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@AbshireRoads

Winter Roads Maintenance Briefing

"Winter is here"

A belated but massive thank you to all those who worked during the festive period, both in and out of Aberdeenshire council, to the people who make the North East of Scotland a better place to live in.

After the early onslaught of Storm Arwen, the less turbulent winter conditions experienced over the past couple of months has been a welcome respite to all. It has been challenging to deliver winter with Covid-19 absences, but hopefully this will improve as we move into the spring.

Over the holidays, the winter maintenance team have been working most days as per our decision making flowcharts in our winter operational plan to ensure the safety of our people, roads, and infrastructure. In this second issue, we'd like to update you all on the latest improvements to our service, how they have performed, and what new innovations are to come.

#NetworkMakesTheDreamWork



The Winter Season

Although the Aberdeenshire area has not experienced severe snowfalls or extreme cold weather spells, our winter maintenance team have been in operation frequently this season.

During this time, we have made certain that the depots salt levels remain well stocked - should winter conditions increase in the coming months.

Every season in preparation for winter, our winter maintenance operational team has ensured, that quality and performance is at the forefront of our service. So far in the lead up to 2022, the council teams have installed:

- 50 x Grit Bin QR Code Stickers
- 9 x Vaisala DRS611 Road Sensors
- 2 x New Functions to MyAberdeenshire App
- 1 x New Website "Roads Information on Maps"

With one of the most severe storms recorded, there have been areas of our service where further innovation and investment is needed in order to provide best service for such rare, unforeseen events.



From mountain to sea
Bho bheinn gu muir

Salt & Workforce

Salt

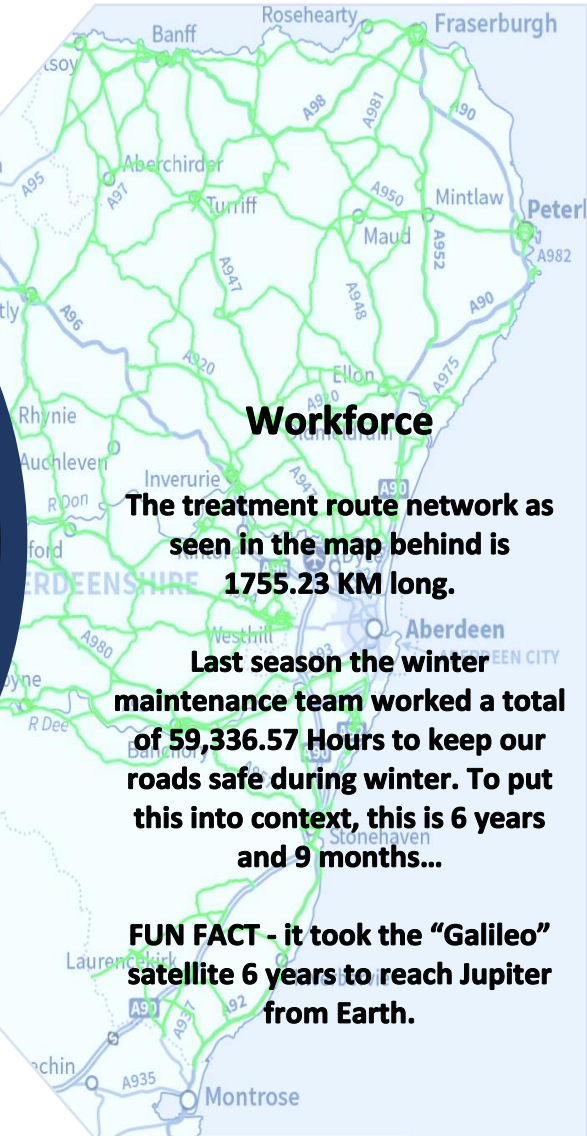
To keep our depots stocked, our supplier delivers an average of 3650 Tonnes of salt on every winter month.

As seen in the map, salt is sent from Teesport to Aberdeen Harbour, then to our depots, and finally to our roads and grit boxes.

