

**Amendment to Motion B: Keeping West Oxfordshire Safe and Tidy – Proposed by Councillor Dan Levy, Seconded by Councillor Andrew Prosser.**

Words removed in ~~strikethrough~~ text

Words added in **red** text

~~Over the last couple of years, we continue to witness a lack of grass cutting and weeding across Witney and West Oxfordshire. Re-wilding has been used as an excuse for this, when really our pavements are becoming unsafe for those walking and cycling, with weeds ultimately leading to the paths breaking up and generally towns becoming untidy.~~

For a considerable period, local government has been starved of resources by central government that would have permitted it to deliver the level of services that West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) would want, in particular for resurfacing and maintaining roads and paths. This includes grass cutting and foliage trimming services to ensure that pathways don't become unsafe for those walking and cycling.

There are suitable areas across the Town and District where wildflowers ~~could~~ **can** be **left to grow or** planted if our local authorities had the vision, **and other areas where** highway maintenance and safety should be the main focus ~~as the weeds growing from within our pavements will lead them to deteriorate quicker than usual, and the lack of cutting across some verges makes vision at junctions very poor for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.~~

**WODC works with Oxfordshire County Council and with Parish and Town Councils to ensure that verge and hedge cutting is done effectively and appropriately.**

Council Resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to:

1. Write to Oxfordshire County Council requesting that **the County Council publicise their grass and hedge cutting policies and ensure that they are complied with in practice and that the County Council keep these policies under review.**
  - ~~• The Council review their grass cutting policies to include:-~~
  - ~~• Cutting grass verges at junctions more regularly;~~
  - ~~• Cutting grass verges one meter between the carriageway and the rest of the verge.~~
2. ~~Ensure that the Council works with Witney Town Council/Oxfordshire County Council to develop a weeding policy so:~~
  - ~~• There is regular maintenance on pavements, kerbs and drains so that fewer potholes are created;~~
  - ~~• Kerbs do not break away from the pavement;~~
  - ~~• Our District can look tidy and we see an improvement in our street scene.~~

2. Write to each parish and town council with an outline of the WODC grass cutting policy.
3. ~~Request that~~ Ask officers to bring forward proposals ~~to the Executive~~ as part of the budget process for ~~to providing the Climate and Biodiversity Team with~~ funding for the planting of ~~to ensure we see more~~ wildflower meadows within West Oxfordshire in appropriate areas.
4. Ask officers to review WODC's policies on a regular basis and ensure that those areas for which WODC is responsible are cut in line with WODC's policies.

**If the amendment is agreed, the motion would read:**

For a considerable period, local government has been starved of resources by central government that would have permitted it to deliver the level of services that West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) would want, in particular for resurfacing and maintaining roads and paths. This includes grass cutting and foliage trimming services to ensure that pathways don't become unsafe for those walking and cycling.

There are suitable areas across the District where wildflowers can be left to grow or planted, and other areas where highway maintenance and safety should be the main focus.

WODC works with Oxfordshire County Council and with Parish and Town Councils to ensure that verge and hedge cutting is done effectively and appropriately.

Council Resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to:

1. Write to Oxfordshire County Council requesting that the County Council publicise their grass and hedge cutting policies and ensure that they are complied with in practice and that the County Council keep these policies under review.
2. Write to each parish and town council with an outline of the WODC grass cutting policy.
2. Ask officers to bring forward proposals as part of the budget process to provide funding for the planting of wildflower meadows within West Oxfordshire.
3. Ask officers to review WODC's policies on a regular basis and ensure that those areas for which WODC is responsible are cut in line with WODC's policies.