

Agenda Item 10

Report for the Grass Cutting Contract 2024

Recommendation for approval at the Full Council Meeting on Monday 20 November 2023

The County Council has supplied details for the grass cutting contract 2024. The following three options are available:

Options

Option 1 - Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only. Such as the corners of roads for safety purposes and visibility for road users.

Option 2 – Extra cuts: Parish Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. **This would cost the Parish Council a total of £4,078 for the year.** The dates of the grass cutting would be up to ESCC not the Parish Council. All complaints would be dealt with by ESCC Highways.

Option 3 – Self delivery: Parish Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting in the area. **ESCC would pay the Parish Council the sum of £2,039 to do this.**

In the past Westham PC has carried out 'self-delivery' in the Parish with verges cut about at least once a month between February / March and October to keep the verges short.

What Self Delivery means:

Grass cutting dates will be arranged and decided by Westham PC and their contractor

If Council were to select this option ESCC would provide a small contribution of **£2,039**

The cost of self-delivery of is approximately verges is around **£10,000.**

Issues and complaints will be dealt with by the Clerk

Westham PC has a large number of verges in its area. The grass cutting maps show a sizable area which stretches from the Golden Jubilee Island / Dittons Road to Pevensey Castle / Lion Hill to the railway bridge. Also, residential roads in Stone Cross and Westham are included.

Verges in Hankham are cut on a rural basis and not part of the grass cutting contract.

Councillors may want to consider less cuts but this must be balanced against the number of complaints from members of the public about uncut grass.

