

Agenda item no.	15.b.
Report to	Burwash Parish Council (BPC)
Subject	Urban Cuts Contract
From	The Clerk

Summary

It was agreed in November 2018 that BPC would take ownership of the urban cuts throughout the Parish. The Clerk has been supplied with maps of the Parish where these cuts would take place and are marked in red. These are available in the meeting reports section of the Burwash Parish Council website. Once these red areas have been agreed a tender needs to go out to find a suitable contractor. Please note that due to health and safety matters the rural cuts will still be carried out by East Sussex County Council (ESCC).

Since agreeing this Rother District Council (RDC) have offered again to pay for the additional four urban cuts as ESCC will only do 2 a year now. The Clerk has enquired if these additional funds will go to Parish Councils that resolve to take the urban cuts in-house rather than ESCC continue to do them. It has been agreed in principle by the Executive Director at RDC that this will be the case but until this is confirmed at cabinet in February it is not a guarantee.

Tender Process

It is proposed that a notice goes out within the village, to any known local contractors, the local papers and a paper such as the Observer to advertise for the work. Once Councillors have confirmed the areas as per the maps given by ESCC these maps will be the basis of the tender.

A tender document will be drawn up to be put to Council for February's meeting. This will give details on:

1. The proposed areas to cut
2. Regularity of the cuts (some areas may require cutting more regularly than others)
3. Expectations of the process – grass around the trees, no use of pesticides, removal of cuttings etc.

Conclusion

If Councillors agree with the above the Clerk would suggest that Hornbeam is also included in the tender process as this is currently cut by City Escapes and there is no formal contract. It is likely that if this is included it would work out far more cost effective for one organisation to do all the cuts for BPC. All contracts should also be reviewed at least every 3/4 years to ensure ongoing value for money is being achieved.

It is assumed for now that the cutting of the grass along the High Street and the grass outside the huts will be managed by the Handyperson unless the people applying for the tender are able to demonstrate that they can do this more cost effectively. A lawn mower will have to be used for these areas.

Resolution(s)

Councillors are asked to resolve the following:

1. The outline tender process as per the report including the advertising of the tender.
2. To agree the areas outlined in red as per the maps received by ESCC and identify any missing or incorrectly marked areas before the January meeting.
3. Councillors to identify any additional areas/work they wish to include in the tender ie. any hedge cutting required?
4. Identify a minimum of two Councillors to work with the Clerk on drafting the tender ready for the February full council meeting.