

<b>Meeting</b>	Parks & Open Spaces Committee Discussion
<b>Date</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
<b>Report Title</b>	Grass and Hedges
<b>Agenda Reference</b>	8
<b>Author</b>	Dave Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

### **Officer's Recommendation**

There are no recommendations.

### **Grass Cutting**

#### **Internal Team**

The start of the grass cutting season has been progressing well. The first complete cycle by the ride on mowers was completed in 14 working days, compared 17 working days last year saving 3 working days.

The team is now on the second cycle. Two minor break downs that cost one machine being of the road for a collective total of 4 hours. Up until 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April the weather has not been favorable for mowing. On these two days the grass team did not cut on the ride on mowers but carried out back up mowing duties, the forecast for the beginning of May also looks damp which may have a further impact on the mowing. The cycle will be closely monitored, and an update will be given at June's meeting.

### **External Contractors - Larger Play Areas**

Scheduled for Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> then fortnightly afterwards.

### **Hedge Cutting/ Tree Maintenance**

#### **Internal Team**

The team has attended to some footpaths to cut back overhanging vegetation and leaf blow. Areas completed also include:

- Angelica Close - Removal of brambles and fly tipped Green waste.
- Open space rear of Cloverlands tidy up and chipping of branches.
- Giotto Close - Removal of Brambles
- Rysy Court - Repairs to footpaths in the open space to the South of Rysy Ct.
- Tweed Close - Shrub bed to be tidied to give resident access to maintain their garden fence. Planned for W/C 3.5.21.
- Addresses Inspected Include Chives Way, Catmint Close, Bayleaf Ave, Seaton Cl, Metis Cl, and Sage Close all with shrub / hedgerow / tree issues.



### **External Contractors**

A meeting is being arranged for the Head of Parks & Open Spaces and the Contract Manager for Countrywide to discuss the upcoming hedge cutting schedule. The upcoming schedule features a light cut using hand tools, for health and safety reasons and to maintain the hedge mid-year prior to the autumn flail.

### **Services we provide**

#### **St John's Church**

Cuts at St John's have now started for the season, work will be carried out three weekly in line with the maintenance of the Council Offices and invoiced accordingly.

#### **Fessey House**

Will try to establish further contact with Site Manager for Fessey House to see if the contract will resume now that Covid-19 Restrictions have eased and building work is near completion.

### **Vehicle & Machinery Update**

#### **Repairs / Replacements:**

- 1 x Jockey wheel replaced.
- 2 x Anti-scalping rollers supplied.
- 1 x puncture, rear wheel, repaired.
- 2 x spare rear wheels new tires fitted. The cost of these will be offset by any lost down time when punctures occur.

The total cost is still being reviewed; this will be updated at a future meeting.