

# Winter travel chaos looms after gritters vote to strike



**More than 75% of GMB members working in Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) highways department have voted in favour of industrial action and action short of strike.**

With results expected from Unison and Unite later this week, there could be a blanket ban on winter gritting duties – meaning roads across south Wales could grind to a halt in the new year.

With blizzards and polar winds predicted to hit Wales in the next few weeks, it could cause Travel Chaos on icy rural lanes in Carmarthenshire.





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The vote follows a long running dispute between GMB, Unison and Unite unions and CCC over the issue of rates of pay for staff under-taking winter gritting duties.

Carmarthenshire currently has some of the worst terms and conditions for staff under-taking gritting duties in comparison with other local authorities

### **Peter Hill, GMB Regional Organiser said:**

"We're really disappointed that its come to this. We've negotiated in good faith since last Christmas and yet here we are one year later without being any closer to a deal.

"Our members have spoken. They are angry and frustrated and unwilling to put up with it anymore. Why should they voluntarily give up their evenings and weekends without a reasonable retainer?

"Carmarthenshire County council now needs to put forward a serious and fair deal or we could end up risking travel chaos in the new year."

### **Press office**

07958 156846

[press.office@gmb.org.uk](mailto:press.office@gmb.org.uk)

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[info@gmb.org.uk](mailto:info@gmb.org.uk)



