



## **Grounds Maintenance Standards**

The standard achieved will differ on each site, dependent on the location and activities carried out. The standard to be achieved is that all sites will be clean, safe, tidy and well maintained, providing an attractive environment for the community.

### **Grass Cutting**

- Grass will be cut in communal areas once a fortnight between April and September.
- Cuttings will not normally be removed. Some sites may have the cuttings removed after the first cut in March, depending on the growth and if the cutting cycle exceeds 14 days.
- Areas will be litter picked before mowing takes place.
- Where bulbs are planted within grass areas, cutting will not take place until the plants have flowered and died down naturally after flowering.
- Grass cuttings will be swept or blown from footpaths after the section/area has been cut.

### **Hard Edging**

- Grass will be cut back in communal areas on edges of the adjacent footpaths or hard surface. This will take place once a year between October and March.

### **Shrub beds**

- Shrub beds will be maintained quarterly to ensure that they are kept neat and tidy and they are not overhanging or obstructing pathways, roads etc.
- Weeds and litter will be removed at every visit.

### **Hedges**

- Hedges will be cut once a year.
- Generally, hedges will not be cut between March and August. Exceptions include; the trimming of hedges to keep pathways and access areas clear. This is so minimum disturbance is caused to nesting birds in compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The frequency of grass cutting is scheduled to take place at equal intervals throughout the season. However, ground conditions, weather and specific demands may interrupt this programme from time to time.