



Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 28th July 2015

Title of report: Parks and Open Spaces Maintenance Standards

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan ?	Yes
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny ?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Jacqui Gedman - 14/07/15
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	David Smith - 16/07/15
Is it signed off by the Assistant Director - Legal & Governance?	Julie Muscroft - 16/07/15
Cabinet member portfolio	Streetscene & Housing – Cllr Cathy Scott

Electoral [wards](#) affected: ALL
Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private:

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform and update Cabinet on the progress of delivering new service standards to parks and open spaces sites and report on the issues raised from feedback.
- 1.2 The report also seeks approval of the recommendations to adopt the new service standards subject to regular review and for District Committees to influence local changes within resource allocation.

2. Key points

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 A Budget decision was made in Feb 2015 to reduce the parks and open spaces budget by £1.3m and as a result changes have been

made to the operating model to allow for scaling of the service and target resources where they are needed.

- 2.1.2 The reduction in ftes is equivalent to a 22% cut in gardener numbers (50,000 hours based on 52 wks x 37hrs x 26ftes). Once you factor in the impact on other costs e.g. reduced tools, equipment, plant and transport – this generates the overall saving (£1.3m) which is approximately 1/3rd of the net controllable budget.
- 2.1.3 For context it is important to note that the service is responsible for cutting 350 hectares of grass in parks and open spaces (which equates to 490 football pitches) and also cuts a total of 405 hectares (which equates to 567 football pitches) made up of Housing, Highways, Bereavement Services, Schools and other Council services.
- 2.1.4 The total amount of grass that the service cuts is 755 hectares (which equates to 1,057 football pitches).
- 2.1.5 The service also grows over 400,000 plants per year to go into beds, hanging baskets and floral displays.

2.2 Service Standards

- 2.2.1 In setting our new standards we have considered the impacts that reduced maintenance and display regimes can have and in order to maximise the positive outcomes for all residents the standards aim to:
- Preserve access to quality parks and open spaces
 - Apply reduced frequencies of maintenance and introduce natural areas on sites that are used less, allowing funding to be directed towards safeguarding sites that are rich in cultural, historical and societal value
 - Promote economic activity through vibrant town centre environments
 - Maximise opportunities to create natural areas that will provide important habitat for plants and wildlife that are under threat.
- 2.2.2 Taking a ‘best judgement’ approach sites have been assigned into 4 categories of reducing maintenance and planting ranging from Gold receiving the highest level of maintenance, Silver and Bronze to the introduction of natural areas that receive the least maintenance.
- 2.2.3 A copy of the service standards are attached in (Appendix A) which identifies how the standards will affect sites, including a list of sites showing which standard has currently been allocated, broken down into District Committee areas.
- 2.2.4 New service standards in maintenance started to be introduced from April 2015 in order to see the impact through the growing season and the current configuration runs to the end of June, allowing a period for feedback to identify the impact the changes have on both the landscape and users of the sites.

2.2.5 New service standards in planting and floral displays will be implemented by April 2016.

2.3 Feedback

2.3.1 The feedback on maintenance has come from a number of forums i.e. facebook, email, Councillors and staff.

2.3.2 Key themes from the feedback are:

- Long grass looks unsightly
- Dog fouling will increase and become a health issue
- Leisure activities will be limited or reduced

2.3.3 A cross sample of some of the received comments are:

'If the grass is no longer cut this will make it extremely difficult to clear up dog mess in the long grass which is not satisfactory when there could be children playing in this area. If the grass is left to grow I am concerned this will make it unsafe for children to continue to meet here if the view of the children is shielded by the long grass.'

"why can't they (the council) cut the two halves alternately rather than allow one half to become an in-penetrable weed farm. [or words to that effect] So may I make that request; Can you mow the two halves alternately?"

'Making provision for wild flower areas is something that we should all welcome given the reduction in bees etc. If it saves money that is also good.'

'For some reason the grass on the Park is only being cut in certain sections and we were curious as to why this was happening, apart from making the park look extremely scruffy it is impossible for my son who is a full time wheelchair user to access all areas of the park.'

'What a pleasure to at last see the highways cutting our grass verge today. I was just about to put a complaint in. The grass is now about 1 foot high and looks absolutely appalling.'

'I know the Council's come in for a bit of stick for doing 'incomplete' grass cuts, however, for the first time in 3 years of parking by the grassed verge area, that the Goldfinches have fed at ground level. They seem to be feasting on the dandelion heads. So, thank you and your team for making my school-run mornings enjoyable!'

2.3.3 Details of feedback received for each District Committee area are shown in (Appendix B).

2.4 Recommendations

- 2.4.1 That the new service standards set out in Appendix A are adopted in parks and open spaces and flexibility to change the service standards as identified in Appendix A be devolved to District Committees as set out in paragraph 2.4.3 .
- 2.4.2 That regular reviews are completed at key points to capture all seasons and again are fed via District Committees to understand the impact.
- 2.4.3 That the decision making is devolved to District Committees to allow them to make changes (should they decide to do so) to the standard a site is allocated to reflect local community need within resource allocation.
- 2.4.4 That given the need to ensure Best Value the Assistant Director, author of the report, be delegated the responsibility to find the most cost effective solution to the future provision of seasonal plants.

3. Implications for the Council

- 3.1 The operating model for parks and open space service standards is budgeted within the current financial resource allocation.

4. Consultees and their opinions

- 4.1 Portfolio Holders, Cabinet, Officers of Streetscene and Housing have been consulted and are in favour of the proposals.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 A report will be delivered to district committees to allow members to influence changes to local need.
- 5.2 Public engagement could be included in the next available phase of Time to Talk.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 6.1 That Cabinet members;
- note and endorse the new service standards;
 - note the issues raised in the feedback; and
 - agree the recommendations in 2.4.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

The Portfolio holder, Cllr Cathy Scott, notes the significant amount of work that has gone in to providing a flexible operational model allowing districts to shape delivery options at a local level. The portfolio holder welcomes the opportunity for districts to shape this going forward and recommends adoption

of the operational standards and that decisions around delivery are devolved to district level.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Nigel Hancock
Parks Development Officer – Operations
Streetscene and Housing
Tel: 01484 221000
Email: nigel.hancock@kirklees.gov.uk

Papers:
Service standards (Appendix A)
Feedback (Appendix B)

9. Assistant director responsible

Joanne Bartholomew - Assistant Director
Place – Physical Resources and Procurement
Tel: 01484 221000
Email: joanne.bartholomew@kirklees.gov.uk

Gold Parks and open spaces

Maintenance standards

What is a Gold site?

- High profile area within major centres that are seen and used by the whole community
- Landscaping and floral displays create an attractive welcoming place
- Higher frequencies to achieve a good standard
- Gold sites may also have Silver, Bronze or Natural areas

How often will the grass be cut?

- 21 grass cuts (during the cutting season)
- 1 to 2 week intervals
- Reduced from 28 cuts

What will it look like?

- High Amenity Grass (can grow up to 5cm between cuts)
- Floral bedding displays or herbaceous planting
- Seasonal floral hanging baskets & planters in gold town centres
- Shrub Beds
- Hedges
- Play & Sports facilities

Where are the Gold sites?

