

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	12 September 2023
Report Title	Grass, Hedge and Shrub Maintenance
Agenda Reference	10
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Hedge and Shrub Maintenance

The team will receive a tractor and side arm on 12.9.23 this will be on hire for three months. The machine will be used initially for hedgerows and when we have gained some working experience, we will implement it on to shrub beds also.

Shrub Bed Removal Program

It is the intention to submit a programme of shrub bed removal with budget considerations at POST Committee in October 2023. Any shrub bed removal area would be reinstated to grass.

Removal will be on grounds of:

1. Health and Safety
2. Unsuitable plant species
3. Unsuitable planting location

The report will identify costs of machinery hire, topsoil requirements, green waste disposal, labour, and transport costs. Any proposed removal would be based on the Council not creating a problem with residents' car parking on newly created grass areas. If Members have any suggestions of shrub beds to be removed, please filter these through to the Head of Parks & Open Spaces ahead of October's Committee meeting.

Grass Cutting

The grass cutting has continued unabated. The summer weather has not contributed to a slowing of growth. Follow up mowing has mainly ceased to free staff to continue with shrub bed maintenance. Due to staff leave and sickness leave most of this month has seen just one mower operational.

Maintenance Schedule

We now have a published a "Maintenance Schedule" on the website. This contains information on the duration and route of the mowing round. Updates and the planned program of the shrub bed / hedgerow maintenance. Information is on there laying out the anticipated work load of the tractor and sidearm flail.