



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

**Report to Arts, Culture, Leisure
and Recreation SPC**

**21st September 2020
Item No. 6**

Report on Grass Cutting Contracts:

Grass cutting forms part of landscape maintenance operations which also involve litter picking and traditionally 'weed control'. In 2018, The Parks Service committed in a policy report to the Environment SPC to eliminate the use of herbicides in landscape maintenance operations. In 2021, neither direct labour operations or contracts will use herbicides in landscape maintenance operations. Instead, electric powered strimmers will be utilised and wild grass/wild flower areas will become more common around the edges of open spaces which is already becoming common place.

In 2020, there have been issues in some areas due to changes in managers by the landscape contractors which has resulted in standards not being sustained, however in general, over the last three years the landscape maintenance contracts have worked well. Some of the complaints received in 2020 were confused with contract work but in fact were direct labour operations. Obviously 2020 has been a difficult year for Parks Staff given the restrictions imposed on operations by social distancing in work, pod working, staggered and reduced working hours

The Parks Service has a District Parks Officer managing the performance of contractors as a key part of their duties and in the next contract for landscape maintenance 2021 to 2023 the contracts areas will be better defined which will provide greater oversight of performance.

A meeting of councillors in relation to landscape maintenance and the contract tender which is under preparation for the 2021-2023 period was held on the 10th September to discuss the tender specifications and this meeting can be re-convened to monitor the situation.

Any issues on landscape maintenance should be emailed to parks@dublincity.ie where they will be recorded.

**Les Moore,
City Parks Superintendent
21st September 2020**