

Barkway Village Emergency Snow Plan

The purpose of this document is to set out what action should be taken to rescue stranded motorists in the event of extreme snow and to keep our village safe in icy conditions.

Why do we need this Emergency Plan?

In December 2009, Barkway was hit by blizzards, causing snow drifts to form, which blocked the roads leading in and out of the village. Temperatures were so low that the road salt used to melt the ice was ineffective. The result was that motorists, along with their passengers, were trapped in their vehicles, unable to complete their journeys. Barkway residents rallied round and were able to come to their aid, offering shelter from the freezing conditions. As a result a Village Emergency Plan has been formed, which will offer a more co-ordinated response to a future extreme weather event.

What do we intend to do in the event of extreme snow/ice?

- To liaise with the local police at all times
- To mount rescue patrols along the main roads leading to and from the village
- To respond to motorists and their passengers who are in distress and lead them safely to a place of warmth and shelter
- To offer those persons a place to sleep if appropriate, and take them back to their vehicles when it is safe to do so
- To do all we can to keep roads and pavements free of ice.
- To publish the plan on the website, for easy access in case of an emergency

Operation Ice – Keeping our roads & pavements safe

Whilst we hope that Highways will grit our roads adequately, this is not always the case. In the village we hold quantities of salt, which can be used on the roads if required, and spread by volunteers. The new salt bin, located by the school entrance, is to be used by the school staff and any volunteers to keep the pavements clear around the school and along the High Street. It is equipped with two shovels, which can be used to spread the salt. Further salt can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk or District Councillor Gerald Morris.

Snow Patrol – Co-ordinated rescue in the event of heavy snow

How are we going to organize any rescue?

In the event of a snow storm a Control Centre will be activated at the Reading Room. The Police will be notified and given two emergency numbers on which to contact the Control Centre. At the same time, the emergency phone numbers for reporting incidents/stranded motorists will be published on the website and emailed to the Parish database. These will be the mobile numbers of Team 1 – the Co-ordinators based in the Reading Room.

The control room will then call on the available volunteers to meet at the Reading Room. The Control Centre and emergency phone numbers will be the point of contact for the police or individuals to report known and suspected stranded motorists.

Teams of two will be briefed and equipped to carry out patrol duties, in response to a reported incident. They will **not** be expected to patrol speculatively. In the event of more than one incident being reported at the same time, the patrol routes will be allocated on the basis of priority. Two people, Team 1, will remain in the Reading Room at all times, to co-ordinate the rescue teams and act as back-up. There will be a maximum of four teams available, ideally with access to suitable vehicles, i.e. 4 by 4's, military vehicles, tractors. If no vehicles are available at the time, then the patrols will set out on foot. Teams will patrol as follows:-

Team 1 - Two Co-ordinators based in the Reading Room

Team 2 – The Joint

Team 3 – Cambridge Road, as far as Cokenach

Team 4 – London Road, as far as Kings Cottage, and Buckland Road

Newsells Road will also be covered, but only in exceptional circumstances, due to the steep incline.

On reaching a stranded vehicle, the police will be informed and the occupants will be offered help. If the occupants have abandoned the vehicle, the Patrol Team will attempt to find them, but will not put themselves at risk. Rescued motorists and their passengers will be taken to the Reading Room where refreshments will be available. If overnight accommodation is required, one of the volunteers will be contacted. When it is safe to do so, they will be taken back to their vehicles to continue their journeys.

Equipment

Snow equipment is stored in the Reading Room, to equip a total of eight people, comprising of:-

- Walkie Talkie Radios, with a range of 10km and battery life of 38 hours.
- Torches
- Walking Poles, which can be used to probe snow drifts, assist in rescue, and aid balance
- First Aid Box

Volunteers

The following people have volunteered to be part of the Snow Patrol and will be called to the Reading Room in the event of the Control Centre being activated. In practice, dependent on road conditions, it might prove more effective to dispatch them from their homes.

John Sizer – 848927/ 07752 016348

Vince Styles – 849707/ 07733 002060

Steve Alsop – 4 by 4 – 849573/ 07714 855089

Jim Dalton – 848263/ 07976 612795

Dave Winkworth - 07961 590154

Gerald Morris – military vehicles - 848450/ 07747771511

Tom Wornham – tractor – 849900/ 07801349731

David Tomkins – 848347/ 07767 207527

Graham Swann – 848750

Giles Clark – Newsells village & 4x4 -07957 543 468/giles_clark@yahoo.com

Anna Clark = Newsells Village - GP

Volunteers with a medical background

Julie Styles – Nurse - 849707

Trish Swann – First Aider – 848750/07771 872947

Doreen Pitt – Terminal Care Nurse - 848670

Other Volunteers

Roy & Doreen Pitt – 145 High Street – 4 x 4, tea – 848670

Sue Sanders – Norton Davey, Burrs Lane - 848941

Jenny Warren – Tea, B&B – 43 High Street – 848263

Fiona & David Tomkins –B&B – 25 High Street

Catharine & Clive Toms – 848716/ 07763 167116