

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	12th October 2021
Report Title	Grass and Hedge Cutting Report
Agenda Reference	12
Author	David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Officer's Recommendations

There are no recommendations.

Grass Cutting

Internal Team

Mowing has continued schedule with no issues raised. The team is still currently on cut number 9 out of the 10 cuts for the season.

The completion of cut number 10 will be extended by two weeks due to the arrival of the new compact sweeper. Weather and staff attendance permitting, from Monday 11th October 2021, there will be a reduced mowing service with one mowing machine out cutting daily and back up when required by other areas of the Parks & Open Spaces Team and the street sweeper.

Hedge Cutting / Tree Maintenance

Works have been carried out at Deben Crescent, Carraway Drive and Hudson Way to remove overhanging branches.

Hard Cutbacks On Shrub Beds

Areas suggested for a hard cut back of shrub beds are:

- Gaynor Close to Elstree Way both sides along Shepperton Way.
- Honeylight View to Gaynor Close. West side only.
- Casterbridge Road at its junction with Queen Elizabeth Drive.

Please continue to filter any suggested locations through to POSManager@haydonwick.gov.uk

External Contractors

Shrub / Hedge Cutting / Tree Maintenance

The contractors are back to full capacity and the schedule has resumed. The contractors were without the side arm for two weeks following a mechanical breakdown to the new unit. Parts had to be delivered from France so the contractor experienced shipping delays internationally. During this period, the contractors continued with hand cuts.

Services we provide

St John's Church mowing has been cut recently and invoiced accordingly. Another cut will likely take place towards the end of October, finishing the service for the season.

Options for providing other services will be reviewed when budget setting, to identify if there are any further income streams available.



Vehicle & Machinery Update

The Council's two Kubota 3890 machines are on a 5 year lease from 2018 meaning that the end date of the contract is not until 2023 previously we had reported 2022.

The machines are used extensively, and this is reflected in the repair costs that we are liable for. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces has been asking the current supplier for costs to replace these machines in April 2022. Future leasing options should be costed at 3 years due to avoiding the same issues in years to come.

Replacement machines would be Kubota 3891's, as 3890's is no longer available. All machinery above 25 HP now requires a catalytic converter so machine supply costs have increased.

Requested costs from supplier to be received in time to give a verbal update at the Committee meeting on 12th October 2021.

Repairs / Replacements:

None.