

Verges

Maintaining Shropshire's verges

November 2022

Andy Wilde

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Head of Highways since 2020

A Shropshire lad

Streetscene (green assets & street bins)

The Highway (Contracts , roads & signs)

Street works

Parking

Verges – The Asset

- Road network 3,206 miles - 17th largest out of 157 LA's
- Circa 5,000 miles of verge
- Circa 250,000 individual sites/sections of grass
- An historical, traditional approach to verge maintenance
- There is a mixed view within Shropshire across the communities about what our verge initiative may mean for and to them

Verge Maintenance – Contract

- In 2018 Shropshire Council let a sole supplier contract for verge maintenance which expires in 2025
- Since 2020 I have led the service working towards a “mixed economy” future that relies much less on one provider and more on a wider network of local providers, direct employment and communities
- Unusually we have managed to agree this with the existing provider`s support but I need to be mindful of the contractual and commercial implications and continue to negotiate well
- We are working collaboratively right now on the future service model with our streetscene colleagues who lead and maintain our verges

Verge Maintenance – The good news

- The service shares your ambition for our verges
- We have clear, measurable & active political and administrative support at the very highest levels.
- Our own directly employed front line staff are active on the network so as we speak, over 9,000 metres of verge ditches are re-established and 1500 new verge grips recently installed.
- The future streetscene service model will embrace the principles we share regardless of how it is delivered whilst complying with the budget envelope.
- Whilst we all share the ambition we must progress in a sure footed way to ensure this looks and feels like the good news story that it is.

Verge Maintenance – The good news

Any questions ?