



Grass Cutting and Village Maintenance Summary report

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/environment-culture-and-planning/cornwall-s-green-planning-policies-recognised-in-national-nature-report>

Cornwall Council's work on boosting nature recovery through its planning policies has been recognised in a national report.

UK100, a network of influential local authority leaders across the country, has published [Powers in Place: Nature](#), highlighting the strategies councils are using to protect and enhance wildlife, restore biodiversity and tackle the ecological emergency.

Copied from Cornwall Council website:

It singles out Cornwall Council's [Climate Emergency Development Plan Document](#) for promoting efficient land use, protecting habitats and ecosystems.

The report praises the planning policy's focus on soil health and its potential to increase biodiversity and enhance carbon storage in the natural environment.

It also highlights Cornwall's work to sustain the rural economy through its strong agricultural and food-producing heritage as well as its commitment to maintaining the environment while reducing carbon emissions.

The report goes on to commend the [Forest for Cornwall](#) programme for encouraging landowners, businesses and communities to plant trees and woodlands as part of the authority's climate and ecological emergency response.

Story posted September 15, 2023

:Report produced in 2016

<https://millbrook-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/A19.4-Millbrook-Workshop-2016.pdf> - See page 21



Mowing regimes in the 'Millbrook Park'

Members of the Millbrook Community have been working to influence the mowing regime in the Millbrook Park (created by the landscaping of the landfill site to the north of Millbrook Lake) and have succeeded in having the field margin left unmown for certain periods to encourage flowers and pollinators to thrive.



The management of lakeside vegetation

The various banks around Millbrook Lake are regularly trimmed by Environment Agency contractors to ensure that any damage to the tidal barrage would be easily visible and maintenance easily performed.

However there may be potential to limit the practice of removing vegetation and so provide habitat for wildlife residing in and around the lake, creating a more natural lakeside environment.

There are also concerns over the use of glyphosate (e.g. Roundup) and other weed-killers to remove vegetation due to their potential impact on the ecosystems in and around the lake, and also to human health through coming into contact with the chemicals in the environment.

General responses	Overall happy with MPC grass cutting Contract	Overall unhappy with MPC grass cutting Contract	Concerns raised regarding CC verge management / driver visibility	Some possible misinterpretation between CC v PC responsibilities
Summary of responses	95	34	42	19

In some cases, it was difficult to ascertain whether parishioners were unhappy with the Parish Council's Grass Cutting contract as in these cases their complaints / comments purely referred to complaints which are not within the remit of the Parish Council, for example areas which fall under the remit of Cornwall Council or householders.

July Report					
	Overall happy with MPC grass cutting Contract	Overall unhappy with MPC grass cutting Contract	Concerns raised regarding CC verge management/driver visibility	Some possible misinterpretation between CC v PC responsibilities	Advice / Suggestions / Comment
unde1	1	0	0	0	Cut sections one at a time to support ecology
2	0	1	1	1	
3	1	0	0	0	
4	1	0	0	0	Moths/butterflies emerge July
5	1	0	0	0	2/3m band around dog field for willow and wildflowers to take up excess of excess water in boggy area. Dogs not a priority.
6	0	1	1	0	Long grass encourages more dog poo. Cemetery untidy. Wants more colour and flower planting
7	1	0	0	0	Regular cuttings -= more expense. money better spent planting trees, making roads safer, supporting buses
8	1	0	1	0	

9	1	0	0	0	0	Excess duck feed encouraging rat population. MH benefits from natural world
10	1	0	1	0	0	Cut New Rd CC verges in mid June
11	1	0	1	0	0	Duckfeeding encourages rats a health risk
12	1	0	0	0	0	
13	1	0	0	0	0	
14	1	0	0	0	0	Native wild flowers/native grasses planted around lake edge
15	1	0	0	0	0	
16	1	0	0	0	0	Cut grass around benches to lake edge. Residents should take pride in their house fronts
17	1	0	0	0	0	Buddleia causes damage to walls & buildings
18	1	0	0	0	0	
19	1	0	1	0	0	CC Verges at the crossing by playpark should be kept short
20	1	0	0	0	0	Regular grass cutting costs more
21	1	0	0	0	0	
22	1	0	0	0	0	Rats are proliferating due to overfeeding of ducks and residue on the ground
23	1	0	0	0	0	Long roadside verges slow traffic!
24	1	0	1	0	0	
25	1	0	0	0	0	
26	1	0	1	0	0	
27	1	0	1	0	0	RA before making decision what trying to achieve v harm to public. Should be prioritising other things
28	1	0	0	0	0	
29	1	0	1	0	0	Council to better explain responsibility remit

