

a. Urban Grass Cutting Options 2026/27

For info – HDPC have always chosen option 1 in the past.

Dear Hadlow Down Parish Council,

I am writing in relation to the urban grass cutting service for 2026/27. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is continuing to offer the same options as last year and would be grateful if you could let us know which option your Council would like to choose for the 2026/27 season.

Options

Option 1 - Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

Option 2 – Extra cuts: Town/Parish Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. This would cost the Parish Council a total of **£711.90** for the year.

Option 3 – Self delivery: Town/Parish Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting within the Town/Parish's urban area. ESCC would pay the Parish Council the sum of **£355.95** to cover the 2 cuts they would have been providing in other options.

It should be noted that any contractor employed must be suitably competent, qualified, and insured to work safely on the highway, evidence of which must be supplied to ESCC. We also request an agreement to be signed between ESCC and the Town Council if you opt to self-deliver. Further details are available in the attached document.

Cost Changes

As you are aware we have been gradually increasing the cost of the grass cutting and will continue to do so over the next 3 years to reflect the increased cost of the grass cutting service to the County Council. The below table states the cost increase over the next 3 years. The top line of the table states how much it costs ESCC to undertake the works, the middle line is what we will be charging local authorities per SQM and the bottom line is what we will be charging the Town/Parish council per cut for the next 3 years. Please note this is worst-case scenario where inflation runs at 5%. Please note these figures are based on the forecast SQM area for your Town/Parish for 2026/27. These figures are subject to change once the maps have been finalised at the beginning of each year.

	2026-27	2027-28
	£	£
Cost to ESCC (forecast assuming 5% inflation)	0.066	
Charge-out rate (30% increase per annum initially to catch up with actual cost)	0.053	0.069
Per cut-Hadlow Down Parish Council	£177.97	£231.70

Grass Cutting Maps

You can now access the current [grass cutting maps online here](#). Please note these maps are subject to change until all updates from this year have been finalised in January.

I would be grateful if you could indicate which option your Council would like to choose by **28th November 2025**. Please be aware that if we have not heard back by this date, we will default to Option 1 – two standard cuts.