- Principal Parks
- Memorial Parks
- Principal Gold Town Centres
- Crematoria

During the Summer floral decorations will be provided in Gold town centres helping to create vibrant environments. The current resource allocation of baskets and planters is:

Batley & Spen District Committee

- **Batley Town Centre**
 - 20 Brackets for hanging baskets
 - 5 Flower towers for planting
 - 20 Half barrels for planting

Dewsbury & Mirfield District Committee

- **Dewsbury Town Centre**
 - 20 Brackets for hanging baskets
 - 5 Flower towers for planting
 - 20 Half barrels for planting

Huddersfield District Committee

- **Huddersfield Town Centre**
 - 100 Brackets for hanging baskets
 - 10 Flower towers for planting
 - 20 Half barrels for planting

Kirklees Rural District Committee

- **Holmfirth Town Centre**
 - 40 Brackets for hanging baskets
 - 2 Flower towers for planting
 - 10 Half barrels for planting

Site Locations

Batley & Spen District Committee

1. Batley Memorial Park
3. Cleckheaton Memorial Park
6. Green Park
14. Royds Park
17. Wilton Park
- Batley Town Centre

Dewsbury & Mirfield District Committee

4. Crow Nest Park
5. Dewsbury Crem
10. Ings Grove Park
11. Longcauseway Gardens
- Dewsbury Town Centre

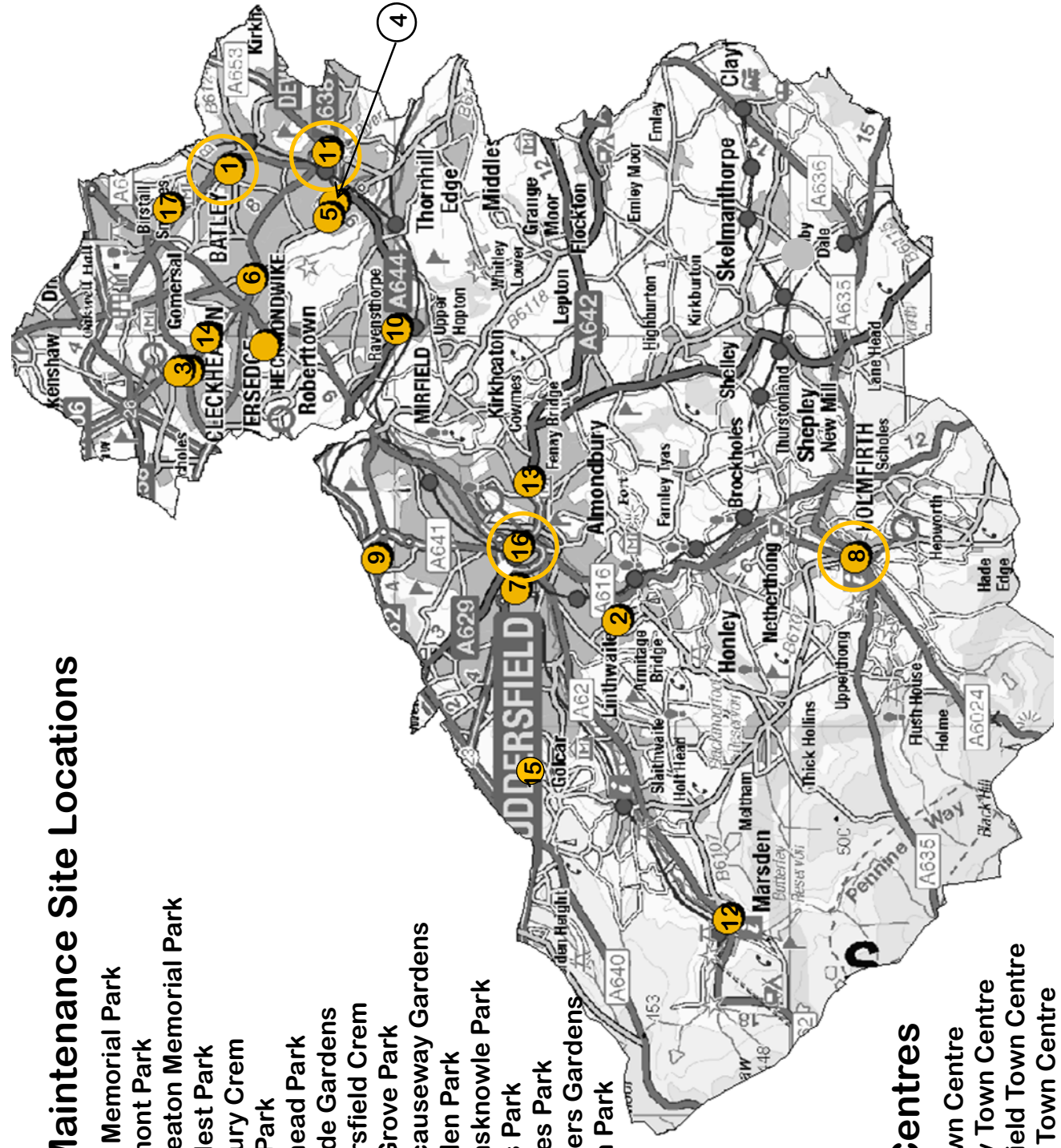
Huddersfield District Committee

2. Beaumont Park
7. Greenhead Park
9. Huddersfield Crematorium
13. Ravensknowle Park
16. St Peters Gardens
- Huddersfield Town Centre

Kirklees Rural District Committee

8. Holmside Gardens
12. Marsden Park
14. Peoples Park
- Holmfirth Town Centre

Locations



Gold Maintenance Site Locations

1. Batley Memorial Park
2. Beaumont Park
3. Cleckheaton Memorial Park
4. Crow Nest Park
5. Dewsbury Crem
6. Green Park
7. Greenhead Park
8. Holmside Gardens
9. Huddersfield Crem
10. Ings Grove Park
11. Longcauseway Gardens
12. Marsden Park
13. Ravensknowle Park
14. Royds Park
15. Peoples Park
16. St Peters Gardens
17. Wilton Park



Gold Centres

- Batley Town Centre
- Dewsbury Town Centre
- Huddersfield Town Centre
- Holmfirth Town Centre

What is a Silver site?

- Areas that are located within busy centres, or are well used by the local community
- Planting can create a welcoming place and recreation or sports facilities are available
- Moderate frequencies keep the site safe, clean, tidy and usable

How often will the grass be cut?

- 14 grass cuts (during the cutting season)
- 2 week intervals
- Reduced from 28 or 14 cuts

What will it look like?

- General Amenity Grass (can grow up to 10cm between cuts)
- Colourful herbaceous borders replace annual bedding schemes
- Shrub Beds
- Hedges
- Play & Sports facilities

Where are the Silver sites?

