



2 September 2024

Dear City, Town, and Parish Councils

### **Enhanced Highway Maintenance Pilot and Volunteer Training Launch**

On 27 February 2024, the Service Director (Infrastructure and Transport), wrote to all Parish Councils in Somerset outlining the options available to localities to enhance the level of highway maintenance services in their area.

The original letter can be found on Somerset Council's parish webpages [HERE](#)

The letter sets out a range of measures which are briefly summarised as:

- The provision of a Highway Steward.
- Local self-delivery through local suppliers commissioned by a Parish, or by Parish collaboration, or through a volunteer network (which includes a highway safety awareness training package where volunteers from the community can get online training to do some low-risk activities on the highway).
- The Parish Enhanced Highway Maintenance(EHM) Pilot, enabling City, Town, and Parish Councils to purchase highway maintenance services direct from the Councils' contractor Kier Transportation.

The development of the EHM Pilot is now complete. It was presented to Parish Councils at a briefing on 21 August 2024.

Attached and below is the following information:

- A YouTube recording of the EHM Pilot presentation if needed – please feel free to share. You will find it here: [Enhanced Highway Maintenance Pilot and Volunteer Training launch event - August 21 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)
- A presentation slide deck (pdf) – also shareable.

## **Costs and day rates**

The indicative day visit charges for 2024/25 (payable directly by the Parish Councils to the contractor) are as set out below and it envisaged that part-day rates will also be available.

### **The rates are:**

Monday to Friday	£684.71
Saturday	£778.41
Sunday	£935.72

### **All based on:**

- 2x operatives (8 hour days)
- Vehicle up to 7t (including fuel) and small tools

Examples of typical services that can potentially be purchased by Parish Councils are set out below.

### **Enhanced routine maintenance services:**

- Pothole repairs (where potholes are not considered to be a safety issue by the highway authority)
- Localised grass cutting
- Localised hedge cutting
- Localised siding/ploughing on footways and carriageways
- Localised 'grip' clearance (channels from the roadside leading to ditches)
- Single sign and/or post installation
- Sign cleaning
- Timber fencing repairs
- Minor aesthetics works (painting, cleaning, etc)
- Other minor civils as identified and deliverable by minor works crew

### **Specialist services:**

- Gully emptying
- Surface water drainage jetting
- Ditching
- Drainage repairs
- Road and / or footway lining (refresh)
- Tree surgery
- Minor masonry works
- Traffic management for local events

## **How to request works in your Parish**

Interested in participating in the Pilot? Want to know more information about the ordering process, or the type/extent of works?

Please contact the Kier Community Engagement Manager direct.

Email [somersetehm@kier.co.uk](mailto:somersetehm@kier.co.uk)

Call 07526 508023

## **Volunteer Training – coming soon!**

Somerset Council is preparing a Highway Safety Awareness Course to enable people such as volunteers or locally skilled people to undertake agreed types of work safely in the vicinity of the highway with the appropriate risk assessment.

The course will be available online when fully developed, however, an interim solution is being explored.

The course content covers safety matters and risk assessment preparing the volunteer to work safely in the vicinity of the highway. The activities covered are considered low risk activities, and do not include working at height, manual handling, chemical hazards and traffic management signing lighting and guarding.

The scope of the course covers the following activities:

- Minor sign maintenance
- Clearing weeds
- Grass cutting
- Hedge cutting
- Cleaning gullies of detritus
- General cleaning and sweeping
- Litter picking

In conjunction with the training course, a Highway Volunteer Handbook will also be made available shortly. This handbook has been designed to provide simple guidance to volunteers working alongside and adjacent to the highway.

It provides information on where to find support if an incident occurs, as well as guidance to help ensure all volunteers remain safe whilst helping to enhance the local highways.

I hope you find this information helpful.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to make contact using the following email address: [devolution@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:devolution@somerset.gov.uk)

Kind regards,

**Andrew Turner**  
**Head of Highways, Somerset Council**