

## Urban grass cutting comparison

Contractor	Notes	Contract price	Comments	Contract price minus £1845, ESCC agreed contribution)	Calculated price per cut
ESCC	2 free cuts	£ 3,690.00	If BTC take on all cuts ESCC will pay £1845 for 2 required cuts	£3690.00	£922.50
Countrymans		£ 5,932.50	6 cuts 1 ride on mower, 2 strimmer operatives + blower. Any additional cuts £988.75	£4,087.50	£988.75
Countrywide		£ 5,400.00		£3,555.00	£900.00
BTC		£10,391.08	2 <sup>nd</sup> hand equipment and training are effectively one-off costs £9,999.08 Insurance for mower (approx.) £392	£8,546.08	

For Battle Town Council to undertake contract

Below is an extract from the Contract with East Sussex Highways regarding the requirement of the Contractor;

The [Parish/Town] Council will only receive the Purchase Order referred to in clause 5.2 once all evidence is provided to the County Council. The following documents must be provided:

- 5.3.1 evidence of staff training and qualifications in traffic management including signing and guarding;
- 5.3.2 evidence of staff training and qualifications in the safe use of machinery; 5.3.3 the formal contract with the [Parish/Town] Council's Contractor for provision of the Works;
- 5.3.4 evidence that the required insurances referred to in clause 7 are properly in place, adequate and valid;
- 5.3.5 A health and safety policy;
- 5.3.6 Risk assessments for carrying out verge cutting on the highway; and
- 5.3.7 Method Statements for carrying out verge cutting on the highway.

### Training

2 members of staff already have some previous experience of working on the highway so only a one day Signing, Lighting & Guarding session would be required – currently £165 per head, valid for 5 years.

1 member of staff would require initial operative training, this is a 2 day course currently £265

A supervisor is also required, as a novice the training would be the same as the novice operative but with

a slightly different module.

$$2 \times £165 + 2 \times £265 = \text{£860}$$

Someone can train to be supervisor and operative but they cannot fulfil the roles at the same time or take the training on the same day.

Courses are in Folkestone; travel expenses (3 days @ £46.36 per day to one staff member) **£139.08**

**Equipment** – Grounds staff advise an out front ride on mower is required.

Estimated high-end cost for second hand machine, staff advise this should last for up to 10 years with regular maintenance and servicing **£9,000**

A quote for new equipment is being sought prior to the meeting.

The mower will require registration to be on the highway. Rye Town Council have advised this was not straightforward and have offered to provide information on how to go about this. Costs for registration are being sought although if a second hand machine has been previously registered we would just need to transfer ownership.

As the mower will be road registered it can be driven between sites and there is space available to keep it at the recreation ground workshop.

Blowers & trimmers for clearing and edging are already in the equipment inventory, there may be a slight increase in trimmer line but this is not thought to be significant.

### **Insurance**

The Town Council already has Public & Employers liability insurance for £10,000,000 cover.

The new equipment would require insurance to be on the highway, without specific details the price adjustment is an estimate and is £392.00 based on a machine with £9,000 value.

Total insurance increase **£392.00**

### **Total estimated costs of training, mower and insurance £10,391.08**

The benefits of this option is the flexibility to undertake grass cutting when appropriate. The mower would also be used in other areas that we currently use a contractor which would make an **annual saving of approximately £2,075.**

There is a **New machinery Ear Marked Reserve at £6,214**, there is also a current annual for **tools and equipment (for smaller items eg hedge cutters) of £1750**. The staff have not identified any additional requirements for equipment.

**This year's budget for ESCC grass cutting is £2,707.**

Staff have indicated that, although the grass cutting season is busy, the larger equipment would allow for other tasks to be more time efficient and are confident that this could be undertaken. The grounds staff are happy to undertake the training required.