

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Environment Committee

5 June 2013

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE – SITE ASSESSMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS**Report by the Depute Director (Environment)**

This report seeks approval on specific issues arising from the consultation process to rationalise Grounds Maintenance services to meet approved revenue budget savings.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Parks and open spaces managed by Perth and Kinross Council add to the quality of life of residents in the area and enhance the visitor experience. The Council maintains approximately 1,800 sites. These differ greatly in size, character and the facilities they offer. They range from parks of regional significance such as MacRosty Park in Crieff to war memorials, burial grounds, and small local greenspaces in housing estates.
- 1.2 At the Special Council Meeting on 17 February 2011, it was agreed to save £166,000 in the Grounds Maintenance revenue budget. This saving was a reduction in the Grounds Maintenance workforce by 8 full time equivalent (FTE) posts which has been achieved through vacancy management. In order to achieve these savings, it was agreed at the Environment Committee on 8 June 2011 (Report No. 11/308), that a site review and assessment would be undertaken to achieve the following:
 - (a) Identify if there are opportunities to either reduce maintenance on sites under Council ownership that are graded as 'local' importance in terms of the asset hierarchy, or transfer responsibility for maintenance to other parties.
 - (b) For sites which the Council does not own, options would include the maintenance being handed back to the land owner, or the community; continue maintaining, with a charge applied to the owner; ceasing maintenance operations altogether; or the Council continuing to maintain the site.
- 1.3 At Environment Committee on 23 November 2011 (Report No. 11/587), the committee agreed to further proposals, including to:
 - (a) engage with owners of sites which the Council maintains but does not own, to identify whether the owners would be prepared to take on maintenance themselves, or pay for the service.
 - (b) enter into discussion with Housing and Community Care and Tenants and Residents Federation, to seek agreement of a consistent level of grounds maintenance for Council housing areas.

- (c) engage with local communities at settlements where the Council maintains the verge approaches, to identify opportunities to amend the frequency of maintenance of these verges, to move to a more consistent service.
 - (d) remove shrub areas from sites classified as 'local importance', unless the shrubs contribute to screening, biodiversity, aesthetic value, or there is no saving gain from their removal.
 - (e) Review maintenance frequencies for sites with a 'local' classification.
- 1.4 It was subsequently recognised that such a large scale review of so many sites would not be completed during 2011/12. As a result, the reduced level of service during Summer 2012 was met by focussing priorities on maintaining large open spaces (serviced by tractors and 'ride on' mowers) to existing standards, with reductions in service to site margins, (normally maintained with pedestrian mowers and strimmers), both in terms of grass cutting and weed control. This resulted in a considerable number of complaints about maintenance standards (50% increase in complaints compared to the previous year), and difficulties for the crews in knowing what services to cease and what to continue.
- 1.5 The review and consultation has allowed a planned and prioritised approach to where the savings and reduction in maintenance could be made. The review has now been completed, including a 5 week consultation process with elected members, MSP and MPs, Community Councils, local Bloom Groups, other Community Groups, landowners and the wider public (through media releases and public displays at libraries and community campuses.) A summary of consultation responses and proposed actions is included in Appendix 1.
- 1.6 In relation to item (b) in section 1.3, regarding carrying out grounds maintenance on Council Housing land, the majority of Council Housing does not receive any grounds maintenance for their front gardens, or for communal shared spaces such as rear drying areas. However this is not the case across all areas, where some properties receive a fortnightly service. The Head of Housing and Strategic Commissioning accepts that, in view of the required savings to Grounds Maintenance, we need to provide a consistent level of service, by stopping grounds maintenance to those Council properties which currently receive a higher level of service. Community Greenspace Officers have attended the North Muirton Community Council meetings on two occasions (as this is the area with the greatest number of affected properties) to discuss these proposals. A letter has been sent to Council Housing tenants who currently receive this higher level of service to advise that from this season onwards, the Council will no longer be providing this fortnightly Grounds Maintenance service. Vulnerable tenants will be able to access the garden maintenance scheme, operated by Housing & Community Care, to have their grass and hedges cut.

