

SNOW CLEARANCE

Residents and shopkeepers should consider whether to assist everyone by clearing the snow from their pavement and forecourt. Official advice now seems to downplay previous concerns about being sued provided reasonable care has been taken. Sand/grid mix you will find containers on the corner of B245 Tonbridge Road and Riding Lane, in the car park of the Library and near to the pet shop in Brookmead, although experience suggests this cannot be enough for everyone. Please contact the clerk (01732 832367) if supplies run low.

The Department of Transport have issued the following advice:

- “You must be careful and use common sense to make sure that you don’t make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before
- Start early – it’s much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it
- Don’t use hot water – this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury
- Be a good neighbour – some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property
- If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn’t block peoples’ paths or drainage channels
- Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on.
- Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming – table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it
- Pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients
- Use the sun to your advantage – removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight
- If there’s no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives.

PEOPLE USING AREAS AFFECTED BY SNOW AND ICE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE CAREFUL