

# Information Sheet

for SCC County Councillors



From:	Andrew Turner, Strategic Manager - Highways
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Relevant SLT Director:	Alyn Jones Director of Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations
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Date:	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
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To:	All SCC County Councillors
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## **Somerset County Council Community Snow Warden Scheme - 2019/2020 (part of the Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Scheme)**

To further develop the Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Scheme, the Community Snow Warden Scheme has been developed by Somerset County Council (SCC) and their highway service provider Skanska. All Town and Parish Councils will be given the opportunity to receive training to respond to prolonged periods of low temperatures and snow events.

If local councils wish to get involved, they may nominate new or existing emergency wardens who must:

- be nominated as suitable by the Town or Parish Council or similar body;
- have received suitable training to carry out salt spreading and snow clearance;
- agree to work within the advice provided by SCC/Skanska;
- agree to work to the Parish Council's plan that has been agreed with SCC; and
- be registered with SCC.

By way of support, there will be a mixture of "classroom" and practical training to be delivered jointly by Skanska and SCC. This would provide a brief background to highway winter service, weather forecasting, decision making, what SCC do and what they can't do. The training will also set out the Warden's responsibilities along with the provision of generic risk assessments for working in snow and icy conditions.

The Warden will work on behalf of the Parish Council (not SCC or Skanska) to deliver highway winter service support to their communities. The level of this support will be determined by the Parish Council but could include:-

- Ordering salt supplies for grit bins;
- Keeping a register of local trained volunteers;
- Receiving and responding locally to weather alerts;
- Organising and deploying volunteers to clear snow;
- Organising and deploying volunteers to spread salt when prolonged icy conditions are forecast; or
- Encourage responsible use of salt and help to minimise the abuse of salt within communities.

Please note that the Parish Council would need to ensure their insurances provide cover for any Wardens and/or volunteers undertaking this highway winter service support.

SCC will provide non-branded PPE (high visibility vests) to parish/town councils.

For more information please contact:	Name: Andrew Turner or David Peake Email: <a href="mailto:ASTurner@somerset.gov.uk">ASTurner@somerset.gov.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:DAPeake@somerset.gov.uk">DAPeake@somerset.gov.uk</a>
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