



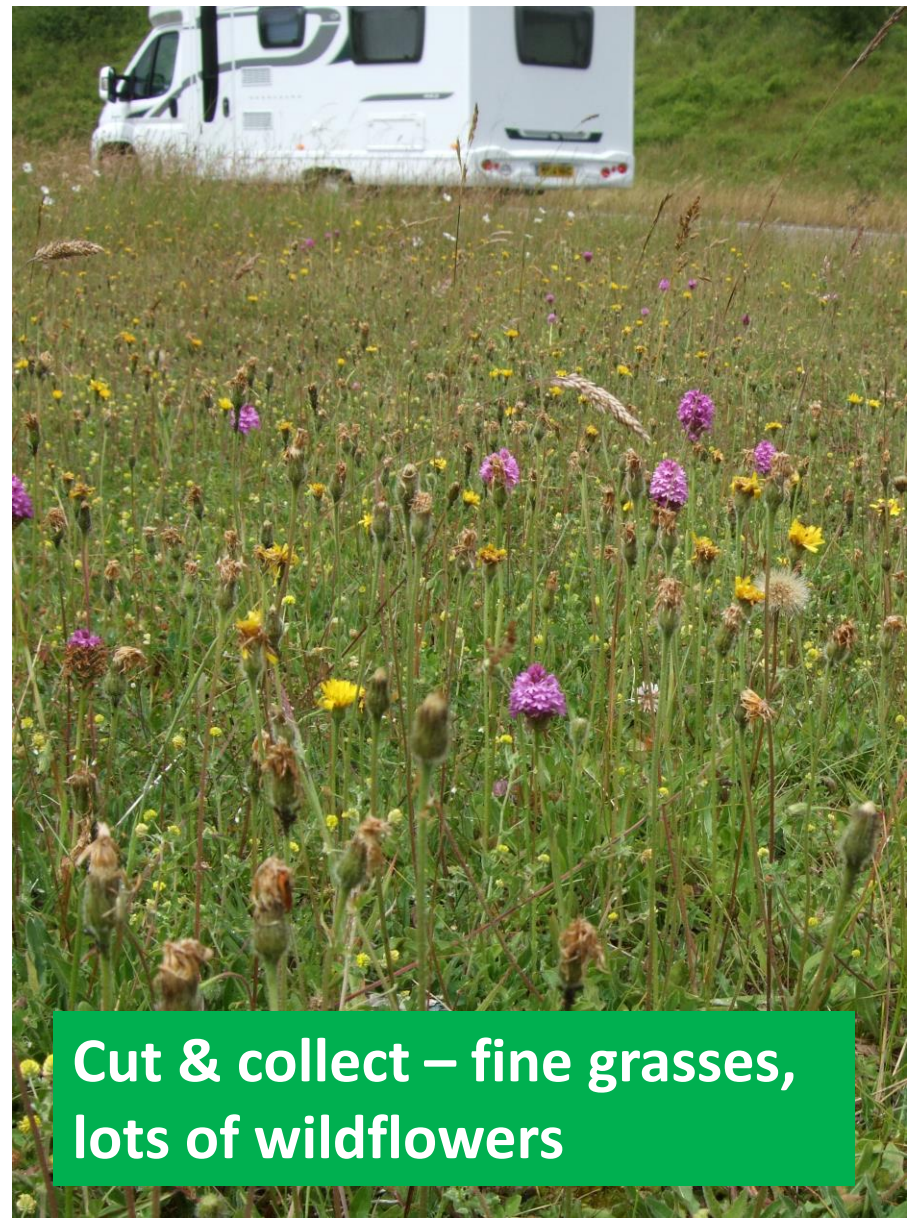
Giles Nicholson

Greenspace Management Team Leader,
Dorset County Council

Verge management - 2 systems



Mow & leave arisings – lots of coarse grasses, few wildflowers



Cut & collect – fine grasses, lots of wildflowers



The Low fertility system:

- reduces costs of mowing
- improves biodiversity
- improves landscape quality

Cut and collect in urban areas



Disposal on site





Disposal on site

Removal





Disposal close by



One of the Volunteer Army!

North Dorset verges cut by DCC staff – just 2x in 2018

Parish	Cut 1	Cut 2	Cut 3	Cut 4	Cut 5	Cut 6	Cut 7
Blandford Forum	20-5	1-10					
Blandford St Mary	25-5	20-10					
Bryanston	✓	30/10					
Cann Common	25/4	15/11					
Charlton Marshall	1-5	15/4					
Child Okeford	✓						
Durweston	/	24					
East stour	3/7	23/11					
Farnham	✓	22/11					
Fontmell Magna	✓	15/11					
Glanvils Wootton	27/3	15/11					
Hazelbury Bryan	✓	22/11					
Higher Ansty	✓	✓					
Holwell	27/3	22/11					
Iwerne Minster	24/4	15/11					
Lydlinch	✓						
Marnhull	25/4	23/11					
Milborne St Andrew	25/4	19-11					
Milton Abbas	25/4	19-11					
Motcombe	25/4	✓					
Okeford Fitzpaine	1/5						

Cut and collect in rural areas



Disposal on site



The results!
Topped once in 2017
Tall coarse grasses in June 2018



3 x cut & collect in 2017
Short fine grasses in June 2018

**Pyramidal Orchid has appeared on verge in
June 2018 following 3 x cut & collect in
2017**



County Wildlife Site for all urban verges in Blandford?

Urban verge in Blandford - cut just 2x in 2018



Yellow Rattle





A354 Blandford bypass – 1x cut-and-collect / yr & County Wildlife Site

Retrofitting low fertility





Litter is expensive to pick up by hand – staff and TM

Opportunity?

Litter is collected automatically with cut-and-collect



Outline business case for investing in urban cut-and-collect

- **Grillo mower + trailer = £35,700**
- **Area urban verge in North Dorset = 141,501m² @.26p/m² = £36,790.26/yr staff time.**
- **Cumulative saving in 1st 5 years = £36,790.50 as less & less grass to cut (est. @ 5% cost reduction/yr)**
- **By the end Year 5 maintenance reduced by 30% = £11,037.08/p.a. staff saving**
- **Life span of the mower + trailer 7 – 10 yrs.**
- **Conventional mowing and associated equipment produces no cost recovery at all, & ever increasing amounts of grass to cut**
- **Business case enhanced if cost of replacing conventional machinery can be included**

Take-home messages

- **Reducing fertility of existing grasslands saves money and delivers wildlife gains – win-win**
- **Disposal of arisings can be an issue, but solutions are easier than you may think**
- **Collection of litter with grass may be an advantage**
- **Dorset experience is that the business case approach is more effective than relying on moral persuasion**
- **Biodiversity gains are guaranteed because low fertility grassland ecosystems are intrinsically richer**