

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Town Hall, Assets & Services Committee Meeting												
MEETING DATE AND TIME	23rd January 2025	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall										
REPORT FROM	Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington												
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	12 Cheshire East Grit Bins												
Background	<p>During the recent spell of sub-zero temperatures and snow, the demand for grit stored in the residential grit bins has been extremely high. Complaints have been received that the grit bins have not been refilled during the recent cold weather which has led to roads and pathways not being gritted in residential areas. Currently, it is the responsibility of CEC to keep grit bins full, however, it appears the grit bins are filled at the beginning of the winter and only then refilled in exceptional circumstances. This refilling is slow to take place, by which time any winter conditions have probably passed.</p>												
Update	<p>CTC’s Streetscape Manager has advised we currently do not have a large stock of stored grit, Streetscape purchase grit in small quantities (25kg bags) as required to clear areas around the vehicles and Polly tunnels at the Park. Streetscape staff do not grit the Park or Town Centre. There are 81 grit bins in total at various locations around the Congleton area, this does not include new housing estates which have yet to be transferred over. A standard grit bin will hold 200kg of grit at a cost of £58.40 + vat per grit bin, giving a total of £4,730.40 + vat to fill all 81 grit bins, assuming all grit bins are completely empty. The labour time would also need to be a consideration as any grit would be delivered to the Park where Streetscape staff would load the grit onto vans before distributing to the 81 locations around the Congleton area. The Streetscape storage area at the Park has enough room to store 1 x pallet of grit, 14 x pallets would be required to fill all 81 grit bins.</p> <p><u>Grit Bin Locations</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Buglawton x 19</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Mossley/High Town x 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bromley x 8</td> <td>Lower Heath/Tesco/Clayton Bypass x 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Heath x 13</td> <td>Havannah x 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Town Centre x 8</td> <td>Bath Vale x 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outskirts/Moss Road x 1</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Considerations for the debate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CTC should not pay for the grit – grit should be supplied by CEC. 			Buglawton x 19	Mossley/High Town x 10	Bromley x 8	Lower Heath/Tesco/Clayton Bypass x 8	West Heath x 13	Havannah x 5	Town Centre x 8	Bath Vale x 9	Outskirts/Moss Road x 1	
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. CTC Streetscape staff to take delivery of grit and distribute to grit bins 3. Would only grit bins in 'trouble spots' need to be refilled rather than all 81? Who would decide on 'trouble spots'? 4. Would grit bins need to be completely filled, reducing the overall cost? 5. Instruction to use sparingly (labels or sign) as most people use way more than they need. <p>Linked to this discussion is the legalities around CTC Streetscape staff gritting areas of the Town during exceptional circumstances. CTC'S insurance provider has been contacted to establish liability for any claim due to injury or accident while CTC staff are carrying out gritting duties on the highway or Bus Station which would normally be carried out by Cheshire East Council. Our insurance provider has advised CTC would need to seek legal advice as the land in question is not ours and by doing the gritting CTC may be deemed legally liable. If deemed legally liable, CTC would be covered under their Public Liability but would need to ascertain who would be responsible. CTC would need not only to take legal advice but to liaise with the landowner.</p>
Financial	If agreement were to be reached with Cheshire East Council to supply the grit, the cost to CTC would only be for Streetscape staff time to distribute the grit to the grit bins around the Congleton area. Cost for CTC to purchase grit to fill 81 x grit bins would be £4,730.40 + vat.
Environmental	Grit (Rock Salt) not classified as hazardous waste, can be disposed of as normal industrial waste in line with local and national legislation. Natural aggregate content of rock salt can be readily reused or recycled.
Equality	Where applicable in the procurement of services this is taken into consideration. Accessibility to grit bins has been determined by Cheshire East but could be reviewed
Decision Request	To receive the report relating to Cheshire East Grit Bins and decide on a proposal for Cheshire East to provide additional grit to be re-distributed by CTC Streetscape staff subject to legal guidance and relevant insurance cover