



# BEST VALUE REVIEW OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

## GRASS CUTTING AND TREE MAINTENANCE

Questionnaires were sent out during the week of 6 January 2003 to households throughout the district (1,455 in total).

Sent:	1455
Received:	569
Response Rate:	39%

The results are listed below:-

### 1 Do you think the grass is maintained to a satisfactory standard?

<b>Base</b>	<b>554</b> <b>100%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	357 64%
<b>No</b>	169 31%
<b>Don't Know</b>	28 5%

### 2 Why do you consider the grass is not maintained satisfactorily?

	<b>Base</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>349</b> <b>64%</b>	<b>126</b> <b>23%</b>	<b>67</b> <b>12%</b>
<b>The grass is cut too often</b>	86	9 10%	62 72%	15 17%
<b>The grass is not cut often enough</b>	97	63 65%	17 18%	17 18%
<b>The grass ought to be cut more often when it is growing fast</b>	116	103 89%	5 4%	8 7%
<b>Some grass could be left long for wild flowers</b>	109	66 61%	25 23%	18 17%
<b>Excessive amounts of grass cuttings are left on the paths/pavements</b>	134	108 81%	17 13%	9 7%

**3 Do you think that the Council's trees are maintained to a satisfactory standard?**

<b>Base</b>	<b>552</b> <b>100%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	360 65%
<b>No</b>	73 13%
<b>Don't Know</b>	119 22%

**4 As you consider the trees are not maintained satisfactorily is this because you have experienced problems with Babergh District Council owned trees?**

<b>Base</b>	<b>68</b> <b>100%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	42 62%
<b>No</b>	26 38%

**5 Have you ever contacted Babergh District Council about Council owned trees?**

<b>Base</b>	<b>544</b> <b>100%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	56 10%
<b>No</b>	488 90%

**If Yes:-**

	<b>Base</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>130</b> <b>61%</b>	<b>82</b> <b>39%</b>
<b>Was this because you felt the tree was actually dangerous (ie broken/hanging branches)</b>	27	17 63%	10 37%
<b>Was this because you felt the tree was potentially dangerous (ie excessively swaying branches etc)</b>	25	14 56%	11 44%
<b>Was this because you felt the tree was causing you a nuisance (ie dropping leaves etc or shading)</b>	36	31 86%	5 14%
<b>Were you satisfied with the response time to your enquiry?</b>	43	19 44%	24 56%
<b>Was any work carried out to the tree?</b>	45	29 64%	16 36%
<b>Was the work to your satisfaction?</b>	36	20 56%	16 44%

## 6 Please add any further comments you may have on these issues.

- ◆ If the grass was cut more often it would save the back-aching job of using a grass rake. The men never seem to go over their last mowing; consequently the outline of tall grass is left and is hard on taking up the residue grass.
- ◆ Having communicated previously on the subject of grass cutting and clearance of debris (not grass cuttings) I can state that the quality of work has improved since 2000/2001. However, I would still seek to see improvements in edge cutting, perhaps every two years, once or twice in each period. Such has not been carried out for over 10 years.
- ◆ It is most important that more money is spent on road sweeping. Christopher Lane is not swept except once a year. But being Town Centre/Ballingdon route and schools, those going to and from clubs and pubs and school children leave a lot of litter in the road. Town Centre and Gainsborough Street is cleaned but not Christopher Lane. Why?
- ◆ The comments are given in the knowledge of the very heavy rain in the past year causing unusually strong growth.
- ◆ None on the issues mentioned, however the gutters especially on Broom Knoll need clearing out.
- ◆ Footpaths are impassable due to stinging nettles for long periods during the summer months. I would be happy to talk to you further and give you more specific examples around my village of Little Waldingfield. Chris Grunsell - 01787 247934.
- ◆ General maintenance of shrubs round car park where I live could be better (Brantham).
- ◆ If improvements are wanted about cutting the grass would it be possible to have the cut grass cleared away and disposed of? It looks unsightly and it goes everywhere - it certainly would look a lot better.
- ◆ When the verges along roadsides are cut the amount of litter exposed is very unsightly but more accessible for removal. Could the grass cutting not be followed up with litter collecting. If the grass cutting was less frequent the saving could be used towards this.
- ◆ We have trees outside our house which cause a great deal of mess not only in the garden but also in our house and the Council won't do anything about it? Being disabled this causes me a lot of work cleaning up which I find hard (Weavers Close, Hadleigh).
- ◆ Thank you for the opportunity to participate. However, my home is in Hartest (IP29 4ED) and I use Bury St Edmunds (St Edmundsbury Council) for recreation and I feel unable to give meaningful observations on Babergh's cultural services.
- ◆ Obviously grass cutting and tree maintenance has lower priority than other items on BDC budget. Overall BDC does a fine job on their budget.
- ◆ It would help with the presentation if vehicles did not drive on the grass ie. lorries collecting and delivering.
- ◆ Trees hang over on Pin Mill Road which are being a nuisance to lorries etc. Also in Hollow Lane.
- ◆ We could do with the pavements being swept of leaves, which makes walking difficult.
- ◆ In general, the grassland around Gt Cornard (Shawlands estate) are well maintained. The only problem I would like to bring to your attention are the trees that were planted around 20 yrs ago on mass (Chelsworth Ave, Kersey Ave, Sycamore Rd). They are now starting to overtake the residential areas. Chelsworth Ave, where I grew up and my parents still live has been overtaken by the over growing of the trees in these streets. They have never, to my knowledge, been pruned. It would be lovely if the trees could have a little attention in the Spring. Otherwise great work.
- ◆ Fallen tree across River Walk (Hadleigh).
- ◆ The Riverside Walk (Hadleigh) is becoming a joke!! Possibly 50% of the trees cannot stand due to the current rainfall. The land needs draining and replanting with Willows/Poplars, high water intake trees.
- ◆ Grass should be cut more often when growing fast then you won't get all these cuttings. Less often when dry and not growing so quickly. There are also grass cutters that mulch the grass more which should eliminate cuttings.
- ◆ Grass cutting seems to take place just before or when children start their holidays. Consequently the grass cuttings that are left are spread all over paths and roads when children run or ride bikes through them. This can cause problems for elderly or disabled people, especially when it is wet.

