188.   WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY

The Head of Housing presented the Winter Maintenance Policy.

The Patch Management Group had reviewed the Winter Maintenance Policy for its effectiveness and for any changes necessary as a result of the prolonged winter weather earlier in the year.

The policy detailed the priorities that would be given to providing salt and grit to Council owned premises and land to ensure the safety of its employees.

The Head of Housing sought the Committee's views on the priority for clearing the access road to Pleasley Vale. Priority 5 was the consensus view.

Councillor Ward queried why Shirebrook Market Place was not included in the policy as it was owned by the Council and attracted members of the public to shop there. The Head of Housing replied that it was not the Council's responsibility if a member of the public slipped on ice. The Senior Principal Solicitor added that there was no legal obligation for a land owner to clear land of snow.

Councillor Crane requested that as the Valley View entrance was on a gradient, and the day centre was used by Social Services and others on Monday's to Friday's, that this be given a higher priority in the policy.

The Head of Housing replied that the Council had limited resources and these needed to be used in priority order. He added that Social Services staff should not be treated more favourably than the Council's own staff and each housing scheme was already provided with grit bins and shovels.

Councillor Wallis queried why the buildings itemised in priority 3 were not included under priority 2. The Head of Housing replied that there was a different client group in sheltered schemes and these tended to be more vulnerable than people living in bungalows.

Councillor Morley left the meeting at this point.

Moved by Councillor R.A. Heffer, seconded by Councillor H. Ward
RESOLVED that the Winter Maintenance Policy be approved.