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**GRASS CUTTING ROAD SIDE VERGES**

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**1.0 SUMMARY**

Provision of progress regarding grass cutting operations in the Bute and Cowal area regarding roadside verges and amenity areas.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members being advised of the works already completed and the programme in place to attend to the remainder for rural roads.
- 2.2 Members being advised of the amenity grassland maintenance programme.

**3.0 DETAIL**

- 3.1 The roadside verge maintenance works were slow to start due to some operational difficulties regarding the tractors and the delivery of replacements. Amenity grass cutting operations came under pressure earlier in the season for a short period of time one to two weeks due to the volume of tasks, works relating to floral bedding and herbicide applications. All works were retrieved quickly.
- 3.2 As the roadside grass cutting programme is Revenue funded, The Works are being carried out within the normal working day between 8.00 and 16.00hrs, Monday to Friday.
- 3.3 The verges within the urban speed limits are being attended to by Amenity Services, the verges outwith by Road Services. Amenity grass cutting operations are being delivered as per schedule of works and it is not anticipated there will be an operational difficulties during the remainder of the grass maintenance season.
- 3.4 All of the rural A class roads in Bute and Cowal except A8003 have been cut. (18<sup>th</sup> July 2012). In Cowal C9, U15 up to Deer Park cut, B836 on-going. This is now being extended to the B Class and other routes.

Rural route in Bute should be complete by 25<sup>th</sup> July, Cowal by mid-August. All strimming works on the A815 north of Sandbank are substantially complete. The urban sections are currently being maintained as part of a

six cuts per season programme, with the areas being cut on a monthly cycle

- 3.5 Where Japanese Knotweed is encountered on the verge, the verge treatment is reduced until the imminent Japanese Knotweed eradication programme is complete.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Members are asked to note the progress and the proposed programme for the remainder of season

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Policy: Nil

5.2 Financial: Limited Revenue Funding

5.3 Legal: Nil

5.4 HR : Nil

5.5 Equalities: No issues

5.6 Risk: Works carried out in compliance with Safe Working Procedures

5.7 Customer Service: As per previous years.

#### **6.0 APPENDICES**

6.1 Nil

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services**

20<sup>th</sup> July 2012

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