TO PROVIDE A HIGH QUALITY, RESPONSIVE AND FLEXIBLE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF ASHFORD, OFFERING A PROACTIVE AND BEST VALUE SOLUTION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BOROUGH’S GREEN SPACES.

We cover the day-to-day work of:
- Mowing
- Pruning
- Planting and maintenance of floral bedding displays
- Border maintenance
- Watering
- Play area inspections
- Culvert inspections and clearance
- Clearing and litter picking

The areas maintained are:
- Parks and open spaces
- Town centre
- Housing areas
- Sheltered housing schemes
- Cemeteries
- Ditches and culverts
- Play areas

CONTACT US
To find out more or to report an issue please contact us:
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will the service cover?
The new service will cover the day-to-day work of mowing, pruning, planting, clearing and litter picking on various spaces owned by the council including open green space, parks, floral beds, cemeteries, areas around housing sites, hedges, sports pitches and associated footpaths.

How can I establish who owns the land?
As a general rule of thumb, grass verges along the road side are owned by Kent Highway Services, in most cases they commission Ashford Borough Council to maintain them. High speed roads over 60 miles per hour tend to be the responsibility of Highways England, who also maintain them.

Will you be able to maintain privately owned land too?
Only if we receive permission from the land owner to do so and to access their land. It is important to note there are large areas of land which the council does not own and therefore we are not able to maintain these areas.

Why have you brought this in-house?
The council has looked at various options, including outsourcing, an in-house service, creating a trading company or via a joint venture. An in-house service is considered the best approach as it supports the need to deliver the best combination of control, quality, flexibly and affordability.

So we can expect to see standards improve straight away?
Actually no, the changes won’t be seen overnight. In fact, the impact is not likely to be really seen until spring/summer next year.

The focus for the team over the next few months will be trimming down the landscaping to manageable levels. Some areas may therefore appear a little bare and/or brown during the winter months.

How can I report land or areas which need attention?
Our contact details can be found on the reverse of this leaflet.

Where did you come up with the name?
We wanted a name which was engaging and meaningful. This links to Priority 4 in the council’s Corporate Plan and matches the aspirations of members to improve the presentation of the borough. The name and branding was created in-house.

INTRODUCING ASPIRE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT
From October Ashford Borough Council will be bringing the responsibility for grounds maintenance across the borough back in-house.

This initiative is a key part of delivering the adopted Land Management Improvement Plan, which aims to make the borough a pleasant and enjoyable place to live, work, visit and enjoy.

By enhancing Ashford’s overall appearance and attractiveness this will raise civic pride and make the borough more attractive for residents, visitors and businesses.

IMPROVING BOROUGH PRESENTATION
The new in-house service will give us greater flexibility as we will be able to move resources where they are needed most, with an ability to be more fluid with changing priorities. It will also be more cost effective.

The service is also working with Kent County Council (KCC) Highway Services on areas of work that we can perform in order to maintain quality standards. Until now, this work was undertaken by Landscape Services, but from this autumn it will come under the responsibility of Ashford Borough Council.

The enforcing authority is Kent Highway Services who receive reports via their website www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel

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