- ◆ The Council should carry out regular surveys to establish the condition of its trees/verges etc. Thus becoming pro-active and no re-active.
- ◆ The grass is often cut very uneven and looks a mess. The cutters always seem in such a hurry that the end results are quite haphazard.
- ◆ I receive the full benefit of falling leaves in my garden from the avenue of trees from Chapel Close to Dodmans (Capel St Mary).
- ◆ The Council keeps the grass and trees cut OK but the gutters and pavements could do with more frequent sweeping.
- ◆ I have 3 trees in front of my bungalow which are getting very large for the situation (Canterbury Road, Sudbury).
- ◆ The trees in St Andrews Church Yard do need cutting back as power cables run through the branches (Gt Cornard)
- ◆ When grass cuttings are left on the pavement it gives a shabby appearance, and as we all endeavour to keep our front gardens as tidy as possible it would be a much welcomed asset. Also, I would like to thank you for the daffodil beds which welcome the spring for us all and a welcome for visitors to Hadleigh.
- ◆ Rubbish accumulates in bush areas - though it cannot be seen when leaves fall off it becomes very obvious. When bushes and trees are being cut/grass cut rubbish should be collected too.
- ◆ I moved into 7 Oaklands, Leavenheath on completion of my house in 1977. In the 25 years I have lived here I have never had any cause to complain. The grass has been cut frequently, trees were planted and it is never untidy, and a pleasure to see when you get up in the mornings. Well done - keep up the good work!
- ◆ We do find that sheeps parsley in particular obscures the vision on bends and junctions.
- ◆ I live in a rural area and therefore have no direct experience in terms of these services taking place near my house (Bures St Mary). My answers are therefore based on observation when driving around the Babergh area.
- ◆ Mostly well-maintained with the exception of the church yard (Chelmondiston) where there is insufficient care taken to protect gravestones and flower holders. Also the area designated to be conservation (cut in late summer) was not cut this year.
- ◆ Verges could be cut once more during fast growing summer season.
- ◆ The tree is directly in front of my window and blocks the skyline and street lights. The footpath is never swept by the Council. I have to sweep it myself (Spring St, Lavenham)
- ◆ I think that there should be more trees planted in Sudbury
- ◆ Staff should have training on how to recognise wild flowers and then grass could be left long until flowers have seeded. Example: Bee orchids on Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury
- ◆ We have always found the contractors do a good job and are very courteous
- ◆ Overhanging tree never cut back (corner of Glenside/Stannard Way, Gt Cornard). Excessive amount of dead leaves causing slippery and dangerous conditions (junction of Kings Hill, Kings Meadow and Cats Lane)
- ◆ Why is it I always have to sweep my garage driveway every time the grass is cut. Also, there is a lot of grass cuttings left all over the public footpath.
- ◆ Grass cuttings are never collected in our area. It leaves the green in an unsightly mess. It would be good if the workmen took a bit more care when cutting the grass. At present there is a tendency to try to do the job too fast.
- ◆ Tree Wardens need to have further encouragement in helping the Council in its objectives of maintaining trees in the district.
- ◆ Would be good to see some measures to control ivy on mature trees to try and avoid losing them.
- ◆ As my address would indicate, I do not live in Hadleigh and therefore am not qualified to respond adequately to the questionnaire.
- ◆ Please make our roads safer by cutting windows in the hedgerows on corners!

