

July

BULLETIN

Grass cutting 2015

We're well into the third grass cut of the season now, and our crews are working hard across the county cutting verges so the travelling public can use the roads and pavements safely. Each season we cut over 30 million square metres of grass which includes verges in residential areas, rural roads and at road junctions. This amount of grass is roughly equivalent to cutting the lawns of approximately 71,000 homes, so is no small task for us.

We split the cuts into two – urban and rural.

Urban grass cutting

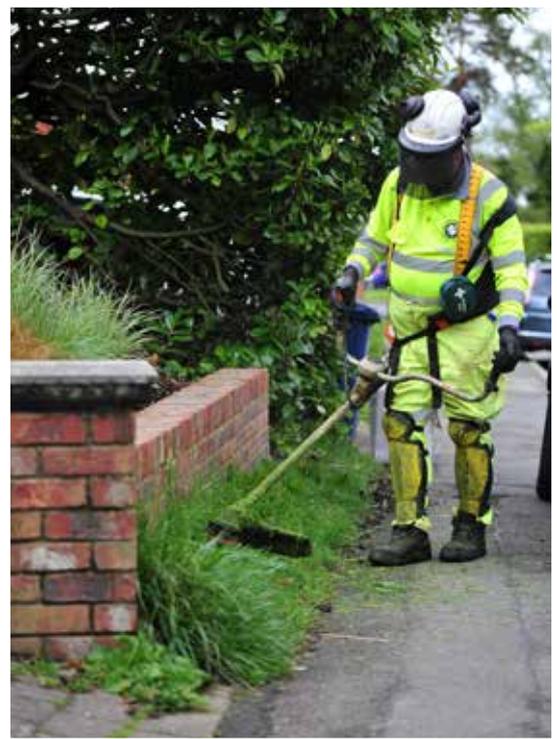
This year, six cuts will take place in urban areas across the county, which started on the 30th March. Nine dedicated gangs will operate across the county, each gang cutting the equivalent of 4 football pitches every day. Our new machinery is able to operate under a wider range of conditions including thicker and damper grass than in previous seasons. Grass cutting is still weather dependent, however, and therefore some flexibility in the programme may be required, with the safety of the operatives paramount.

Devolvement to Parishes

A number of parishes have signed an agreement to take over responsibility for some County Council activities, including their own urban grass cutting.

In these parishes, urban grass cutting programmes will be managed by the parish, not TfB, although we will retain responsibility for rural grass cutting within all parishes.

A list of these parishes can be found here: www.buckscc.gov.uk/grasscutting



www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport
Live twitter feeds @tfbalerts



Rural grass cutting

The grass is cut in rural areas to ensure traffic, pedestrians and road signs can be seen. This season, two cuts will be carried out, with a further cut taking place at bends and road junctions, specifically considering road safety. The first cut took place in May/June, with the second in July/August. The further cut around junctions will take place in September/October 2015.

Roadside verges in the county provide a habitat for many rare species of flora and fauna, some of which are identified as areas of 'special botanical interest'. These areas will not be cut between 1st March and the end of August so that plants can flower. In the autumn the verges will be cut to remove the deadheads and help spread the seeds.

To help us get the best cut possible, we have issued some guidance for you...

- Please do not park on grass verges;
- Please do not place stones or logs on verges as these can be dangerous;
- Please let TfB know about any junction where visibility is blocked by long grass/weeds or overgrown hedges.
- Contact TfB if you recognise any noxious weed such as Japanese Knotweed or Ragwort on the highway verge.
- Remove your wheelie bin from verges as soon as possible after it has been emptied.

Please do not expect a 'bowling green' type cut, however, we must be realistic about the cutting process and understand that safety requirements such as visibility at junctions comes first.