- Secondary Parks
- Recreation Grounds (with facilities)
- Rest Gardens
- Smaller town & village centres
- Cemeteries

Batley & Spen District Committee

- All Saints Church
- Ashcroft Close O.S
- Beck Lane Rest Garden
- Birkenshaw Lane Rec
- Birkenshaw Park
- Birkenshaw Rest Gdn (Yeb)
- Birstall Bus Shelter Fb
- Birstall Dam
- Birstall Parish Church
- Bower Lane Rec
- Bromley Road Pf
- Carr Street Pf
- Carters Field
- Cawley Lane Rec
- Chestnut Avenue P.F
- Dale Lane Rec
- Drub Rec
- Drub Rest Garden
- East Bierley F Field
- East Bierley Green
- East Bierley Mem Garden
- East Bierley Rec
- Eddercliffe Rec
- Firth Park
- Firthcliffe Walk Rec
- France Street Recreation
- Garden House Rec
- Goose Hill Rest Garden
- Hartshead Rec
- Headlands Rd Rest Garden
- Healey Play Area (Rec)
- Heights Park
- Howden Clough P.F
- Hunsworth Rec
- Hyrstlands Park
- Hyrstlands Park Multi Court
- Jessops Park
- King George V.P.F.
- Kingsley Rec
- Littletown F.Field
- Liversedge Church
- Liversedge Church Mem Gdn
- Millbridge Park
- Milton Road Rec
- Moorend Rec
- Nibshaw Rec
- Norristhorpe Rec
- Nova Lane Recreation
- Oakenshaw Rest Garden
- Pavilion Gardens
- Princess Mary Stadium
- Raikes Lane
- Raikes Lane Pavilion
- Red House Rec
- Roberttown Rec
- Savoy Os
- Scholes Rec
- Scholes Rest Garden
- Shirley Rec
- Spen Bottoms
- St Barnabas Rest Garden
- St Peg Lane Corner
- Staincliffe PF
- Sugden Park

Batley & Spen District Committee - continued

- Taylor Street/Victoria Ave P.F
- The Show Boat Verges
- Upper Batley Lane Fields
- West End Park
- White Lee Pf

Dewsbury & Mirfield District Committee

- Bridge Street Playing Fields
- Carr House Park
- Centenary Square F Field
- Chadwick Hall Gdns O.S
- Chickenley Recreation
- Crawshaw Street Pf
- Crossley Lane Rec
- Dewsbury Parish Church
- Earlsheaton Park Play Area
- Edge Lane Rec
- Ellis'S Cricket Field
- Frank Lane Flower Bed
- Grange Road Park
- Grange Road Playing Fields
- Green Lane Rest Garden
- Headfield Park
- Holroyd Park
- Holy Trinity C Of E Church
- Honeysuckle Drive
- Hudds Rd Football Ground
- Knowle Park
- Lees Holm Park
- Lees Holm Park Multi Court
- Lower Hopton Fc
- Memorial Ground (Bg)
- Mirfield Cricket Club
- Mirfield Showground
- Moorlands Cricket Club
- Overthorpe Park
- Rectory Park
- Rock House Park
- Rock House Park Recreation
- Rock House Side Of Park
- Sands Lane Pf Arches
- Sands Lane Pf Main Area
- Sands Lane Pf No1 C Field
- Savile Sports Ground
- Savile Town F/Ball Field
- Scarr End Lane Recreation
- Upper Hopton (Gdn Of Rest)
- Upper Hopton Rec
- Wakefield Road Playing Field

Huddersfield District Committee

- Ainley Top Rec
- Almondbury Rec
- Bankfield Rec
- Berry Brow Recreation Ground
- Birchencliffe Rec
- Bradley Park
- Burfitts Road Rec
- Castle Hill
- Celandine Avenue Rec
- Cliffe Close Rec
- Cow Heys Rec
- Cowcliffe Hill Road Rec
- Douglas Avenue Rec
- Dryclough Rec
- Fairlea Rec
- Fartown Arena Multi Court
- Fartown Green Road Rec
- Fartown Sports Complex
- Fenton Square
- Fernside Park
- Finthorpe Rec
- Foxlow Avenue Rec
- Glenfield Avenue Rec
- Goldington Avenue Rec
- Hammond Street Rec
- Hawes Rec
- Hayfield Avenue Rec
- Heatherleigh Rec
- Heaton Gardens Hard Court Area
- Hollins Glen Rec
- Holt Ave Rec (Northfield Hall)
- Hubert Street Rec
- Ivy Street Rec
- Jim Lane Rec
- Kidroyd Rec
- Lindley Rec
- Longfield Avenue Rec
- Lowerhouses War Memorial
- Mount Rec
- Newsome Park Open Space
- Norman Park Plot
- Oak Road Rec
- Paddock Head Shops
- Plover Road Dam
- Priory Place Rec
- Rashcliffe Rec
- Reinwood Rec
- Reinwood Rec Gardens
- Smiths Ave/Hollins Ter Rec
- Southfield Rec
- Standiforth Rec
- Tenters Grove Recreation
- Walpole Rec

Site Locations

Kirklees Rural District Committee

- ✓ Back Lane Rec
- ✓ Birdsedge Rec
- ✓ Birdsedge Rest Garden
- ✓ Bolster Moor Rec
- ✓ Botham Hall OS (Allotments)
- ✓ Botham Hall Rec
- ✓ Broad Oak Rec
- ✓ Broadlands Rec
- ✓ Brockholes Rec
- ✓ Broomhill Close
- ✓ Burnlee Rec
- ✓ Canal Side
- ✓ Causeway Crescent Open Space
- ✓ Clayton West War Memorial
- ✓ Cliffewood Park
- ✓ Coal Pit Gate Rec
- ✓ Coronation Park
- ✓ Cross Lane Rec
- ✓ Crow Lane Playing Field
- ✓ Crow Lane Rec
- ✓ Denby Dale War Memorial
- ✓ Emley Rest Garden
- ✓ Emley War Memorial
- ✓ Farnley Rec
- ✓ Flockton Rec
- ✓ Grange Moor Rec
- ✓ Hade Edge Rec
- ✓ Hallas Road Rec
- ✓ Hawkroyd Bank Rec
- ✓ Hepworth Rec
- ✓ Hillside Crescent Recreation
- ✓ Holmbridge Rec
- ✓ Holme Rec
- ✓ Holmfirth Fire Station SB
- ✓ Holmfirth Road Rec New Mill
- ✓ Jaggar Lane Rec
- ✓ Jubilee Field Rec
- ✓ Kayes Rec
- ✓ Kinder Avenue Open Space
- ✓ Kirkburton War Memorial
- ✓ Lightenfield Rec
- ✓ Linthwaite Football Field
- ✓ Longwood War Memorial
- ✓ Lower Cumberworth Rec
- ✓ Market Street/Scar Lane
- ✓ Marsden Park Multi Court
- ✓ Marten Drive Rec
- ✓ Meal Hill Rec
- ✓ Meltham Road Rec, Honley
- ✓ Netherthong Rec
- ✓ Netherthong War Memorial
- ✓ Nethererton Memorial Gardens
- ✓ Old Bank
- ✓ Oldfield Rec
- ✓ Sands Rec Ground
- ✓ Scapegoat Hill Rec
- ✓ Scholes Rec Moorlands
- ✓ Shepley Cenotaph
- ✓ Shepley Rec
- ✓ Skelmanthorpe Rec
- ✓ Slaithwaite Cenotaph
- ✓ Slaithwaite Spa
- ✓ Spark Street Rec
- ✓ Stocksmoor Rec

Kirklees Rural District Committee - continued

- **Sunnymead Rec**
- **Sycamore Rec**
- **Thurstonland Rec**
- **Upper Denby Rec**
- **Victoria Park Holmfirth**
- **Warburton Road Rec**
- **Westerley Way Rec**
- **Wooldale Rec**

What is a Bronze site?

- Areas that have no recreation provision and have lower usage
- Grass areas provide valuable green open space
- Minimum frequencies keep growth in check
- Bronze sites may also be naturalised to Wildlife habitat

How often will the grass be cut?

