

**Culture, Recreation and Economic Services,
Block 4, Floor 0, Civic Offices, Wood Quay,
Dublin 8.**

**To the Chairperson and Members of the
South East Area Committee**

Report on Landscape Maintenance for South East Area Committee

A new maintenance contract commenced the first week of May. It is normal to have some 'teething' problems with the commencement of a new contract and there are some issues and anomalies which will be resolved over the next couple of weeks. However, the two contractors who were successful in tendering for the landscape maintenance contract have also had a problem putting together the resources (equipment and personnel) needed to complete their programme. The contractors have given a commitment to catch up with the backlog of maintenance which is made more difficult as it is also the optimum time of year for grass growth.

As part of the new contract, every open space has been mapped and quantified in terms of sq. metres for the tender. It would not be feasible to map and quantify all of the grass margins in front of houses, which in many cases were already maintained by householders, or not cut by the previous contract because of parked cars etc. There have also in the past been claims from residents for damage to cars parked in front of houses caused by council contracted machinery cutting grass margins. Grass verges outside of houses are therefore no longer part of the contract. However, the contractor will continue to maintain all larger margins and along longer corner sites where there are no houses. This is the same as in Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council areas.

It is accepted that this change was not communicated to the councillors in a timely manner and I apologise for that. If there are situations where margins are a problem, and the residents require some support, we can arrange for a cut. The city council's Parks and Public Domain Teams work with and support local environmental groups and Tidy Towns to enhance local neighbourhoods and this will continue.

Leslie Moore
Head of Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services