- ◆ Some verges could do with cleaning. Debris from hedge cutting in spring and autumn left on the roads is very annoying as it has caused tyres to burst, the twigs are extremely sharp, the hedges also look extremely untidy and ripped to pieces. I am sure there is a better, kinder way of achieving this.
- ◆ Thank you for keeping the area outside our house - opposite the Tarantella Hotel - so well cut and tidy. We also appreciate all the daffodils which bloom in the Spring.
- ◆ I live in Brantham. There's a lot of grass at the side of the paths. At times the grass is cut well. At other times it is not. Grass cuttings are left on the paths.
- ◆ Some trees/shrubs/hedges could do with cutting back at the very top of Station Road where road narrows, as view is obstructed of oncoming traffic.
- ◆ Most complaints experienced by the Parish Council are from people who have interest in the Cemetery, and they get quite upset about grass cuttings on relatives graves or memorials. To try and avoid this the PC have put the Contract for this area into other hands. As to your tree concerns, not many people are aware of which trees are Babergh's responsibility and you may well get complaints which are not in your jurisdiction (Sproughton)
- ◆ It may help if we could have more "dog" bins as living near the grassy bit we do find dog owners tend not to pick up the pooh. As children play on these grassy bits it would be nice if dog owners were encouraged more to use the bins which could be there. Could we please have more bins?
- ◆ I did not know I could contact my areas needing attention. No major problems just some untidy areas. I don't feel that strongly about it but I will phone now if I think it needs it.
- ◆ Local residents should be encouraged to cut the grass outside their homes by way of prize draw/award. Areas of grassland could be put to wild flowers and maintained by local schools supported by local business, my company would be pleased to co-operate (no contact details given!!)
- ◆ Very good that you ask for customer feedback. Although I have only lived here since 13/12/02 I am impressed by the amount of trees around the area. Trees are important to me and hopefully you continue to plant more of them.
- ◆ I cut the grass in the front of my house and house next door so as to assist grass on the paths and I have a tool to clip the edge near the path . I think we make a better job than the contractors.
- ◆ I would like to see more trees planted where possible.
- ◆ We pay a lot of money for two cuts a year. Well maintained ground ensure that its a nice place to live.
- ◆ My criticism of the grass cutting is that either through bad operators or bad machine maintenance the cutting is often very rough. With suitable machines the collection of the worst of the cuttings should not cost five times the cost of cutting.
- ◆ No comments about trees etc, but the litter on the grass verges causes concern, obviously this is a separate issue
- ◆ We think that many of the young trees planted opposite our house have died through being choked by weeds which is a waste (Speckled Wood Close, Pinewood)
- ◆ They also made some pavements dangerous where the roots are lifting the tarmac.
- ◆ I think the grass and trees are very well maintained. Our estate (Hedgerows, Gt Cornard) is always looking tidy in that respect. What does upset me is the rubbish. Myself and my three children walk through the estate to and from school and I think it is getting worse. There are very few bins or doggy bins. I am a dog owner myself. I am aware putting bins there isn't the answer. I wonder what it. Who do I contact to see what can be done? I know there are a lot of people who care on this estate.
- ◆ I would prefer my taxes to go towards something more constructive
- ◆ Trees are not cut low enough
- ◆ After much correspondence the views of ourselves and our neighbours were totally disregarded with reference to the copice and hedging around the backs of our properties (Dyer Ct, Hadleigh)

- ◆ I have contacted Highways & Byways about hedges and verges. These should be cut more than twice a year or is it once now, with all the modern machinery? It should be easy, it was when the road men used to do it years ago and they made a good job of it. You could tell the time of day and year etc by them. Corners should be cut back so you can see across them and not round them. There's a lot about here that need doing. It should be 25 yards each side of the corner that is clear.
- ◆ Trees in Richard Burn Way (Sudbury) have been damaged extensively by local children - either by vandalism or by climbing before the trees have matured. I doubt there's much can be done - perhaps a letter to local people (ie parents!) to paint out the problem? The litter problem here is also extensive, especially in/near the Tesco underpass.
- ◆ Your two trees beside my house are now almost twice as high as the house and in my opinion need drastic cutting back to a reasonable height. The grass is not cut properly because of the overgrowth from the trees in front of my house which belong to the bungalows up in the street and which is about 8 feet over your grass which is being replaced by weeds, so that grass cutting can't be carried out properly. I think the number of grass cuttings is quite adequate if it could be done properly (Garrods, Capel St Mary)
- ◆ This is a rural area - I am not aware of any BDC owned trees and verges here (Polstead)
- ◆ I am not in favour of questionnaires such as this. They are time consuming and very expensive for the local council. Plus the huge expense of setting up yet another department to administer it all. BDC in my opinion have always been very competent at keeping all areas they are responsible for neat and clean. In the 21 years I have lived in Shotley this has always been the case. Until Central Government took over some Departments that is! Please keep up your good record Babergh! Thank you.
- ◆ I reported that the branches were hanging too low 6 months ago, having nearly had my eye poked out on two occasions. The answer I got was we will send someone out to inspect them, well guess what, or should I say we are still waiting.
- ◆ I question if the verges are cut 14 times a year along Bury Road. In late Spring and Summer there are visibility problems on narrow stretches of an increasingly busy road.
- ◆ I think the grass and trees are kept very good in Belstead Village. I'm also very keen on wild flowers being left for all to enjoy.
- ◆ Grass cuttings are left on play areas to rot although pavements are left clean. Why aren't the cuttings collected?
- ◆ As grass cuttings are to be left on the mown areas it is important that regular and frequent cuts are made. Because the grass is long (allowed to grow too long) when it is cut the cuttings look awful and spoil public use/access. Double number of cuts made and pay for this by reducing admin cost.
- ◆ Reported newly planted trees being broken down. Person spoke to said no problem, they would be repaired. When asked what action would be taken against those responsible I was told it was not worth the trouble, the only problem I see is that rate payers pay out to spare you the inconsistency, it's time those that do the damage made to pay (not PC. I know but better than couldn't care less)
- ◆ There are two problems in Heathlands (1) a large Oak Tree - the trunk straddles the boundary of the farmland and the grass verge, there are dead branches which should be attended as small pieces occasionally drop onto road, ownership of the trees is disputed and therefore nothing is done. (2) A holly tree about 4m high is encroaching upon the road approx 0.8m. Perhaps this could be trimmed back, was going to do it myself but disposal of cuttings is a problem
- ◆ Maybe a survey such as this would be better aimed more specifically - how many businesses even notice trees and grass in the area?
- ◆ I have made several phone calls and I am ignored.
- ◆ berries from the trees are a danger to children who play in the grass. birds eat the berries and patio is stained as a result. Also branches hang over my garden and more on my neighbours and its roots are over the back of his fence.
- ◆ Whilst I agree the youngsters need a skate board park, why did you have to destroy a perfectly good tennis court to do so? Also the putting green which was in frequent use in the Summer months. Now there is nowhere in Hadleigh where you can have a casual game of tennis or putting. Don't say nobody used them because you just made it difficult to do so.
- ◆ Trees should not invade the highway

