APPENDIX 2 - Summary of cutting schedule for each maintenance approach

The current grass cutting schedule includes:

- 'High quality' grass – weekly cut in summer (with x2 winter cut)
- Amenity grass – Cut every 2 to 3 wees (with x2 winter cut) – no collection of cuttings
- Verges – x4 summer cuts - no collection of cuttings
- Pitches – weekly cut during season – no collection of cuttings
- Informal/Biodiversity – cut as required – bramble/rough grassland

The proposed grass cutting schedule is as follows:

Approach	Operation	Proposed cutting schedule	Notes
Regular amenity cut	Short grass Suitable for recreation areas (play areas, kickabout areas, pitches), and where short grass is required for aesthetic purposes	Cut weekly-fortnightly during season for pitches (if needed) Elsewhere, cut every 2 weeks during summer (flexible - more regularly if needed or reduced if a particularly dry period) 2 x winter cut if necessary	Areas with bulbs left until after June/6 weeks after flowering
Edged long grass cut and collect	Grass left to grow long to favour longer growing flowering species. Suitable for areas around edges of sites where no recreation use/benefit	Annual (Aug) or biannual (spring and late summer/early autumn) cut and collection of arisings A more regularly (4 weekly) cut 1m edge/framing strip Paths cut through on 4 weekly basis as/if required	Removal of arisings will gradually reduce fertility and amount of arisings May require some scarifying and sowing of yellow-rattle
Newly sown wildflower areas	Areas subject to turning of top soil, levelling, rolling and wildflower seeded. Preference for perennial where possible, with use of annual only where instant colour is required	1st year establishment If seed mix includes cornfield annuals/yellow rattle, cut from late June/mid-July cutting to c.3 inches, removing cuttings, and repeat cuts to height of c.3 inches in first year whenever growth approaches 6 inches, roughly every 2 months If seed mix does not include cornfield annuals/yellow rattle, but is all perennial, then cut from spring to c.3 inches whenever growth approaches 6 inches in height (removing arisings), roughly every 2 months Subsequent years Spring cut (Feb-early April) Late summer/early autumn cut (mid July-end Sept)	Regular cutting in the first year is necessary to control the flush of annual weeds, and to encourage perennial flowers and grasses to make good root development Seed is allowed to set, and once cut, arisings are collected and removed

New tree planting	Includes standards and smaller whips Standards will have protection (typically mesh cages), with whips having spiral guards. Trees will be mulched, and cutting should not be undertaken near to the base of the tree to avoid damage and soil compaction. Protection, staking, ties, etc will be maintained as required	Areas around whip planting will generally be left as long grass – as far as possible cut as per 'edged long grass cut and collect' with regularly cut paths through the whip planting as/if appropriate. Planting of standards will typically be in areas where a relaxed cutting regime is to be implemented. In some cases new tree planting may be within regularly cut amenity grass, however a suitable buffer will be left around the base of trees to avoid damage. In the case of new orchard planting, efforts will be made to sow appropriate wildflower mixes below trees, managed as cut and collect.	Management of grass below trees will be case by case according to the aspirations for the site or part of the site.
Verge cut and collect	Will benefit quick and longer growing wildflowers, particularly once fertility if reduced	Four cuts per annum initially Aiming to reduce to 2 cuts after 2 or 3 years	Experience of other Local Authorities is that fertility and vigour of grass growth reduces significantly within a couple of years such that the number of cuts can reduce
Verge cut and drop	Continuation of an existing extensive GM layer approach	Typically four cuts per annum with no collection of arisings	Often strimmed verges or banks, where it is impractical (due to width or gradient) or of little benefit to collect arisings.
Informal	Continuation of existing GM layer approach (and incorporation of other GM layers such as 'biodiversity')	Typically areas of bramble that requires cutting from between a 1 to 3 year frequency	These areas are cut as required and commonly to prevent encroachment or 'scrubbing up'