

## BCP Council Grounds Maintenance Service Standards 2024/2025

Grass, shrub and hedge cutting regimes will be further aligned across the 3 towns and reduced across the BCP area from April 2024. Grounds Maintenance will focus on balancing health and safety requirements, community need and providing areas to support wildlife and increase biodiversity.

### Standards:

- Cut verges and grass areas in residential estates a minimum of twice a year aiming for 3 times a year subject to weather conditions and growth rates. **A reduction of 1 to 2 cuts per year**
- Cut larger open spaces a minimum of 4 times a year **A reduction of 2 to 3 cuts per year**
- Grass verges at main road junctions will be cut as required to maintain sightlines for road users. **A reduction of 1 to 2 cuts per year**
- Grass in play areas and sports pitches will receive additional cuts. **Remains unchanged – subject to ongoing site sport pitch usage reviews**
- Continue to manage existing meadow areas to support wildlife and increase biodiversity. Meadows will be cut and the clippings removed on a one or two year cycle **Reduction in total cut and collect per annum**
- Identify further areas to reduce grass cutting and shrub maintenance to allow naturalisation and increase biodiversity. **Increase in locations to be included in meadows maintenance.**
- Grass on high speed roads will be cut a minimum of twice a year, under road closure or mobile works including night works. **Reduction of one cut a year**
- **Shrubs and hedges on high speed roads will be cut once a year. Remains unchanged**
- Shrubs and hedges will be cut once or twice a year. Sightlines and vegetation overhanging footpaths and cycleways will receive additional visits. **Remains unchanged**
- Reduced weekend litter collections in Bournemouth parks to align with of Christchurch and Poole service levels – litter collection will continue in high use, destination sites e.g. Lower & Central Gardens, Boscombe Gardens. **Reduction in number of sites receiving weekend service**
- Continue to carry out tree inspections and essential tree maintenance in line with our tree risk management policy. **Remains unchanged**
- Debris will be removed from ditches and grills to maintain water flow. **Remains unchanged**
- Continue to inspect Play areas to existing frequencies. **Remains unchanged**
- Allotment sites that are not yet able to be self-managed will continued to be inspected, maintained and the administration of allotment provision will continue. **Remains unchanged**
- Continue to carry out general grounds maintenance which is funded through the Housing Revenue Account, with frequency and standards being determined and paid for by Housing Tenants. **Remains unchanged**
- Provision of new or replacement planting will only take place where funded through grants, capital expenditure or donation. **Service reduction**
- Where infrastructure fails which isn't required to fulfil a regulatory, or statutory duty it will be removed if beyond economical repair (unless alternative funding is made available). Seating will only be refurbished if part of the Memorial bench and plaque scheme. **Remains unchanged**

### Community action

A consequence of reduced grass cutting will also result in a reduction in the frequency of litter picking on grass verges and open spaces across open spaces as this is carried out as part of the grass maintenance operation. Communities are encouraged to volunteer to keep areas litter free, bags can be provided to volunteer groups and arrangements can be made to remove any waste collected alongside general waste collection services.

As is already the case residents who would like to cut the grass on the verge outside their house more often than we can do, they can do so provided they can do it safely and at their own risk. Residents should consider wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and look out for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians passing the verge.