



**Report To:** Scrutiny Committee Report  
**Lead Officer:** Anita Goddard

7 February 2017

---

## Grass Verge Cutting

### Purpose

1. To respond to a question posed as to why the Parish Councils were not consulted when Cambridgeshire County Council assumed their responsibility for cutting their grass verges.

### Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the committee accepts the response to the question and considers whether an additional line in report templates to aid officers in considering and addressing Parish needs is undertaken.

### Reasons for Recommendations

3. To assist officers to consider Parish Council needs

### Background

4. A question was raised at Scrutiny Committee as to why the Parishes had not been consulted about Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) cutting the grass verges for which they are responsible.
5. In 2015 the Council agreed to procure a grounds maintenance contract with CCC. The Councils existing contract that was at an end and CCC wanted to procure a contract that encompassed the guided bus route and the park and ride stations.
6. During the course of the exercise it became clear when maps were overlaid that the Council was actually cutting grass that was the responsibility of CCC.
7. CCC assumed this responsibility within an agreed time frame in November 2015 however it was not recognised at that point that the cutting schedules would be less frequent than that undertaken by the Council. This would have become apparent during the growing season of 2016.

### Considerations

8. The impact of not cutting the verges was seen as of benefit to the Council as it would no longer be carrying out work that it was not responsible for. There was at the time no consideration given to the Parish Councils as they have no legal interest in the land.

**Report Author:** Anita Goddard – Head of Housing and Property Services  
Telephone: (01954) 713040