30	0	1	1	0	Cant see edge of the lake. Snakes in long grass can be a hazard to dogs. Buddleia growing out of walls around streets an issue. Cemetery very untidy
31	0	0	0	1	Referencing west street play park area
32	0	1	0	0	Prefers to see the water
33	0	1	1	0	Long lakeside grass a danger to smal children. Encourages rats and diseases
34	0	1	1	0	Rat issues encourages by long grasses
35	0	1	1	0	Graveyard a disgrace
36	0	1	0	0	Play areas should be cut regularly after no mow May
37	1	0	0	0	
38	0	1	0	0	Playing field cut after no mow May for dog walking all year round
39	0	1	1	0	Long lakeside grass dangerous
40	0	1	1	1	Haven for rats. Dangerous long grass verges
41	1	0	0	0	
42	1	0	0	0	Irresponsible dog owners who do not track their dog and follow into long grass to pick up dog waste
43	1	0	0	0	20mph speed limit should be adhered to to avoid accidents
44	1	0	0	0	
45	1	0	0	1	Weeds along roads/pavements an eyesore
46	1	0	1	1	Regular cuts along roadside
47	0	1	1	0	Weeds along roads/pavements an eyesore. More pride required from residents to look after area outside their homes
48	1	0	1	1	Picking up dog poo in long grass can be difficult
49	1	0	0	0	Cut where safety requires
50	1	0	0	0	More grass cutting means greater budget spend for PC

51	1	0	1	0	Support No mow May. Leave cutting until after nesting. Residents should take responsibility for weeding outside homes.
52	1	0	0	0	
53	1	0	0	0	Cut playing field short for dog walking. Graves maintained in open cemetery more conservatively. Drivers should slow down and observe 20mph
54	1	0	0	0	
55	1	0	0	0	
56	1	0	0	0	
57	1	0	0	0	
58	1	0	0	0	
59	1	0	1	0	
60	1	0	0	1	Extend cut area 1.5m near roads and paths where long grass obscures vision from benches. Keep verges short on bends to improve visibility. Increase numbers of bushes, shrubs and flowers
61	0	1	0	0	
62	1	0	0	0	
63	1	0	0	0	
64	0	1	0	0	Grass growing through bench seats and vistas compromised. Long grasses encourages owners not to pick up dog mess.
65	1	0	0	0	Verges along Mill Road should be cut back. Car drivers should slow down if they cant see
66	1	0	0	0	
67	0	1	1	0	Increase in rats, brambles, ticks and seeds. Long grass on lake side dangerous. Cut bank near GP surgery.
68	1	0	1	0	Keep short around benches and on bend roadside verge of new Road
69	1	0	0	0	Weeds along roads/pavements an eyesore. Can PC attend to these?

70	1	0	0	0	
71	1	0	0	0	Better management of overgrown plants and grasses in park and lakeside
72	1	0	0	1	Long grass keeps flies at bay. Add more wild flowers to banks
73	0	1	1	0	Supports no mow May but dried long grass should be cut back. Fire risk and vistas obscured. Balance Nature v function. Weeds around street pavements & curbs and buddleia issues around village. Residents should take more responsibility
74	1	0	1	0	New Road Lakeside should be cut. Strim around Tractor park fence.
75	1	0	0	0	
76	1	0	0	0	
77	1	0	0	0	
78	1	0	1	0	Cut back lakeside verge on bend. Photo provided
79	1	0	1	1	Early hot dry weather caused early die back of vegetation. Remove floppy dead grass tops half way through season could improve aesthetics. Entrance to village kept short.
80	0	1	0	1	Weeds, walls, pavements a mess
81	0	0	0	0	Unclear - asked for public meeting for village to attend to discuss.
82	0	1	1	0	Tractor Park should be kept neatly cut. Lake edges not easily defined which is dangerous. Flower boats uncared for,
83	0	1	1	1	Lots of graffiti around village. Tanyard is drab. Pergola covering looks awful. Dog Fouling. General waste bins overflow. Pot holes everywhere. Generally uncared for. Not enough man hours put in to maintaining village.
84	1	0	1	1	Footpaths should be kept clear of overgrowth for residents relying on walking aids.
85	0	1	0	0	
86	1	0	0	0	Like the wilder areas in the Tractor park for children to play/hide in