- 6 grass cuts (during the cutting season)
- 4 week intervals
- Reduced from 14 cuts

What will it look like?

- Low Amenity Grass (can grow up to 20cm between cuts)
- Shrub Beds
- Hedges
- Trees

Where are the Bronze sites?

- Areas within secondary Parks (without facilities)
- Open Spaces
- Recreation Grounds (without sports facilities)
- Highway Verges
- Greenways

Batley & Spen District Committee

- Bempton Grove
- Benny Parr Close O/S
- Broomdale Rd, Soothill Multi C
- Brow Wood Road O.S
- Brownhill Road O/S
- Church Meadows P.Area
- Clayborn Dog Area
- Cuniver Court O.S
- Fairmoor Way
- Fieldsway O.S
- Filley Royd Plots
- Fisher Way Os
- Foxglove Road O/S
- Foxglove Road Verge
- Gomersal Tunnel Mouth
- Grafton Street Recreation
- Greenacre Drive
- Grove Chapel
- Hamza Close Pa
- Heather Court Verge
- Heaton Grange P Area
- Heckmondwike Parish Church
- Howden Clough Sports Centre
- Hyrstmount Synthetic Pitch
- Laurel Drive Pa
- Leveret Way O.S
- Little Green Lane O.S
- Mill Forest Way O/S
- Millbrook Gds (Pond)
- Millbrook Gds P.A (Side 25)
- Millbrook Gds Pa (Side 56)
- Millstone Rise
- Monk Ing Rear 19
- Monk Ing Rear 21
- Monk Ing Rear 5
- Moorside Rec
- Mount Pleasant B.G.
- Mount Pleasant Ent Multi Court
- Mount Pleasant Entrance
- Mount Pleasant Park
- Mount Pleasant Sports Area
- Mount Pleasant T Pitch
- Mount Pleasant/Taylor St Bank
- Nell Royds Mills
- New North Road Pocket Park
- Owler Lane Recreation
- Paxton Corner
- Peasland Road Rec
- Popeley Rise Pa Muffit Lane
- Princess Mary Golf
- Princess Mary Rugby Field
- Prospect Lane Birkenshaw
- Richmond Grove
- Richmond Park Pos
- Roberttown Common
- Roberttown Common-Rear
- Roberttown Commonsides
- Rock Edge
- Scholes Lane End
- Shaw St/Moorbottom Jctn
- Shirley Ave O.S
- Sixth Ave Play Equipment
- Sparrow Park
- Spen Park/Darley Road Area
- St Johns Parish Church

Batley & Spennorth District Committee - Continued

- St Mary'S Churchyard Gomersal
- Staincliffe P.F
- Summerdale/Moor Lane
- Teasel Close O.S
- The Coppice Pa Church Lane
- The Crossings Development
- The Royds O.S
- Thornleigh Drive
- Toftshaw Lane
- Town Street Rest Garden
- Track Rd/Ashcroft Passageway
- Turnpike Close O.S
- Union Road Rec
- Warwick Road Kickabout
- Weavers Croft O.S
- Wesley Street
- West End Drive O.S
- West Street Play Area
- Westacre Drive Kickabout
- White Lee School Fields
- Whitechapel Church
- Wickham Street
- Wormold Street Rest Garden

Dewsbury & Mirfield District Committee

- Bracken Close
- Bradford Road/Wilton Pk Sb
- Bridge Street Verge
- Bristfield C.U.S. S/Mutton
- Brunswick Street C.U.S
- Caulms Wood Festival Site
- Chickenley Nature Reserve
- Chidswell House O.S.
- Church Bank O.S
- Church Lane Recreation
- Coates Close O.S
- Cornfield P Area
- Crackenedge Lane C.U.S
- Dewsbury Gate Road Park
- Dewsbury Gate Bowling Green 2
- Francis St Cus
- Halifax Rd Sb
- Halifax/Hirst Rd Corner
- Healds Road Rest Gardens
- Hillgarth/Sandiway Bank Os
- Huddleston Court
- Infirmary Road O.S
- Ings Cricket Field
- Leeds Road Playing Fields
- Leith Court O/S
- Low Park Meadows P.A
- Moor Park Lane O/S
- Naylor Court Play Area
- Northfield Gardens
- Oastler St C.U.S
- Old Bank Rec
- Ouzelwell Rec
- Pavilion Court O.S
- Pilgrim Tip
- Ravens St Play Area
- Ravensthorpe Park
- Rock House Drive Opp Rhp
- South Street Play Area
- Spen Bird Reserve
- Spen Bird Reserve (East)
- Spen Valley O/S
- Spinners Way O.S (Opp 4)
- St Pauls Churchyard
- Stephenson Close Os
- Stocks Bank/Francis St Rec
- The Coppice Open Space
- The Laurels O/S
- The Maltings (Dell)
- Thornhill Cc Perimiter
- Thornhill Street Rec
- Upper Hopton Cricket Fld
- Wakefield Road Development
- Whitby Crescent Verges
- Woodsome/Stocks Bank Rec

Huddersfield District Committee

- Barcroft Road Open Space
- Beaumont Avenue Shrub Bed
- Bradley Central Nursery
- Bryan Road Open Space
- Carr Green Lane/Westfield Court
- Catherine Road Open Space
- Chapel Hill
- Coniston Avenue Path (Side 50)
- Cowrakes Close - Side 25
- Devonshire Street Rec
- Fanny Moor Lane Open Space
- Fortis Way/Centuria Walk
- Foxlow Avenue Rec
- Ganton Way Fixby
- Gledholt Wood Culvert
- Greave Close Open Space
- Haigh Street Lockwood
- Heaton Moor Road Open Space
- Hill Grove Rec
- Hill Grove Snicket
- Hillhouse Lane 1/1A
- Hillhouse Lane Corner
- Holly Bank Open Space
- Hollyfield Avenue Open Space
- Holt Avenue Multi Court
- Hopkinson Rec Lindley
- Hopkinson Road Play Area
- Jack Hill
- Jack Hill Multi Court
- Lidget Street Gardens
- Lindley Moor Open Space
- Lockwood Churchyard
- Longhill Rd/Hopkinson Rd OS
- Low Hills Lane Development
- Low Hills Open Space
- Market Street Rec
- Marsh Service Reservoir
- Mendip Avenue Open Space
- Mount Sub Station
- Newsome Church Yard
- Newsome Road Open Space
- Norwood Estate (Tractor)
- Norwood Estate Top
- Orchard Terrace Open Space
- Plane Street Garden
- Plane Street Open Space
- Plover Road Footpath
- Rear Of Black Bull Open Space
- Ridgeway Rec
- Robin Hood Road OS Side 1
- Robin Hood Road OS Side 23
- Rordin Heights Play Area
- Rowntree Plot s
- RSchool Lane Gardens
- Shannon Drive Open Space
- Sheepridge Road/Chestnut St
- Side (1) Lower Fitzwilliam St
- Skelton Crescent
- South Crosland Church
- St Stephens Road Corner SB
- Thewlis Lane Open Space
- Thornfield Road Verges
- Thornton Lodge Open Space
- Tom Lane Open Space

