

Internal Committee 12th October 2020

Hedge Trimming attachment for Tractor

This issue was considered a while ago but rejected at the time because it was difficult to find a trimmer suited to the old tractor which had a very limited capacity for attachments. Storage was also an issue. The new tractor has no such restrictions and will take heavier duty attachments.

Hedge trimming is a large part of the caretaker scheme and we have many of our own hedges which require attention regularly.

Currently, when there is a big job required (such as the recent cut-back of the Bowls Club hedge) we call in an outside contractor. The Bowls Club hedge cutback cost £2800

The end-of-season cut back for all hedges around the town in our care is also undertaken by contractors at a price of £3,250.

Throughout the bird nesting season minor trims are done to the hedges and shrub beds. These are currently carried out using hand-held trimmers. This is very time-consuming and involves a clear-up operation after the trim.

An automated attachment for the tractor would both trim and mulch the clippings in a fraction of the time. No clear up is required as the environmentally friendly clippings remain at the base of the hedge acting as a mulch.

It would allow us to keep all hedges and shrubs looking good throughout the year. The labour time involved in doing the end-of-season cutback would be more than compensated by the time savings against the use of hand-held tools.

The following machines are available from Lister Wilder

<https://wessexintl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/0674-WXI-CountryLine-Bro.pdf>

<https://www.ryetec.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Ryetec-SL420-SL320-Compact-Sidearm-Flail.pdf>

These machines are priced at £12334 and £12874 respectively

Alternatively, there is a lease plan costing £274 p.c.m. over 48 months with a £100 initial charge (total cost £13252)

The purchase break-even time would be 4 years based solely on the end-of-season cut and lot shorter period if additional major cuts are required. The lease payment would be roughly equivalent to one end-of-season cut p.a. The advantage of having the equipment available full time is considerable.

Purchase price from Lister Wilder at the end of the lease term would be £2500. Purchase price from Lister Wilder at the end of the lease term would be £2500 (in the case of outright purchase on day 1, the equipment would already belong to TTC). The council would have the option at that point to enter into a new lease agreement for years 5-8.

Proposal: That the council should consider either a leasing arrangement or outright purchase for the hedge trimmer (should this be approved by the External Committee.)



Phil Burgess
Town Clerk

Impact on Crime and Disorder : None
Impact on Bio-diversity : Beneficial
Budgetary Impact : Not budgeted but favourable