



# Savernake Parish Council

## Cold Weather Plan



A346 Savernake

### Cold weather advice and planning

The Cold Weather Plan (CWP) for England describes useful prompts for safety and wellbeing in winter and the best time to take action. ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/adverse-weather-and-health-plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adverse-weather-and-health-plan))

The time at which specific actions should be taken is based on the Met Office Cold Weather Alert Levels <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/weather-health-alerting-system>. These alert levels are now commonplace on all UK weather forecasts across the media. To monitor the regional forecast and see current alert levels please see the Met Office website. ([www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/uk](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/uk))

There are an average of 27,000 extra winter deaths each year resulting from cold weather. By following the documents produced by the Department of Health, families, communities, and health and social care settings will be able to reduce the risk to vulnerable people.

A Cold Weather Alert can be issued any time between 1 November and 31 March and the definition of severe cold weather is below 2°C and/or snow and ice.

## **Stay warm in winter**

The NHS have produced guidance which is aimed at supporting vulnerable people over winter. The NHS Stay Well This Winter initiative has involved a number of Government Departments, Industry Bodies and Voluntary Sector partners including the British Red Cross, Royal Volunteer Service, St John Ambulance and the Salvation Army working together to provide top tips on advising people how to keep themselves and their families warm, healthy and safe through the cold winter.

Wiltshire Council (WC) and other websites also have advice on health protection

## **Register with utility companies**

If you are vulnerable, don't forget to register with your utility companies who will have plans to assist you e.g. Thames Water - Priority Services Register (<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/get-extra-help/priority-services>) gives utility customers extra support when they need it most as does the SSEN Priority Service Register (<https://www.ssen.co.uk/power-cuts-emergencies/priority-services/>). It's completely free of charge and it's simple to sign up.

## **Order fuel early**

In recent winters the oil industry has seen an increase in demand for domestic and business oil deliveries throughout December. The war in Ukraine continues to affect supplies. The supply for such demand can be badly affected if snow and widespread ice affects the road network in Wiltshire and Savernake.

## **Homeless Persons**

If anyone is known to be homeless and sleeping outside within Wiltshire please contact Wiltshire Council's emergency team on **0300 456 0100** to report this. WC has a statutory duty to trigger Severe Weather Emergency Provisions (SWEP) for anyone who is sleeping rough when the weather is predicted to fall to zero degrees or below for three consecutive nights.

## **Travelling in severe weather**

- Only travel when absolutely necessary.
- Check local travel information. Remember that Wiltshire Council, as the local highway authority, is the lead party in dealing with winter maintenance within the county. When ice is forecast all key routes in Wiltshire will receive precautionary salting. Key routes are trunk roads, class A and B roads and some of the busier lower class roads. This helps to make sure that the majority of road users live within a reasonable distance of a salted road.
- Before starting a journey ensure someone else is aware of your journey and Estimated Time of Arrival.
- Ensure that your vehicle checks have been carried out. Connecting Wiltshire Website has a check list and advice [www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/traffic/severe-weather/](http://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/traffic/severe-weather/)

## **Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme (PEAS)**

### **Cold Weather**

Wiltshire Council, as part of its ongoing community engagement, is looking to help town and parishes across Wiltshire in periods of extreme cold weather.

The Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme allows Wiltshire Council to provide equipment to local town and parish councils to enable them to refill salt bins or spread salt in known areas during periods of adverse weather.

There are certain conditions attached with the provision of the PEAS equipment namely:-

***a. Salt must be kept in a dry secure location with easy access.***

Savernake Parish Council only have one Salt Bin at the junction of the A4 with Savernake hospital.



*Bus Shelter at Savernake Hospital*

This is secure and allows easy access to Salt within. Anyone can use this resource to grit the Bus Stop, Road and Pavement on the incline to Savernake Hospital and Maurice Way.

Spreading salt (also known as grit) makes roads and pavements safer in freezing conditions by preventing ice.

### **How to use a salt box**

You only need a thin layer of salt to treat an icy area. If you are putting salt onto snow, it will not thaw instantly. You should clear the area, add a dusting of salt and walk over it to work it into any remaining snow.

Take care not to block drains or push snow into piles in areas where people may walk or drive. You should not use salt from grit bins on private footpaths, driveways or properties. Its purpose is to assist pedestrians in negotiating the footpath to Savernake Hospital and Maurice Way, together with the access road if gritting to the hospital has not been carried out by Wiltshire Council.

A teaspoon of salt should treat a square meter of frozen surface.

If other sites should be identified please inform SPC for their consideration.

***b/ A nominated representative who will be responsible for working with us.***

The SPC infrastructure officer is the nominated officer and their contact details are on the Councillors' tab on the Parish website ([www.savernake-pc.org](http://www.savernake-pc.org)). The post holder will check the bin in August each year to ensure it is serviced as required and contains an adequate supply of salt/grit and liaise with the PEAS.

***c/ Develop a parish weather response plan with Wiltshire Council.***

The Cold Weather Plan has been approved by Savernake Parish Council and submitted to PEAS for approval.

*Savernake Parish Council accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from action taken or not taken in reliance on material or information contained within this policy, or for any failure to activate the policy or any part thereof in response to an extreme weather event.*

*It is the individual's responsibility to protect themselves and their property from weather events. This policy is to assist individuals in their planning for these events and are guidelines only.*