Huddersfield District Committee - Continued

- Tunnacliffe Road Rec
- Upper Brow Road Open Space
- Victoria Road Banking
- Waingate Open Space
- Waingate Park Open Space
- Warrenfield Open Space
- Warrenside Football Field
- Wellfield Bank Open Space
- Wellfield Open Space
- Whitby Avenue Gardens
- Whitehead Lane Open Space Side 132
- Wood Street Rec
- Wood Terrace
- Woodfield Park Play Area
- Woodhouse Church Yard
- Woodlea Avenue
- Wyvern Avenue Open Space
- Wyvern Avenue Open Space Culvert
- York Avenue Recreation
- Zion Church Yard

Kirklees Rural District Committee

- All Saints Close Clayton West
- Appleyard Picnic Site
- Armitage Fold
- Banks Road Open Space
- Banks Road Play Area
- Bayfield Close
- Beech Avenue OS Shrub Bed
- Broadbent Rec Longwood
- Bromley Bank Open Space
- Christ Church Linthwaite
- Cliffewood Park Car Park
- Cliffewood Park Enterprise SB
- Crangle Field (Stocks Moor)
- Croft Court Roundway Honley
- Cross Lane Open Space Allots
- Cumberworth Open Space
- Cumberworth Play Pen
- Daleside Avenue OS
- Deadwater Corner
- Denby Dale Pie Dish
- Dene Park Open Space
- Deyne Road Quarry
- Dingle Road Open Space
- Dumb Steeple Grange Moor
- Dungeon Bottom
- Edgeward Road Open Space
- Emley Churchyard
- Eunice Lane Rec
- Far View Open Space
- Farnley Tyas Open Space
- Fern Bank/Mill Hill Site OS
- Flockton Churchyard
- George Street
- Glebe Street Open Space
- Gordon Terrace
- Greenfield Road Verge
- Greenhead Court Play Area
- Greenlaws Close Open Space
- Haughs Road Open Space
- Haywood Avenue Open Space
- Heather Fold Cumberworth Rd
- Heather Road Open Space
- Helme Church
- Hill Top Open Space
- Hob Lane Open Space
- Holme Bank Mews
- Holme Rec Meal Hill Road
- Honey Head Lane Open Space
- Horse Bank Drive Open Space
- Ings Mill Drive Open Space
- Inkerman Way Open Space
- Jackroyd Lane Corner
- Jos Lane Play Area
- Jubilee Square Leymoor Rd
- Kenyon Bank Open Space
- Kilburn Close
- Kirkburton Picnic Area
- Kirkheaton Churchyard
- Lees Mill Lane Garage Site
- Lepton Church Yard
- Litherop Picnic Site
- Lock Top
- Longwood GIA
- Longwood Tower

Kirklees District Committee - Continued

- Manchester Road Opp Linfit Fold
- Manchester Road Side 703
- Manor Grange OS Shepley
- Manor Rise OS (Rear33)
- Manordale Close, Flockton PA
- Market Place
- Mason Court
- Meadowcroft Open Space
- Meltham Doorstep Green Park
- Meltham Methodist Church
- Meltham Mills Rec
- Meltham Picnic Site
- Meltham Pleasure Grounds
- Mendip Ave Footpath
- Miry Lane Open Space
- Moorfield Court OS Grange Mr
- Moorlands Rise Plots
- Moorside Avenue Rec
- Mount Road Rec, Marsden
- Myrtle Road Open Space
- New Road Southlands OS
- New Road Sunny Hill Avenue
- New Street Open Space
- Oaklands Open Space
- Outlane Grave Yard
- Paddock Field Rec
- Paddock Head Memorial
- Park Avenue/A629 Plots
- Park Lane Shrubberies
- Penistone Road Shrub Bed
- Pennine View Rec
- Pickford Street Open Space
- Priestley Grove
- Primrose Hill Rec
- Robsons Drive Open Space
- Rotcher Tip Picnic Site
- Sam Whitehead Gardens
- Savile Street Verges
- School Lane/Church St Cnr
- Shaw Lane Open Space
- Sike Close
- Skelmanthorpe Car Park
- Slaithwaite Builders Yard
- Slaithwaite Church
- Slaithwaite Grave Yard
- Slaithwaite Road Rest Garden
- Slantgate/Manchester Road
- St Augustines Church
- St Bartholomews Church
- St Johns Avenue Open Space
- St Marys The Virgin
- Station Approach Honley
- Station Road Corner
- Sunnybank Rec
- The Grove
- Thongsbridge Rec
- Thurstonland Parish Church
- Towngate Gardens
- Two Furrows Rec
- Upper Clough Rec
- Vicarage Drive Open Space
- Vicarage Drive/Tinker Lane
- Wellhouse Rec
- Westerley Lane (Rear 7-35)
- White Wells Gardens Scholes

Kirklees District Committee - Continued

- White Wells Road/Jostle Swells
- Wilshaw Rec
- Woodhead Fold Park Lane
- Woodhead Road Shrubbery
- Woodland Drive Development
- Woodlands Open Space
- Woods Avenue Rec

What is a Natural site?

- Areas or parts of sites that are used for informal activities
- No scheduled maintenance is to take place and nature is allowed to develop providing opportunities for wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- Tree planting can also develop new woodland

How often will the grass be cut?

- Grass not cut but perimeters can be cut to define natural area
- Reduced from 14 cuts

What will it look like?

- Natural long grass mixed with flora
- Naturalised shrubs
- Tree planting

Where are the Natural sites?

- Areas within secondary Parks (without facilities)
- Open Spaces
- Recreation Grounds (without sports facilities)
- Greenways
- As further opportunities are realised more natural areas may be developed

Batley & Spen District Committee

- **Birkenshaw Lane Rec**
- **Cawley Lane Rec**
- **Field Lane Rec**
- **Hartshead Rec**
- **Healey Play Area**
- **Howden Clough PF**
- **Kingsley Rec**
- **Nibshaw Rec**
- **Nova Lane Rec**
- **Old Bank Rec, Mirfield**
- **Princess Mary Rugby Field, Cleckheaton**
- **Roberttown Rec**
- **Shirley Rec,**
- **Spen Bottoms, Cleckheaton**
- **Staincliffe Playing Fields**
- **Sugden Park**
- **Tunnacliffe Road Rec**
- **West End Park**

Dewsbury & Mirfield District Committee

- Bridge St Playing Field, Ravensthorpe
- Crawshaw Street Playing Fields
- Crossley Lane Rec, Mirfield
- Earlsheaton Park
- Grange Road PF
- Huddersfield Rd Football Field
- Knowl Park, Mirfield
- Leeds Road Playing Fields, Dewsbury
- Lower Hopton Football Field
- Mirfield Show Ground
- Overthorpe Park, Thornhill
- Pilgrim Tip
- Sands Lane, Dewsbury
- Savile Town Football Field
- Scar End Rec
- Stocks Bank Rec, Mirfield
- Upper Hopton Rec
- Wakefield Road Playing Fields, Dewsbury

Huddersfield District Committee

- Ainley Top Rec
- Berry Brow Rec
- Birchencliffe Rec
- Cowcliffe Hill Rec
- Douglas Avenue Rec, Paddock
- Finthorpe Rec
- Goldington Avenue Rec
- Hayfield Avenue Rec
- Heatherleigh Rec
- Huddesfield Green Way
- Kidroyd Rec
- Longfield Avenue Rec, Golcar
- Smiths Avenue/Hollins Terrace Rec
- Southfield Rec
- Walpole Road Rec

Kirklees Rural District Committee

- Birds Edge Rec
- Bolster Moor Rec
- Burnlee Rec
- Causeway Crescent
- Coronation Park
- Cross Lane Rec
- Crow Lane Football Field, Milnsbridge
- Hawkroyd Bank Rec
- Jubilee Field
- Kayes Rec
- Kinder Avenue
- Meal Hill Rec
- St Johns Avenue Open Space
- Sunnymead Rec

Parks and Open Space Maintenance Standards

Trial Period - April to June 2015

Feedback for - Batley & Spen District Committee

The feedback has come from a number of forums such as email, Kirklees direct & Facebook comments from Examiner articles.

