
Report To:	Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee	Date:	10 March 2025
Contact Officer:	Paula Harrison		
Subject:	Grass cutting Report		

1. Grass cutting Update

- 1.1 In October 2024, this Committee considered a report setting out the current approach to grass cutting. It was noted in the report that across the Parish, of the 991,000 square metres of grass maintained by the Parish, low mow or no mow treatment is applied to 7.7% of all grass, and of this, 10.2% of residential grass and 32% of open space grass.
- 1.2 The grass cutting season is weather dependent and usually can run from mid March to mid October. Grassland in West Swindon is often wetter for longer and as such, this Parish is often the last Parish Council to begin the first cut. In 2024, the grass cutting round got underway early April and finished earlier than other Parishes, with grass cutting ceasing by the mid September.
- 1.3 This Winter has had sustained and regular rainfall which is suggesting that the Parish Team will be slow to resume grass cutting. Grass is thick and long in places due to wet ground conditions in Autumn preventing later cuts. The team will continue to monitor the ground and begin the first cuts once drier conditions have been established.

As a reminder, it was agreed at the Planning, Leisure and Environment Committee (14 October 2024) to continue with the following for 2025

- that West Swindon Parish Council continues with its 6 key principles of no mow, low mow, low mow and collect, high height, no fertilisation, and minimal interference to tree roots and that the following spaces are agreed:
- Continuation of 25 low mow/no mow sites
- Addition of The Chesters, Rivermead and Toothill Pond (volunteer project) – 12,960 square metres

2. Costings/Financial Implications

- 2.1 The proposal detailed in Section 4 fits the existing staff and machinery resource. Any significant changes would need to consider any financial impacts arising.

3. Policy Implications

- 3.1 The Parish Council has reviews the grass cutting policy and schedule every October at the end of the grass cutting season.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That this Committee considers the information in this report.