

Snow Warden Scoping

July 2011

Background

The severe heavy snow of November/December 2010 stretched resources up to and beyond manageable limits. The decision was taken to follow the example of Sheffield Council and investigate the use of volunteer snow wardens (SW) within the CYC area. The exercise to collate the information and details of interested residents was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Management Unit (NMU), and to date in excess of 80 people, of varying age, ability and gender have put themselves forward. It is envisaged that following initial briefings and training from winter maintenance officers, the SW will work autonomously with minimal input from officers.

Duties

Once trained, the SW will be responsible for safely removing snow from footpaths and possibly some small areas of carriageway in their local area. It is not expected that SW's will move round the city to adjacent wards. When resources permit, some mechanical assistance from operatives engaged in snow clearing duties may be made available to help the SW in removing snow and ice.

Training

Training will be given to all volunteers, it will be a requirement of the SW to undertake any such training as deemed necessary to carry out the role. This training will be delivered in house by the Highway Maintenance Services training officer, with input from the Head of Service and Operations Manager. It will involve Health and Safety, Manual Handling, Traffic awareness, etc. It is expected that the SW will work on his/her own initiative once trained.

Equipment

Each SW will be issued with a high visibility vest (snow warden on back?), gloves, and snow shovel, (metal or plastic). They will be responsible for the maintenance of the equipment. The supply of grit to SW will depend on availability of supplies and suitable locations for drops.

Contact Procedure

Each SW has provided details of either mobile phone, land line or email. These will be held on a database and contact will be made via officers to individuals as necessary. The SW will be included on the round robin text notification that is sent to key staff and members on a daily basis through the winter period. This will ensure the SW's are kept in the loop and are familiar with the communications and terms of reference if the severe weather arrives.

Equalities Impact Assessment

An EIA will need to be carried out for this area of work.