

**COMMITTEE:** EAST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 28TH SEPTEMBER 2006

**SUBJECT:** PETITION - MAINTENANCE OF GRASS AREAS -  
ABBOTS COURT FLATS

**REPORT BY:** HEAD OF STREET SERVICES

**CONTACT OFFICER:** BARRY TIMMS 546702

**IMPLICATIONS:**

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY	
EQUALITIES		ENVIRONMENT	
FINANCIAL	✓	CONSULTATIONS	✓
STAFFING		OTHER	

**WARDS AFFECTED:**

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**PURPOSE**

- 1 The purpose of this report is for Members to decide on what action to take in response to a petition received from residents living in Abbots court flats.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2 EAST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE is recommended to approve the installation of the gate, which will allow access for the larger machines to improve the quality of the grass surface.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 3 A petition has been received from 7 residents of Abbots Court flats regarding the poor maintenance of the grass to the rear of the flats.

The petition details are as follows:

### **Re: Maintenance of Grass Areas at Abbots Court Flats**

The tenants of the above property wish to express their concerns regarding the deterioration of care by your employees when cutting/clearing grass from lawned areas to the rear and front of the properties.

### **Cutting of Grass**

This is carried out in a haphazard manner, leaving many areas uncut and the re-growth worse than ever. We feel that the use of a strimmer in such a large areas is causing much of the problem.

### **Clearing/disposal of cuttings**

Abandoning the waste grass cuttings where they drop is extremely untidy and detrimental to the re-growth of the grass. On the public footpaths it is very messy, being trodden into homes and becomes dangerous when wet and slippery. The question also arises regarding the council policies on the disposal of garden waste as you do provide brown bins for that purpose which your employees are unwilling to use.

## **REPORT**

- 4 Following receipt of this petition Mr Timms the Parks manager met with residents on site to investigate how this matter can be resolved
- 5 The grass areas at the front of the flats are cut using the larger machines giving a superior finish. As access to the rear of the flats is only through a normal width gateway this area is cut using a strimmer. Strimming grass gives a poor finish and throws the grass in many directions including onto pathways etc.
- 6 The solution proposed at the site meeting was to install a 2m wide gate, which would permit the larger machines access to the rear of the property allowing for an improved grass finish

### **PROPOSAL/OPTION**

- 7 Members are asked to accept the recommendation or suggest an alternative approach

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8 There are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed with the relevant solicitor in Legal Services on 14 September 2006.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9 The Borough Housing department pay for the maintenance of the area surrounding the flats and contact has been made with this department who have agreed to pay for the cost of the installing the gate.

The estimate for the works is £ 755. Agreed by the departmental Finance manager on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

### **CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS**

- 10 Mr. Timms, the Parks Manager, has met with the residents on site who are keen to see an improvement to the conditions of the grass in their area.

### **APPENDIX**

- 11 There are no appendices.

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

- 12 There are no background papers.