

ON THE

# GROUND

NEWS FROM THE SDLP IN BALMORAL



**Conall McDevitt**

## **SDLP FIGHT FOR ARDMORE/ ASHTON SALT BOX**

The recent cold weather has shown us all the limitations which exist in our roads system- especially when it comes to the gritting of our roads and the salting of our footpaths.

Whilst the system was able to cope with one or two weeks of cold weather by the time we entered the third week it was obvious to us all that the Roads Service were unable to supply enough salt, to the limited number of salt bins, which there are in the Finaghy area.



**Cllr. Niall Kelly**

Well over **500** people live in Ardmore & Ashton yet there is not one salt bin provided by the Roads Service. They tell us they only provide salt bins in areas based on "road usage, geometry and gradient."

We do not accept this assessment and believe that the people who live in Ardmore & Ashton have every right to a salt bin in the area. Whilst the Roads Service grits the roads during periods of heavy snow and ice they do not attempt to salt the footpaths- that is left to residents- yet they have not provided one single salt bin for this area.

Both incoming MLA Conall McDevitt and Councillor Niall Kelly believe that this is unacceptable. People in Orchardville pay their taxes, and their rates, just like everyone else in Belfast, yet they are getting a second class service from the Roads Service.

## **THE ARDMORE/ ASHTON SALT BOX**

A 400 litre salt bin, which can hold up to 500kg of salt, can be bought online for under £150, yet the Roads Service do not feel that this money should be spent. Like you, we have both heard of elderly people who have become prisoners in their own homes for the past three weeks because they fear walking on unsalted footpaths. If someone falls on an unsalted footpath and requires medical treatment, it can easily cost the NHS thousands of pounds to treat them- we believe that it makes more sense to invest a very small amount of money into preventative measures rather than spend a large amount of money trying to treat someone after they fall.



**Working For You. Delivering For Finaghy**



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# WORKING FOR YOU

**IN THE ASSEMBLY. IN THE COUNCIL.  
IN THE COMMUNITY.**



## Local Contacts

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Conall at one of the few salt boxes in Finaghy— which is empty

Niall will raise this matter in Belfast City Council and Conall will be asking questions of the Minister for Regional Development in the Assembly, but we are also asking you to make your thoughts known to the Minister. If the Roads Service attempts to oppose our

request to have a salt bin located in Orchardville, we want to show them that the residents support our campaign.

If you could take a few moments of your time to complete the following form, or alternatively email Conall or Niall, we will forward these on to both the Minister and the Roads Service.



Niall with a local resident affected by the lack of salting

## REPLY SLIP

I call on the Minister for Regional Development and the Roads Service to locate a salt box in the Ardmore/ Ashton area for use of residents.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to SDLP Constituency Office, 393A Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7EW  
or alternatively email Conall (c.mcdevitt@sdlp.ie) or Niall (n.kelly@sdlp.ie)