

Thornhill Community Council
Report of Meeting on Winter Resilience
Held at Thornhill
On 14/11/2011

1. Areas of Concern

- Main intention of this evening's Meeting was to look at provision for central commercial area (Drumlanrig Street; E&W Morton Streets)

2. Other areas

- Including Hospital Brae and Residential areas to be looked at later, once response gauged from commercial area.

3. Letting D&GC/Amey Highways off the hook?

- Less and less gritting will be done by other agencies, whether we, as a community, do anything, or not. What do we want, and what are we prepared to do to achieve it?

4. Equipment on Offer

- Pavement gritters, salt, shovels, gloves, Hi-Vis safety equipment

5. Storage

- D&GC will only issue equipment if we can show that there is somewhere secure and reasonably accessible to store it. We have one offer of slightly restricted premises in Drumlanrig Street. D&GC has also arranged with schools in every community to store a set of equipment that the community can access.

6. Public expectation

- What do we want, and what are we prepared to do to achieve it? Those volunteering are not volunteering to provide a snow clearing, or gritting service, merely to help where they can.

7. Operation

- Training will be provided for volunteers. D&GC will do this by way of roadshows.. If not possible to run one in Thornhill, Community bus could be booked to take volunteers somewhere else.

8. Volunteers

- See (11) above). Wallace Hall Academy have offered their Rural Skills classes to help with this on Fridays in bad weather. More, and adult, volunteers needed also.

9. Co-ordination

- A number of local coordinators will be needed. Possibility discussed of whether mobiles could be provided and these numbers published. Will need to see what overall response is.

10. Liability

- D&GC not able to offer indemnity, but the advice is that Community Council's insurance should provide cover and Scottish Govt suggest that most household policies would cover the householder from Third Party claims, though individuals would need to check this. Advice also is that newspaper reports of individuals being sued in respect of injuries to others following snow clearance are somewhat exaggerated.

Notes:

- Although this had been planned as an event aimed at businesses and had been publicised as such there was, in fact, only one Thornhill business represented. The original intention was then to stage another event, aimed at private individuals, once the response from businesses was gauged. A number of private individuals, however, who had heard of the event and attended, indicated a willingness to consider doing something for their own areas. Recognised Community Groups or less formal groupings of a minimum of five households can apply for a set of equipment, though the supply of equipment is not limitless.
- At present, the plan is for the Community Council to make a combined application for equipment to be sited at a location on the west side of Drumlanrig Street and, probably, for other sets to be located roughly in the Townhead Street, Cairnkinna Crescent and Seton Avenue areas, since these are places which were represented at the Meeting. It is hoped to have this application completed within the next two or three weeks. (Time of writing this Report 22/11/2011) Further applications can be made, from time to time, when other areas or groups of individuals can be identified. Individual groups may apply to D&GC direct themselves, or the Community Council can assist with this. See www.visitthornhill.co.uk for details, or e-mail suggestionstothornhillcc@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07922 550062 and we will assist where we can.