

15th November 2023, Item 15

ESCC Urban Grass Cutting

Council to consider the following grass cutting options. The council currently receives two cuts per year.

Email received from ESCC regarding urban grass cutting service.

I am writing in relation to the urban grass cutting service for 2024. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is continuing to offer the same options as last year and would be grateful if you could let us know which option your Council would like to choose for the 2024 season.

Important Cost Changes

As with many services, there has been a significant increase in costs of providing highway services over the past few years. In addition, many services, including grass cutting, were provided at a fixed price under the previous contract with no inflationary increases applied for the 7 years of the contract (the new contract includes provision for inflation to be provided each year). However, the rates and prices of the new contract reflect these increased costs and therefore new rates for grass cutting services need to be applied to reflect the increased cost of the service to the County Council. However, rather than implementing this increase in one go we will be gradually increasing the cost over the next 5 years to enable you to plan your budgets accordingly.

If you would like further details on future costs please get in contact.

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.*

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 £1,023 for the year.*

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 £512 to do this.*

It should be noted that any contractor employed must be suitably competent and qualified to work safely on the highway. We also request an agreement to be signed between ESCC and the Parish Council if you opt to self-deliver. Further details are available in the attached document.

*I would be grateful if you could indicate which option your Council would like to choose by **10th December**. Please be aware that if we have not heard back by this date, we will default to Option 1 – two standard cuts.*

Grass Cutting Maps

You can now access the [grass cutting maps online here](#).