

## **Guidance to Staff on the Provision of Grit Bins and Small Stock Piles of Salt/Sand Mix to be used by the Public**

The provision of grit bins in either urban or rural areas and salt/sand mix heaps in rural areas is to offer the public a self-help option to overcome localised difficulties in relation to the effect of winter conditions on roads and footpaths. It is important that the Council encourages and helps facilitate self-help by those members of the public who are prepared to carry out this work.

However, the number of grit bins made available needs to be controlled. Maintaining adequate salt/grit levels in the bins results in an administrative and operational burden.

Careful consideration needs to be given to the provision and location of grit bins and salt/sand mix heaps. Before any decision is made on whether to provide either is reached it should be confirmed that there is a genuine need - this can be done by following the guidance below and utilising the grit bin request form.

Before consideration can be given to provision of a grit bin to a new location, the following criteria should be considered.

Grit bins shall only be located where at least one of the criteria in List A are met and all the remaining six in List B:-

### **List A**

- The gradient is significantly severe in comparison to surrounding carriageways/footways to cause exceptional difficulty for road users or pedestrians.
- A location with a known history of winter related accidents
- High numbers of disabled or elderly residents.

### **List B**

- Not on a route already gritted by the Council
- Must be for use on the public road (carriageway or footway)
- The location shall not obstruct the passage of pedestrians, a desirable 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

Additional consideration must also be given to the following:

- Ideally, grit bins will only be located where they can be filled from a lorry. The grit bins shall be replenished at the start of the winter period and during the winter period, as resources permit.
- Grit bins will be left in place during the summer months.
- The grit in the bin is purely for use on the public road or footway.
- The locations of grit bins will be recorded and made available on the Council's website.
- These grit bin application forms are available on the Council's website.
- 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, care homes, etc. unless a service level agreement is in place.