- 1.7 In North Muirton, the Council also currently provides a fortnightly Grounds Maintenance service to the areas of land at the front of some former Council housing properties, which are now in private ownership. These front garden areas were not sold at the time, along with the rest of property. The owners have also been written to, advising that this fortnightly service will cease. It is proposed that if the owners of these houses wish to purchase the land in front of their property, the Council would be prepared to consider this. This will require approval of Scottish Ministers as the land is on the Housing Revenue Account. It will also require an individual conveyance transaction and planning permission for a change of use.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 Cease Maintaining Certain Areas of Non Council Owned Land – an investigation has been undertaken into sites which the Council maintains but does not own, or have some type of agreement or lease for. Approximately 150 of these sites have been identified so far for further investigation in terms of value as public open space. Further investigations are ongoing in relation to other sites which might fall into this category, and it is proposed that the approach outlined in this report is followed with these other sites if these are not owned by the Council.
- 2.2 If it can be identified that the Council has a legal requirement to maintain the land, it will continue to do so. However, if not, it is proposed to withdraw maintenance at the earliest possible opportunity from these areas of land which the Council does not own. Details of the sites are provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Maintaining Settlement Approaches - the Council currently cuts the grass on the approaches to the 30 mph signs on a fortnightly basis, to 18 of the 60 settlements in Perth and Kinross. It is recognised that a well maintained approach to a settlement enhances its appeal. This is particularly important to settlements which rely significantly on tourist visitors. Representation has been made by certain communities, during the consultation stage, about the importance of maintaining these verges (see Appendix 2). However this has to be balanced with the resources available. Therefore it is proposed that officers develop an objective criteria for assessing those settlements which should have the approaches maintained beyond the 30mph signs. This criteria will be based on population and visitor numbers, with the proposal that, for those settlements which meet the criteria, maintenance will continue on the verge approaches beyond the 30mph signs.
- 2.4 Shrub Areas – replacing shrubs in lower priority local areas with grassed land, will deliver the savings. It is proposed to implement this reduction in accordance with Section 1.3 (d) above, except as otherwise indicated, following consultation detailed in Appendix 3.
- 2.5 Council Owned Sites with Low Amenity Value – The Council maintains around 850 small scale local amenity sites. Some of these sites are in areas where it is considered very little community benefit is derived from their continued

maintenance. It is proposed that these sites will receive a lower level of maintenance, except where the Committee agrees to pursue an alternative course of action, following representation from the consultation process (see Appendix 4).

- 2.6 Implementing these changes will require a continuing investment in staff time in terms of engagement with landowners, community groups and other Services. There will also be the need to resolve legal titles and ownership, as well as redesigning areas such as parkland and shrub beds.
- 2.7 Should this approach be approved by Committee, the reduction in maintenance will commence immediately with withdrawal from sites and removal of shrub beds phased to suit the sites and assist with handover. This will ensure that the remaining Grounds Maintenance capacity is prioritised to maintaining the areas of greenspace considered most valuable to residents, and visitors to Perth and Kinross.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The proposals detailed in this report will reprioritise Grounds Maintenance operations in a way which achieves budgeted savings, whilst minimising the impact on the most important areas of greenspace in our community, such as public parks of regional significance. The Committee is asked to agree to the following to be implemented from the date of the decision:
 - (a) To conclude engagement with owners of sites which the Council maintains but does not own, to cease maintenance as quickly as reasonably possible, unless there is an obligation on the Council to provide such maintenance.
 - (b) To develop an objective criteria to determine the frequency of verge maintenance beyond the 30mph limits and to limit to one cut per annum the service to settlements which do not meet the relevant criteria.
 - (c) To replace shrubs in lower priority local areas.
 - (d) Reduce maintenance operations and frequencies on sites with a 'local' classification, except in cases where consultation comments have been received (see Appendix 4), and are accepted by the Committee.
 - (e) To agree with officers' recommended action, in response to representations made during the consultation process (see Appendices 1-4).

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Date 10 May 2013		

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The undernoted table should be completed for all reports. Where the answer is 'yes', the relevant section(s) should also be completed

Strategic Implications	Yes
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	Yes
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement by reducing the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013 – 2018 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:
- i. Giving every child the best start in life;
 - ii. Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
 - iii. Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
 - iv. Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
 - v. Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report contributes to objective (v).

