

<b>Meeting</b>	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 3rd August 2021
<b>Report Title</b>	Grass and Hedge Cutting Report
<b>Agenda Reference</b>	15
<b>Author</b>	David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

### Officer's Recommendations

There are no recommendations.

### Grass Cutting

#### Internal Team

The team is back on track with the mowing after the excessive growth at the end of May and the start of June. The team has lost one day through mechanical breakdown, 2 days at half capacity and a further 2 days at zero capacity due to sickness and annual leave. The grass regrowth has stayed at a manageable rate, so this has not had a major impact on the schedule.

### External Contractors

#### Hedge Cutting/ Tree Maintenance

##### Internal Team

Melstock Road - Fallen tree was removed.

Shrub beds are still causing a problem becoming overgrown with brambles, thistles, and self-set Ash trees. Heavy rain has also lowered the tree canopy, particularly of Hazel on our footpaths and cycleways. There was one large willow tree down the weekend of 21 / 22 July across the footpath on The Street next to the bus stop. This was cleared on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and removed on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2021.

Trees backing onto private property we have had a sharp rise in reports. Again, a lot of this is due to the weight of the canopy, causing the branches to bend lower and nearer to residents' properties. These will be rectified where possible and some referred to Autumn / Winter works 2021 – 2022.

### External Contractors

Roadside shrub bed maintenance began on 10<sup>th</sup> 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, such as Abbey Meads, have been cut again due to the excessive growth in the warm and wet weather conditions. Countrywide has allowed an extra week early August to deal with any additional hedge cutting enquiries or for any works deemed to be outside of the schedule.

### Services we provide

#### St John's Church

Mowing is ongoing on a three weekly basis and invoiced accordingly. Date of the last cut was 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021.



## **Vehicle & Machinery Update**

WX18 BTZ - machine broke down on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July and was recovered to the POS depot. Listers were contacted and attended that afternoon. The problem was fuel supply. The fuel tank was removed, and the fuel was filtered. Waste was removed from the filter. Cost of this operation is still to be confirmed.

Two new tyres have been fitted to BJ62 NLC. The tyres needed replacing due to wear and tear. The cost of this was £81.60 and it will be coded to 4509/307.