



# Grounds Maintenance Visual Standards

October 2020

## **Overall standards**

The aim is for all sites to be at an acceptable or good level, working towards the good standard if not there already.

The in-house Grounds Maintenance team will follow a two weekly grass cutting schedule during April to September.

From October the winter maintenance programme will commence, where each site will get a planned visit before the end of March. On this visit all hedge work, shrub bed and site projects will be undertaken, before moving to the next site.

In order to monitor the standards, we aim to have regular inspections and monitoring of each site that receives a regular grounds maintenance service.

## **Good**

- ✓ Grass has been mown recently; all litter removed before being mown.
- ✓ Cuttings have been removed from pathways.
- ✓ Leaves have been removed from grass.
- ✓ Shrub beds are well maintained and free from weeds and litter.
- ✓ Hedges are tidy and will last until restrictions lifted.
- ✓ Hard edging and borders are well maintained.
- ✓ Care is taken by the team, to keep the communal areas to a high standard.

## **Acceptable**

- Grass has been mown within the two-week schedule but leaves are present.
- Hard edging needs to be done, when conditions allow.
- Hedges maintained but unable to cut due to birds nesting.
- Shrub beds maintained, few weeds present.
- Litter on grass since last scheduled cut.

## **Poor**

- × Grass is not litter picked before being mown.
- × Grass is long and outside the two weekly cutting schedule.
- × Leaves and grass cuttings are left on pathways.
- × Hedges are overgrown - cutting should take place between October to March. Failure to do this will result in overgrown hedges during summer months.
- × Shrub beds not maintained and untidily kept.
- × Hard edging not done.

## Grass cutting

### Good



- ✓ Grass has been recently mown.
- ✓ Leaves and litter have been removed.
- ✓ Cuttings have been removed from pathways.

### Acceptable

- Grass has been maintained recently and is now due for cutting.
- Selective weedkiller could be considered to reduce weed growth.





## Poor



- × Grass is overdue for cutting and has not been maintained for some time.
- × Site looks neglected.
- × Cut and collection needed on next visit.

## Shrub beds

### Good



- ✓ Shrub beds well maintained.
- ✓ Good display of flowers.

## Acceptable

- Work has started on preparing shrub bed.
- Re-planting required.
- Edges of shrub bed need defining.



## Poor



- × Shrub bed is very overgrown.
- × Little evidence of maintenance taking place.



## Hedges

### Good



- ✓ Hedges trimmed and well maintained.
- ✓ Site looks clean and tidy.

### Acceptable

- Hedge is due for cutting but not overhanging pathway.
- Winter maintenance was clearly undertaken.



## Poor



- × Hedge is overdue for cutting.
- × Has not been maintained for some time and is overhanging pathway.