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The proposals in this report will allow the reprioritisation of Grounds Maintenance activities, to achieve the budgeted revenue saving of £166,000 per annum identified at the Special Council Meeting on 17 February 2011. This saving was the reduction of the workforce by 8 full time equivalent (FTE) posts in Grounds Maintenance, which has been achieved through vacancy management. The Head of Finance has been consulted, and has indicated agreement with the proposals.

Workforce

- 2.2 The proposals in this report have no workforce implications, as the staff reductions have been achieved by vacancy management.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 The proposals in this report have land and property implications as part of the proposals seek to reduce the number of assets where the Council provides a grounds maintenance service. This should reduce the liabilities and costs on the Council, by reducing the number of assets it maintains.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- i) Assessed as relevant with the following positive outcome:
 - If reductions to service occur to Council housing areas, vulnerable tenants will be able to apply to the Council's Garden Maintenance Scheme.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.
- 3.5 The proposals have been assessed in terms of the requirements to manage the Council's Greenspace assets in a sustainable long term way. In addition the removal of assets such as shrub beds have been assessed in terms of their function as habitat. Whilst there will be detrimental effects on the appearance of some local areas receiving a lower standard of grounds maintenance, this allows the areas of more importance to communities and the overall environmental quality of Perth and Kinross to be maintained to an appropriate standard.

Legal and Governance

- 3.6 The Head of Finance, Head of Democratic Services and Head of Legal Services have been consulted. The proposals will have legal implications in terms of site ownership and maintenance obligations. The Council's Legal Team will work closely with officers from Community Greenspace on all changes to sites where this applies.

Risk

- 3.7 There are reputational risks to the Council of reducing maintenance in areas of public open space for which the Council has responsibility. This will require officers to continue to communicate effectively to ensure grounds maintenance resources are prioritised to areas of greatest community benefit.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal Services, the Head of Community Care, the Head of Housing and Strategic Commissioning and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report. The proposals to the Leaders Meeting were presented on 25 February 2013 and a pre-consultation was undertaken in February/March 2013 with all local members.

External

- 4.2 On 25 February 2013 a presentation was made by officers, regarding the proposals to the Take A Pride in Perthshire Association representing the areas Bloom Committee.
- 4.3 Discussions and letters were sent to key landowners including Pitlochry Theatre, Fairfield Housing Association and Caledonian Housing Association in mid March.
- 4.4 Letters sent to all Community Councils and Bloom Groups on 22 March 2013. A consultation period for the general public ran between 22 March and 5 April 2013 where plans and information were put on the PKC website and paper copies in the Community Campuses and Pullar House.
- 4.5 Officers attended two North Muirton Community Council meetings in March and April to discuss these proposals.

5. Communication

- 5.1 There will be an ongoing process of consulting with the land owners, community groups and general public to advise on the changes and guide those wishing to do more for themselves. The type of communication will depend on the sites and issues and will be tailored to suit the circumstances.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:-

- Report to the Environment Committee on 8 June 2011, entitled Grounds Maintenance Site Assessments and Asset Management, Report Number (11/308)
- Report to the Environment Committee on 23 November 2011, entitled Grounds Maintenance Site Assessments and Asset Management Proposals, Report Number (11/587)

3. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Summary of Consultation responses – sites Council maintains but does not own.
- Appendix 2: Summary of Consultation responses – maintaining settlement approaches
- Appendix 3: Summary of Consultation responses – shrub areas
- Appendix 4: Summary of Consultation responses – reducing maintenance of local sites

