

## Ground Works

Copeland has a variety of parks and open spaces inclusive of trees, grass land, hedges and shrub beds that we hold a responsibility to maintain. We have teams of gardeners that work hard to get this work done.



### Grass Cutting

During the spring and summer months we follow a strict grass cutting regime and land management programme to keep our open spaces aesthetically pleasing. The cutting season can differ each year due to weather conditions. For most high amenity spaces we aim to cut around twelve times during the grass growing season this is roughly around every three weeks weather dependant. For more naturalistic areas we aim to cut between two and six times during the same period. In some areas we will not cut at all and encourage wildflower meadows to grow. This supports biodiversity and encourages pollinators.



When grass cutting our teams will litter pick an area before they start to cut.

Ride on Mowers are used for larger pieces of grassed areas. This allows us to cut quickly and efficiently. To finish off land that has rough edges we will use a strimmer to cut back any stray bits. The team will then use blowers to clear roads or footpaths of grass cuttings.

It is our policy to leave grass cuttings on site as it is more cost effective and more environmentally friendly as it returns nutrients to the soil and allows nature to take its course maintaining healthy grass cover rather than disposing of the grass via other means.

### Shrub bed maintenance

Copeland's shrub beds house more mature evergreen shrubs that we prune back once yearly if required. Many of our shrub beds are under planted with a variety of bulbs that bring fantastic colours in spring time. You can see lovely combinations of Bluebells, daffodils both native and non-native, snow drops and crocus.



### Weed Control

During spring and summer months we spray and cut back our footpaths of weeds to allow access for those using our footpaths for access or various forms of exercise.

### Japanese Knotweed

Copeland will treat any knotweed that is on our own land. If you suspect knotweed in other locations not on CBC land please inform our Environmental Health team to will investigate further at [info@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:info@copeland.gov.uk). Please include as much detail as possible about the location and size of the knotweed.