Our supplier mines their salt mostly from **The North Sea** or **The North Yorkshire Moors**, but during high demand, their salt can come from as far as **Ireland** or **Spain**.

In December we used over 9,500 T of salt, 1,500 T of which were used over **Christmas Eve** to **New Years Day**.

So far this winter season, we have used 17,834 T of salt on our roads.



DID YOU KNOW?

Last season our winter maintenance team treated 172,322.5 KM worth of road. To put that in perspective, that's enough to go around the moon 15 times.

From mountain to sea
Bho bheinn gu muir

Road Sensors

Since the installation of our road sensors in December, the winter maintenance team has seen improvements to our weather data gathering network. The additional sensors have allowed for better determination of road conditions, weather, and observation of previously unmonitored roads within Aberdeenshire.

The Vaisala DRS611 sensor is battery operated and embedded within the tarmac under the road surface. The data the road sensor is able to collect, can range from surface temperature and surface dryness, to the amount of salt remaining on the road surface.



Vaisala DRS611

my Aberdeenshire

For those yet to download the app, the Digital Service Team has added the “Roadworks” function. This shows the current and scheduled road closures / restrictions within Aberdeenshire. This can be viewed in map or list format, and users can filter this information by time, type, and area.



Additionally, users can set up and receive road closure / restriction notifications from the “Roadworks” function. Just go into settings and specify your desired roadworks notification preferences - time, type, and area.



myAberdeenshire App Home Screen

More Functions

Notifications can also be set up for waste bin collections and school closures. That way, users can be notified of any ad-hoc issues in real time, such as:

- **Unscheduled school closures,**
- **Waste vehicle breakdowns,**
- **Extreme weather affects on services.**



Another feature the Digital Service Team has refined over time is the “Reporting” function. App users can report road faults, defective street lights, fly tipping and other items. There is an active map which shows all reports previously made, and user can even report a missed bin collection.



Reporting

From mountain to sea
Bho bheinn gu muir

Our Grit Bins

There are now three ways to request for a grit bin refill, our new **QR Codes**, the **MyAberdeenshire app**, and our **website**:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/grit-bins/>

Aberdeenshire Council has just over 1800 grit bins spread across the area.

As part of the Councils Internet of Things (IoT) initiative, smart sensors will be trialed on a selection of Grit Bins. This will allow us to monitor salt levels inside of our bins in real time. If the trial is successful, this would mean that in the future, you will no longer need to request for a refill, as the sensors will inform us when a top up is needed.

At this time, the sensors are still in the early stages of installation, until then our QR codes, website, and app will still play an integral role in the restocking of our grit bins.



Number of Grit Bins Trialing QR Codes	
Banff & Buchan	8
Buchan	8
Formatine	8
Garioch	10
Kincardine & Mearns	8
Marr (North & South)	8

Our QR codes began trials at the tail end of last year. When your grit bin needs a refill, and you see one of our QR code stickers, please give them a go.

Download the **MyAberdeenshire app** for ease of access to our services. To refill your gritbox, access the app, select Winter tab, and then select Grit Bins tab.

From there, you can pick your grit box on the map.



GET IT ON **Google Play** | Download on the **App Store**



QR Coded Grit Bins

Using your camera phone, focus on the QR code and you'll be on your way to get a refill.



Additionally, scanning QR codes allow the public to log stock levels and give us an insight into salt usage.





From mountain to sea
Bho bheinn gu muir

Since issuing "Winter Maintenance Briefing Note" Issue 1, our twitter account has had 611 new followers. December saw our second largest increase in followers, profile visits, and Tweet impressions.



Since the start of winter, our twitter analytics have shown we have had:

- 139 Mentions
- 201 Tweets
- 90,528 Profile Visits
- 747,000 Tweet Impressions

Our page promotes many travel and weather related twitter accounts, with the aim to centralise as much information relevant to the safety of your journey. Pages include Aberdeenshire Central Police, Traffic Scotland, Met Office, and much more.