- ◆ Only recently moved into the area but all looks neat to me
- ◆ At the time the trees were damaged in Gt Cornard, although I did my best to stop the vandalism, not enough was done to stop it or repair the trees. It took a long while before they were removed or replaced.
- ◆ Its a shame to see trees and shrubbery around where I both live and work damaged through vandalism
- ◆ Grass shouldn't be cut when raining
- ◆ I think that some of the appropriate grass areas around Gt Cornard should be made into hard stands on which to park cars to get them off the road and not cause a hazard to pedestrians and car drivers alike
- ◆ Church lane Brantham hedges are not cut and trimmed as often as they should be
- ◆ Any replacement trees should, whenever possible be broadleaved and native of this country
- ◆ Wrote to the Council re exposed tree root outside my front garden wall - I felt it could in due course damage my wall. It can in its present state make the grass cutting (Council) rather difficult??  
Received a reply dated 20/07/2000 Ref:JES
- ◆ The trees planted by Babergh in residents gardens are not maintained and the area on the other side of bad fences are not cut back far enough and get very overgrown.
- ◆ parking of cars on grass areas in housing estates and on roadside verges should be banned. Maintenance of these areas is spoilt by such parking. Trees on grass areas should be periodically inspected and some topping/pruning carried out where necessary.
- ◆ When permission is refused to pull down a tree in building space or public areas and people take them down anyway. The fines should be such that people think twice about pulling out trees. They do it and know they will have to pay stupid fines which deter no one.
- ◆ Have not lived in the area very long, so not sure of surroundings as yet. Will take more notice from now on.
- ◆ I feel that both the grass and trees are maintained to a satisfactory standard only. The tree in question was at a previous address and the problem required the intervention of a local councillor.
- ◆ Although I feel that the grass is cut adequately I prefer to maintain the grass in front of my house myself. This is because the cuttings, when left, are a nuisance and the contractors cutters often skid on turning and cut into the turf.
- ◆ We appreciate your undertaking this survey, but how do we know what is Council grass, and which trees the Council are responsible for? Are they the same trees that pulled our power lines down, in which case they do need attention. Do you really think that everybody who completes this form will know the difference between what the Council is responsible for and what is private?
- ◆ Babergh do a terrific job when it comes to maintenance of verges/open spaces in Gt Cornard. However this is spoilt by the parking of vehicles which churn up the areas and these should be stopped.
- ◆ What a pity that you can find nothing more useful to spend our money on than preparing and postage on this. Surely if people are not happy they would talk to you as I am. The money you have spent on this could help to provide a sweeper for pavements particularly in Lower Street where half of the road is on the pavement from the fast moving traffic. Questionnaire on roads please?
- ◆ I had a tree in my garden which was dangerous it wasn't a council tree but you cut it down and I was most grateful.
- ◆ I feel the grass is not cut often enough in the areas where country roads approach a main road, e.g. the crossroads to Kersey and Lindsey on the Biddleston Road
- ◆ As one who does grass cutting I find keeping parallel with the paths prevents excessive cuttings on paths when turning.
- ◆ The trees between Dodmans and Chapel Close through the alleyway are allowed to hang down to face level. The ornamental trees that should be growing in the plot at the end of Dodmans are non-existent with the exception of one which is being smothered by an overgrown tree that only gets trimmed level with the path occasionally. Generally the hedges of residents properties are allowed to encroach too far onto the public foot paths. In particular where wheelchairs are obstructed.

