

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	13 th July 2021
Report Title	Grass and Hedge Cutting
Agenda Reference	11
Author	David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Officer's Recommendation

1. To proceed with a quotation for tree works, to remove a dead elm tree at the rear of a property in Holiday Close, at a cost of £375.00 plus VAT to be coded to 4301/307.

Grass Cutting

Internal Team

There has been two weeks of exceptional seasonal grass growth. The grass team with support from the Tidy Up Team and Parks & Projects Team have managed to get the in getting back on schedule. The team began the fifth cut of the season at the end of June achieving a three-week average cycle and on target to complete ten cuts this season (subject to weather conditions).

External Contractors

During the beginning of last month, the Council appointed the external grounds maintenance contractor to deploy a grass team (1 mower and 1 strimmer) for two days to carry out extra mowing operations in Oakhurst to boost the schedule.

The most recent cut of the large play areas took place on Friday 2nd July the next is due on Friday 16th July.

Hedge Cutting/ Tree Maintenance

Internal Team

Melstock Road - Fallen tree was removed.

External Contractors

Roadside shrub bed maintenance began on 10th May 2021, the Contractor has moved from Haydon Wick into the Haydon End area and has confirmed the schedule is on track for completion by the end of July. Some areas that were cut early in the schedule appear to be overgrown again, the Head of Parks & Open Spaces will assess whether to use contingency funds to carry out another cut at the end of the current schedule or whether to deploy the internal team to cut the last few months growth.

Holiday Close – A dead elm tree (height of 7 metres) in an inaccessible area of shrubs that the Council should be maintain needs to be removed to create an access to area for future maintenance. The cost will include felling and cutting/racking the branches of the



elm and scrub /shrub. A quotation has been received from the Council's preferred tree surgeon for £375.00 + VAT.

Services we provide

St John's Church

Mowing is ongoing on a three weekly basis and invoiced accordingly. Date of the last cut was 30th June 2021.

Vehicle & Machinery Update

The two Kubota's were serviced on Tuesday 29th June. As an extra to the service was the fitting of new blades to both machines. Both machines require minor repairs to keep them operational. One machine had split hoses so was kept off the road on Wednesday 30th. June. Listers repaired this machine on 30th June.

Repairs / Replacements:

- 2 x Hydraulic hoses
- 1 x Cover plate re-welded
- 2 x New blades fitted to both machines

Final costs for the above to be reported at a future meeting or given verbally at the Committee meeting if received in time.