

**Councillor Saghir Alam – Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe
and Clean Communities**

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
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22nd July 2024

Councillor Drew Tarmey
Elected Member

Via email: drew.tarmey@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Tarmey

Question at Council – Wednesday 17th July 2024

Thank you for the question you submitted to the Council meeting on 17th July 2024, which I have set out below along with my response:

Grass cutting and shrub/tree maintenance across Anston and Woodsetts has not been carried out properly in recent months. Does the council have a plan to ensure that appropriate resources are put back into maintaining green spaces in the south of the borough?

I can advise that the weather has had a significant impact on grass cutting operations this year due to very wet conditions and accelerated grass growth in between cuts, which means it takes longer to cut the grass. Resources have not been taken out of this service, in fact we have invested in recent years to increase the provisions within this service, and we have a plan to continue to drive improvement through enhanced IT systems, better customer and ward Councilor contact and improved monitoring and equipment.

All shrub beds are maintained on an annual basis between October and March as part of the winter works programme, unless additional works form part of a contract.

Tree maintenance is not cyclical. Tree maintenance is largely responsive in relation to specific concerns and once work is identified it is prioritised according to risk. We have worked hard to reduce the backlog of works in this area, so if there are specific concerns I would encourage you to report these to the service.

If there are any shrubs that are reported to be affecting the safety of the highway, they are attended to within 5 working days.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Saghir Alam OBE
Boston Castle Ward
Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities