



**APLM 2016**

**Grounds Maintenance**



# What is the service

- Grass cutting
- Tree cutting
- Emptying litter and dog waste bins
- Playground inspection
- Street sweeping
- Shrub/Tree Maintenance

# Which Parishes are affected

- All parishes are affected in some way
- HDC maintains 204 Open spaces from small pieces of land to recreation grounds, closed church yards, cemeteries.
- Parishes also maintain open spaces
- Developers/Management companies also undertake this type of work

# How is it provided

- HDCs contractor, FCC deliver this service
- Some parishes maintain own open space through precept
  - Independently
  - Through clustering
  - Using HDC contractor

# Parish Case Study – Grass cutting

Thurnby & Bushby; Scraftoft, Houghton and Stoughton Parish Councils are working together to provide services at the lowest possible cost for a greener environment.

They started proactively talking to each other and decided to join forces and procure their grass cutting services as a cluster. Tom Grozdoski from Stoughton Parish Council put together a basic memorandum of understanding to determine responsibilities of each parish. They went out to tender and evaluated quotations based on a scoring system. They received more competitive pricing than if they had gone out individually.



# Parish Options

- Parishes procure services from HDC or other organisation
- Parishes cluster with neighbouring parishes to benefit from economies of scale
- Managed by Residents
  
- All may have benefits or issues;
  - Price
  - Quality of Service
  - Regular Scheduled work
  - Parish dictate frequency

# Developing HDC offer to parishes

- HDC provides small scale work for parishes
  - Grass cutting
  - Play area Inspections RoSPA inspections and weekly inspections by qualified persons
  - Sports ground works, pitch marking , path repairs
  - Hedge Cutting/shrub maintenance
  - Mechanical Sweeping
  - Water course inspections

# HDC Offer

- Large scale contractor providing;
  - Good Quality Service
  - Consistent
  - Available to deal with emergencies
  - Reliable
  - Fixed price
  - Larger economies drive down costs
  - Resilience
  - Health & Safety Risk Assessments provided, ensuring works undertaken safely
  - Weekly play area equipment inspections by a qualified inspector



# HDC Offer

- If Parishes cluster, ability to provide cost reductions over single contracts
- **Helps parish meet all its duties as a land owner**
- HDC will provide assistance with development of specification, eg no. of cuts to provide a bespoke service
- HDC will need full information of all sites owned

# Key issues

- Parish Control
- We can help
- Work individually or collectively
  
- How to ensure grounds maintenance is value for money, sustainable and responsive to local needs?
  
- Working with parishes (and developers) to maintain new open spaces.
  
- How grounds maintenance should be funded – local precept, special expense or current service through main contract.
  
- HDC could transfer open spaces to parishes