- ◆ I feel in some instances that too many young trees and branches are being cut without reason. Also the hacking of trees directly behind St Mary's School has spoilt a lovely view of the parkland from the top of Tayler Road.
- ◆ I do believe that the increasing use of sub-contractor services by Councils for works traditionally provided by Councils own labour and machinery. The selling off of council owned land/depots and other in-house facilities, has helped to increase property taxes. Once embarked upon, many businesses have found choice becomes limited and sub-contractors end up being employed continuously instead of when needed. jobs are not done as efficiently, or as well and costs spiral. These are my experiences at least of sub-contracting in general. Far better to have your own work force.
- ◆ When the road side verges are cut, it would be nice to see the debris cleared instead of being left to rot on the side of the road, this then causes road narrowing and problems for pedestrian walking.
- ◆ Modern methods enable grass cuttings to be chopped into a fine mulch which isn't unsightly and does not require collection. Suggest you investigate.
- ◆ With so many country lanes in the council area its impossible for Babergh to cut all trees satisfactorily. The Council should not try, and should respond to complaints. However, Babergh vehicles should be encouraged to report problems.
- ◆ I suspect that London Road, Copdock does not count as a 'built up area' in which case my comments are invalid. Here the grass verges are cut two or three times a year only. Its not done very satisfactorily in that areas of long grass are often left un-cut and these obscure on-coming traffic for residents trying to pull out of their driveway. Also the grass cuttings lie on the footway, often to a depth of an inch or more, which makes walking slippery and dangerous.
- ◆ Generally grass maintained to good standard. However contractors who undertake grass cutting on own estate leave all grass cuttings and then area looks a mess when they have finished.
- ◆ This questionnaire is completed in the knowledge that in the Manor Road area of Bildeston there are a few examples of grass and trees but those that are maintained by Babergh are satisfactory
- ◆ The trees up Highlands Road are too big. Buses keep breaking branches off and leaving bits in the road. Its a danger to cars.
- ◆ Council tenants should be urged to look after their gardens.
- ◆ Why send out a questionnaire with a prescript regarding Arts, Community Grants, Horticulture, Sport Development, Tourism and Leisure/Swimming Pools. The questions on this form can only be related to verge cutting as at Audley End, Melford Road, Lawshall. This is the only item bearing any connection to the questionnaire. What a waste for the environment no wonder you offer payment to get returns. Is this not another sign of the times?
- ◆ When old existing trees and hedges are attended no care is taken. They are hacked down with no thought!
- ◆ I feel that you should make a visual check on trees near properties rather than a customer-led approach. I realise this would not be easy, however, many of your staff live in Babergh, travel to work and are 'in the field' already!
- ◆ Grass verges in rural areas should be cut more often than at present 2-3 times a year to improve visibility for both motorists and pedestrians especially where no pavement/street lighting.
- ◆ Standard of maintenance is perfectly satisfactory.
- ◆ When the grass has been cut I think the majority of the cuttings should be cleared away. It looks very messy and untidy and also collects on shoes etc. spreading the cuttings even further!
- ◆ The flower-beds and hanging baskets in the roundabouts in town centre are beautifully kept-a real pleasure to see.
- ◆ We live in plough Road and were very happy when the planted trees in the centre green were re-located to the end greens leaving the middle free for our children to play.
- ◆ on the old main road at Tattingstone two large beech trees and a pine tree have recently been felled. Why have they been cut down? Who was responsible for cutting them down? Will they be replaced with new trees?
- ◆ Grass verges and hedgerows need to be cut more frequently in the Summer months. They often encroach on the road creating two problems. 1) potential for scratching on the car; and 2) I feel forced to drive in the middle of the road which increases the risk of having a collision.

- ◆ I live in a village and am happy with the maintenance of grass areas and trees here. I don't spend much time in local towns so have not noticed the state of grass areas and trees.
- ◆ The most distressing blot on the landscape in our opinion is the annual clearing of knee-high weeds that grow between the two areas of paving slabs on woodlands, Chelyo. Also in the gutters and pavement edge. The large trees in the middle of woodlands seem quite out of hand, the 3 on the paved area, beside our property, are never properly maintained and the tree nearest the front of woodlands obliterates the view of traffic coming from the Ipswich direction when one is waiting to leave woodlands in either direction.
- ◆ I have always felt that 99% of the time the trees and grass are kept very tidy. One thing I would comment on is the bushes that rundown the alley between Highlands Road/Station Road at times they do get a bit out of control. Otherwise 9/10 for Hadleigh.
- ◆ Who is responsible for cutting back the verges beside country roads? Sometimes the verges are left so long as to be dangerous - obscuring vision.
- ◆ I think that the Council do a good job in maintaining grass etc however this good work is being undone by other council services. The waste men drive over the grass churning it continually. Please comment on how we can restore this area of grass.
- ◆ Cuttings left are thrown around by children making a terrible mess
- ◆ I think that in general, as far as I have noticed, that Babergh maintains the above satisfactorily. I however think that more emphasis should be placed on nature and conservation rather than tidiness.
- ◆ Grass is never cut properly more time and care needed.
- ◆ Cutting needs to be more carefully done!
- ◆ Think the area is generally well maintained - not over pruned, and sympathetic to rural area
- ◆ As we live out in the 'sticks' I have no informed opinions on this. I do visit the riverside park in Hadleigh with my grandson occasionally but not enough to pass an opinion. Sorry.
- ◆ Its very hard to define 'Council owned trees!'. I've personally trimmed trees at the top of Highlands Road because they were overhanging the Post Box and causing an obstruction for the users!
- ◆ Have had difficulty using paths on London Road, Copdock due to overhanging hedgerows and trees.
- ◆ I think the village is generally well maintained.
- ◆ The grass bordering the field near our home appears to be just a hospital for stinging nettles rather than wild flowers. This regularly obstructs the pavement. Therefore the verge needs to be trimmed at the edge more frequently.
- ◆ The tree directly outside my house isn't only causing a mess with dropping leaves obstructing light to my son's bedroom but I have had my guttering replaced and this is now being discoloured.
- ◆ Factory lane, Cattawade, Brantham along the public footpath this is not kept well cut and cleared. I often have to walk on the road with my 2 dogs. This stretch is between the vets and the scout and guide hut on the opposite side of the road.
- ◆ At the start of the season, the grass is excessively long and this causes a hazard to drivers. (Sight lines are well restricted). But once this is cut, you provide a good service. (And, how can you predict what week it starts growing). You can't win can you.
- ◆ Grass is cut to a satisfactory standard, but could be cut more often in Summer Season.
- ◆ The streets and pavements are left in a terrible condition after grass cutting. The grass areas look after cutting as if they are drying hay.
- ◆ From my personal experience branches were actually in contact with my property this was concerning as I am buying the property. Generally, I think the position of a lot of the trees is a problem, they are too near houses and pathways in a lot of cases, pathway surfaces have been effected making them uneven. I am not against trees on housing estates but the positioning needs more consideration.
- ◆ hedges - roadside - verges. Grown over paths forcing children and adults to walk on road.
- ◆ We are unable to comment at the moment as we have only recently moved to the area.
- ◆ The tree was not cut back sufficiently and is still too tall and causes a nuisance by shading.
- ◆ Road cleaning/sweeping does not match the heavy leaf fall and dead leaves remain in gutters for more than 8 weeks as as happening currently.

