



**S!NOw  
WARDEN**

Winter 25/26 Update

# Introduction

- The scheme began in winter 2021 as a two-year pilot project.
- The initiative encourages volunteers to clear pavements in their communities, helping pedestrians stay connected to main routes and assisting local facilities such as religious centres, doctor surgeries, and nurseries in keeping safe access during winter conditions.
- Volunteers are provided with a snow shovel, hand scoop, grit, and a high-visibility jacket/vest to carry out gritting in their local area.

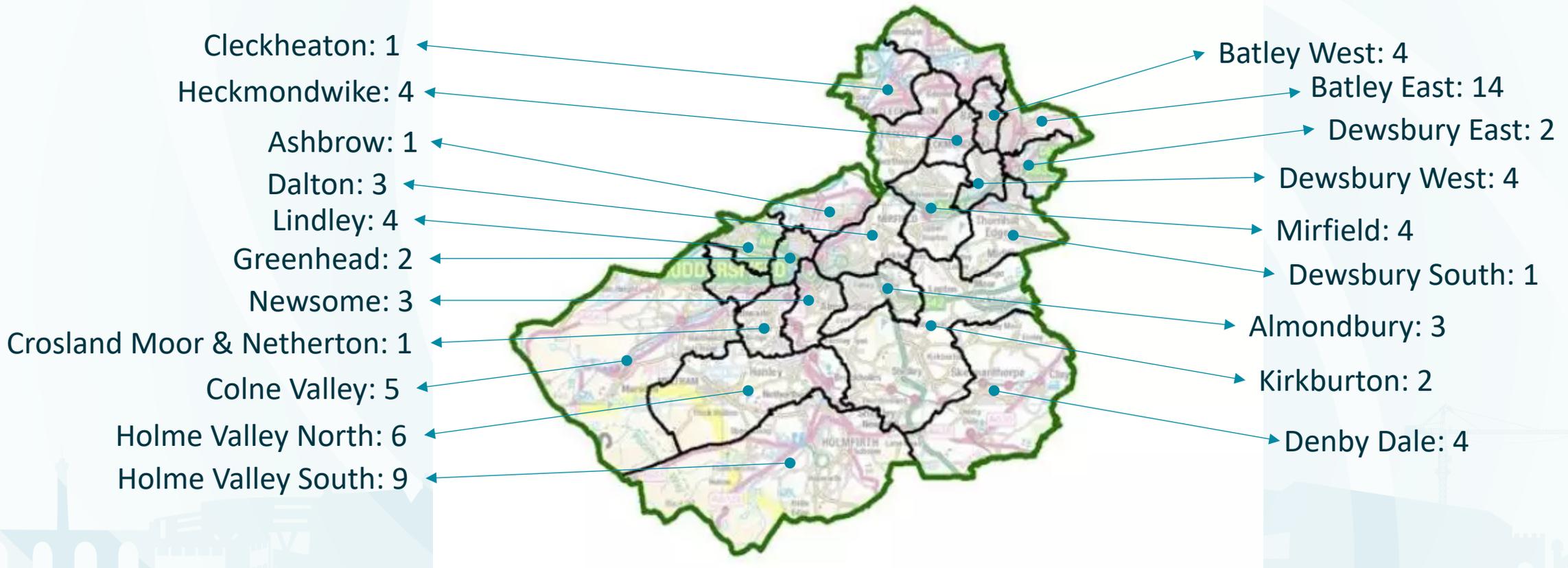


# Scheme growth



- The scheme grew sharply in 24/25 due to multiple weather events within the season, alongside the introduction of community groups.
- There are 37 snow wardens already on a wait list to join the scheme in 25/26.

# Current Individual Snow Warden Volunteers



# Issues encountered during the 24/25 season

- Reduced management resource – the service is managed by the waste and parks support teams. Both teams also received spikes in complaints and service requests alongside the weather events, impacting turn around for new sign ups and replenishment.
- Post the severe weather event in January highways teams concentrated on refilling the grit bin network, which meant a delay to replenishing snow warden grit following the event.
- A delivery only method meant some snow wardens did not receive full kits for weeks following their sign up, due to resourcing deliveries.

# Volunteer feedback – Equipment & grit

- 64% of participants said they were happy with the equipment provided.
- Four residents encountered problems with their shovels, while three preferred a grit sprinkler instead of a hand shovel.
- 85% of volunteers indicated willingness to collect grit or supplies from local pick-up locations at the start of the season or for mid-season restocking.
- 89% of volunteers felt confident about when to apply grit.
- 71% of volunteers mentioned they did not have sufficient grit, whereas the remaining 29% were happy with the quantity.
- 32% of volunteers experienced difficulties storing the grit they received.

# Volunteer feedback – general feedback

Volunteers provided additional feedback on the service, highlighting several key points:

- In areas or streets with multiple snow warden volunteers, having centralised storage and coordination would be helpful, potentially managed via social media platforms.
- For streets that already have snow wardens, additional residents should be encouraged to join and assist through targeted comms.
- The re-supply of grit after the January weather event was considered too slow.
- Although communication with the team was generally seen as positive, it experienced delays during the January snowfall.

# Current guidance

- Guidance is reviewed and updated annually. Within the 2025/26 guidance further information will be added about the appropriate amount of grit that is required.
- 10kg of grit should be able to cover around 250m of footpath (500sqm in total).
- Current guidance advises snow wardens:
  - How to clear effectively
  - Advising how to judge when to take action
  - Details of the equipment and the appropriate footwear required
  - How to protect themselves
  - How to report a problem

# Changes for the new season

- Due to a few issues with the shovels, additional stock will be ordered this year to ensure replacements can be provided promptly without waiting for future deliveries.
- Residents will have the option to receive an extra bag of grit when they sign up or during replenishments.
- In response to feedback, we are adopting a hybrid model combining collection and delivery. Specific delivery slots have been allocated for new volunteers, with separate slots designated for restocking. Both highway depots will serve as collection points on a slot basis, offering one weekday and one weekend day each. Additional collection points within the district are currently being identified.
- Collection points will operate at intervals yet to be confirmed throughout the season, alongside increased capacity for grit restocking deliveries.

# 25/26 Season

- Sign up window to open on October 15 through [snow.wardens@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:snow.wardens@kirklees.gov.uk)
- To allow for a more managed approach to the scheme new volunteer numbers will be capped at 100 new snow warden volunteers initially. Once this cap is hit the service will review resource supporting the scheme and may open it again.
- Schools and nurseries will now be able to sign up to receive kits to support access to the school gates.
- The scheme will have 30 delivery slots for new kits on a first come first serve basis, and collection slots to operate up to 80 new kit collections within the district, alongside grit collection for existing wardens. Collection points will reopen following severe weather events if required.

# Questions?