Consultation Responses

Sites the Council Maintains but Does Not Own

Site Name	Comments	Proposed Actions
FESTIVAL THEATRE, PITLOCHRY	Accepted removal of maintenance	Implement as per Committee recommendation
DUAL CARRIAGEWAY DUNKELD ROAD, MUIRTON	None of the garages have responded to raise any objections. Second letter sent giving 7 days notice, still no response.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
CUDDIES GRAVE BOWERSWELL, PERTH	Sign has been put on site. No response indicating who the land may belong to.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
CURFEW ROW, PERTH	Sign has been put on site. No response indicating who the land may belong to.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
KEITHBANK/RIVERSIDE DRIVE, RATTRAY	Not owned by potential landowner, no further leads.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
STORE STREET STANLEY	There has been an email from Caledonia Housing saying they do not own this site. Been advised Hillcrest Housing letter has been sent out awaiting response	Implement as per Committee recommendation
DUNDEE ROAD, MEIGLE	Accepted removal of maintenance	Implement as per Committee recommendation
CAIRNLEITH PLACE, ALYTH	Adjacent residents have disputed removal of maintenance as PKC have always maintained this.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
REAR OF CAIRNLEITH PLACE, ALYTH	Disputed removal - as there has been comments made that this is classed as common land.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
CHERRYBANK GROVE OAKBANK, PERTH	Accepted removal of maintenance	Implement as per Committee recommendation
MARLEFIELD GROVE TIBBERMORE	GS Brown confirmed they are looking for the adoption to still take place.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
MANSE ROAD, BRACO	Sign has been put on site. No response indicating who the land may belong to.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
CHIMNEY HILL RIGHT OF WAY, BLAIRGOWRIE	Sign has been put on site. No response indicating who the land may belong to.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
STORMONT ROAD TO MURRAY ROAD, SCONE	Mansfield estates replied that they are not sure if they own this site or not. No further leads.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
GOSHEN ROAD TO MURRAYSHALL ROAD, SCONE	Mansfield Estates confirm they own this site.	Implement as per Committee recommendation

Site Name	Comments	Proposed Actions
KIRKBYND, DUNNING	Sign has been put on site. Have tried a couple of leads - unable to find the landowner	Implement as per Committee recommendation
PICNIC AREA, BRACO	Written to 2 potential landowners - owner not found	Implement as per Committee recommendation
MOUNT TABOR AVENUE/CORSIE ROAD, BOWERSWELL, PERTH	Sign has been put on site. No response indicating who the land may belong to.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
3 PATHS MAIN STREET BANKFOOT	Mansfield Estate confirm they don't on site, no other leads	Implement as per Committee recommendation
JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE PATH INVERGOWRIE	Plan sent, no further correspondence received.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
THORN ALLEY, COUPAR ANGUS	Sign has been put on site. No response indicating who the land may belong to.	Implement as per Committee recommendation
MILKBOY'S WALK, SCONE/PERTH	No response	Implement as per Committee recommendation
ST. SERF'S ROAD, CROOK OF DEVON	A and J Stephen are confirming they do not own site. They have passed it on to all householders when they bought the	Implement as per Committee recommendation
QUEENSFERRY ROAD-BISHOP'S BRIDGE, MUTHILL	No response	Implement as per Committee recommendation
BRANKLYN GARDEN CAR PARK BOWERSWELL, PERTH	Email has been received , concerns they cannot maintain area themselves. Thinks that the garden area maybe owned by	Implement as per Committee recommendation
Right of Way to Glencarse, St Madoes	No response	Implement as per Committee recommendation
BURN WALK, DUNNING	No response	Implement as per Committee recommendation
GREENS, KINROSSIE	Landowner wrote back, thinks its valuable space for public use and pointed out that we don't own the Church or playground	Implement as per Committee recommendation
DYSART BRAE, PITLOCHRY	Sign has been put on site. No response indicating who the land may belong to.	Remove bench and implement Committee recommendation
MUIRTON REGENERATION PHASE 1	No response	Write again, if no response implement Committee recommendation
FAIRFIELD TULLOCH	Meeting held with Chief Exec of Fairfield Housing on Wednesday 17 April 2013. Outcome of meeting was to seek legal advice and will put further letter in to PKC regarding ownerships etc	Await evidence of agreement, if no evidence then implement Committee recommendation.

