

Name
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
TOWN
County
Post Code

Property Services
Phoenix House
Phoenix Lane
Tiverton
Devon
EX16 6PP
www.middevon.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Contact: Estates and Property Services
Telephone: 01884 255255
Email: propertyservices@middevon.gov.uk
Fax / DX:

Date

Dear «Title» «LastName»

Grass cutting consultation

The recent Tough Choices consultation carried out by Devon County Council (DCC) has resulted in the decision to reduce the specification on cutting grass verges on land owned by DCC across our District. The suggested specification will maintain visibility at road junctions and restrict the width of the grass that is cut on the roadside verges to approximately 1 meter.

Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) has provided this service for over 20 years and have received funding from DCC that has just met our expenditure to date for maintaining grass verges within your Parish to the standards you have experienced. The reduced funding from DCC was imposed on MDDC for the 2015/16 financial year.

Our Cabinet approved to meet the funding gap of £30k imposed by DCC from our own budget to ensure the current standards across the District are kept in order to enable MDDC time to consult with Town and Parish Councils. MDDC will not have the budget to fund this gap for 2016/17 and future financial years and depending on the results of this consultation exercise it may result in MDDC withdrawing from the current agreement with DCC as this is not land that MDDC are responsible for.

The cost for grass cutting verges within your Parish is £3.51 per 100 square meters and is cut four times a year.

We enclose a map that identifies the DCC land within your Parish that we currently cut on their behalf. We have taken this information from our central database, however please contact us if you believe this information to be incorrect and we will arrange a site visit.

**Requests for alternative formats will be considered on an individual basis.
Please telephone 01884 255255 or email customerfirst@middevon.gov.uk**

In order for us to evaluate our position we would be grateful if you could let us know the Town and Parish Councils opinion on the options listed below regarding the future of maintaining the grass cutting provision within your Parish.

1. Town and Parish Councils to provide funding to MDDC to continue maintaining grass verges on land owned by DCC to the current standards.
2. Town and Parish Council to maintain the land on behalf of DCC. TAP fund may be available for grass cutting equipment or towards a handyman to cut the grass in their area, which would meet the highways criteria. More information about the fund can be found at <https://new.middevon.gov.uk/grants-and-funding/> Health and Safety training to be made available by DCC.
3. Not to agree to any of the above options and therefore either except the reduced specification for cutting grass verges and understand that this may result in MDDC withdrawing from the agreement with DCC due to financial viability.

The Grounds Maintenance team will be happy to cut the grass verges shown on the attached map to the reduced specification in line with the DCC tough choices consultation on their next visit to enable you to visualise the changes.

Please confirm which option your Parish decides to proceed with by e-mailing propertyservices@middevon.gov.uk by ~~Monday 21st September 2015~~.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Busby
Estates Manager