87	0	1	0	1	More wildflowers and trees around lake. Cut dry grasses.
88	0	1	1	1	Lakeside along New Road should be cut. Cut dog field more regularly. Tractor park kept neat.
89	0	0	0	0	References CC verges only
90	1	0	0	0	
91	1	0	0	0	
92	0	1	0	0	More wildflowers should be planted.
93	0	1	1	0	Village an unsightly mess
94	0	1	0	0	Long grass in dog walking field - grass seeds a health issue to dogs
95	0	0	0	0	Comment relating to directly to business. Hedge restricting view of lake
96	1	0	0	0	Photos of lakeside 1992 supplied for comparison
Totals	67	25	32	14	

October Report					
	Overall happy with MPC grass cutting Contract	Overall unhappy with MPC grass cutting Contract	Concerns raised regarding CC verge management/driver visibility	Some opmisinterpretation between CC v PC responsibilities	Advice / Suggestions / Comment
1	1	0	0	0	
2	1	0	0	0	Suggests extra of the lakeside grass to mimic grazing routine of mammals. Grasses outcompete wildflowers. Important to rake and remove clippings s smother delicate flowers and encourage grasses to thrive in their place. Deeper review of this post recommended
3	1	0	0	0	

4	1	0	0	0	
5	1	0	0	0	
6	1	0	1	1	Support No Mow May but not June July & August. To support wildlife need to consider diverse plants not just long grass.
7	0	0	1	1	
8	0	1	1	1	
9	1	0	0	0	Balance in approach when safety concerns arise
10	1	0	1	0	Planting yellow rattle supported. Village unkempt
11	1	0	0	0	
12	1	0	0	0	
13	1	0	0	0	
14	1	0	0	0	
15	1	0	0	0	Lakeside path on Lower Anderton could be cut at height of grass allergy season. CC to take better responsibility of paths and gutters
16	0	1	0	0	
17	1	0	0	0	Pavement weeds prolific
18	1	0	1	0	
19	0	0	0	0	Cut grass in football field during winter
20	1	0	1	0	
21	1	0	0	0	
22	1	0	1	0	
23	1	0	0	0	Weeds around pavements and houses should be cleared
24	1	0	0	0	

25	0	1	0	0	0	Long grass dangerous for drivers. More cuts per year. Cemetery not cut enough
26	0	0	1	1	1	Pavement and gutter weeds a concern
27	0	1	0	0	0	Safety concerns with lakeside grass
28	0	1	0	0	0	
29	1	0	0	0	0	Drivers should stick to 20mph speed limit. Deeper review of this post advised
30	0	1	0	0	0	Cut grass more frequently after nesting
31	1	0	0	0	0	Trees around lake and playing field need to be maintained ie pruned
32	0	0	1	0	0	
33	1	0	0	0	0	
34	1	0	0	0	0	
35	0	1	0	0	0	Regular cuts required. Fill the boats with flowers
36	1	0	0	0	0	
37	1	0	0	0	0	Roadside weeds an issue
38	1	0	0	0	0	Brambles should be better maintained so not to get out of control over time
39	0	1	0	0	0	Roadside weeds an issue
40	0	1	0	0	0	
41	0	0	1	1	1	Lower Anderton Road verge saplings a visibility issue
42	1	0	0	0	0	
Totals	28	9	10	5		