

12 June 2024

**AREAS OF GRASS PLANTED WITH DAFFODILS**

In Dudley we have areas of grass planted with daffodils. In the past these have made a good display in spring. However, not long after the flowers have died and while the leaves are green, enthusiastic grass cutters have cut the grassed areas containing the daffodils. Originally, they used to leave the leaves for quite a while, cutting around the patches of daffodils, but now they cut the leaves far too soon. Occasionally they have cut around the leaves initially, but then on the second cut they cut the daffodil leaves. If the leaves are removed too soon, daffodils cannot replenish the bulbs for the next season's flowering and then may only put up leaves and then weak ones in the hope they can replenish the bulbs sufficiently for them to flower again although it may take a few years. This was confirmed by 'Gardener's Question Time' on the radio last year. (Photo of this year's 'flowering' after too early cutting last year, attached.)

I have tried encouraging Greencare not to cut the leaves (this year by "MyDudley") to no effect. I received a response saying: "The work has been completed, and your enquiry has now been closed." Which I did not feel was good customer relations! The grass had not been cut then and it was about a week later, a day after I had been looking at a mass of buttercups and daisies near the daffodil leaves and thinking of the benefit to bees and insects, that they cut the grass, destroying everything! I know the buttercups and daisies will soon flower again but do we have to be so tidy?

Cutting round the patches of daffodil leaves shows there must be a reason to leave certain areas. I do it with my lawn where in response to 'No mow May', I cut a metre round the edge and a strip across the middle for access, but leave the rest to flower to benefit insects.

Would it be possible for us to offer to help Greencare develop a policy for grassed areas that will help bio-diversity as well as keeping the town looking reasonably tidy?

Richard Brooks

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