- **Number of recorded feedback:** 59
- **Issues regarding:** natural areas, long grass & grass verges
- **Feedback on specific sites:**
 - Cawley Lane Rec
 - Hartshead Rec
 - Kingsley Rec
 - Spen Bottoms
 - Sugden Park
 - West End Park

- **Sample comments received from the public:**

‘There is a part of a public play area that is very overgrown. It is a hazard to the children in the play area, as it is being used as a dumping ground for everything from suitcases to baby strollers. The area needs mowing.’

‘Feels that the part of the grass not cut is such a small sized area that we are not saving much field behind his house that has not been cut in the middle of the pitch.’

‘I am absolutely furious in the state at which our local field has been cut. There is no excuse for your man to have left the job unfinished. I witnessed him commit such crime as he cut part of the Staincliffe field just before disappearing. I’m disgusted at the sight of the field and I demand a response. You need someone to come and finish the job off completely.’

‘The length of the grass on the playing fields behind house is way too long and dogs are fouling in it. A neighbour has found ticks in the hedges which he sees is an environmental health problem.’

‘The length of the grass verges is now a joke, the council used to take such good care of the area and now just looks a mess.’

‘I wish to raise my concerns at the lack of attention that the above open space appears to be receiving. I am aware of the supposed council policy to reduce grass cutting in certain areas, but reducing and stopping are two different things.’

'As responsible dog owners we use the Park on a daily basis as do many more, there are those amongst us that are not and it is the perfect excuse to leave dog waste in situ, another hazard that can arise from long grass are Ticks, which I am sure you know can cause Limes disease in humans if unfortunate enough to be bitten by one.'

'We are registering our disgust at the decision to take away the mowing of the park. The few volunteers have done a fantastic job with the park making it a pleasure for all. We the rate payers of spenborough have few facilities left to us for enjoyment. The sports centre is to be closed the library is under question what next. In your newsletter you are asking for volunteers to save money. Yet when people do volunteer you show your appreciation by undoing all the hard work that has been done. Why is it that everything is focused on Huddersfield. We all know about the council cuts Calderdale council have them also but they seem to be able to still maintain facilities Please re consider this decision and help those who are trying to help themselves to improve our area.'

'It saddens to me see all the hard work and dedication that's gone into the development of West End Park go to waste. How can the council stand by their decision to leave vast areas of the park to just grow uncontrollably, it's not just an eye sore but I feel it's also dangerous especially for the young and old. Ticks will thrive in these areas, rubbish will grow and the park will be back to how it was, it's a disgrace.'

'The grass in Mann Dam Park, Cleckheaton is very over grown next to the line of houses to the entrance from St Peg Close towards the Tennis Club. This used to be regular maintained, and is now being used as a dog toilet for irresponsible dog owners. There are lots of children play in the park and many are coming home with dog mess on their shoes because they cannot see the problem. My house overlooks this park and I am concerned about this problem for obvious reasons. Lots of dog owners used the park every day, and many are very irresponsible.'

'Initially, all the dandelions have gone to seed, which is sure to mean more work for local and park gardeners, but more importantly I saw a wheelchair user finding it very difficult to cross the unmown area to watch her brother play football during a Saturday West End Park Junior match.'

'Our pitch area has been cut where we train our junior football teams but not the surrounding areas which are now overgrown and a mess, this morning we had to administer first aid to one of our 6 year old who put his hand in some dog mess as he fell over in the long grass.'

'West End Park at Cleckheaton is only having part of the grass cut, customer would like to know why please. The long grass is encouraging dog fouling. Please call to advise. Many thanks.'

'Pitch and surrounding area for our junior football teams the grass area is way over grown and seems to have been missed I appreciate the football season has just finished and wouldn't expect the pitch to be marked out, but surly the grass and surrounding area should still get cut it is looking more like a jungle by the hour.'

'I have noticed that this has resulted in more people dumping rubbish/ their garden waste on to the field. I have also noticed an increase in dog walkers not picking up their waste. Children in my family are now at an age where they have started to play on the field, and have being returning home covered in dog poo.'

'Long Grass stopping children playing and child bitten by tick.'

'Cawley lane field is so overgrown that I can't see my 4 year old and 3 year old grandchildren over the grass!! I have 2 dogs who I walk every day on the fields and the woods adjacent, I take my grandchildren most days to the park. The height of the grass is absolutely ridiculous, this is totally ruining my dogs walks with my grandchildren.'

'Please could you advise if the cutting of the grass verges alongside the pavements are still the responsibility of the council? They are extremely overgrown and at present the residents have to walk through knee high grass to access their vehicles. I have lived here for nearly nine years and have never seen the grass so overgrown. We all make the effort to tend to our gardens and the grass verges are making the close look shabby.'

'It looks a mess and it is turning into a dog toilet as no-one picks up dog mess when the grass is long. This is a health hazard for children.'

'The grass verges on Hindley road hideously long. This encourages dog poo which inevitably gets walked into our houses.'

'I understand in these cash-strapped times the need to prioritise the use of council resources, but having decided to mow only half of the park, (as opposed to mowing none of it) the council has decided to at least provide this reduced service. Speaking to other park users, all have said "why can't they (the council) cut the two halves alternately rather than allow one half to become an impenetrable weed farm. [or words to that effect] So may I make that request; Can you mow the two halves alternately?'

- **Comments received from Councillors relate to:**

- Lack of mowing
- Sports pitch being mowed but not the surrounding areas
- Grass cutting should be consistent throughout all areas
- Grass cutting should be done completely and not half a job
- Dog fouling is a problem in many areas
- Reductions in flower beds
- Unmown sections will disrupt school sports day

- **Non area-specific comments posted through Facebook**

'Cutting the grass once a fortnight isn't a massive issue really is it?? In fact if it does save money then I'd class that as sensible.'

'I only cut our lawn once a fortnight and its ok for great grandson to bowl on!!'

'What's the issue? I'd like longer grass, it's nicer to play in and looks nicer too. I understand why they have to trial it over a long period.'

'False economy!!!! Longer grass takes longer to mow putting more stress on machinery and burning more fuel!!!!'

'Absolute disgrace what a pathetic excuse to save money.'

'Good news to me. Restore our rapidly vanishing meadows and save money doing it.'

'It makes the area look a mess.'

'Making provision for wild flower areas is something that we should all welcome given the reduction in bees etc. If it saves money that is also good.'

'Save money by not cutting the grass I've heard everything now!'

'Splendid. I love seeing the uncut grasses. When stuck in traffic it lifts your heart to see all the beautiful shapes of the different heads on all the grass. It is excellent to have just a mown strip at the edge which emphasises the contrast.'

'They have been cutting back on maintaining open spaces for the last three years.'