Site Name	Comments	Proposed Actions
BOWERSWELL HOMES. PERTH	Bowerswell think there is an agreement but have not yet provided evidence	Meeting to be arranged to discuss future arrangements. If no evidence of agreement implement Committee recommendation
BERRYDALE/SMITHFIELD ROAD, BLAIRGOWRIE	No response	Write again, if no response implement Committee recommendation unless title is transferred and commuted sum paid. Pursue through PKC adoption
BARRATTS HOUSING INCHTURE	No response	Implement Committee recommendation unless title is transferred and commuted sum paid. Pursue through PKC adoption process.
NEWTON TERRACE/EMMA TERRACE, BLAIRGOWRIE	Sign placed on site to find owner, Resident have confirmed that it is either MacPherson of Newton Castle or A and J Stephen	Implement as per Committee recommendation after writing to possible owners
SMA'GLEN CAR PARK CRIEFF.	Owners would like to discuss way forward, site upgrade carried out by Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust but failed to reach an agreement which was economically viable	Meeting to be arranged to discuss future arrangements if no viable arrangement achieved implement Committee recommendation
ROSAMUNDE PILCHER DRIVE, LONGFORGAN	No response	Maintain as road verge as the road is adopted. Implement Committee recommendation for all other maintenance unless title is transferred and commuted sum paid. Pursue through PKC adoption
STANLEY HILL, DUNKELD	Letter received to request discussion, there may be agreements regarding the public convenience and car park	Meeting to be arranged to discuss future arrangements
DOUGLAS BRIDGE, RATTRAY	Sign has been put on site. No response indicating who the land may belong to.	Maintain as road verge as the road is adopted.
THE CUILC, PITLOCHRY	Letter issued, not Atholl Estates	Further letter to be sent out to Cluniemhor Estates to find out if they own this site.
OAKBANK ROAD OAKBANK, PERTH	Letter written to local resident re some of area. Some will be a responsibility through roads adoption process	Maintain as road verge as the road is adopted.
COMMON, KETTINS	Have letter from Hallyburton Estate Trust confirming ownership for Kettins Village, looking to offer long term lease	Meeting to be arranged to discuss future arrangements

Site Name	Comments	Proposed Actions
OUTSIDE POLICE STATION LONGFORGAN	Bear Scotland confirmed they do not own area, no further leads.	Maintain as road verge
BEHIND OF CAR PARK AREA, DUNKELD	The national trust emailed the following - There is an existing lease between the Trust and the Tayside Regional Council (taken over by PKC I assume) covering most of the area shown in your plan that runs until 2043.	Meeting to be arranged to discuss future arrangements
HOSPITAL ENTRANCE, MEIGLE	Owner confirmed he would cut it if it required further cuts.	Maintain as road verge
HUNTERS CROFT-HILLEND WEST, PERTH	Correspondence relating that there is evidence needs further investigation as no records found.	Thornton's may have details, Adjacent homeowners interested in maintaining and possibly purchasing.
CORONATION WALK, SCONE	Not the Kinnoull Estate Trust, they have pointed us in the direction of Gannochy Trust. Also the Mansfield Estate confirmed they did not own this site.	Reduce maintenance but retain access to Woodland Park.
TREE BACK LANE/ROAD, MEIGLE	Checked with Property Services, several owners of this lane, also active cemetery along this road. Correspondence received stating this was for access to cemetery	Maintain as road verge
CUDDIE'S STRIP PEDESTRIAN RIGHT OF WAY, OAKBANK, PERTH	Sign has been put on site. No response indicating who the land may belong to.	Maintain as right of way with weed control and litter collection as per other footpaths
GREEN ROAD - COUPAR ANGUS ROAD, BALBEGGIE	Contact received from adjacent homeowner stating that we will maintain this path.	Maintain as right of way with weed control and litter collection as per other footpaths but not cut the hedges which belong to the properties.
FOOTPATH WINDSOR TERRACE TO MONCRIEFFE TERRACE, PERTH	Email has come in confirming that the owner is possibly Moncrieffe of Moncrieffe?	Maintain as right of way with weed control and litter collection as per other footpaths

