

**KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TENDER FOR VERGE CUTTING 2016**

**SECTION 5**

**THE SPECIFICATION**

## **SECTION 5 - THE SPECIFICATION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Contractor is required to cut areas of grass within the highway as indicated on the Contract Plans in paragraph 6 below
- 1.2 The Council's Authorised Officer may request additional works in addition to the routine verge cutting specified in the Specification and these will be paid for in accordance with the Contract. (See Condition 11 of the Conditions of Contract).

### **2.0 Authorised Officer**

- 2.1 The Authorised Officer is the Town Clerk.

### **3.0 Safety Requirements**

- 3.1 Consideration must be given to all risks associated with the works when planning grass cutting operations. These include not only risks to the operative but also to all highway users.
- 3.2 At all times signing in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual must be used.
- 3.3 At all times operatives must wear high visibility garments in accordance with BSEN 471 class 3.
- 3.4 Operatives must:
- a) always check the area of grass prior to cutting, remove and dispose in a licensed tip any debris that is likely to cause a risk to the public, the operative or the grass cutting machinery e.g. litter, stones, bottles, cans etc.
  - b) always remove items such as wheelie bins, bin bags etc. before cutting commences and replace them when cutting is complete.
  - c) take particular care when members of the public are in the vicinity of the grass cutting machinery and stop the machinery and engine if a member of the public approaches the machine.
  - d) never leave the machinery whilst the engine is still running nor attempt any adjustments, blockage clearance etc. without closing down and isolating the engine.
- 3.5 Grass cutting machinery must never be operated by any person unless they are qualified, or under supervised training to do so.
- 3.6 All grass cutting machines shall be fitted with at least one flashing amber beacon to be operated whilst engaged in the works. If one beacon is likely to become obscured by movement of the cutter or other equipment during the work then a second beacon must be fitted.

#### **4.0 Grass Cutting Standard and Frequency**

- 4.1 The areas of grass indicated on the Contract Plans shall be cut by cylinder or rotary cutters, strimmer (or similar appliance) where applicable.
- 4.2 Fourteen cuts will be required by the Council during each year of the contract period and the sward is to be an average of 50mm (excluding flower heads) in height on completion of each cut and where trimming is carried out.
- 4.3 On highway verges, unless otherwise indicated in the schedule sufficient passes shall be made to cut the whole verge from the back edge of pavement or kerb to the full extent of the verge, in all other cases the width of the area to be cut shall be as specified.
- 4.4 Grass cutting shall be carried out at the frequencies indicated below between March and November.

Type of Area	Max cuts per year	Height of cut	Working days between cuts	
			Min	Max
A170 verge	14	50mm	8	21
Residential	14	50mm	8	14

#### **4.5 HOVER TYPE and ROTARY MOWERS**

- 4.5.1 The whole area shall be cut leaving no areas uncut between rows and producing an even height across the whole area. The total number of cuts and the height of cut shall be such that at no time shall the height of grass exceed the limits shown:

Type of Area	Max cuts per year	Height of cut (to be not greater than 50mm)	Working days between cuts	
			Min	Max
A170 verge	14	50mm	8	21
Residential	14	50mm	8	14

- 4.5.2 Grass clippings shall lie where they fall except in the case of those falling on paths, drives, car parks or other such similar areas, in such cases grass clippings shall be swept from the surface before the Contractor leaves the site.
- 4.5.3 Cut grass shall only be removed on instruction of the Authorised Officer and/or on occasion when a significant period has lapsed between cuts, due to extreme weather conditions, thereby allowing the grass to grow in excess and subsequently producing an excess of grass cuttings. The Council has no objection to the Contractor removing cut grass and using it for its own purposes.

#### **4.6 STRIMMING**

- 4.6.1 Certain areas are inaccessible or of such a nature that they are only considered suitable for mowing using nylon head cutting machines 'Strimmers'. In such areas the standard height to be cut must not exceed 50mm.

4.6.2 Any arisings falling onto adjoining areas shall be swept and raked back onto the 'strimmed area'.

4.6.3 All edges abutting footways, cultivated areas, walls etc are to be carefully cut back using a strimmer or similar approved appliance. Grass around the base of trees, posts, lighting columns etc is to be cut back in the same way, taking care not to damage any of them. No herbicide is to be used to stop grass growth around the base of trees, posts, lighting columns etc.

#### 4.7 HALF MOONING EDGES

4.7.1 During week 9 the Contractor will undertake half mooning. This work will be carried out using a board or a line to cut back the edges to the original position. Using a half moon, the cuts should be vertical down to the inside edge or any kerb or retainer without creating a gulley or gap between the turf and the edge. All turf, soil, vegetation, including that growing in the original surface, is to be removed from site for disposal by the Contractor. The site is to be swept and left in a clean and tidy condition. All arisings are to be removed by the end of each working day (Monday to Friday).

4.8 Any areas of flowers in bloom, such as crocuses, daffodils, bluebells etc, shall not be cut unless directed by the Authorised Officer.

4.9 The presence of stands of injurious plants and weeds shall be reported to the Authorised Officer (e.g. Spear Thistle, Ragwort, Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam).

#### 4.10 EDGING

##### 4.10.1 General

The Contractor will be required to form neat edges to grassed areas where they abut all flower beds, shrub beds, rose beds, heather beds, herbaceous borders, tree bases and channels at the base of all wall lines, fence lines, kerbs etc. All functions will be carried out at the times specified.

##### 4.10.2 Trimming grassed edges (weeks 12 – 40)

During the growing season the edges of grass areas specified in the contract areas, shall be trimmed with edging shears or other approved mechanical means, 14 times evenly spread throughout the growing season.

Growth shall not be permitted to exceed 60mm. All arisings from this operation to be collected and removed from site. The edge must be left clean and tidy leaving no snags, roots, grass or weeds along the vertical of the soil edge below the trimmed grass. The edge must be kept as straight and uniform as possible not destroying the vertical soil edge.

##### 4.10.3 Litter/Arisings

Each time edging is carried out, litter will be removed from all channels, fencelines, tree bases, obstacles, etc. All arisings will be removed and disposed of at the Contractor's tip at the end of each working day. All rates quoted for edging will be deemed to have included for keeping the adjacent channel, flower bed, shrub bed, tree base etc, clean and tidy each time edging is carried out.

## **5.0 Contract Areas**

Please see enclosed plans (dots, red and green markings in Keldholme and Kirkbymoorside, and X for unmeasured area at junction of Springfield Lane/Old Road, and for verge at Kirkby Mills.