



Report to Town Council

Subject:	Ticknell Piece grass cutting
From:	Lisa Wilkinson
Date:	15 September 2022
For information only	
Summary of decisions or actions requested (including timing): To decide grass cutting schedule at Ticknell Piece	
Financial implications:	
Communications:	

Background:

January 2022

Grass cutting management plan adopted: [220130GrassCuttingManagement accessible doc.pdf \(basecamp.com\)](#)

February 2022

FM, CE & LW discussed with WODC modification of grass cutting from March onwards. Schedule agreed.

June 2022

Complaints received about lack of cutting on TP mounds and lack of consultation

Realisation that WODC hadn't cut according to agreed schedule

WODC chased about lack of cutting but no reply.

Meeting held with TP residents - CW, CE, FM

Report of this meeting taken to June TC meeting by CW: [Ticknell Piece mowing.pdf \(basecamp.com\)](#)

July 22

Cotswold Landscaping cut TP mounds

WODC cut TP grass.

August 2022

Consultation

Consultation leaflet delivered to all households in TP with closing date 12/9/22

The consultation had 3 options:

Option 1 to create a meadow area on the South-facing slope of the mound, while managing the majority of the areas as short grassland. As part of the modified plan, wildflower seeds would be sown and a review held this time next year.

Alternative options would be (Option 2) to continue with the original trial of larger meadow areas (but with the addition of a mown path) for another year and then review, or (Option 3) to revert to managing the two mound areas as short grassland throughout.

[TP grass cutting consultation_v4.pdf \(basecamp.com\)](#)

Results received:

Option 1 =8

Option 2 = 8

Option 3 =6

Additional information

The question of 'amenity land' has been raised. I contacted WODC and received the following reply from the planning department:

'You are correct that the term 'amenity' is not defined in planning legislation and therefore the use of amenity land/space can be determined locally. Amenity often refers to the quality or character of an area and elements that contribute to the overall enjoyment of an area. It may be worth going back to the original permission to see if there are any details of the amenity land. As permission was granted in 1993, it will stored as a paper file in Woodgreen. I can pop into the office to retrieve it if you like. As you said though, the land management plan would have ended and biodiversity was less likely to be a material consideration back then.

Changes to a grass cutting schedule do not represent a change of use, the area is still amenity land. We would argue that the creation of a wildflower meadow improves the quality and character of the area for residents, who can enjoy greater varieties of local wildlife. That said, some residents may dislike this approach due to its visual impact and potentially restricting the land's use for other activities, like picnics, light recreation – it depends on how the residents value and use the space and what alternative spaces there are on the estate.

Perhaps in this case we can say that this land management approach is best practice in improving the ecological value of the amenity land, given that we have declared a climate and ecological emergency, and that there are no planning implications. '

I have asked the planning officer to look for the original permission as offered above, to find the exact details of the amenity land.