

Dear Members,

No doubt you will all be aware of the traffic gridlock that has hit the the southeast region affecting Kent, East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and West Sussex as a result of the snow conditions.

The situation is still particulalrly bad around the NE of the County which has been compounded by problems on the M23/A23. Problems have also been experienced along the coastal strip but these have started to improve.

Not surprisingly all Authorities have been taking massive criticism on the radio and other media channels. For your information we gritted last night, twice during the day, commenced a third run at 7pm and had another planned for 2am. Timings have now gone out the window and are operating on a back to back basis.

There have been various problems encountered during the day which would seem to have created the situation. Strong winds have caused drifting which has led to cars going off the road, people have abandoned their cars in some locations and we have had a number of trees down on the A283 at Stopham and Fittleworth..... all causing traffic jams which has just started the problem and then impacted upon gritters not being able to complete their routes.

A Crawley route which left Broadbridge Heath Depot at 1pm lunchtime only got back to the depot at 7pm taking almost twice as long. Along the coast the worst period coincided with rush hour

The forecast has also deteriorated now promising a further 100mm / 4" along the coast by 9am tommorrow, 12th March. So the best message is do not travel

Based on the original forecast we were not anticipating distributing any hippo bags. Temperatures are forecast tomorrow afternoon for +2 and +5 Wednesday afternoon so would expect the snow to clear. If the situation deteriorates we will look to deal with issues as they arise where resources permit.

Stuart

Stuart Smith
Service Manager for Highways