

PROPOSAL RE VERGE CUTTING IN 2026/27
TO SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
17 NOVEMBER 2025

Background

East Sussex County Council (“ESCC”) have the legal responsibility to cut the verges within the urban areas of the parish twice per annum.

Historically, we have paid ESCC to carry out an additional four cuts per annum. This cost the Parish £2,143.32 (£535.83 per additional cut) for the current year.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting on 18th November 2024 that I would “investigate the details/areas included with a view to obtaining quotes to consider self-delivery for 2026/27”.

Self-Delivery

Parishes are allowed to self-deliver the cutting of urban verges only. (i.e. not rural verges). Many other Parishes in East Sussex currently do this.

If Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council (“S&RPC”) undertake self-delivery, our contractor needs to be approved by ESCC; our proposal is to use a current contractor who cuts the grass on the bank opposite Judges, and therefore already has the necessary qualifications, insurances and approval.

Why Self-Delivery?

The benefits of self-delivery are mainly environmental but may also save some cost: -

- The Parish can determine **when** the cuts take place – thereby avoiding critical times of the year when verges should not be cut e.g. May. Guidance on the best times to cut verges can be referenced in Plantlife’s Managing Grassland Road Verges – A Best Practice Guide. (if you are interested, I can provide you with a copy).
- The Parish can determine **which** verges are cut more frequently than the minimum two times per annum. Some urban verges may need to be cut more frequently than twice per annum for road management and traffic safety reasons. Others may only need to be cut twice per annum because local residents will maintain the verges (e.g. Oakland Drive, Lower Langham Road).

- The Parish can **react** faster to any local issues. Highways put their schedule in place at the start of the season and pretty much stick to it without variation.
- The Parish is more **in control** of the work undertaken locally, including **greater use of local contractors**, rather than being dependent on ESCC.

Highways Offer for 2026/27

Highways offer for 2026/27 is: -

- Standard – two cuts carried out by ESCC free of charge; or
- Extra cuts – payment of £2,783.77 to ESCC for six cuts i.e. £695.94 per extra cut; or
- Self Delivery – ESCC to pay to S&RPC £1,391.89 in lieu of the two cuts (i.e. £695.94 per cut)

Proposal

It is proposed to S&RPC that:

- a) We elect to self deliver in 2026/27.
- b) Parish Clerk obtains a written quote for the delivery by a local contractor of the two cuts (as per attached schedule and map).
- c) Parish Clerk works with the contractor to ensure that all necessary documentation required by ESCC is in place by 28th February 2026, so that the first cut may take place in March/April.
- d) Cllr Todd and Parish Clerk work with contractor to agree the number and timings of the cuts by area (based on attached schedule and map). Results and final costings to be presented to PCM in Q1, 2026.

Link to the East Sussex Highways grass cutting map: [Highway Grass and Wildlife Verges](#)

Cllr David Todd

Parish Clerk

11 November 2025

Urban Verge Cutting

1	Brightling Road between Oakland Drive and Ludpit Lane
2	Oakland Drive
3	Brightling Road between Oakland Drive and Hackwood
4	Hackwood
5	Brightling Road between Hackwood and level crossing
6	Knelle Road
7	Lower Langham Road
8	Bellhurst Road
9	Station Road - between level crossing and station (North side)
10	Bishop's Lane between Heathfield Gardens and George Hill
11	Heathfield Garden from junction w/ Bishop's Lane to George Hill
12	George Hill (west side)
13	Fair Lane
14	Fayre Meadow (part environmental cut)
15	Clappers (from end of High Street to stream)
16	Old Northbridge Street (past "Plumtree")
17	Church Lane from roundabout to junction w/Coronation Cottages (North side)
18	Church Lane from roundabout to junction w/Coronation Cottages (South side)
19	Coronation Cottages
20	Rotherview