- ◆ When new trees are planted, I think the Council should consider planting fruit trees particularly in urban areas.
- ◆ Cannot something be done to avoid the more flooded areas.
- ◆ When you cut the grass. If the clippers could somehow be picked up by some mechanical means. Obviously I realise it all costs, but I'm sure it would look better for it and my kids wouldn't come home covered in grass.
- ◆ Re: grass cutting. Machine moving too fast so they miss a lot. Where machine can't get to staff don't return to cut around trees or posts. Around the boundary of Cock Fields, never gets cleared up and cut away dead wood. pathway from Cock Fields to Taylor Road each side is a small bank, never cut.
- ◆ Please note we have only been here since September 2002 and are therefore unable to comment.
- ◆ please spend public money on maintaining essential services, rather than prizes.
- ◆ I wonder if better value could be found by a County owned equipment and maintenance Division?
- ◆ perhaps occasional tree-planting could be considered particularly at Sproughton.
- ◆ I think that the Council maintains the parks and verges etc very well - no complaints.
- ◆ The grass outside my house me and a neighbour take it in turns to cut as it looks a right mess when the contractor does it so we tell him to leave it. The man at No.18 needs to be told not to park his car on the grass as it leaves ruts in it and there's a brand new bench there which cost £849.00 funded by Whatfield Community Council to keep our village looking nice.
- ◆ Sorry I don't get out enough to see what is happening as I am disabled and 85 years old.
- ◆ Where there are small areas of Council grass outside houses, it can't be cost effective to cut it several times a year. Would it be possible to agree with the householder that they cut it for you and every Autumn they get a voucher of some description.
- ◆ Very good with all issues. No problems at all. Help always given within 2 days.
- ◆ There are a lot of enormous trees around where I live, they are no longer attractive because they are neglected. One tree in particular right outside the front of my property has had root treatment in the past by yourselves. It is now very large and is spreading well into my garden and is hit regularly by passing high vehicles as it is spreading over the road. Could this tree in particular be controlled please?
- ◆ Grass cutting. On a small housing estate like mine would it be cheaper to let the people who live there cut the grass on a rota basis.
- ◆ As Bentley Tree Warden, I have been impressed by the helpfulness and response of BDC. As a botanist and one who is passionate with regard to the conservation of indigenous species, I again wish to compliment BDC on the help I have received in conserving roadside plant species. However, as I am sure you are aware, it requires individuals in their own Parishes to bring about a change. Perhaps more publicity re your willingness to listen and help would bring in more response from individuals in the BD.
- ◆ The only exception to grass maintenance is in Ansell Close, Hadleigh where my daughter lives. BDC wrote to all the residents requesting that they didn't park on the grass or if they did would incur the appropriate penalty. Apparently an empty threat! After visiting over the Xmas period and keeping to the footpaths my clothes and shoes were covered in mud. Please carry out your threats or retract. A response to this would be appreciated.
- ◆ The grass owned by the Council outside my house is always maintained well & I would say most of these areas in Hadleigh are maintained just as well.
- ◆ In our area we feel the verges always look respectable and they are always maintained to a good standard.
- ◆ The bank opposite Tesco is an eye sore. It is a bit over grown and always full of rubbish (on the main road).
- ◆ The hedging at the drift near Co-op sometimes needs a trim.
- ◆ As I live in Hintlesham & I have no idea which trees are Council owned & the only verges I see are alongside the road to Hadleigh I am afraid that I am not much use to you as a critic!
- ◆ As we have only been here for a year we have found that the contractors are very good at the work carried out and are very pleasant.

