

## **Notes Regarding Grass Verge (Housing and Highways) Cutting**

The UK has experienced both the wettest and warmest December since records began as well as seeing higher than average temperatures and high rainfall levels over the winter.

This means that the grass in Leeds has continued to slowly grow throughout the winter and ground water levels are very high, leading to dense lush grass on some sites that will be difficult to access with mowing equipment.

The council's contractors started grass mowing on Monday 7th March and will attempt to follow normal routes around the city to prevent grass becoming too long.

Ground conditions will be assessed by mowing staff before any attempt to access sites. Operational staff will be instructed to withdraw if there is an apparent safety issue (machine slipping) or if the machine is causing damage to the surface.

All verges and large grass areas which can be accessed without damage will be cut as normal with appropriate machinery and to their full extent. Where access is problematic, grass will be cut to one/two mower widths against footpaths (conditions permitting) with a pedestrian mower. All cuttings will be directed back onto the grass areas and not onto paths and roads.

Those large areas which cannot be accessed will receive a peripheral cut to demonstrate ongoing maintenance and to ensure minimised impact on adjacent footpaths; however the remainder of the site will be left un-mown until conditions improve. Strimmers will be used to address long grass along fence lines and around obstacles with operatives instructed to prevent cuttings being directed towards paths.