

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	2 nd June 2026
Report Title	Parks & Open Spaces Report
Agenda Reference	10a
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Officers Recommendation

1. To note the report.
2. To note the cost of £828.14 +Vat per cut for an additional cut to the large park spaces commencing 2 weeks earlier on 27th April.
3. To note the cost of £312.00 per cut for the mowing of Tadpole paddock, three cuts are required
4. To note the cost of £972.00 per cut for the mowing of three wildflower areas, one cut is required.
5. To note the cost of £639.96 for the Maxus electric vehicle return penalties.
6. To note the cost of £1,450.00 for hedge reduction at Hylder Close, to plan for Sept 26.
7. Firth close, resident tree planting request.

Tidy Up Team Update

Despite daily challenges all waste-removal and litter-picking activities are progressing as planned. Fly-tipping continues to be a recurring issue across the parish, and the team aims to resolve these issues promptly.

The team continues to focus heavily on known litter-picking hotspots and maintains close monitoring across all areas. Household waste contained in supermarket carrier bags is frequently being deposited in litter bins throughout the parish, which places additional demands on daily operations and stretches HWPC team resources.

There have also been reports of suspected human waste being deposited in dog waste bins. This has caused disruption to routine duties, and dog bin locations will therefore be monitored more closely to identify and address this issue.

We are currently testing a new method of graffiti removal, which we anticipate will reduce removal times. In addition, we intend to purchase a new mobile pressure washer capable of removing more stubborn graffiti, further improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our response.

Planters & Hanging baskets

During April/May, all planters and hanging baskets will be retrieved, replenished with fresh compost, and replanted with new bedding to enhance the parish entrances. The Tidy Team will continue to monitor all planting and ensure ongoing maintenance and watering throughout the spring and summer months.

As requested, a new planter will be installed at the Taw Hill entrance near the Tawny Owl public house.



Planters / Hanging baskets & Pots costs

11 troughs 7 hanging baskets & 2 pots

As the Option 1 is responsible for removing the old compost, installing new compost, and carrying out all planting, obtaining direct comparisons is challenging.					
	Compost	Plants	Sub Tot	1 Manpower 2 days	Total
In-house	£105	£290	£395	£210	£605
Option 1			£448	£0	£448
Option 2	Details of requirement given, no feedback despite repeated contact				

Option 1 has been agreed due to the window of planting in readiness for the spring/summer season and given there were cost savings and comparable quotes.

Mini Compact Street Sweeper

The team maintains a strong focus on known hotspot areas each Monday, with particular attention given to underpasses where litter accumulation is more prevalent. The team has responded to numerous incidents involving broken glass across the parish, all of which have been resolved promptly.

Significant seed fall from trees has presented challenges for sweeping operations; however, this issue is now largely coming to an end. Roadside parking can frequently obstruct planned sweeping routes, but despite these difficulties, repeated visits have enabled us to complete sweeping operations along The Boulevard. The team will always make every effort to complete all reported tasks to the best of its ability.

Grounds Team – Shrubs & Hedges

The team has recently taken delivery of a new tractor and flail, which has significantly improved both cutting conditions and the overall quality of work. The programme has now moved into the low-level shrub maintenance, and the team will also provide support to the reactive team as required.

Grass Cutting

The introduction of two new grass cutting machines has been accepted well along with the introduction of a new mower operator who is being monitored and mentored during the initial grass cuts. As usual the backup team will follow the grass cutting to ensure all edge trimming is completed. Grass cutting of large park areas will start earlier than intended with one additional cut, this will commence from 27th April and be repeated every two weeks.

POS Report / Reactive

Reactive works will continue to be supported throughout the spring and summer months, with the team undertaking a wide range of tasks including supermarket trolley retrieval, graffiti removal, fly-tipping clearance, and hedge reductions.