- ◆ Although I have ticked the 'yes' box in question 1, if it would save money I think it would be a good idea to leave some grass long for wild flowers.
- ◆ Although grass cuttings are not removed due to additional cost - would it not be feasible to have the cuttings swept off the pavements back into the grass verges at a lower cost? The cuttings can prove to be dangerous (i.e. slippery when wet) especially to the elderly.
- ◆ Grass and trees are less important than swimming pools. It is a disgrace that Babergh is considering closing Hadleigh swimming pool. It should be refurbished.
- ◆ The tree, large 'Horse Chestnut', on Stour Street car park. A family of Owls have been there for 20 years. The residents told the Council about this but still the so-called tree surgeon felled every branch on the tree and left just a stump. Gone are the Owls.
- ◆ As a relative newcomer to Long Melford. Friends and family are frequent visitors from the North, it is frequently mentioned how clean and well maintained the whole area is.
- ◆ In Brettenham the community pays directly and does not use any of Babergh's services so I have no knowledge of these matters in built up areas. Verges in county areas e.g. lower land, Brettenham left until 3ft high and very dangerous as vision is obscured by grass.
- ◆ I think Babergh do a good job on maintaining the green outside 25 Lindsey Avenue.
- ◆ The tree was dead and it was removed and was not replaced.
- ◆ Places like the park where children play during the Summer would be greatly improved if the grass cuttings were picked up. Places for wild grasses and flowers could be left for longer but would still need maintaining.
- ◆ I think that your performance on these matters is very good.
- ◆ How are you going to relate which areas the replies refer to when the address below is optional?
- ◆ Grass cutting. kerb opposite our property, it was agreed it was to be cut. It was once 3-4 years ago but now is left.
- ◆ Vandal has broken a newly planted tree.
- ◆ On the main a good job is done but grass cutting collection would help .
- ◆ I think Babergh do a grand job all round the only criticism is the amount of grass cuttings that are left after cut.
- ◆ I do sometimes feel the grass is cut when it is too wet.
- ◆ I have never seem them maintained.
- ◆ I would rather you spend more money on the Arts.
- ◆ In Holbrook we have relatively few grass areas as such, but some very fine old trees in these areas. It would be well to continue to maintain both of these resources at least in the manner they are at present. These are very important both to the environment and to the multitude of wildlife, especially birds, that are found on them.
- ◆ Many problems could be avoided if the ivy was killed off as it eventually smothers so many trees. They die and a dead tree is always hazardous. It upsets me to see so many trees with masses of ivy all over them.
- ◆ Two trees have died and have been removed from the square we live in, and not replaced, it would be nice to actually have those replaced to improve the look of the area. There is also a tree by the garages which is also dying and requires attention.
- ◆ I think the Council do a good job with the money available to them we lived in Sudbury 38 years and always found it is a clean and well kept place to live.
- ◆ Wants the Sycamore tree on the green trimmed back as there is only 1 light to cover 11 houses.
- ◆ I know it is not entirely related but maintenance of road sides and ditches is virtually non-existent. With this weather (rain) many of the roads are flooded and flood gardens and houses as a result - more should be done to maintained ditches to cater for the water.
- ◆ Have lived in Elmsett since September, what I have seen is acceptable everywhere looks together and tidy.

- ◆ Referring back to question 2, grass cuttings would look better collected off the grass and make these areas look tidier as they are outside the BDC offices.
- ◆ It would help to leave the verges cut higher than usual as it makes driving very dangerous in the Spring time.
- ◆ As I do not live where there is any grass but I walk everywhere and it seems very good.
- ◆ The grass is kept short and the hedges are kept tidy. Well done!
- ◆ A sycamore tree planted on the green has outgrown the area and there is only 1 street light and when the leaves are on the tree the area is in darkness. The leaves that dropped last October are still embedded in the road as no road sweeper has been round!
- ◆ I feel the hedges could be cut twice a year as they are very fast growing and do hang over the footpaths.
- ◆ I have a tree which stands about 14 ft from my lounge window, it is getting larger every year and my room is dark all year round and I find clearing the leaves difficult as I am 83 years old. I would like the tree removed if possible and I find it depressing seeing the tree fill my view from the window.
- ◆ I think the Council should review some of the preservation orders on trees now that their selling has changed.
- ◆ Some 5/6 years ago there were 4 damaged and dead trees on the Eastern End of this road, covered mainly by children. Babergh agreed to replaced the trees but this was not done until May the following year. The 4 saplings, put in the ground without any water at a time of intense heat without any rainfall for about 6 weeks. Although for the first 4 weeks I watered them with many gallons of water a day I went on holiday and when I returned 2 weeks later they had died. I spoke to Babergh again and we got 3 more trees which are surviving.
- ◆ Attention needs to be given to overhanging hedges on Melford Road which are reducing the width of footpaths particularly to the north of Tarantella Hotel towards A131/A134 roundabout.
- ◆ The additional cost of collecting up cuttings would be money well spent to improve the appearance of the green areas. In Southgate Green, Long Melford the areas frequently look like cut fields as the grass is not cut often enough. The dead leaves littering the area have not been collected since the Autumn 2002.
- ◆ Removal of leaves during Autumn and early Winter would be of benefit for both traffic and pedestrians.
- ◆ Stricter policies should be enforced on home owners who let trees and shrubs obstruct pathways, garages, gardens etc.
- ◆ I find the stretch Holbrook to Preston Crossroads needs cutting more often as the long grass on the numerous bends tends to obscure vision for drivers, making it difficult to see the road far enough ahead for safety. Also on some back lanes of the Shotley peninsular need cutting more frequently i.e. Holbrook, Stutton, Bentley & Tattingstone.
- ◆ We will contact you in the future when your tree requires attention.
- ◆ I have contacted the Council about overgrown pathways.
- ◆ Footpaths. I understand the Council is responsible for the state of the footpaths which runs alongside my property, known locally as the 'Locket'. If this is the case I would be grateful if the weeds could be kept under control - particularly by the use of weedkillers.
- ◆ Here and there the vandals are busy destroying trees but iron protection outside the Sudbury Town Hall has solved this problem.
- ◆ Those of us who live outside the towns are very badly served. The lanes are covered in gravel and earth from crumbling banks - hedgerows are overgrown, protruding into the road and obscuring vision. When farm tractors are working the roads are covered in thick mud for weeks. The local farmer does nothing now in the way of maintenance. All I get for my council tax is a weekly refuse collection.
- ◆ Verge at entrance to Nonsuch Meadow, Sudbury not maintained at all. Also pathway between Bullocks Lane and Friars Street filthy.