- **Key themes from overall feedback are:**
 - Long grass looks unsightly
 - Dog fouling will increase and become a health issue
 - Long grass attracts lymes disease & ticks
 - Leisure activities will be limited or reduced
 - Litter & dumping is a problem
 - Benefits for wildlife & interesting landscape

Streetscene and Housing Parks and Landscapes

Parks and Open Space Maintenance Standards

Trial Period - April to June 2015

Feedback for - Dewsbury & Mirfield District Committee

The feedback has come from a number of forums such as email, Kirklees direct & Facebook comments from Examiner articles.

- **Number of recorded feedback:** 46
- **Issues regarding:** natural areas, long grass & grass verges
- **Feedback on specific sites:**
 - Bracken Close
 - Headfield Road
 - Headfield Road
 - Knowl Park
 - Pinfield Close
 - Rectory Park
 - Stocks Bank Rec

- **Sample comments received from the public:**

'I deplore the new grass cutting scheme! The once beautiful park looks diabolical, it looks as if no one cares about it which in my estimation encourages people not to care. If places are kept clean and tidy it encourages people to keep them that way.'

'Due to limited grass cutting dog walkers are having a problem with seeing were dogs are fouling - say's dogs allowed to run off the lead. Customers dog has fallen down an unseen hole and broke it's leg - wants to know if compensation can be claimed?'

'The field behind my house which separates Dewsbury Moor estate is very overgrown. It is usually cut every year but it appears only part of the field has been cut? There are children that play on the field and I walk my dog on there and the grass is very high and it's unsafe to see if any sharp objects are in the field. It is also an eyesore and look very messy. Will this grass be getting cut?'

'I would like to complain about the state of the parks in Mirfield particularly the park on Stocksbank Road. The grass has not fully been cut for months, what is the point of having open spaces for children to play games in when the grass is so long ball games cannot be played. this is not a very good advert for Kirklees Parks!'

'The park on Knowl road. Grass is so long and my daughter is too scared to go play bat and ball on the little bit of grass which has been cut as dogs are on it. Its needs a good cut so it can be used to its full potential and children can play!'

'I know the "experiment" is going on but the park now looks a disgrace and most of it cannot be used. What is the point of a public park that cannot be used? I understand cutbacks but leaving it so long is ridiculous. It should be cut properly, if less often. I noticed that the council grassland behind Ravensthorpe junior school on North Road has been cut properly even though this is out of sight and therefore less of an eyesore. At the time I walked past it there was actually no one using the space, unlike Knowl park that is very well used by residents

'Why is almost half the ground being left to overgrow? Last year all of this grass was cut regular.'

'Why is almost half the ground being left and not cut? Also last year part of the area was used as a storage for the work that was being carried out further down old bank road with drainage. A sizeable portion of the grass was taken up. Why was this not restored to properly by the contractors?'

'Does not like the grass being left long on this playing field. Children have nowhere to play football and get frightened in the long grass. Also people are not picking up after their dogs in the long grass.'

'I use Knowl Park on a regular basis to walk my dog. Since you have stopped cutting the grass in parts I do not think you realise that should the dog go to the toilet in the long grass how difficult it is to pick up, and there are dog owners that do not pick up. As I am sure that you know children like to play in long grass but, all it needs is for a child to put their hand in to dog poo, the parent does not see this, the child wipes their hands in the grass and then later before washing their hands puts them in their mouth. This can lead to a very poorly child with the ultimate cause of worms or even worse blindness. If the grass was cut to a normal length if someone does not pick up after their dog at least you can see it. By not cutting the grass it limits the areas that people who have disabilities cannot go especially in wheel chairs.'

'We live by the park off stocks bank road, Mirfield. Only 1/3 of the park is being cut on a regular basis, leaving very little area for the children to play. In addition, the children have to use the uncut grass areas, which unfortunately has a lot of dog mess in it which can't be seen! I appreciate leaving some areas to grow like this. It entices the insects but there is too much uncut. This is a lovely park, widely used but as I've said the children are now all cramped in one small area! It also seems unfair when the main park and show ground on Huddersfield road are both maintained.'

'Complaint about the grassed areas at Knowl park not being cut. She has two small children and they are unable to use the area due to the overgrown grass.'

'Complaint about grass cutting in Knowl Park. says grass very long. elderly, walks with a stick, she uses the park as a short cut to the bus stop. long grass difficult to walk through and wet.'

'I regularly walk my dog at Knowl Park in Mirfield, which has been subject to your new grass cutting procedures. Along with many other dog walkers we strongly object to the grass only being cut around the edges for a pathway whilst the grass in the middle remains longer. I have 3 children who like to play ball with the dog and this is no longer possible in the long grass and has resulted in many lost balls! The dog also avoids the long grass as it is uncomfortable for her. I also have an older son who uses the skate park and liked to play football on the grass - again no longer possible. Please revert back to cutting the whole field which means the dogs, children and dog walkers will be a lot happier.'

'It was provided for the benefit of all people, not just for access to skateboard facilities. It is now impossible to find a quiet area to walk in most of the park as everyone is being channelled into the usable, cut areas.'

'If the grass was cut to a normal length if someone does not pick up after their dog at least you can see it. By not cutting the grass it limits the areas that people who have disabilities cannot go especially in wheel chairs'

'The grass is becoming far too long for children to play football and other games, for families to picnic or just for sitting around in the spring sunshine. If the grass is left indefinitely the park will become a no-go area for families and children and already looks uncared for and unkempt.'

'The adjacent park has now grass at a length where the children can hardly play football..... the field has been cut around the edges and on the top half but the bottom half has been left uncut please can this be cut asap.'

'I find this very unacceptable as all the grass is used. Considering the grass is cut from March at the earliest until September the grass is certainly not maintained all year I find this disappointing and cannot see that it is a big money saving exercise.'

- **Comments received from Councillors relate to:**

- Objections to the lack of grass cutting
- Trial has been a total disaster for residents
- Parks without flowers means that the bees will be struggling
- Large rise in the cases of Lyme disease
- Ticks thrive in long grass and live on foxes, hedgehogs and then go onto dogs and humans
- Failure to provide usable open spaces affects the amenity of the area, residents satisfaction, exercise potential, casual sport participation and family enjoyment

- **Non area-specific comments posted through Facebook**

'Cutting the grass once a fortnight isn't a massive issue really is it?? In fact if it does save money then I'd class that as sensible.'

'I only cut our lawn once a fortnight and its ok for great grandson to bowl on!!'

'What's the issue? I'd like longer grass, it's nicer to play in and looks nicer too. I understand why they have to trial it over a long period.'

'False economy!!!! Longer grass takes longer to mow putting more stress on machinery and burning more fuel!!!!'

'Absolute disgrace what a pathetic excuse to save money.'

'Good news to me. Restore our rapidly vanishing meadows and save money doing it.'

'It makes the area look a mess.'

'Making provision for wild flower areas is something that we should all welcome given the reduction in bees etc. If it saves money that is also good.'

'Save money by not cutting the grass I've heard everything now!'

'Splendid. I love seeing the uncut grasses. When stuck in traffic it lifts your heart to see all the beautiful shapes of the different heads on all the grass. It is excellent to have just a mown strip at the edge which emphasises the contrast.'

'They have been cutting back on maintaining open spaces for the last three years.'

