

## Landscaping 2020 – Consultation results

Thank you to those that took the time to respond to us about the options for landscaping from 2020. It was a difficult subject for people to respond to as there was and still is so much that is unknown about the service that will be on offer from 1 April 2020.

Many comments were made that provided Councillors with an insight into residents views and how they felt affected by landscaping within the area. A high level of concern was raised about the impact of a potential increase in precept charges when they would be no reduction made by Milton Keynes Council, and also about the sustainability of the proposal should the potential grant funding be reduced or withdrawn.

There was considerable discussion by Parish Councillors about the right route to take to best reflect the view of residents and in particular to limit any financial impact. Taking notice of comments made, and the level of response received (9% of residents responded), the Parish Council has agreed that they will not take on the service as this time and will leave the parish within the Milton Keynes Council contract. It is expected that the contractors will continue to be Serco until 2023, at which point the whole environmental contract will be up for renewal, including landscaping, play areas and refuse collection.

It is acknowledged that there are areas of the parish that would benefit from some additional landscaping or changes to the current landscaping making it easier to manage. The Parish Council will be discussing this with Milton Keynes Council and Serco with a view to potentially contributing towards some soft and hard landscaping. Money has been set aside in the budget for 2019-20 to make a start on this.

The situation in regard to landscaping will be reviewed again prior to 2023, which is the target date within Milton Keynes Council for the 3<sup>rd</sup> tranche of devolving landscaping to parishes. At this point there will be a larger number of parishes undertaking their own landscaping (potentially 16), either in-house or by use of contractors which will give other parishes such as ourselves a clearer view of what is involved.

Thank you again for responding to the consultation and providing your views. Your involvement is much appreciated by all your Parish Councillors.