

Agenda Item: 7.2
Report to: Amenities Committee
Date: Wednesday 10th March 2021
Subject: Parish Council owned Salt Bins.
Summary: To consider a new salt bin location at Saxon Close.

The Committee is recommended:-

To consider the request for a new salt bin at Saxon Close from the 2022/2023 budget.

1. Background

1.1 The parish council has received the following email:

- *Good Morning, I hope you are keeping safe & well in these surreal times. I would like to request a salt box for Saxon Close, Kings Hill as a cul de sac the majority of the close is not paved so you have no choice to walk in the road. We have two junctions within the cul de sac the one to enter & another at the bottom of a gradient. In my opinion it is an accident waiting to happen. Please could I kindly request that a salt bin is installed within Saxon.*

1.3 The Parish Council began a programme of salt bin installations in 2011. This was to provide the residents of Kings Hill with the means of salting small areas of road and pavement not covered by Kent County Council's primary and secondary precautionary salting routes or Liberty Property Trusts salting routes.

A list of parish council owned salt bin locations can be found on the parish council website

https://www.kingshillparish.gov.uk/Parish_Council_Salt_Bins_37974.aspx

2. KCC Salt Bin Procedure

Provision of Roadside Salt Bins

- 2.1 Roadside salt bins can be sited at potentially hazardous locations for use by the public, to treat ice and snow on small areas of the carriageway or footway.
- 2.2 Salt bins will be filled using a mixture of sharp sand or other grit material and salt and will be filled at the beginning of the winter season. In the event of severe weather further refills will be carried out as time and resources permit.
- 2.3 In recent years assessment criteria has been in place which has been used to determine where to safely install salt bins in the county. This system has been successful and there are now over 3000 salt bins located in key areas across the county. Maintenance of all bins is carried out each winter season to keep the stock in good order and fit for purpose and where needed bins are repaired or replaced.
- 2.4 For the 2020 winter season there will be a review to determine the need to provide further salt bins across the county. An exercise will be carried out to identify how the salt bins are utilised and those that are seldom used may be removed and where needed moved to more suitable locations.
- 2.5 In view of the review and the widespread availability of salt bins already in place, for the 2020 season no further salt bins will be placed. The existing salt bin stock is considered to be sufficient to meet the needs of local communities. County Members can use their Combined Member Fund to purchase salt bins¹.
- 2.6 Salt bags One tonne bags of a salt/sand mix will be provided to parish councils who request them at the start of the winter season for use in their local area.
This can be used to fill some of the parish council bins.

3. How to request a salt bin

- 3.1 Parish councils are permitted to purchase salt bins and place them on the highway once a suitable location has been approved by a qualified engineer from Highway Operations. These salt bins ideally should not be yellow and should be clearly identified by a label as being the property of the parish council. Highway Operations will have no obligation to fill or maintain these salt bins.

4. The cost of a salt bin

- 4.1 130 Litre Slimline Grit Bin = £150.00

¹ KCC Winter Service Policy 2020-2021



The picture is for illustrative purposes only

- 4.2 Approximate cost of filling this with salt equates to £100 (this is only including the cost of the salt and not the contractor that will undertake the works).

5. Considerations

- 5.1 The committee needs to consider the need or issue the project is addressing. There has only been one request, there are no recorded accidents due to weather and the committee would have to consult with residents before taking any action.

6. Risks to the Council

- 6.1 To undertake anything with a financial cost in this year's budget would be a high risk strategy for the council. The financial investigation laid out that the parish council does not have the required amount of reserves to function and the council is in a three year replacement programme, to spend any of these reserves whilst they are being replaced puts the parish council at risk.
- 6.2 To vire money from a different budget line would be high risk as each budget line is accounted for any overspend is taken from the reserves, which the parish council are in the process of replacing.

Decision Required:

To consider the request for a new salt bin at Saxon Close from the 2022/2023 budget.

Contact Officer: Georgina Jackson, Deputy Clerk

Date: 24th February 2021