Consultation Responses

Appendix 2

Maintaining Settlement Approaches	Location	Comments*
Contact		
member of public		Perth Resident thinks will take away from attractiveness of Perth
Comrie in Colour	Comrie	Concerns regarding reduced maintenance, looking for detailed information on what exact reduction at the Comrie sites are taking place - some of the reductions include verges.
Blair Atholl Tourism Association	Blair Atholl	Strongly objecting to reduction in verge maintenance at south entrance to Blair Atholl that stretches to the Bridge of Tilt entrance, concerns re tourism
Pitlochry in Bloom (copy of PIB plan attached)	Pitlochry	Reporting the following concerns regarding going to annual verge cutting, as the following 3 sites have expensive cairns to welcome tourists and all 3 sites contain daffodils
Pitlochry in Bloom (copy of PIB plan attached)	Pitlochry	Site 1 - this is at the lay-by and picnic area at Kinnaird
Pitlochry in Bloom (copy of PIB plan attached)	Pitlochry	Site 2 - this is at a lay-by that shows an iconic view of the Dam (this is classed as 3 left on PIB plan
Pitlochry in Bloom (copy of PIB plan attached)	Pitlochry	Site 3 - the last one is near the railway line inside the 30mph limit
Pitlochry in Bloom	Pitlochry	Area 6 - Bank below Scout Hut, (East Moulin Road). This area is a steep banking that PKC Operations have been unable to cut and has required a contractor to cut. Yellow rattle planted to make a wildflower area as we could not cut the banking safely.
Pitlochry in Bloom (copy of PIB plan attached)	Pitlochry	Area 10 - entrance Dysart Brae Cemetery - they would be concerned if this verge was reduced to once a year as there is a bench and a floral barrel on this site.
member of public	Blair Atholl	General concern over verges and the impact on tourism
Fossway Community Council	Crook of Devon, Powmill	General concern over verges.
Pitlochry and Moulin Community Council	Pitlochry	Concern over reduction in maintenance on approaches and the effect on civic pride
Mr Gordon Banks MP	General area	Concern over reduction in maintenance on approaches and the economic impact
Portmoak Community Council	Wester Balgeddie	Concern over maintenance as a road verge as this is used by walkers, The CC request that we reconsider as a reduced maintenance site
Beautiful Perth	Broxden Perth	The committee request that we time the cut for judging or would like o investigate how they can engage a contractor to carry out an additional cut.
Burrelton and District Community Council	Burrelton & Kinrossie	Concern over road safety in particular with sight lines
Blairgowrie and Rattray in Bloom		Not cutting the grass from the junction of Golf Course Rd to 30mph sign will leave three beds , one containing a drystone dyke, planted and cared for by the group looking untended and hide them from view. We have already agreed the grassing over of two beds and removal of Rowan trees in the area to help cut costs but feel withdrawal of grass cutting in this area will detract from the approach to the town. This area is also the entry to the Ardblair settlement and one of the entrances to the prestigious Rosemount settlement.
	Blairgowrie	

Consultation Responses Shrub Areas

Appendix 3

From	Comments	Proposed actions
Abernethy Resident - Sutherland Crescent, Abernethy	Resident was looking to confirm what was reduced maintenance and what was removal. Wants trees kept	PKC confirmed no plans to remove trees
Beautiful Perth	Concern about removal of shrubs at Blackfriars, the committee think this is an important location	This is not all the shrubs, just one bed and should not have a visual impact.
Blairgowrie Resident	Objecting to reduction in maintenance outside their home in Woodlands Park, Blairgowrie	Still intend to remove
Member of public	Not happy with removal of shrub bed in Morlich Mews	No plants in bed. Intend to remove
Member of public	Not happy with removal of shrub bed in Morlich Mews	No plants in bed. Intend to remove
Morlich Place, Kinross	Disagreeing with PKC plans to remove shrub bed	No plants in bed. Intend to remove
Pitlochry in Bloom	Area 8 - garden area in front of library and Registrars, many wedding take place here. The carpet bed has not been planted for the last 2 years, and an estimate to plant was given £6500. PIB confirms that this would be a saving. PKC confirms that this would be a saving to the planting budget but not anything the GM budget. Again mentioning the impact on tourism.	Will change categorisation and keep current maintenance regime
Pitlochry in Bloom	Area 9 - PIB Alpine Bed - looked after a resident at the moment, there is a proposed Upland development, if this happens can the shrubs be moved to a empty bed. This would be PIB and PKC working together on this.	Not owned by PKC, seats installed. They could be moved to the carpet bed at the area office
South Perth Greenspace Group	Willing to adopt shrub bed on Glenearn Road but general concern over biodiversity	Needs shrubs removed prior to community group taking over.

