

# PROPOSAL FORM FOR ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SCRUTINY

**Submitted by:**

Bruce de Saram-Non Committee Member

**Item for Consideration:**

Ensure that our green spaces are safe, welcoming and well managed and to protect our biodiversity.

**Expected outcome i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, review and/or scrutinise the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas:**

**Priority for matter to be considered:**

High (up to 3 months)

M

Medium (3-6 months)

Low (over 9

months). Basis on which priority has been set

**The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate)**

(a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control

b) It is a recently introduced policy, service area of activity which would be timely to review .

(c) It is a policy which has been running for some time and is due for review

(d) It is a major proposal for change

(e) It is an issue raised via complaints received

(f) It is an area of public concern

(g) It is an area of poor performance

(h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district

(i) Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?

- **Implement a Green Space Plan to ensure that our open space contributes towards the health and wellbeing of our communities.**

(j) Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?)

No but it does affect the reputation of the Council as the practice has been described as being "What a mess. The damage caused by soil compaction and smearing in these conditions causes significant harm to biodiversity."

**Members are requested to provide information on the following:-**

(k) What do you wish to achieve from the review?

Better Management of Grass Cutting policy in the District in line with the Green Space Plan and to protect biodiversity.

(l) Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?

Yes

(m) Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?

It will improve attention to detail when considering where and how to do Grass Cutting

**Additional information** – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked.

East Devon has some superb green spaces that everyone can be proud of. East Devon's green spaces are places where people can relax, enjoy nature, take children to play or take part in sport or recreation. They are essential for the health and well-being of the district. However, there is more that can be done to improve the quality of our green spaces so that more people can visit and enjoy them

- Ensure that our green spaces are safe, welcoming and well managed

**Issue which led to this being put forward for Scrutiny**

A team of council workers who sparked a 'mud bath' at a Sidmouth beauty spot have admitted an 'error of judgement', cutting grass on wet ground.

East Devon District Council ([EDDC](#)) said grass cutting carried out at the start of November at The Byes had been delayed by several weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic.

EDDC said it appreciated the grass at the Sidmouth riverside park 'looks a little unsightly' but assured the public it would quickly recover.

**Ultimately it was an error of judgement to cut the grass when it was so wet and that has been acknowledged by the team.**

**Monitoring officer comments:**

No specific comment to make.

**Please return completed form to Democratic Services.**