

MEETING REPORT

Meeting: Council – 30th October 2023
Agenda item: 23-076
Report subject: Additional expenditure above contract – Verge grass cutting
Report author: K Elliott-Turner, Town Clerk

The Town Council has an annual agreement with Devon County Council to cut verge visibility splays around the town (DCC owned only).

The DCC contract requires a minimum of 4 cuts per year (as urban roads), and a residual height of 40mm. The cutting schedule is April, June, July and September.

This is an annual contract with DCC, and the Town Council subsequently has an annual contract, with work currently carried out by Hulls Landscapes. However it appears that last year's (April 22 to March 23) contract has rolled over to 23/24.

Parks & Open Spaces will be asked to consider the cutting schedule going forward, at a future meeting, however it has become apparent that the grass is untidy and has not been given what is being termed by some as a 'final cut' before winter. The contract with DCC gives September as the last cut, and this is reflected in the contract with Hulls. Complaints are being received about the need for an additional cut, and the warmer, wetter weather is resulting in the grass cutting season being extended into October/early November.

PROPOSAL: To consider an additional cut October/November 2023 of the visibility splays under contract with DCC, and subsequently Hulls Landscapes. Cost to be advised.