



# East Dean & Friston P a r i s h C o u n c i l

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Title:** Report Item 5b – Budget Priorities 2019/20  
Verge Cutting

**By:** K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

**Purpose:** To report on changes to the grass cutting service in  
2019/20 required by East Sussex County council

**Recommendations:** To note the report and approve one of the new service  
arrangements proposed by ESCC

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The parish council has received the following from the Service Development Manager in the Department for Communities, Economy and Transport at East Sussex County Council:

I am writing in relation to the grass cutting service in East Dean and Friston for 2019/2020, further to the service changes following the Full Council meeting on 6 February 2018.

We are aware that your Parish Council took the decision to self-deliver the urban grass cutting service at the value of £1499.54. As previously discussed with the Parish Council this amount will be reducing to £341 from 2019/2020 service year. This being the case I would be grateful if you could please confirm if the Council would like to continue with self-delivering the grass cutting in your Parish?

If the Parish Council are not minded to continue with this service there is the alternative option available for the grass cutting to be carried out by us, with the Parish Council funding four additional cuts to return the level of service to previous years. This would cost the Parish/Town Council in the region of £642 based on current ESCC contract rates per annum.

The final option also available is to not go with either of the above and East Sussex Highways will carry out two cuts per season, managing the urban grass for safety reasons only.

I would be grateful if you could indicate whether the Parish Council would like to self-delivering grass cutting service 2019/2020 or if it would like to go for one of the two alternative options. Please can we have a response by Friday 19 October 2018 at the latest.

**If we have not heard back by this date we will work on the basis that the Parish Council wish to continue self-delivering this service.**

The parish council's current mowing contract with its own contractor runs for three years, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and delivers the following:

- 10 machine cuts per season, with strimming, of all verges within the 30 mph zone
- A minimum of 10 cuts per season to the wider grass verge outside The Fridays
- 5 hedge cuts per year to the Twitten between Upper Street and Friston Church

The total cost is £1,932 per annum