



**Oversight and Governance**

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Published 26 July 2024

## **MEMBERS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Friday 26 July 2024

## **Members' Written Questions**

I. **Vegetation Overgrown:**

**(Pages 3 - 4)**

**QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR**

**Question submitted by:** Councillor Terri Beer

**To Cabinet Member:** Councillor Tom Briars-Delve

**Question:** All over Plympton junctions are coping with overgrowth stopping vision onto busy roads. Areas set aside for leisure are so over grown that people can't sit on benches and pavements are covered in weeds and brambles hitting those who use disabled buggies and prams. Casework is full of reactive work and yet as one area that is the biggest in Plymouth for council tax we are the poor neighbours and neglected. Why is this happening? Why are we having to ask for these areas to be cut? When cutting takes place there is grass and weeds everywhere and no clearing up, why? Even some of our childrens play parks are over grown stopping children from playing out. The long grass is increasing heyfever and ticks. Residents are concerned about this so why is this allowed to happen?

**Response:** The Grounds team manage over 4.2 million square metres of green space across the city and the cleansing team manage 1700km of public roads and highway. It is a challenge to keep on top of vegetation management, particularly during the main summer months, but the teams are performing well following an investment made this year by the administration, which has funded 10 x extra members of frontline staff. We have also introduced a dedicated teams to provide a more frequent amenity cut within designated playparks and for Highways verges. To further bolster improvements to performance, we are in the process of investing in new cutting equipment, which we expect will be available towards the end of the season, providing significant benefits next year.

**Signed:**

**Dated:** 22 July 2024

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