

## **RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**COUNCIL – 19 JULY 2022**

#### **QUESTION D**

**Councillor Roodhouse to ask the Operations and Traded Services Portfolio Holder, Councillor Miss Lawrence:**

“How an area looks is important to residents and grass cutting is one of the high-profile activities that this Council undertakes regarding having pride in your area. Could the Portfolio Holder confirm the following:

1. How is the Council informing residents about the quality standards used for grass cutting?
2. Does the Council publicise the performance measures used for this service?
3. The Council is committed to tackling climate change. What actions are being taken regarding the machinery that is being used such as the blowers that are used to spread the clippings onto the road?”

**Councillor Miss Lawrence, Operations and Traded Services Portfolio Holder, to reply as follows:**

“Information about how we manage grassland is published on the council’s website under the pages for Urban Meadows.

This section explains what we are do, what sites will look like and the benefits of this different approach to the wildlife. We have a mosaic of different grassland management techniques and each site is considered within its own right.

We have identified that more seasonal information will help residents understand what they can expect and when. This includes site-specific signage, which is located at sites where we leave grass to grow longer, and proactive communications. We are looking to expand this approach across more sites in time for next year’s main growth season and have included this on our communications calendar.

The Council publishes performance measures for grounds maintenance within the regular Finance and Performance report that is considered by Council.

We continue to explore alternative fuel options for all equipment as we transition to a zero/low carbon fleet. Electric options are available for small machinery such as blowers and mowers and vehicles that are less than 7.5 tonnes because of the mileage and weight that the batteries can carry. There are alternative low carbon options for larger fleet such as hydrogen, but these technologies are all in their infancy and currently very expensive. We will continue to monitor all of the options closely and prior to purchasing any new fleet.”

