

County Council Road Gritting Under Fire

The onset of winter weather has certainly taken its toll on local roads and has shown just how inadequate the local road gritting programme is.

In the rural areas, including most of the roads in and around Haughton, Church Eaton and Bradley, the responsibility for gritting and cleaning the roads lies with the County Council. Over the years the amount of gritting they carry out has been reduced to save money. The County Council has drawn up a "Winter Maintenance Code of Practice". This details which roads will be gritted and which will not. In total 42% of the roads in Staffordshire are gritted. ***Are 42% of the roads in this area treated?***



Barry Stamp surveying the dangerous state of ice covered roads

A map issued by the County Council shows all the roads that are gritted. While this area only has a handful of roads treated, it is a different story areas such as Tamworth, Lichfield, Cannock and Newcastle!



During the recent cold spell **Barry Stamp** carried out a survey of roads in the villages. He was appalled that some were still dangerously icy a week after the first snow fall.

"While it would be unrealistic and far too expensive to have every road gritted it is obvious that some important and well used roads in Haughton, Church Eaton and Bradley were in a dangerous state. The County Council must be made to re-think their list of roads they grit to include more roads in this area," said **Barry Stamp**.

If you have had problems with ice and snow on the roads near your home give **Barry a ring on 822723**.

Nice Work If You Can Get It!

Members of the Staffordshire Police Authority have recently voted themselves a massive 300% pay rise. The nine members of the Authority are nominated by the County Council and local Magistrates, or are invited to join by the members already there!

In the past each member was paid £17 per hour for, on average, a couple of hours work each week. However they recently decided this was not enough. The Labour Chairman of the Authority now gets paid £21,000 per year, while other members get anything between £7,000 and £11,000 each.

The money they pay themselves comes from our Council taxes, and it has already been said that these will have to go up next year to pay for these rises!

Nice work if you can get it!



**Problem? Grumbles? Idea? Information?
Give Cllr BARRY STAMP a ring on 822723**