

## Grass cutting report – July 2022

1. OCC has responsibility for cutting the grass on the areas shown in the attached maps.

As you will be aware we have had many complaints about the grass at Fiveways – it looks a mess, it is a fire hazard as so dry and it blocks visibility therefore is dangerous.

Having reported this on FixmyStreet several times I asked Liz L to chase it. Her reply is as follows:

*I have had a conversation with the team about this. Yes, the area on the map shows that this comes under the county council. However, the current policy is that where there is no negative impact on road visibility, we are not cutting the verges hard back, as you may have noticed recently, but leaving the grass to grow naturally. We will cut the strip next to the road but not the rest of the grass. This is for reasons associated with cost but also in order to encourage biodiversity.*

*If the town council wants it to be cut it can be done but OCC would charge for that.*

*I am going to ask our Environment portfolio holder to look at issuing clear guidance to towns and parishes about grass cutting so that there is no doubt about this in future.*

You may recall that several months ago I investigated taking out an S101 grass cutting agreement with OCC where we take over responsibility for cutting these areas of grass, minimum twice a year, in return for a payment of **£842.44** (10.25 pence per metre squared). This payment is received every April so would not be received until April 2023 even if we decided to take over the grass cutting for the rest of this year.

I have received a quote from Cotswold Landscaping for this work:

*My best estimate for a cut now is 3 days @ £250.00 per day (£200.00 labour £50.00 machinery) + VAT if this work is carried out on a more frequent basis id anticipate this reducing to 2 - 2.5 days per cut*

So, each cut of all the areas would be £750 ( we wouldn't do it more than twice a year I assume so it will be the full 3 days' work).

Therefore, the TC would be paying roughly £650 per year more than it does now if it takes over the grass cutting currently the responsibility of OCC.

**Decision required on whether to take on this grass cutting and the grant and if so starting when?**

2. The current state of Fiveways needs addressing.

Quote from Cotswold Landscaping for cutting this: the large bank and the area on the corner of Hydac – is £94

**Decision required on whether to cut Fiveways ASAP as a one-off**