- ◆ I am very pleased to see so many trees around Hadleigh especially along the river walks. Thank you for all the work done to make the walk along the river bank, so delightful. Its a joy to walk among the trees and sit on the apparatus provided to leisurely rest and enjoy the scenery around.
- ◆ new trees are planted (I presume at some expense) and are then allowed to regress.
- ◆ As we live in such a poor mannered society. It would be more cost-effective when planting new trees to plant larger/older ones that are less easily vandalised. it might also be wise to plant trees/bushes that are prickly and repellent.
- ◆ Being disabled, I am unable to walk around the village and therefore cannot comment on these issues. Sorry
- ◆ the grass is not cut very good at all. I have timed them and they cut and blow the grass around and are gone in 10 mins that is how house looks a mess.
- ◆ The hedge mainly along Vicarage Lane drops leaves which blow onto the pavement making it very dangerous to walk on. Its also very difficult to see where the pavement actually is due to so many leaves as they are just left to rot away.
- ◆ The people do a very good job
- ◆ pavements newly tarred - weedkiller required, how about a blitz on safe routes for cyclists to Sudbury Middle & Upper.
- ◆ The 3 young trees on the Green at Temple Pattle have lost their guards and one tree was vandalised 2 years ago. The grass is well maintained, but a collection of grass per season would not go amiss.
- ◆ Enquired some years ago and informed it would be seen to but I didn't chase it up so I will ring again.
- ◆ there are quite a few places where leaf stems stick out where there are footpaths. There is a danger of a pedestrian getting eye injuries. There has been no complaint from me in the past.
- ◆ If the grass was cut more often there would not be the large amounts of grass left laying around to be either thrown around by the children or blown around by the wind besides the amount of grass the contractors spread everywhere. The contractors have no pride in there work what so ever.
- ◆ Trees and grass areas near Kenball House very satisfactorily maintained.
- ◆ A piece of land on Waldingfield Road, Chilton was compulsorily purchased by you outside 'Hilltop' bungalow. It was at first cut by the owner but then given over to the Council to do. A couple of years ago I complained to the Town Hall and they sent men to deal with it. It hasn't been touched since. It is extremely unsightly and very costly on weed killer in the gardens of the bungalows opposite. They are not wild flowers they are weeds!
- ◆ Our hedge has recently been cut down to 2 meters thin which leaves us quite exposed even in Summer. Would you please let our hedge along the Sudbury road be allowed to grow to 3-4 meters to restore our privacy.
- ◆ Although generally grass areas are well maintained the contractors tend to rush the job and leave edges uncut and cuttings at side of road. Shrubs in particular are regularly and well pruned.
- ◆ Long grass, plants and uncut hedges on verges, or close to verges obscure the vision of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. Sometimes roundabouts and exits should be given more attention.
- ◆ But too much cat/dog mess!
- ◆ I feel that the bushes behind Focus DIY Store need more maintenance as they always overgrow onto the footpath, creating a haven for rats.
- ◆ We have lived here for 30 years so can remember when the shrub beds were better maintained. There were 3 trees on the green in our square one died then we lost one in the great storm of 1988 and neither has been replaced. I think another 1 or 2 would enhance and add interest as long as they were light and airy.
- ◆ I do not know the name of the woman I spoke to at the Council but she was indifferent to the point of rudeness. The Council tree has stained the white wall of the house and is resting on the roof tiles of number 1 Brands Cottages (Church Street) I live at No.7 and take care of No.1 when the owners are away.

- ◆ Bush growing round the door of house in Church Street, Sudbury is taking up a lot of the pavement at least half. Please do something about this.
- ◆ regards grass cutting the only real problem is that cut grass is not collected therefore it blows about the paths and road making it very untidy. The trees and shrubs on the greensward are better maintained than previous have known the prunes shrub on the front green to be pruned just before blooming. Regards trees, some could be cut back. I think the flowers in the town have looked really good the past 2 years.
- ◆ A tree planted a few years ago has now grown too big for size of green. I think it was wrong when planted it should be replaced with a tree the same size as the others.
- ◆ Would like to see some Buddleias in our square to block view of main footpath that runs from Potkilm Road to Poplar Shops.
- ◆ Grass cutting contractors could take more professional approach towards work done. Often areas are left looking untidy with excess cut grass left behind. Looks very untidy until grown over or cuttings blown away.
- ◆ The only time I feel negative about grass that has been cut is when there is a lot of rubbish in the grass and this gets chopped up and looks really ugly. I feel this looks worse than long grass. If the area is clear of litter I don't find it wrong to leave grass cuttings.

7 February 2003