

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21ST MARCH 2018**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION****Severe Winter Weather**

The recent severe winter weather has been a particularly challenging time for the County Council's highways gritting team.

Since the beginning of November, 21 gritters and drivers have been out in sub-zero temperatures a total of 107 times, spreading 19,788 tonnes of rock salt on more than 128,000 miles of road. During this winter we have completed 1,443 night runs to date – a 57 per cent increase on the total number of runs last year.

Some of the conditions have been some of the most challenging in recent times. Road surface temperatures have been as low as -8 degrees.

The weather also caused one snow plough to overturn on an icy country lane between Church Langton and Tur Langton. Thankfully the driver was unhurt and he was back at work the next night helping to keep the county moving.

The council's five gritting depots are being restocked with 1,500 tonnes of rock salt, in case temperatures plummet again, with crews continuing to go out as required.

Farmers and snow wardens have also been making a difference. By way of example on 28 February 20 tractors went out clearing roads affected by heavy snow, while a number of snow wardens have been clearing paths and spreading rock salt on pavements for residents. Last weekend a further 8 farmers cleared snow and our crews deployed twice on Saturday night, 3 gritters responding during Sunday and again full runs on Sunday night.

I have passed on my thanks to our highways team for the work they've done but I am sure that the Council would join with me in recording our appreciation to the gritting team but also to the farmers, snow wardens and volunteers who worked tirelessly to keep our roads gritted and accessible over the winter and over the next few weeks.

B. Pain

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