

Councillors' Briefing Note No. 150

Service : Neighbourhood Services

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Highways and Streetscene Grass Cutting

Senior officers from Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) attended an update meeting with Phillip Whitehead, portfolio holder for highways and streetscene, and Mark Smith, service director for neighbourhood services, on Monday, 2 July 2013. At the meeting BBLP confirmed it had fulfilled its commitment to complete the first cut of the urban grassed area by the end of June. It also confirmed the rural verge, amenity flail, low amenity grass and rough cut areas had all been cut to schedule and there had been no delay in these services.

BBLP gave a commitment that if any grassed areas are later identified as having been missed during the scheduled cut it would immediately return to rectify the issue.

The grass cutting frequencies will now return to the contract specification, which for urban grassed areas is one cut every two to three weeks.

Amanda Fisher, Balfour Beatty's managing director, will be attending full council on the 9 July 2013 to listen to the formal questions raised by members.

During June 2013 the council received around 110 complaints a week regarding grass cutting. This was 60 complaints more a week than the same time last year. The number of complaints has now returned to normal.

BBLP continues to provide additional resources to support the grass cutting service to ensure there are no further delays and is currently reporting all grass cutting is on schedule for July 2013.

CLlr Philip Whitehead – Portfolio holder highways and streetscene
Mark Smith – Service director neighbourhood services