Meeting: Full Council

Date: 11th March 2025

Author: Town Clerk

Item for Consideration: Green Print Project Update

1.0 Background Information

1.1 The town council, in March 2024, approved the locations that South Gloucestershire Council could amend its grass cutting schedule, for the purpose of introducing the scheme of reducing the frequency of the grass cutting and collecting and removing cut grass, to add to the food waste chain, for the purpose of reducing the carbon footprint of verge maintenance operations. The project is known as The Green Print Project. At a meeting in December 2024 KTC agreed to additional green spaces to be added to the schedule of grass cutting and SGC were informed.

2.0 Updates

SGC have provided the following update:

2.1 This spring, we will begin the new cutting season in Kingswood on the green spaces and verges included in the project. Greenprint showcases the power of innovation and collaboration in addressing environmental challenges. Through experimentation and investigation, the project is paving the way for a more sustainable future in highway verge maintenance.

2.2 Last year, during the second year of the project, we collected 377 tonnes of grass from across 36 hectares of Council maintained grassland in South Gloucestershire - equivalent to over 50 football pitches. The table below shows the weight of cut grass collected in your area during the 2024 season, with the dates of each cut carried out in the green spaces and verges included in the project:

Kingswood, Staple Hill & Mangotsfield	**Weight of grass cut (tonnes)**				
	Cut 1	Cut 2	Cut 3	Cut 4	TOTA
	45.5	9.4	6	6.7	67.6
Kingswood	**Cut dates**				
START	22/05/2024	17/07/2024	28/08/2024	21/10/2024	
FINISH	29/05/2024	18/07/2024	28/08/2024	21/10/2024	
Staple Hill & Mangotsfield	**Cut dates**				
START	20/05/2024	16/07/2024	27/08/2024	18/10/2024	
FINISH	21/05/2024	17/07/2024	27/08/2024	18/10/2024	

A browser map of the Greenprint plots included in the project during the 2025 season can be viewed here: South Gloucestershire Map Layers WebMap2511

(Click on the three horizontal lines in the top left-hand corner to reveal the Map Features – Live Labs plots are coloured red; all the other plots are coloured violet. Clicking on an individual plot will reveal its identity – including the plot number and site code).

2.3 Collecting the grass cuttings, rather than leaving them on the ground as traditionally done, has several benefits:

- Reduces carbon emissions from decomposing cuttings
- Increases carbon capture within the soil
- Enhances the biodiversity of the verges and green spaces

2.4 As part of the project, we are trialling converting the cuttings into energy to generate valuable resources such as biofuel, biomethane, and biochar - turning waste into wealth.

2.5 As we move into the third year of the project, over the next couple of months we will be sharing more information about the achievements of year two and what our focus will be for year three. During year three the impact of our trials on costs and carbon emissions will become clearer, which will help inform the decision about whether the changes are scaled up or made permanent in future.

2.6 A key goal of Greenprint is to create a scalable system toolkit, or 'green print,' that other local authorities can use to implement this carbon-negative green infrastructure management model in their areas, paving the way for a more sustainable future in highway verge maintenance.

2.7 Greenprint is part of ADEPT Live Labs 2: Decarbonising Local Roads in the UK, which is a three-year, UK-wide £30 million programme funded by the Department for Transport, (DfT), that aims to decarbonise the local highway network.

2.8 For more information about the project, visit: Energy from grass cuttings | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 For Councillors to note the report