

Kieron Green
25b High Street
Elgin
IV30 1EE
Moray

15th May 2010

Bob Stewart
Council Offices
High Street
Elgin
Moray
IV30 1BX

Dear Mr Stewart,

I am writing to you concerning the councils response to the exceptional weather conditions this past winter. Many residents have commented at meetings on this issue and following this the forum has carried out a consultation exercise to obtain more detailed feedback on both residents experiences and ideas that they might have. I hope it may be of some use in informing you of residents experiences, and provide some input into plans and strategies should similar situations arise again in future.

During the festive period heavy snow built up rapidly and resulted in thick ice covering pavements and roads. For the elderly in particular this was difficult to walk on, and resulted in some people being housebound. While main roads were kept clear side roads were left uncleared for a prolonged period of time. At times residents felt that there were no clearing vehicles visible around Elgin, and where snow was cleared often a layer of ice remained which became increasingly uneven as time went on. Although the situation improved somewhat after the schools returned it continued until the end of January in some areas.

Suggestions from forum members include:

- More grit/sand bins so that members of the public are able to clear pavements themselves.
- To clear snow before it is compacted into ice.
- To break up ice first before laying down more grit.
- Consult on priority areas for clearing – including entrances to shops, doctors surgeries, railway and bus stations, and car parks – both public and schools. It would be helpful if a list of priority areas could be made public.
- Focusing on clearing snow rather than pavement litter when conditions are dangerous.
- Clearing bus stops as well as bus routes.

We recognise that these were truly exceptional conditions, and do not intend to criticise the council or it's employees for all of their hard work and dedication over the winter.

Yours Sincerely,

Kieron Green
Chair, Elgin North Area Forum

CC: Councillor John Divers, Councillor Barry Jarvis, Councillor Graham Leadbitter,
Councillor John Russell, Councillor Mike Shand, Councillor John Sharp,