

Open Spaces Strategy – Appendix 9: Implementation Plan

Small Grassed Areas (refer to 2.6 of the Open Spaces Strategy)

No.	Actions	What we have done...	Next Steps	Lead Person/s	Time frame
Policy a)	Small grassed areas to be managed as natural green spaces with reduced mowing, where this does not create a nuisance for the public or vehicles.	Met with Insurance, Legal and Cityparks regarding issues to do with members of the public cutting grass verges outside of their homes etc. APSE query report due 20 May regarding wording for communications to enable to cut grass verges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Insurance are considering whether a specific policy for volunteers is required. ii. Monitor the impact on areas where grass verges are not being cut. 	Insurance Legal Parks Projects RW	June 2017 ongoing
b)	New or modified small grassed areas to be designed to allow water to be stored during heavy rainfall, where this does not conflict with policy a).	Spoke with sustainability team about their recent flood risk strategy. Worked with the Valley Gardens Team to advise and comment on their sustainable drainage systems. Identified further parks to potentially create landscape changes for water storage during heavy floods.	Meet with sustainability team and flood risk area manager to develop proposals.	Parks Projects	June 2017 ongoing
No.	Actions	What we have done...	Next Steps	Lead Person/s	Time frame
1)	Identify members of the public who have said that they agree they could be allowed to cut their own grass verges through the Big Conversation consultation result – postcode search.	Locate from Big Conversation survey the areas where people agreed most that they could be able to mow their own grass verge. Postcode mapping of responses showed that positive responses were quite evenly spread across the City.	a) Cityparks and PPT to decide which areas are priority to target initially based on level of verge mowing being carried out.	Cityparks Parks Projects	June 2017
2)	Organise informative events to assist the public in cutting grass verges or undertaking other related works such as pruning or litter picking.	Met with Legal and Cityparks and spoke to Insurance regarding the public becoming more active in the city such as cutting grass verges, litter picking and shovelling snow. It was advised that the best approach is to encourage through informative posters and fliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) See above in Volunteering for details of informative events that have been organised for volunteers to Cityparks. b) APSE report will assist in development of text for a flier and poster to ensure insurance 	Insurance Legal Cityparks Communication Parks Projects	June – August 2017

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		<p>that it is ok to do this but as it is potentially a high risk activity, working next to the road, they could do so outside their own home when covered by own home insurance.</p> <p>Attended Friends of Parks meeting to inform groups about volunteering opportunities. Talking with Community works about developing more events to encourage volunteering.</p> <p>Created draft poster to encourage more people to cut their own grass verges</p>	<p>concerns are responded to.</p> <p>c) Develop an ‘active citizen’ poster to empower residents to undertake work such as pruning, litter picking and mowing their own grass verge without further permissions from the council.</p> <p>d) Fliers to be distributed to priority areas defined by Cityparks and parks projects.</p> <p>e) Promote and raise awareness of these proposals.</p> <p>f) Complete risk assessment of this activity.</p> <p>g) Work with legal and insurance to complete poster and mitigate liability risk to council.</p>		<p>June- August 2017</p>
3)	<p>Identify if smaller grassed areas can be developed to create more wildlife habitats.</p>	n/a	<p>a) Cityparks to identify potential sites and monitor plant growth and public response.</p>	<p>RW Rangers</p>	<p>September 2017 –July 2019</p>