

Appendix 'C'
R+D Case
26.01.10

Kettering Borough Council

Gritting



Who is legally responsible for keeping roads and pavements clear of snow and ice?

Responsibility is divided between the Highways Agency and Northamptonshire County Council, as per the table below.

Types of road etc	Responsible Agency	Contact Details
Motorways and trunk roads	The Highways Agency (a government agency)	ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk 08457 50 40 30 or 0121 335 8300
Principal routes in the county	Northamptonshire County Council - the highways authority	CustomerServices@northamptonshire.gov.uk 01604 236236

Which roads count as principal routes?

Each year the County Council publishes a leaflet, which sets out which roads it intends to keep clear - it covers about half of the total road network in the county: -

View map of [Principal Routes](#)

The County Council gives the following advice:-

"Priority is given to the roads carrying the highest volume of traffic and where the risk of accidents is greatest. In addition, certain local roads, servicing industrial areas, shopping centres and some key roads in towns and villages are also treated."

In prolonged adverse weather conditions, additional roads will be treated provided that roads on the network above do not need additional treatment.

Are pavements covered by gritting?

The gritting of footways, including the centre of Kettering, is the responsibility of the County Council although the County generally gives priority to treating the roadways

What obligations does Kettering Borough Council have?

None. The Council is not funded either by government or by local council taxpayers to carry out any snow or ice clearance work.

Didn't Kettering Borough Council used to do some snow clearance in the town centres?

Kettering Borough Council has previously done work to clear snow and grit pavements in selected priority areas, although it has no funding for this.

Why did this practice stop?

The County Council wrote to Kettering Council on 24th June 2009 advising that it would do this work in future; [download the letter](#).

What is happening now?

As a result of problems in late 2009, the Borough Council is undertaking some work. However, this is a temporary measure. We are only able to grit "by hand" - we have no specialised equipment for spreading grit. Nor do we have a large store of salt in its depot. Thus Kettering Council has a limited ability to treat areas, where we can we will try to assist in the following areas.

- access to and around the Council's own sheltered housing schemes
- pavements and pedestrian areas in the towns centres of Kettering , Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell.
- pavements adjacent to the hospital in Rothwell Rd, Kettering and the medical premises in Northfield Avenue, Kettering.
- some car parks

The Borough Council is largely dependent on the County Council being able to supply sufficient quantities of salt to do this work, and is limited by the fact that it has no funds dedicated to doing this type of work.

Can local residents and businesses assist in snow clearance?

Yes - details are included in the County Council's leaflet about the salt bins it maintains around the county, located usually where there is a steep or hazardous hill, or a sharp bend, but where gritting does not regularly take place. The bins are for public use to keep public roads and pavements clear but the salt is not intended for use on private drives. Should you find a bin which needs refilling, telephone the County Council's Street Doctor on **0845 601 1113**.

In addition, residents and businesses can help by clearing snow from the pavement in front of their property, if they are fit and able to do so. It is not true that this will open the person who does the clearance to a legal claim if someone should slip and injure themselves on the cleared area. The Department of Transport advised on the 12th January 2010 that the government "would not expect courts to find individuals who clear pavements liable for injuries, provided that this is done in a reasonable manner"

Last Updated: 13/10/2010

Was this information helpful?

Yes

It's good but

No

How can we make this section better? *(optional)*

Get in touch with Kettering Borough Council

Email: customerservices@kettering.gov.uk. Telephone: 01536 410333.

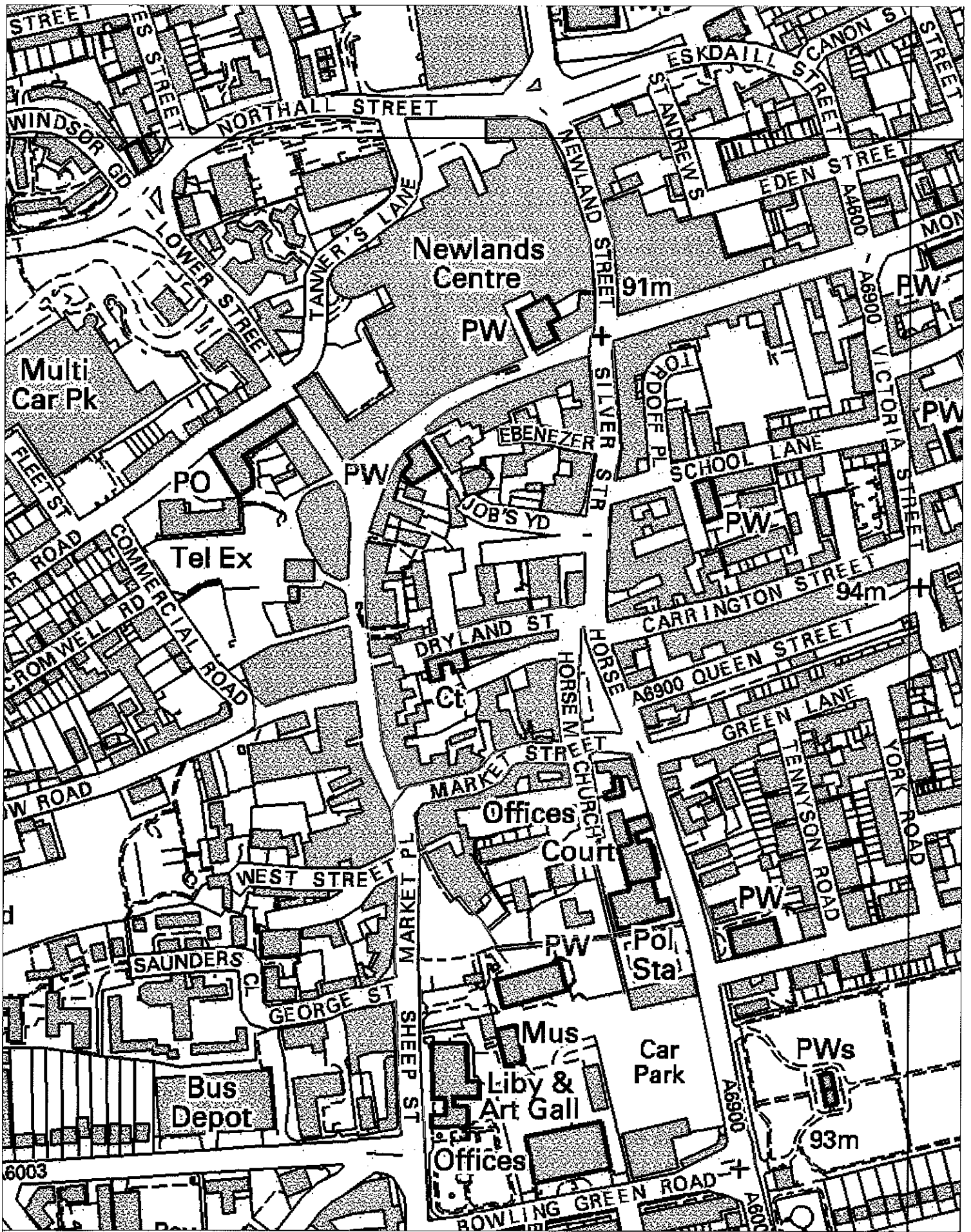
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Title: Town Centre Gritting undertaken by the Cleansing Team

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Drawn by: Lynne Spencer

Kettering
Borough Council