

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 13 th June 2023
Report Title	Grass Cutting Transparency
Agenda Reference	16b
Proposer	Councillor V Manro
Seconder	Councillor S Heyes

Background

Grass cutting and hedge cutting is always a topic of discussion, and the Council can never appease residents with whether it cuts specific areas or not, in schemes like 'No Mow May' and the recent creation of wildflower meadows it has increased the Council's awareness of the topic.

Every year due to seasonal changes and unknown weather conditions there is always a settling in period for April and May. The team seems to get into the schedule by mid-June. During the first two cycles there is an increased correspondence for Councillors and the Office Staff.

Proposal

To increase transparency to residents and improve communications, I request that the Council publishes a schedule of works detailing the scheduling, expected time at the next zone and the methodology (if applicable) that the Council has adopted and when this will take place.

To build a spreadsheet detailing area by road name, play park, open space or other definition and publish the Week Commencing that the cut is due, with status updates once complete, like the template as below. All cuts can be provisionally listed with any changes or deviations documented in comments.

This could be found on the Parish Council's website. An area where this works well is in East Sussex - <https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/downloads/download/12/planned-maintenance-programmes>

This will provide a reference point for residents and Councillors. It can also be scrutinised at committee and will remove the hearsay regarding where the Council is with cuts as some boundaries between zones could be confusing.

Budget & Resourcing

The concept would be simple and not require a lot of background administration. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces already has a schedule of resources and where each team is being deployed, so it would be expanding on this and making the document shareable.

There will be no budgetary impact or additional resources needed.