guarantee that a grit bin will be refilled when reported empty. Grit bins shall be **replenished if and when** possible **at the start** of the winter period and **once** during the winter period. Additional fills are at the Council's discretion.
3. **The grit in the bin is purely for use on the public highway. If the grit is used on private land and driveways consideration will be given to remove the bin.**
4. The Council will not tolerate abuse or threats to its staff or volunteers. Any allegations will be investigated and if proved may result in the grit bin being removed.
5. The locations of grit bins will be recorded and made available on the Council's website.

Applications for new grit bins

1. Only written requests on the Council's Grit Bin Application Form will be considered. These are available on the website or from the Council's Office at St Johns Chapel, The Butts, Belper.
2. An application will not be considered unless it is signed by at least half of households within 100 metres of the proposed bin.
3. The Council will not provide grit bins in private areas or car parks for use by any other Council or any other public or private property such as schools, parks, hospitals, old people's homes, etc.
4. The Council will consider the following -
 - a) Gradient – a gradient of 1 in 10 or steeper is usually required – if not established the Council will consider-
 - b) Highway safety concerns – known junction problems, history of accidents or near misses, flooding issues and/or
 - c) Numbers of vulnerable residents/users ie) very young, elderly or disabled residents that will benefit from provision of a grit bin
5. Grit bins shall only be located where the following the criteria is met:-
 - The proposed bin is not on a route already gritted by the County Council;
 - The grit must be for use on the public highway (road and footway)
 - The location shall not obstruct the passage of pedestrians, a minimum of 1.5m clearance on the footway is required;
 - The location shall not obstruct sight lines;
 - The location is not within 200m of another grit bin location;
 - The location is within an urban area;
 - The location is either within the boundary of the public road or can be sited on private land with the landowner's permission in a way to give safe uninterrupted access by residents.
 - The location is such that the bin can be filled from a lorry.

6. Before any installation is finally approved agreement will need to be given by Derbyshire County Council, as the highway authority, for the siting of the bin and it's servicing.



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APPLICATION FOR PROVISION OF GRIT BIN

1 Proposed Location

1.1 Street Name -

1.2 Location on the Street (Please provide a plan or exact details)-

2 Criteria

Please answer the following questions

	Yes	No
Is the route is not already gritted by the County Council		
All consulted residents are aware that the Grit must be for use on the public highway (road and footway). That it is not for private use and the Council only		
The proposed location does not obstruct the passage of pedestrians, a and that minimum of 1.5m clearance on the footway is provided		
The location does not obstruct sight lines		
The location is not within 200m of another grit bin location		
The location is within an urban area		
The location is either within the boundary of the public road or is on private land with the landowners permission in to give safe and uninterrupted access by residents and the Council		

