

Highways Update – South West Wiltshire Area Board 17 July 2013

As you will know the council's new highways and Streetscene contract commenced on schedule on June 1 2013. The contract covers the highways maintenance, grounds maintenance, grass cutting, street lighting, bridge maintenance, winter maintenance and public convenience cleaning services.

To ensure the disruption to council services was limited, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) have continued to provide additional staff and equipment, worked extra hours including weekends, and prioritised local community priority areas. Many areas have not been affected by the transfer; however grass cutting in some areas is behind schedule.

It is anticipated that all Wiltshire Council amenity areas will receive at least one cut during June and then cut to the previous frequency thereafter. Up until the end of last week BBLP had approximately 75 staff deployed on grass cutting, and they hired in additional machines and deployed additional staff to grass cutting activities at no cost to the council. Officers were liaising with the contractor on a daily basis as would be expected in a contract of this scale.

BBLP completed one cut in June and they started the second cycle of grass cutting on 2nd July. It is anticipated that this will be completed both on time (2 to 3 weeks) and to the contract standard.

The rural verge cut in the South has also been completed.