

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	5 March 2024
Report Title	Parks and Open Spaces Maintenance Schedules
Agenda Reference	10a
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Shrub bed winter maintenance report

The tractor and side arm flail continues with winter shrub bed and hedgerow work this continues to receive positive feedback from residents. The schedules for the hedge cutting/ shrub bed maintenance and grass cutting are currently on the website. Facebook posts are shared showcasing the before and after photos linking back to the website which has proven beneficial.

The tractor and flail is being off hired mid-March and the team will continue to cut shrubs by hand. The shrubs and hedges have been reduced quite drastically under the current programme, so areas of regrowth should be easy to maintain, in between the two set schedules.

At present, the team is completing areas of Abbey Meads which are prone to quick regrowth and areas of winter projects that need completing ahead of the new season. St Andrews Parish Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council recently completed some work on the shared boundary on Elstree Way – this will be safer for both grounds teams to be able to maintain and will improve visibility for road users and pedestrians.

The tractor and flail will then be hired again May, June and July with the addition of two seasonal operatives to bolster the operation. Three members of the Parks & Open Spaces Team have recently completed tractor and flail training, so will be able to utilise their new skills early in the season.



**Grass cutting maintenance**

Mowing has ceased for the winter, but the team is clearing the border edges and strimming where necessary to aid the mowing process in March/ April time.

Street sweeper maintenance

The street sweeper maintenance programme is in the research stages. The street sweeping operative advises the Head of Parks & Open Spaces every Wednesday of the work completed within the schedule. This has been quite slow due to the leaf fall on the main footpaths throughout the parish. In the summer months, the sweeper follows the grass cutting cycle closely and assists with back up mowing.