

South Warnborough Parish Council Response to Winter Resilience Scrutiny Review

To: The Chairman of Policy and Resources Select Committee

Dear Chairman

Thank you for your letter dated 16 March 2010. Our answers to the questions asked therein are given below using the same paragraph numbers as in the letter. One has to say that the form of the questions were not always really appropriate for such a small Parish as ours (250 households with a precept in the order of £6,000). Nevertheless we have tried to keep our answers as relevant as possible.

1. **Impact on Services.** The major impact was on the services provided by Hart DC, ie household waste collection and HCC Highways ie resupply of grit for our grit bins. We had ourselves provide 3 bins within the Village but these proved in practice to be insufficient both in number and capacity to cover all the areas where residents had the greatest difficulty in accessing Priority 1 routes out of the Village to go to work and shop. The severest impact was on the small settlements and isolated dwelling in the outlying areas of the Parish. A bonus was the community spirit that built up as neighbours helped each other to clear paths and roads.
2. **Passage of Information.** Information was passed via notices on the Parish Notice Board, by flyer direct to households when possible and through the Neighbourhood Watch via the internet and via our website. This information consisted mainly of updating forecasts of dates for household waste collections and the like and location and status of grit bins (eg when they were refilled or due to be refilled).
3. **Successful Aspects of Service Delivery.** In our context the passage of information to members of the Parish using our Neighbourhood Watch via the internet and via our website could be considered successful service delivery.
4. **Changes to Severe Weather Precautions.** We have reviewed the requirement for grit bins to be located in the Parish and have submitted a request for additional bins to HCC as requested by the Leader. Our greatest difficulty for us as a small Parish with limited resources is to cover the outlying areas of the Parish. These is the need to enlist the aid of local farmers to clear some of the more isolated routes, either through HCC Highways contract or voluntarily.
5. **Priorities for Action.**
 - a. Increase the gritting resources within the Parish by encouraging HCC to enlist local farmers, under contract if necessary, to clear access to dwellings in their immediate area.
 - b. Increase the number of grit bins for local self help within the Parish including agreeing the supply of grit for them with HCC Highways. See Para 4 above.
 - c. Ensure the safety of the elderly, frail and disabled members of the community through an informal 'good neighbour' scheme based on the Neighbourhood Watch network.

6. **Feed Back from the Community**. During the severe weather the main but minimal feed back we had was related to the lack of grit for self help and the failure of household waste collection. We asked for feedback after the event but received little except for a request for a grit bin to be located in their cul de sac, which was accepted!

I trust these notes are helpful. Neither the 17th nor the 20th of June should present a difficulty at this stage should you wish a Parish representative to give evidence to your committee.

Yours sincerely

Johnny Fielding

Chairman (at the time)
South Warnborough Parish Council