- **Key themes from overall feedback are:**
 - Long grass looks unsightly
 - Dog fouling will increase and become a health issue
 - Long grass attracts lyme disease & ticks
 - Leisure activities will be limited or reduced
 - Litter & dumping is a problem
 - Benefits for wildlife & interesting landscape

Streetscene and Housing Parks and Landscapes

Parks and Open Space Maintenance Standards

Trial Period - April to June 2015

Feedback for - Huddersfield District Committee

The feedback has come from a number of forums such as email, Kirklees direct & Facebook comments from Examiner articles.

- **Number of recorded feedback:** 18
- **Issues regarding:** natural areas, long grass & grass verges
- **Feedback on specific sites:**
 - Allandale Road
 - Birchington Avenue
 - Birchington Avenue
 - Brackenhall Road
 - Cumberland Avenue
 - Gisbourne Road
 - Gramfield/Thornleigh Road
 - Hanby Close
 - Tunnacliffe Road
 - Walpole Rec

- **Sample comments received from the public:**

‘Can the cuttings be removed instead of being left in situ. I appreciate this is more work, and there are reasons for leaving the cuttings to breakdown into the grass, but the amount that is left is substantial and it is being gathered up by older children and it is currently strewn all over the play area.’

‘I have complained twice about the state of the grass verge outside my house, I was told last week it would be dealt with but it is now even taller. I don't think it can be cut with a normal lawnmower now as it is so tall. I expect you will be cutting back on this service but if you could get it cut down to a manageable level I may be able to get someone to cut it for me. I can't do it myself as I am in my mid 70" and on my own.’

‘I was walking home from town last week and passed one of the grass verges - a victim of your cuts. It was knee high and full of buttercups daisies purple vetch and numerous varieties of grass seeds. I actually stopped to admire it, it was quite beautiful. A path had been worn through at the convenience of car park users. I have since noticed other grass areas in the area in full bloom. Lovely.’

‘I have lived on Fixby Road for 25 years and I have never seen the verges in such a state’

‘The verge outside my house has not been cut for ages and is now about a foot high.’

8th July 2015

'Please can you get someone to cut the grass verges on Allandale Road as it looks disgustingly overgrown. There are weeds and dandelions looks really disgusting.'

'Complaint about all the overgrown verges in the whole of Kirklees and the grass that is being cut in not being swept.'

'To the rear of property is council land which has not recently been maintained. The adjoining portion of which has become very overgrown and is effecting property boundary.'

'Top part of field in a circle cut again following her complaint - However 3/4 of field not cut and grass 3-4 ft. high in parts.'

'I would like to point out that both these roundabouts are used regularly by the local children to play on.'

'Regarding the article in the examiner about the grass not being cut every other week. He is not happy as this could stop children meeting their full potential. His son is a keen footballer.'

'Complaint about the long grass on Staniforth field next to her property states the kids can't play here now as the grass is too long.'

'Grass area outside his house has not been cut for a long time and is very unsightly. He said he wouldn't contact you himself as he doesn't think anything will be done so I wondered if you can help please. I am a little concerned that if it isn't kept up to it will become a bit of a tripping hazard for the many elderly people.'

'Just wanted to say that as a resident of Birchencliffe how pleased I am that the cutting regime for verges has been reduced. On Birchington Avenue we now have a far more interesting variety of flowering plants including Cuckoo Flower which I particularly like. Guessing not everyone feels the same way I do because some people are cutting the grass outside their house though.'

'The land behind Tunnacliffe Road is owned by the Council and is usually cut regularly. For some reason it has not been cut and I can't get out of my back gate for the mass of grass. Why has it not been cut?'

- **Comments received from Councillors relate to:**

- There are no recorded comments from Councillors

- **Non area-specific comments posted through Facebook**

'Cutting the grass once a fortnight isn't a massive issue really is it?? In fact if it does save money then I'd class that as sensible.'

'I only cut our lawn once a fortnight and its ok for great grandson to bowl on!!'

'What's the issue? I'd like longer grass, it's nicer to play in and looks nicer too. I understand why they have to trial it over a long period.'

'False economy!!!! Longer grass takes longer to mow putting more stress on machinery and burning more fuel!!!!'

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'Splendid. I love seeing the uncut grasses. When stuck in traffic it lifts your heart to see all the beautiful shapes of the different heads on all the grass. It is excellent to have just a mown strip at the edge which emphasises the contrast.'

'They have been cutting back on maintaining open spaces for the last three years.'

- **Key themes from overall feedback are:**
 - Long grass looks unsightly
 - Dog fouling will increase and become a health issue
 - Long grass attracts lyme disease & ticks
 - Leisure activities will be limited or reduced
 - Litter & dumping is a problem
 - Benefits for wildlife & interesting landscape

Streetscene and Housing Parks and Landscapes

Parks and Open Space Maintenance Standards

Trial Period - April to June 2015

Feedback for - Kirklees Rural District Committee

The feedback has come from a number of forums such as email, Kirklees direct & Facebook comments from Examiner articles.

- **Number of recorded feedback:** 12
- **Issues regarding:** natural areas, long grass & grass verges
- **Feedback on specific sites:**
 - Botham Fields
 - Broadlands Road
 - Broomhill Close
 - Holmfield Road Rec
 - Josephine Road
 - Jubilee Field
 - Sike Close

- **Sample comments received from the public:**

‘This is causing an issue as dog mess can't be seen and it is difficult for teachers to supervise children and keep them away from any dog mess when the grass is so long

‘Since the mowing has stopped on all but the middle part, we've had some concerns. First is the growing amount of waste in the unmown parts. The grass is so long that it easily conceals dog mess, broken glass, pieces of metal, sharp rocks and other refuse. It's not safe to walk on nor to let children or dogs walk on. This effectively has cut park size down by 1/3. Next is the length of the grass. Because it has been allowed to grow so long it has seeded, meaning we get crab grass seeds blowing on to our lawn and poor hay fever sufferers like my husband and several of my neighbours are suffering much more this summer’

‘My 16 month old daughter cannot walk through the long grass to access the playground from our access point at the top right (as you face the top) of the field.’

‘With the margins of the field currently being left UNCUT this additional recreation will no longer be possible as the grass becomes long and unsightly.’

‘The mowed area is concentrated on and around the football posts/area, therefore whenever a group is playing football there is no other space for children to play other games, ride bikes etc.’

‘Fields are not being cut properly on bottom school field and football field at the bottom of road.’

‘Grass is in need of cutting, apparently this is normally done.’

8th July 2015

'The grass of the green spaces either side of Sike Close has not been cut for weeks. In places it is well over 12 inches long. Not only does it look unsightly, but it is so long that children are unable to play on it. Why has the Council stopped cutting this on a regular basis?'

'The grass on the above estate hasn't been cut for some time now and is getting quite overgrown. Can you give me some further information as to when you might be in a position to make arrangements to get this cut please?'

'Grass cutter team came this morning and only half the park has been cut this as looks a real mess.'

'I don't know how regularly grass cutting on Council land is scheduled to take place, but the plots either side of Sike Close are urgently in need of attention.'

- **Comments received from Councillors relate to:**

- Reduced mowing of grass verges and other green areas
- Planting of tubs that has been done in the past

- **Non area-specific comments posted through Facebook**

'Cutting the grass once a fortnight isn't a massive issue really is it?? In fact if it does save money then I'd class that as sensible.'

'I only cut our lawn once a fortnight and its ok for great grandson to bowl on!!'

'What's the issue? I'd like longer grass, it's nicer to play in and looks nicer too. I understand why they have to trial it over a long period.'

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 - Benefits for wildlife & interesting landscape