

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	2 nd July 2024
Report Title	POS Maintenance Schedules
Agenda Reference	10
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Grounds Maintenance Update

Grass schedule

The team has got past the initial difficulties posed with the start of the mowing season. Typically this begins with waterlogged ground and the length of the winter growth, which poses risk on the amount of arisings on footpaths and completing follow up mowing.

Machine mechanical problems have been minimal. Staff resourcing has slowed the progress with sick leave and annual leave being the contributing factors. Improvements to the machine are planned for 26th June which will have a positive impact on the operator's welfare.

Out of 56 mowing days - 11 days have been lost due to annual leave, wet weather, staff training and staff resources. Resulting in a 20% reduction to the service for reasons outside of our control.

Mini Compact Sweeper

The mini compact sweeper is currently out of use due to resourcing. Once back up to full capacity, it will be cleaning the streets within the mowing area, outside of the back up programme.

Shrub Schedule

The spring shrub bed maintenance program started in earnest with the hire of a compact mini tractor and side arm flail from 1st May. Currently this machine will be on hire for three months.

The machine is being operated mainly by two staff members that were fully trained by an external trainer in January. The two staff members have been assisted by two seasonal staff that have been employed for a 3-month period. We have been able to deploy the machine to high priority areas, such as schools and pedestrian walkways with reduced space when the need has arisen and divert from the schedule.