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Title	Motions - Winter Gritting – Red Bank
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Some Members have raised concerns regarding changes made by Powys County Council to its winter gritting routes and, in particular, the removal of Red Bank from the routes which receive routine precautionary treatment.

Powys County Council undertook a review of its Winter Service arrangements and, on 15 July 2025, Cabinet approved a new five-tier approach. Under the arrangements, Tiers 1 and 2 form the Precautionary Network, meaning that these routes are normally treated when freezing conditions are forecast. Tier 3 forms the Community Network, which is not routinely treated for ordinary frost and ice but can be activated during more significant or prolonged winter weather.

Red Bank is no longer included within the precautionary treatment network.

Some Members have previously raised concerns regarding road safety at Red Bank, including the steep nature of the road and incidents involving vehicles losing control. There is therefore concern that removing routine precautionary gritting could increase the risk to motorists and pedestrians during periods of frost and ice.

Powys County Council's own criteria for determining winter treatment routes include traffic levels and a number of other factors, including emergency services, health and social care, routes of local importance, education facilities, public transport and local circumstances. The criteria also allow exceptional circumstances, including topography and climate, to be considered.

When approving the new arrangements, Powys County Council delegated authority to the relevant Head of Service to amend routes where changes can be accommodated within the approved route criteria. It would therefore appear possible for the classification of an individual road to be reviewed without requiring the whole Winter Service policy to be reconsidered.

Members are asked to consider whether Welshpool Town Council should write to Powys County Council:

- 1. expressing concern at the removal of Red Bank from the precautionary winter gritting network;**
- 2. requesting that the classification of Red Bank is reviewed against PCC's approved Winter Service criteria, particularly having regard to its gradient/topography and existing road safety concerns; and**
- 3. requesting the assessment or scoring used by PCC to determine Red Bank's current classification.**