Our Twitter page gets better with every follower, the more users we have, the more efficient it is as a method of communication. So please follow our page on Twitter:

@AbshireRoads

Top media Tweet earned 20.4K impressions

Most will be waking up to at least a sprinkling of snow with a little more in places. Our crews are currently being deployed with treatment on all 32 primary routes to start within the hour. ❄️

pic.twitter.com/FhNhpsqmD4

Our Twitter

Aberdeenshire Roads
3,554 Tweets

Aberdeenshire Roads
@AbshireRoads

News and updates about Aberdeenshire's roads network. Account is not monitored. Report any is: 56 08 12 05.

📍 Aberdeenshire aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-trav...
📅 Joined January 2017

61 Following 5,948 Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Aberdeenshire Roads @AbshireRoads · Jan 12
Banff has been closed due to a damaged seawall and gateway from No. 19 west to carpark from 12/0...

Top Tweet earned 34.5K impressions

❄️ Just a reminder to drive to the conditions and dont rely on your car temperatures as the road surface is a lot colder📉. Our gritters are out on the network treating roads for icy patches.❄️👉Driving Tips Below in Icy Conditions #BeSafe twitter.com/trafficscotlan...
pic.twitter.com/SzzS1Sr8Lt

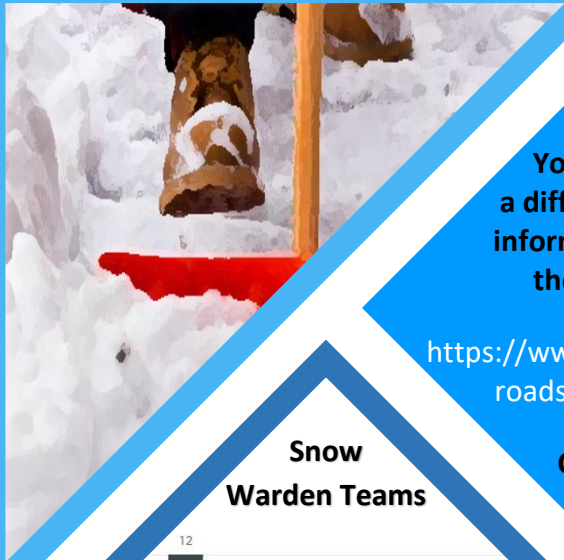
YouTube

Aberdeenshire Council

SUBSCRIBE

From mountain to sea
Bho bheinn gu muir

Snow Warden Scheme



The Snow Warden Scheme is already in full swing, but it is never too late to join our teams.

You or someone you know can make a difference in your community. For more information on applying to become part of the Snow Warden team, please visit:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/winter-maintenance/snow-wardens/>

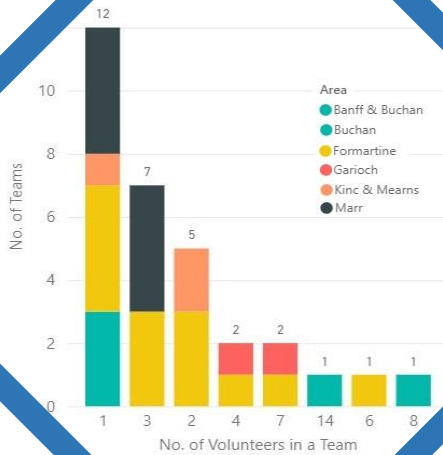


Aberdeenshire council provides training and equipment to our wardens that range from the following list:

- (1) Snow grips
- (2) Hi-vis long sleeved waist coat
- (3) Thermal gloves
- (4) Snow shovel (with ice cutter)
- (5) Storage containers
- (6) Salt spreader
- (7) Snow pushers
- (8) Grit Salt
- (9) Wooly hat



Snow Warden Teams



Currently we have over 30 teams across Aberdeenshire comprising of 93 volunteers.

