



Highway Asset Management  
Highways & Transportation  
Environment Directorate  
County Hall,  
Northallerton  
DL7 8AH  
Tel: 01609 780780  
Email: [ham@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:ham@northyorks.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Our ref:** Urban Highway Grass Cutting

**Contact:** Iain Summerson

Dear parish / town clerk **Bradleys Both**

I am writing to update you on the arrangements for urban highway grass cutting in 2026. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parishes that have carried out highway grass cutting in recent years, your continued involvement is very much appreciated.

As with previous years the Council is offering a payment to Town and Parish Councils to undertake urban grass cutting on our behalf. This is for identified visibility locations within your parish area.

The areas of grass to be cut within your Parish are outlined in blue on our online grass cutting map which can be found on our website [www.northyorks.gov.uk/verges](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/verges)

Attached to this correspondence is some guidance on how to encourage biodiversity within highway verges. This has been developed in partnership with Plantlife and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and is primarily aimed at areas of verge that are not within the visibility cut area. If you are aiming to carry out a local project during 2026 or would like further information, please contact us at [HAM@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:HAM@northyorks.gov.uk)

#### **Urban grass cutting payments.**

For 2025/26 we will make payments in a similar way to this year and will supply a purchase order to your parish in summer 2026, so that you can invoice the Council. The rate that we will pay parish and town councils to cut urban highway grass in has been raised by 3.4% from 2025, and the rate for visibility areas will be 8.27p per m<sup>2</sup> for the 2026/27 financial year. The County Council will continue to fund five cuts per year.

Based on the rate of 8.27p per m<sup>2</sup>, the available funding for grass cutting of urban highway visibility splays to your parish will be **£135.02**

We would be grateful if you could please let us know if you would like to carry out grass cutting or not by emailing [HAM@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:HAM@northyorks.gov.uk) or by writing to us at the above address.

**Please remember to include the name of your parish in your response and to make your choice clear to prevent any unnecessary delays to the service.** To ensure efficient service planning it would be appreciated if you could respond no later than 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

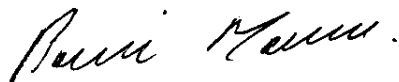
If we do not receive any notification from you by this date, or in Parishes where the town or parish council has decided that they do not wish to cut visibility grass in 2026, the Council will undertake five cuts of the visibility grass and no payment will be made to the town or parish council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your assistance in this matter.

**Further information**

If you have any further queries regarding urban highway grass cutting, please contact [HAM@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:HAM@northyorks.gov.uk)

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barrie Mason'.

Barrie Mason  
Assistant Director, Highways & Transportation