

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL



GRIT BIN POLICY

Reference	XXX	Adopted by	Planning and Highways Committee
Prepared by	Mel Alexander (Town Clerk)	Adopted date	XXXXXXX
Monitored by	Town Clerk	Minute reference	XXXXXXX
Monitoring review	Annually	Review date	2023

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide criteria against which applications for the placement of grit bins can be assessed.

2. Policy

Thatcham Town Council provides grit bins for self-help by members of the public.

1. What is 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 grit away leaving the area prone to re-icing, so gritting ideally needs to take place after rain but before the water freezes.

2. Grit Bin Provision

Thatcham Town Council will consider provision of a new grit bin when a number of criteria are met.

Key factors that are considered include:

- Highway gradient
- Highway safety
- Number of residents to benefit
- Distance to next grit bin
- Other factors; e.g. vulnerable residents; known water problems; junction problems

Grit bins shall only be considered where **at least one** of the criteria in List A and **all the criteria** in List B are met:

List A (application must meet 1 or more of these criteria)

- The gradient is greater than 1 in 10;
- A junction with a known history of accidents;
- Acceptable number of vulnerable residents.

List B (application must meet all criteria)

- ✓ Not on a West Berkshire Council primary gritting route;
- ✓ Must be for use on the public highway (road and/or footpath);
- ✓ 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 the boundary of the public highway.

3. Where grit bins will not be provided

Thatcham Town Council will not provide grit bins in private areas or car parks or any other public or private property; such as schools, parks, hospitals, sheltered accommodation, or similar.

4. Location of grit bins

Grit bins will only be located where they can be easily accessed.

Grit bins will be left in situ throughout the year, unless there is a history of vandalism at a particular location.

The location of grit bins will be recorded and made available on the Thatcham Town Council website.

5. Filling of grit bins

Grit bins shall be replenished at the start of each winter period and periodically throughout winter, as resources permit, and on ad-hoc occasions at residents' request.

6. Use of grit

The grit in the bin is purely for use on the public highway and footpaths. If the grit is used on private land, consideration will be given to removal of the bin.

7. Applications for a grit bin

Only written requests on Thatcham Town Council's Grit Bin Application Form will be considered.

The submitting of an application form does not guarantee a bin will be provided. All new bins applications, matching the criteria, will be considered by Thatcham Town Council's Planning and Highways Committee.

All applications supported by Thatcham Town Council are subject to approval by West Berkshire Council Highways department.

Associated Documentation:

This Policy will be reviewed annually by Council Officers and every four years by Council, or sooner should circumstances or legislation change.

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