

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 13 th June 2023
Report Title	Grass Cutting 2023
Agenda Reference	16a
Author	Dave Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Officer Recommendations

To note the report.

Background

This season the team received new machinery, Kubota 391. One unit was purchased and one unit on three-year lease hire.

Grass Cutting 2023 Timeline

- **End of March** - The team commenced mowing 27th March. This was sustainable for three days, until there was snow and heavy rain, then mowing had to cease as ground conditions were still too wet.
- **April** – The team started mowing again and had three days full mowing, then had a self-inflicted mechanical failure. The machine was off the road for 12 working days (from X). During this 12-day period, due to weather conditions, there was only scope for one mower for just 3 working days. Even after the 12 working days and receiving both machines back on the road, the team lost the next 8 working days mowing to weather conditions.
- **May** – Has been an improved month for weather and since then the team has been out every day except the 9th May when the vehicles received the 50hr service and had trackers fitted. The team is currently two thirds (66%) of the way through cycle 3 which has included three bank holidays.
- **June** - The team is currently in Haydon End, will be finishing up in Oakhurst and then beginning the fourth cut of the season back in Abbey Meads.

Schedule

The anticipated round takes 3-3 1/2 weeks subject to weather conditions. The schedule starts in Abbey Meads, Haydon Wick, Seven Fields, Greenmeadow, Moredon, Mouldon Hill, Haydon End, Taw Hill and Oakhurst.

The schedule takes place by two ride on mowers, a team of two following up with strimming and blowing and a mini compact sweeper.

The first two cuts generate large amounts of cuttings and keeping these clear of paths and cycle ways is an operation carried out by the follow up team. The follow up team also cut the areas inaccessible to the sit on mowers.

This season, due to the new mowers the follow up team has added 42 small areas to cut these areas have been bypassed by the sit on mowers due to the roughness of the terrain. These areas are small enough to cut with trimmers and do not require pedestrian mowers.



External Contractor

The external contractor cuts our 10 large open spaces. This has a start date of 10th May. Due to excessive growth, the Council's engaged them to carry out an early cut this took place on 28th April. This was funded by a contingency in the budget for that very reason. On both 28th April and 10th May the contractor was unable to cut Clary Road due to ground conditions.