Consultation Responses
Reducing Maintenance to Local Sites

Appendix 4

From	Comments	Proposed Actions
Pitlochry in Bloom	Reducing maintenance in the Play Park at West Moulin Road does not understand how we can reduce maintenance on the grass cutting and play area inspections.	PKC confirm there will be no reduction in play equipment inspections.
Resident of Burnbank Meadows, Kinross	Looking to purchase the land, if not looking to offer assistance	Accept offer of assistance to maintain.
St Madoes Resident	Looking for further clarification but feels grass cutting has to be done a min of every 2 weeks	Reduced maintenance to be implemented
Abernethy Community Council	No major concerns as long as the villages are kept tidy	Reduced maintenance to be implemented
Member of public	Request to retain short grass at Viewlands Reservoir	Implement larger area of long grass, wet site difficult to cut.
Member of public	Request to keep maintaining Station Road/ Ochill View to high standard	Ceasing box mowing and fortnightly cutting of Bear Scotland's land
Dunning Community Council	Request for a higher standard of maintenance	Meeting required to take forward volunteer group. Recommend PKC apply reduced maintenance
Beautiful Perth	Oakbank Place/ Cherrybank Road, committee have requested a review of this location	The majority of this site is of local importance, suggest we split the plots to reflect the importance of the display located here and proceed with reduced maintenance on the rest of the site.
Beautiful Perth	Letham, Newhouse Road, concern over reductions here.	Implement reductions, this will mean ceasing strimming around lampposts, bins etc.
Beautiful Perth	Edinburgh Road, concern raised over increase in litter through reduced maintenance	Grass shall still be cut regularly, strimming ceased and reduced shrub bed maintenance
Braco and Greenloaning bloom group	May be willing to maintain the grass area of the new project between Braco Hall and Church, although they have queries over funding and payments	Pass to community group
Burrelton and District Community Council	Concern over reduced maintenance to shrub beds and increase in weeds	Only applicable to local sites, we need to be consistent. Apply reduced maintenance regime

From	Comments	Proposed Actions
Ketkins Parish Community Council	Considering where they can assist but request that we ensure appropriate maintenance of the war memorial	We intend to maintain the war memorial to the current standard, but other areas on the same site will received reduced maintenance.
Blair in Bloom	Concern over Rattray Common. This is an area of deprivation and the plan to reduce the cutting to paths through the Common , which is the main entrance to Ferguson Park, and adjacent to the local school would make the park look neglected. It is also the main Greenspace in Rattray. Perhaps leaving a grass border round the trees would be more acceptable.	This area is not used as amenity space, we would recommend implementation of this action
Burrelton and District Community Council	Concerns re reduced shrub bed maintenance.	We need to apply a consistent level of maintenance.
Comrie in Colour	Concerns regarding reduced maintenance	We need to apply a consistent level of maintenance.
Mr Gordon Banks MP	Concern over reduction in maintenance of shrub beds	We need to apply a consistent level of maintenance.
Pitlochry and Moulin Community Council	Concern over reduction in maintenance for shrub beds on local sites and the economic impact	We need to apply a consistent level of maintenance.
Pitlochry in Bloom	Area 4 on the PIB map (industrial estate area) - saying the area contains a shrub bed they maintain, area has daffodils so they are wanting to have regular maintenance/grass cuts.	We need to apply a consistent level of maintenance. This will not affect grass cutting.
Pitlochry in Bloom	Area 5 - this is a banking, PIB confirm we have not cut this area for a while.	No change to current regime, just formalising current standards. This is to the banking being to steep to cut this has been confirmed by Highland Operations team.
Pitlochry in Bloom	Area 7 - banking will not have been cut due to being too steep. PIB would be concerned if the shrub bed and grass was not maintained in this area as they think it is a beautiful shrubbed and part-screens the railway line.	No change to the current regime