



To all Town and Parish Councils  
*By email*

**Our ref:** JM / Ic  
**Date:** 5 November

**Email:** james.mallinder@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

### **Grass Cutting in Cemeteries**

I am writing to ask whether you would be interested in a new scheme from East Suffolk Council which will help support our local wildlife. In a few locations within the district, and with the agreement of local communities, we have been leaving the grasses in the older sections of churchyards to grow during the summer months. These areas rapidly form an attractive, wild grass environment, which is ideal for enhancing and preserving our biodiversity.

With many of our natural areas under threat - the older, less frequently used, traditional sections of our cemeteries (usually those areas where the graves are around a century old) have become ever more important sanctuaries for wildlife.

In the majority of cases, burials take place within 'lawn sections' of cemeteries and grass cutting in these areas, which takes place approximately every two weeks, normally commences around the middle of March - continuing through to the end of September. At the end of the season, all of the long grass is cut back and the area is returned to a more 'manicured' condition.



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LEGAL ADDRESS East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT

POSTAL ADDRESS Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

Cemeteries can quickly attract beetles, caterpillars of various moths and butterflies, grasshoppers – they all benefit, and so then do birds, bats, hedgehogs and other creatures.

Edges of main routes, grass paths (routes used in connection to the cemeteries historic & natural elements), regularly visited memorials and areas around the chapels and frontages are all still cut regularly.

It is worth noting that in a publication from English Heritage and Natural England: *“Paradise Preserved, An introduction to the assessment, evaluation, conservation and management of historic cemeteries”*, some of the cemeteries in the district are listed as landscapes of special historic interest.

So, in keeping with our vision of the environment as a top priority for East Suffolk, we therefore ask if you could confirm your interest in joining this scheme to cut less and allow wildlife to flourish.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor James Mallinder | Cabinet Member for The Environment**  
East Suffolk Council